

GSA Helper Training Programme

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Information about the Programme

The Helper Program has been designed to bring structure to the training, development and selection of the GSA helpers. This is to increase the active numbers of helpers that can correctly and safely perform the role of the helper at organized GSA Events and Trials.

What is a Helper?

A Helper performs a fair, honest and clear test to help the protection Judge evaluate the performance of the dog during the protection phase.

The Helper is able to take instruction from the Judge and follow it through. The Helper must be able to apply varied pressure from each degree SchH I to SchH III. The helper should be consistent in all aspects of work in order to assist the Judge by performing the same test and routine for all dogs.

The Aim of the GSA Helper Programme

Through the Helper program, our aim is to:

- ü Provide a structured training system available to all members and clubs of the GSA
- ü Enforce a set standard that must be maintained by helpers at each level
- ü Improve the standard of GSA Helpers
- ü Increase the numbers of Helpers in the GSA
- ü Help improve the standard of the Sport of Schutzhund in Ireland

The GSA Working/Utility Warden

GSA Helper Training Programme

The GSA Working Warden is responsible for:

- Organizing all helper training
- Organizing training events and seminars
- Organizing the yearly helper licensing event
- Maintaining and updating all the records of every licensed helper
- Providing training to helpers and clubs when required
- Organizing and updating the Helper Trainers
- Maintaining current and correct helper procedures
- Ensuring the correct procedures and techniques are being followed by helpers and trained correctly by the Helper Trainers
- The overall instruction of Helpers
- Assist the Executive Committee in dealing with any complaints regarding GSA helpers and Trainers

The Helper Trainers

The Helper Trainers are selected by The Working Warden and the GSA Executive Committee.

The Helper Trainers are responsible for:

- Maintaining up to date, correct procedures and techniques with the help of the Working Warden
- Providing training for A and B Graded Helpers when required
- Passing on new techniques and procedures

The Helper Trainers take instruction and report to the Helper Coordinator. They agree on training dates and kept up to date on training issues with Helpers.

Any issues with helpers are reported to the Helper Coordinator.

The A Grade National Events Helper

What is an A Grade Helper?

The A Grade Helper is able to perform at Club level trials, WUSV/FCI Selection Trials and at the National Championships.

How is the A Grade Helper Selected?

The A Grade Helper is selected by the Helper Assessment Panel

How to become a Grade A Helper?

You must be a member of the GSA and a member of one of the OG clubs within the GSA.

Grade A helpers can only be selected as such after completing 12 months at B Grade level. They must also perform at least three club trials and have worked at least 15 dogs at club trial level.

Training Records.

All Helpers will have a training record book that will be maintained by the Working Warden.

GSA Helper Training Programme

All Helpers must maintain a good standard of work. Helpers and clubs may ask the Working Warden to further their training in order to improve their technique. Training will be organized by the Working Warden and given by the coordinator or one of the Helper Trainers at an agreed venue and date.

The B Grade Local Event Helper

What is a B Grade Helper?

The B Grade Helper is able to perform at Club level trials only

How is the B Grade Helper Selected?

The B Grade Helper is selected by the Helper Assessment Panel

B Grades can only be licensed at the following Events:

ü Main Helper Licensing Event

How do I become a Grade B Helper?

You must be a member of the GSA and a member of one of the OG Clubs within the GSA.

You must be able to perform the role of the helper as set out in the Helper Procedure.

It is recommended that approved training is undertaken before being licensed, this can be organized through the Working Warden.

Training Records

All Helpers will have a training record book that will be maintained by the Working Warden.

All Helpers must maintain a good standard of work. Helpers and clubs may ask the Helper coordinator to further their training in order to improve their technique. Training will be organized by the Helper coordinator and given by the coordinator or one of the Helper Trainers at an agreed venue and date.

Helper Training

The GSA has set training for all helpers and potential helpers at:

The annual helper licensing event

Places on these events must be booked through the Working Warden, this is to ensure the Helper trainers are prepared, training records are available and there is sufficient training time for the Helpers.

GSA Clubs can organize training events at local level or agree with Other GSA clubs to hold helper training events.

The Working Warden must be informed 1 month in advance of proposed venues and dates. The Working Warden will organize the Helper Trainers for the event.

The clubs involved will be responsible for the expenses accrued by the Training

GSA Helper Training Programme

Helpers

Helper Licensing

A and B Grade Helpers can only be licensed at the main helper licensing event held once a year.

The Helper Assessment Panel is made up of the following personnel

- ü The GSA Judges
- ü The GSA Working /Utility Warden

There should be at least 2 GSA Judges and the Working Warden.

What does the assessment panel do?

The assessment panel assesses the helper under the guidelines of the Helper Program. Each assessor fills out a Licensing Assessment form that, once completed, goes into the Helpers training records. This is to assist future training needs. The Panel will also provide feedback on the day, to help the Helper in their training.

The Judges Evaluation Form – For ALL GSA Events

- Every GSA Helper must be evaluated by the Protection Judge at all GSA Trials.
- It is the responsibility of the Trial Secretary to ensure the Protection Judge fills out the Judges Evaluation Form.
- Once completed the form must be forwarded with the trial paperwork to the GSA Working Warden
- The Evaluation Form is available from the GSA Working Warden