

DJIBOUTI 7831 miles

LONDON 4565 MI

FIJI 7375 MI

USMRA TEAM LEADER INFORMATION



MIAMI 132 MI

HONOLULU 4788 MI

SANTIAGO de CUBA 494 MI

HABANA 105 MI

NASSAU 281 MI

NEW ORLEANS 630 MI

TAMPA 219 MI

USMRA Team Leader

WHAT DOES A TEAM LEADER DO?

Broadly, the Team Leader is the person who provides support for the entire team (including competitors, reserve competitors, decoys of the event and decoys attending super selection) before, during and after the event. Whether at the FCI Mondioring Championship or breed specific championships like FMBB and WDSF, the Team Leader is integral to the success of the team.

WHAT QUALITIES DO GOOD TEAM LEADERS POSESS?

- Team Leaders should be organized, skilled at problem solving and have a deep understanding of the Mondioring exercises at every level as well as the Mondioring rules and regulations.
- Team Leaders should be able to manage ever-changing situations with a cool head.
- Team Leaders should be good communicators and should have the ability to disseminate information to their team in a clear and concise manner.
- Team leaders should be able to work with all team members, regardless of personal conflicts

WHAT ARE THE TEAM LEADER'S RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE THE EVENT?

- **The Team Leader collaborates with the International Committee** as needed to gather the competitor credentials and the credentials for decoys applying for the super selection.
 - Team Leaders should travel with copies of information for the dogs including sociability test (if not written in scorebook), rabies certificate, testicle letter, registration and/or pedigree if required. Hard copies are recommended, digital copies are acceptable if available offline.
- The Team Leader is responsible for arranging their own transportation and lodging during the event.
- **Team Leaders should arrange virtual meetings as needed to discuss*:**
 - The logistics of travel to the event for competitors and dogs
 - The team uniform
 - The specifics about required health certificates and CDC reimport applications for dogs
 - Passport/visa information for competitors
 - Traveling with the dog
 - Crate requirements
 - Competitors need to verify which airlines fly dogs and to which destinations
 - Recommend renting a van for ease of having a dog at the event
 - Lodging

- Advise the team to book their lodging well ahead of time. Suggest an Airbnb for the team members to help offset the cost
- Encourage team members to prepare their dogs for the vet check (details under Veterinary Check below)

*While the team leader can lead these discussions and be of support in making sure any team members' questions get answered, the team leader is not responsible for making any travel arrangements for team members.

- **Register the team:**

- This may be done through the CANIVA website <https://www.caniva.com/> or the event may have specific team registration procedures.
- Coordinate with the USMRA treasurer to wire money for entry fees.

- **Team Uniforms**

- Collaborate with the International Committee to develop uniforms for all team members.
- The uniform will vary from team to team and availability of USMRA trial vests.
- If the uniform includes a trial vest, the vest needs to reach the competitors as soon as possible so they can train with it well before they depart for the event.
- The team member's name (+ dog's name) can be embroidered onto the uniform.
- The team should wear similar clothing below their uniform at the opening and closing ceremonies (example, white shirt and black pants).

- **Team Communication Method**

- Prior to leaving for the event, the Team Leader should discuss which communication method the team will use at the event. A group chat should be formed to include all team members. The chat will be used to send out updates during the event. Examples include a Facebook Messenger group, WhatsApp group, Microsoft Teams group or a simply group text. Ensure the communication method will work for everyone internationally.
- Team communication will be sent to the group chat. This may include results of the draw, information about the Opening/Closing ceremonies, the vet check and even updating competitors about how soon they need to be on the field.

WHAT ARE THE TEAM LEADERS' RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE EVENT?

- It is the Team Leader's duty to relay event information to the competitors as needed.
- From the opening ceremony to the closing ceremony the Team Leader and the team are ambassadors of the USMRA. The Team Leader ensures the team is always exhibiting good sportsmanship.
- **There are key moments of the event that are mandatory for Team members at each level:**
 - Vet Check
 - Opening Ceremony

Dog in white
 Draw (if public)
 Judge's Dinner*
 Closing Ceremony

*The judge's dinner often starts and runs very late. Team members who are competing after the judge's dinner should be excused from the dinner if desired.

- **Become familiar with the key officials and jury of the Championship.** The jury for the Grand Prix (levels 1 and 2) will likely be different from the Championship. The Team Leader should know who the supervisor in case it is necessary to request review of the decoy work or contest scoring. There will be a different group of officials for the Super Selection.
- **Veterinary Check**
 - The vet check is also the sociability screening. Toys and food are allowed. It is helpful to go early before the crowds arrive. The team leader should assist competitors at the vet check.
 - The competitors should be advised the vet check consists of a microchip scan, a brief physical exam including listening to the heart, checking the teeth, gait evaluation and palpation for testicles for males. Dogs must be able to be evaluated to compete.
- **Score Books.** The Team Leader may need to collect and turn in the competitors' score books and may also need to pick them up at the conclusion of the event (frequently at the closing ceremony). Alternatively, the Team Leader may need to inform the competitors of the time and location they need to turn in their score books. The Team Leader should ensure the competitors have a hard copy of the sociability test (if not written in the book) and the testicle letter with their score book.
- **Be present at the field as much as possible.** Team Leaders may be asked to meet at various times with little warning and updates to the schedule may be announced at the field. The Team Leader should plan to spend most of their time at the field each day of the competition (sometimes before 7 am and after 9 pm).
- **The Team Leader must attend each draw** and communicate the order of competitors to the team.
 - For Levels 1 and 2, only one draw will occur for each level. For Level 3, the procedure varies, and the draw may include all dogs for all days, or the draw may include only the next day's dogs or only a few dogs may be drawn at a time.
 - The draw may be held at the field with the competitors present or Team Leaders may be asked to meet separately for the draw. The time, location and number of draws will be different for every event.
 - The Team Leader should have a list of the competitor's numbers so they can match the competitor's number with the name as it is possible only the number will be drawn.
- **Dog in White / DIW / Chien en Blanc**
 - All team members are encouraged to attend dog in white for every level. The perspective of experienced competitors is valuable. However, competitors are only required to be present for their level. Only the Team Leader can be on the field during dog in white.
 - The Team Leader is responsible for walking the field and communicating the routine to the competitors. The Team Leaders are encouraged to video and take notes during DIW.
 - Be prepared to ask questions and respectfully challenge scenarios that are unsafe or do not comply with the rules if necessary.

