



Berrien County Youth Fair  
Dog Department 22 - Division 1 & 2

**INCLUSIVE JUNIOR (SHOWMANSHIP)  
HANDLING JUDGING PROGRAM,  
PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

*BCYF Junior Handling (Showmanship) Judging Guidelines were approved in 1993.  
BCYF's Junior Handling (Showmanship) Judging Guidelines, Rules and Program  
was update 1/17/2019/lsc*

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BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR – DOG DEPARTMENT 22 Divisions 1 and 2  
TRADITIONAL & NON-TRADITIONAL JUNIOR HANDLING  
JUDGING PROGRAM, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES  
Approved 1993; Updated 1/16/2019/lsc

**JUNIOR HANDLING (*SHOWMANSHIP*) DEFINED**

**Junior Handling** (*aka Junior Showmanship*) is a sport for young people (*aka "Juniors"*) in which they exhibit their dog handling skills in an event similar to a conformation (*aka breed*) dog show. Unlike a conformation or a breed show, it is the young handlers who are judged, not their dogs.

**BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR'S DOG DEPARTMENT JUNIOR HANDLING JUDGING PROGRAM, PROCEUDRES AND GUIDELINES IS BASED UPON**

The Dog Department's Junior Handling judging program, procedures and guidelines is an adapted version of the American Kennel Club's Junior Showmanship Conformation; Junior Showmanship Regulations, Guidelines for Judging Juniors in Conformation Juniors in Performance Event Regulations.

**JUNIOR HANDLING'S (*SHOWMANSHIP*) PURPOSE**

The purpose of Junior Handling (*Showmanship*) is twofold:

1. Junior Handling is to introduce and encourage youths to participate in the sport of dogs, and
2. To provide the Junior exhibitor with a meaningful competition in which the youth can learn, practice, and improve in all areas of breed and conformation handling skill and sportsmanship.

**JUNIOR HANDLING (*SHOWMANSHIP*) EXHIBITOR DEFINED**

1. **Traditional Exhibitor** – (*abbreviation is TR*) A person who meets the American Kennel Club competition handling standards of a canine and does not need the assistance of a team instructor. TR exhibitor must enter his or her age group class.
2. **Non-Traditional Exhibitor** – (*abbreviation is NTR*) A person with a life challenge (*disability, handicap, special needs, etc.*) who cannot meet the American Kennel Club Junior Handling standards of one handler to one canine without the aid of a Team Instructor(s). NRT exhibitor may enter only Non-Traditional Junior Handling (special needs) ages 5 to 26 years.

**JUNIOR HANDLING (*SHOWMANSHIP*) DIVISIONS AND CLASSES**

Berrien County Youth Fair Junior Handling shall have two (2) Divisions. The divisions and classes in those division are...

1. **Division 1: BCYF Traditional Junior Handling Division** – Classes are

JR TR Beginners – age 5-7 years  
JR TR Young Juniors – age 8-9 years  
JR TR Juniors – age 10-11 years  
JR TR Young Intermediate – age 12-13 years  
JR TR Intermediate – age 14-15 years  
JR TR Seniors – age 16-20 years

2. **Division 2: Non-Traditional Junior Handling Division** (*special needs*) – Class is

Jr NTR Handling (*special needs*) – age 5-26 years

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### JUNIOR HANDLING GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Junior Handling shall be judged solely on the ability and skill of the exhibitor in handling his/her dog as in an actual breed (*conformation / show*) ring. The breed standard qualities of the dog shall not be a consideration. Exhibitors shall not be required to exchange dogs.
2. Non-Traditional Junior Handling class may be judged in a relaxed version of the Junior Handling rules and regulations due to life disabilities, and may have a Team Instructor in the ring with him or her to assist with the judge's instructions and directional gaiting only.
3. The judge must excuse an exhibitor and dog from the ring if, in the judge's opinion, the handler cannot properly control his/her dog. Any dog showing signs of viciousness or aggressive behavior toward the judge, other exhibitors or other dogs shall be immediately excused from the ring.
4. The exhibitor must inform the show committee of a female dog is in season prior to the start of judging. The dog may need to be separated from other dogs while being judged. The dog shall be isolated from all other dogs when not in the ring.
5. Junior Handling event classes may be shown in reverse BCYF Handbook order should the judge deem it necessary.

