

# NOMAD Practice Philosophy, Format and Guidelines

## Philosophy

Practice is an opportunity for handlers and dogs to train and develop skills as they mature into smooth-running team(s). NOMAD encourages reward-based training methods and a cheerful tone of voice throughout NOMAD practices. The Committee respects that each handler may have developed his/her own training plan on how to specifically accomplish his/her ultimate handling goals. Therefore, we encourage more experienced handlers to ASK more novice handlers if they want feedback before they offer it. We encourage less experienced handlers to ASK for input, if they want it.

NOMAD practices are also a great way to socialize with fellow NOMAD members while sharing ideas on training and handling skills needed during weekly sequences and/or course practice.

## Guidelines

- Summer practice will rotate locations each week (This is why we're called NOMAD!). Locations for each week will be announced by email and on the NOMAD Facebook page(s) at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled practice.
- Dogs must be leashed, crated or in the car when they are not working sequences or running the course. If your dog will bark when in the car, you might want to enlist the help of another participant, use a Treat & Train or Manners Minder to reward quiet behavior at a distance. Please do not use pain, discomfort or fear (citronella collars or shock collars) to achieve the desired behavior.
- Handlers are expected to help with course and sequence set-up, changing of jump heights (jump bars, tire, a-frame, table height, spread jump), set knocked bars, and physically assist post-practice equipment organization.
- Handlers are expected to clean up after their dogs. Carry in, carry out!
- Questionable behavior or issues with fellow participants (harsh treatment of dogs, etc.) should be addressed diplomatically at the practice. If there is no resolution to the issue, the situation should be reported to the Steering Committee.

## General Practice Format

- Format of a practice session is up to the scheduled host(s). All practices will include opportunities for beginner dogs and/or handlers as well as more advanced teams. Unless agreed by all participants, only one dog/handler team will work at a time. Dogs must be leashed when not working.
- Training time allowed for each dog/handler team per turn is at the discretion of the participants. Consensus should be sought among the participants at each practice session as to the amount of time allowed per turn. If consensus can't be reached, majority will rule. Handlers may use their allotted time however they choose and may work less than the allowed time if they choose. For example: practicing only one obstacle or working the start line.
- Channel weaves may be available at summer practice; please contact practice host for more information.