

## Dances With Dogs Club of SA Inc.: DWD ROOKIES RULES

1. The Rookies Classes will be held following the conclusion of any official competition.
2. The entrants will be treated as a normal DWD competitor, except where noted in these rules. Therefore, the usual competition practices will take place such as:
  - a. Undertake music checks, registration, vetting, etc Rookies. Music checks to be conducted after any official competition is complete.
  - b. Appear in the catalogue in separate classes HTM.S to HTM.A & FS.S to FS.A.
  - c. Set-up, performance & set-down to follow usual sequence but in regards timings:
    - i. Entrants are encouraged not to rush their start; they may walk their dog around the ring, warm-up their dog & only start when they feel they have their dog's focus & the dog appears ready to work.
    - ii. At the end of the performance, the entrant may take some time to briefly reward dog with play/food in ring.
  - d. In terms of music duration, a suggested guide is:
    - i. Starter: 1 minute to 1 minute 30 seconds.
    - ii. Novice: 1 minute 30 seconds to 2 minutes 15 seconds.
    - iii. Intermediate: 2 minutes 15 seconds to 3 minutes.
    - iv. Advanced: 3 minutes & maximum of 4 minutes.
  - e. A dog can enter either or both Rookies Divisions (i.e. HTM and/or FS) but may only enter once within each Division. Note: A dog may enter both titling & non-titling classes if held on the same day, as they are separate competitions.
  - f. Judges shall ensure safety, good sportsmanship & fair treatment of the dog, & that the Handler is complying with the Rookie rules whilst in the ring. Failure to follow these rules may result in the Handler being disqualified from further competition.
3. Exceptions to the usual DWD rules are:
  - a. Non-SACA members allowed to enter, but must be Club members.
  - b. Dogs may be on or off lead (lead can be attached & unattached during routine).
  - c. Costume not mandatory.
  - d. Props don't need to be "dressed", i.e. obvious training aids are acceptable.
  - e. Motivators:
    - i. Non-Crumbly food treats may be used, avoiding dropping food on the floor.
    - ii. An optional treat table will be at ringside.
    - iii. Food includes toys with food inside of them.
    - iv. Non-squeaking motivators allowed & may be thrown within the ring.
  - f. If a dog leaves ring & the handler feels that this was due to stress, the handler should either leave the ring or bring their dog back for a brief positive reinforcement behaviour. If the handler believes the dog has left the ring due to being distracted, the handler is welcome to continue with their performance.
  - g. Competitors are not judged, but judges' set-up is as per a competition.
  - h. No prizes or awards are to be given out for rookies.
  - i. Rookie & Competition Class Eligibility:
    - i. A dog may participate in any Rookie class for which they meet or exceed the requirements for the corresponding DWD titling Class (i.e. a dog may enter in a lower class than they would in a titling competition).
    - ii. A Handler cannot decide on the day to change their normal entry to Rookie or vice-versa.