### JUNIOR HANDLING DEMONSTRATES

1. **Canine Presentation** - Exhibitor will be asked to demonstrate his or her knowledge on
  - a. **Canine Gaiting** - Moving his/her dog according to his or her breed standards with the rest of the class, as well as individually, in a required gaiting pattern (i.e. *down and back*, "*L*" pattern, etc.).
  - b. **Canine Stacking** (*Standing in Breed Specific Position*) - Presenting his/her dog in a standing (*stack*) position that is proper for the breed, which may include the use of an examining table for those breeds normally judged on a table, while the judge goes over the conformation (*the way the dog meets breed standards*) of the dog.
  - c. **Canine Grooming** -
    1. Dog should be clean and well-groomed according to breed standard, or the standard of the breed the dog most closely resembles.
    2. The exhibitor shall be faulted for a dog with a dirty or matted coat, fleas, tick, lice or mites are found on the dog, as well as, excessively long nails and untrimmed paws.
    3. Trimming or cutting shall be appropriate for the breed of the dog or closest to the breed of the dog most closely resembles.
    4. Unnecessary grooming of the dog in the ring to gain attention is not proper conduct and will be faulted.
  - d. **Breed History** – Exhibitor must know what and why the dog's breed was bred for.
  - e. **Canine's Anatomy** - Exhibitor must know what the dog's anatomy parts are, and where the dog's anatomy parts are located on the dog's body.
2. **Junior Handling Gaiting Patterns** – Exhibitor is expected to know the basic ring routines. He/She should be able to follow directions, use space wisely and be familiar with the following gaiting patterns...
  - a. Down and Back Pattern
  - b. Triangle Pattern
  - c. "L" Pattern
  - d. "T" Pattern
  - e. "H" Pattern

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3. **Junior Handling Exhibitor's Awareness** - Exhibitor should be alert (*observant, attentive, and watchful*) and prepared to adjust to what is going on in the ring.
4. **Junior Handling Personal Grooming** -
  - a. Junior Handling clothing should not distract, nor limit or hinder, the judge's view from the dog.
  - b. Junior Handling Exhibitor should be clean, neat and well groomed. Exhibitor is expected to wear the proper, and in good repair, clothing and shoes.
  - c. Junior Handling Exhibitor shall wear the following ACCEPTABLE Junior Handling clothing items...
    1. Business Suit for boys with a tie.
    2. Business dress suit for girls.
    3. Skirt, blouse, or slacks are acceptable.
    4. Proper low heeled dress or medical shoes.
    5. Hair should be neat and trimmed with long hair tied back and styled nicely
  - d. **Unacceptable Clothing** - Unacceptable clothing are denim, club t-shirts, offensive or inappropriate language, graphics or logos on shirts, halter tops, bare skin showing on midriff, miniskirts, mini shorts, miniskirts, sandals, clogs, flip flops, open toed shoes and pants below the waist.
  - e. **Clothing Penalties** - Exhibitor wearing inappropriate clothing shall be faulted.

**JUNIOR HANDLING EXHIBITOR'S TOOLS NEEDED:**

1. Proper exhibitor's clothing (*review Junior Handling Personal Grooming*).
2. Groomed canine.
3. Six foot leather or cloth Martingale, or slip collar Showmanship leash.
4. Showmanship slip collar
5. Pin brush
6. Greyhound comb
7. Drool Towel (If your canine is a "drooler"(drools a lot)
8. Buckle, harness, head halti, or pinch collar are not acceptable.

**JUNIOR HANDLING EXHIBITOR'S RING ETIQUETTE JUDGING -**

1. Exhibitor should appear confident, prepared and attentive.
2. Exhibitor should be courteous to both the judge and other exhibitors.
3. Exhibitors are expected to handle his/her dog without disturbing other dogs and exhibitors.
4. Exhibitor should not crowd other exhibitors.
5. Exhibitor should not disturb others dogs or exhibitor with continued use of toys or bait.
6. He/she should be alert to the needs of his/her dog, using firm but thoughtful hands in controlling his/her dog.
7. Exhibitor should not be impatient or heavy handed.
8. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the exhibitor is grounds for disqualification.
9. Exhibitor should keep his/her dog's attention without using dramatic or unnecessary movements.
10. Exhibitor should be able to gait his/her dog in a controlled trot without distracting or interfering with the judge's view of the dog.
11. Exhibitor should be aware of what is going on in the ring, while at the same time keep an ear out for directions from the judge.
12. Exaggerated posture, motions or gestures in any part of the competition will be faulted.

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13. Exhibitor should concentrate on his/her dog, but not to the extent that he/she is unaware of what is taking place in the ring.

**JUNIOR HANDLING EXHIBITOR CANINE PRESENTATION JUDGING -**

1. His/her ability to present his/her dog in the same way the dog is properly handled in the breed ring.
2. His/her ability to make his/her dog look its best in pose (*stack*) and motion (*gaiting*).
3. During all parts of Junior Handling competition, the exhibitor should handle his/her dog in a quiet, smooth, efficient manner, thus making the dog stand out as the most important part of the team effort.
4. His/her knowledge and presentation of the Junior Showmanship Dress Code.

