

Code of Conduct

Scent Work Club of San Diego (SWCSD) seeks to promote fun and healthy recreational activity for dogs and their owners, promote responsible dog ownership and develop working partnerships between dogs and their owners. Membership to the club is dependent upon an agreement by members to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws and rules and regulations of the SWCSD, as well as by the strictures imposed by our event host locations and organizations. Members are expected to behave respectfully and acknowledge the advice and guidance given in good faith to them by others in the spirit of club community and fun. The expectations in this Code of Conduct apply to family members and friends who may accompany members of the Club to dog events, as well as to volunteers at events.

We act with integrity at all times; we behave with dignity; we are open and objective; we give of our time voluntarily; and selflessly.

We have respect for all, we embrace inclusiveness; we share our knowledge and experience without seeking favor, we work positively towards the future for dogs being entrusted with a unique responsibility to our canine companions, and are together collaborative and constructive, tolerant and empathetic with the views of others.

SWCSD recognizes that we act in the service of, towards, and in the best interests of our dogs. We endorse the use of positive reinforcement training, and it is the expectation that all members will strive to apply the evolving principles of science-based positive reinforcement techniques in training their dogs.

It is also expected that all dogs will be fit to perform the requested behaviors, to behave appropriately with other dogs present, as well as with dog handlers, and will not demonstrate undue aggression at any time toward another dog or another handler, judge, or volunteer. This misconduct is not limited to the activities below:

MISCONDUCT: MEMBERS

Misconduct shall include, but not be limited to, abusive or foul language, as well as behaving in an angry, violent, combative, hostile, harassing or threatening manner toward another person, fellow club member, competitor, national dog organization representative, sponsor, host or spectator at or of club activities or at other dog sport events. Harassment includes inappropriate comments, conduct, and/or contact regarding but not limited to race, color, religion, disability, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or are sexual in nature. Misconduct also includes inhumane treatment of a dog, demonstration of poor sportsmanship, failing to control your dog and any other behavior that may result in an unfavorable opinion of the Club or dog sports.

MISCONDUCT: DOGS

Misconduct includes acts of aggression toward another dog, handler, participant or spectator in any club activity including, but not limited to, classes, fun matches, trials, or other dog sport

events. The Club defines undue aggression as an unprovoked attack on another dog, animal, or human, involving physical contact, whether an injury occurs or not. In the interest of safety for its members, their dogs and others, the Club must take dog aggression incidents very seriously. However, the Club is willing to assist members in overcoming minor aggression problems their dogs may have, providing that the safety and interests of other Club members and their dogs are not put in jeopardy as a result.