- Pay particular attention and make notes about the heeling pattern, defense of handler, order of positions, time allowed for the search and specific instructions for the handler i.e.: stand in the box, toss retrieve over the obstacle past the marker...
- After DIW the competitors will be allowed to pace their jumps. Competitors will not be allowed to investigate the field, throw the retrieve item, walk the heeling pattern, look in the hides, etc. They must leave the field as soon as they have paced their jumps.
- The Team Leader should meet with the competitors following DIW to discuss the specifics of the routine and answer any questions the competitors may have.
- Videos of DIW and can be shared on the group chat.
- **Watch the Routines and Check the Scores:**
 - Contesting a score or asking for review of the decoy work is acceptable IF the situation is managed in a professional and polite manner. At a championship, it is unlikely the score will change unless there was a clerical error.
 - The trial supervisor and the jury have the final say in a ruling, and this ruling should always be graciously accepted.
 - The Team Leader should check the competitor's score sheets as soon as they are posted (double check the calculation and make sure the points are correct) and be prepared to contest a score.
 - If there is an error in scoring, the Team Leader should locate the trial supervisor and ask for the score sheet to be reviewed. The supervisor may be on the trial field so it might be necessary to wait for an appropriate moment to discuss the score sheet or the Team Leader can ask the secretary to notify the trial supervisor that they are needed. *Do not go onto the trial field unless given permission to do so by a trial official.
 - Have the Mondioring rules available in case you need to explain an error.
 - The Team Leader can request a review of the decoy work if they are certain the work was in violation of the International Rules of Mondioring and was inconsistent with the work done with other dogs. Be prepared to share videos of the work in question with the trial supervisor if permitted to do so. A review of decoy work is different from filing a formal complaint against a decoy which is rarely done and should only be done in cases of serious, flagrant, and intentionally harmful work.
- **Opening and closing ceremonies:**
 - All team members must attend the opening and closing ceremonies and should be in team uniform.
 - Dogs are welcome but optional and can be decorated as well.
- **Bring a flag**
 - This will be used during the opening and closing ceremonies and to wave behind each competitor as they enter the field.
 - The USMRA will reimburse team leaders for purchasing flag and pole. A 3'x5' flag is ideal; a 4'x6' flag is also acceptable. An aluminum telescoping flagpole is ideal for travel.
- **Judges Dinner:**
 - The Team Leader is responsible for picking up the dinner tickets for the team.
 - The cost for the tickets will be reimbursed by the USMRA but typically needs to be paid for in local currency at the event. If the host club allows or requires a wire transfer, the Team Leader can coordinate with the USMRA treasurer for the transfer.
 - Friends and family of team members will be responsible for purchasing their own tickets.

- It is challenging for the hosting club to organize the dinner on top of hosting the event. There is often confusion surrounding where and when to pick up the tickets and the protocol changes with each event. Be patient and polite while coordinating ticket pick up.
- **Super Selection:**
 - The entire team should be encouraged to support the USMRA decoys at the super selection. Sometimes the super selection runs simultaneously with the event; the championship takes precedence but every effort should be made to support the decoys when possible.
 - The Team Leader may need to communicate with the Super Selection decoys if a competitor's dog is being used at the Selection.

WHAT ARE THE TEAM LEADER'S RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER THE EVENT?

- The Team Leader will report scores, venue, judge, and decoy information from the event to the USMRA secretary to ensure the details are included in the dog's record on the USMRA website.
- The Team Leader will have a post-event meeting with the International Committee to discuss how the event went and what improvements could be made to better support the team and Team Leader in the future. A post-event survey will be sent to Team Leaders as well.
- The FCI Team Leader will be invited to serve as an ad hoc member of the International Committee for one year. The position is voluntary and the purpose is to serve as an additional resource for the breed specific and FCI team leaders while on the Committee.
- The Team Leader will coordinate with the USMRA treasurer to request the competitor's deposits be returned to the people who attended the event.

TEAM LEADER SELECTION

- The Team Leader will be selected based on experience and skills required. Preference will be given to an individual who has been a member of an international team. The Team Leader should have proven skills in team building, getting things done under pressure, international travel experience, and the ability to communicate in a professional manner with the event organizers.
- The Team Leader should reflect the highest level of sportsmanship, ethics and conduct in our sport and organization. The Team Leader must have had no documented and/or verifiable record of poor sportsmanship, misconduct, or animal abuse.
- The Team Leader must be a member in good standing with the USMRA.

HOW DO I APPLY TO BE A TEAM LEADER?

- Applications for Team Leader are due on the same day the applications are due for the team. For FCI Team Leaders, this is July 15th and for breed specific Team Leaders, it is December 31st.
- The application form will be made available on the USMRA website as well as on the USMRA Facebook page.
- To apply, you will be asked to write a short letter of intent, provide your passport expiration date and a photo of yourself.
- Interested Team Leaders are encouraged to join the USMRA Team Leader Facebook page to get more information and have an additional resource to ask questions about the role.