**JUNIOR HANDLING JUDGING GUIDELINES**

1. **Junior Handling Judge's Objective Opinion –**
  - a. Judge shall be impartial and must be able to totally separate the handling abilities of the exhibitors he/she judge from other considerations.
  - b. Judge should strive to evaluate exhibitors in an appropriate and consistent manner.
  - c. Judge should be consistent in the initial examination of each exhibitor using the same gaiting patterns, the same procedural request and allow each exhibitor the approximately the same amount of time.
  - d. Judge may change the examine routine when making further appraisals of selected competitors.
  - e. Judge's examination of the dogs can be done rapidly because conformation of the dog is not being judged.
2. **Junior Handling Judge's Class Arrangement –**
  - a. Judges may arrange or rearrange exhibitors in order of the canine's gaiting speed and/or the size of the dog to avoid crowding.
  - b. In large classes, the judge should admit only as many exhibitors into the ring as can be safely examined.
  - c. Judge should never hesitate to divide any class for any reason where safety of the exhibitors or dogs is involved.
3. **Junior Handling Judge's Gaiting Patterns –** The judge may choose one (1) or more of the following gaiting patterns
  - a. Down and Back Pattern
  - b. Triangle Pattern
  - c. "L" Pattern
  - d. "T" Pattern
  - e. "H" Pattern
4. **Junior Handling Exhibitor's Evaluation –** The judge shall examine and evaluate the Junior Handling Exhibitor on the following Handling areas
  - a. **Presentation –** The judge shall ask him/herself the following questions....
    1. Is the dog responsive to the exhibitor?
    2. Does the dog and exhibitor work as a team?
    3. Is the dog under control?
    4. Does the exhibitor move the dog correctly and to the best of its ability?
    5. Are the dog's main faults being minimized?
    6. Does both the dog and the exhibitor appear to be relaxed?

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- b. **Breed History** – The judge will ask questions on
    - 1. What the breed was bred for?
    - 2. What country the breed was bred in?
    - 3. What are the standards for the breed?
  - c. **Knowledge of Ring Procedures** – The judge will evaluate the exhibitors on his/her ability to
    - 1. Follow directions.
    - 2. Use space wisely.
    - 3. Execute gaiting patterns.
    - 4. Appear to be “Ring Wise.”
    - 5. Be alert to judging progression.
    - 6. Be prepared for changes in the judging routine.
  - d. **Appearance** – The judge should be aware of the following...
    - 1. Appearance of both the exhibitor and the dog.
    - 2. Exhibitor should be suitable dressed. Inappropriate clothing and appearance shall be faulted.
    - 3. Dogs should be clean and well-groomed. Exhibitor shall be faulted for a dog with dirty or matted coats. Fleas, ticks and lice found on the dog shall be faulted. Excessively long nails and untrimmed paws shall be faulted.
    - 4. A show cut is not necessary, but any trimming or cutting shall be appropriate for the breed of the dog.
    - 5. Unnecessary grooming of the dog in the ring to gain attention is inappropriate and should be faulted.
  - e. **Conduct** – The judge will observe and make note if the exhibitor is...
    - 1. The exhibitor is prepared, confident, has a business-like manner and is attentive.
    - 2. The exhibitor should be courteous to both the judge and his/her fellow exhibitors.
    - 3. The exhibitor is expected to handle his/her dog without distracting the other dogs.
    - 4. The exhibitor who crowds or disturbs other dogs shall be faulted.
    - 5. The exhibitor who shows impatience or heavy handedness with his/her dog shall be penalized.
    - 6. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and shall result in being excused from the ring and disqualified.
5. **Junior Handling Judge Excusing a Dog, or Exhibitor, from the Ring** - Judge should not hesitate to excuse a dog, or an exhibitor, from the ring that is out of control.

## JUNIOR HANDLING AWARDS

### 1. TR Junior Handling Championship Rules:

- a. **Championship - TR Classes 815 through 820** first and second place winners will compete for Grand Championship and Reserve Grand Championship.
- b. **Small Animal Sweepstakes** – The winner of the TR Junior Handling Grand Championship shall represent the Dog Department in Small Animal Sweepstakes held on Friday.

### 2. NTR Junior Handling Championship Rules:

Each NTR Exhibitor in class 823 shall compete for Junior Handling, Non-Traditional Grand Championship and Reserve Grand Championship.

### 3. Awards for TR and NTR Junior Handling Event Classes:

- a. **Premiums** – Each exhibitor will receive an A, B, or C ribbon as determined by the judge.
- b. **Class Placement** – The judge will award a first through sixth place in each class judged.



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- c. **Overall Classes Champion** – The judge will award Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion and third through sixth placements for both divisions.

**REVIEW OF THE BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR’S JUNIOR HANDLING PROGRAM,  
PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

A review of the Berrien County Youth Fair’s Junior Handling Rules, Regulations and Judging Program may be done on a yearly basis per the updates and changes in the American Kennel Club and United Kennel Club’s Junior Showmanship Rules and Regulations.

