

DASH DOGS™

Official Rulebook

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Thank you for your interest in Dash Dogs™ where we strive to keep the activity and game of sprint trials fun for all involved, including the dogs, competitors, officials, volunteers and trial hosts. Our rules and regulations are designed to be clear, concise and as simple as possible, and our sanctioned events should be inviting, relaxing and fair yet challenging while promoting a safe and enjoyable atmosphere for the dogs, handlers and spectators. Let's get sprinting!

Mission Statement

The goal of Dash Dogs™ is to provide a user-friendly organization committed to promoting Lure course and Sprint Track events that are fun for the dog, the handler and the event hosts. Dash Dogs™ strives to allow any dog to participate in Lure sports while fostering and encouraging the bond between dog and handler. We are dedicated to growing this amazing sport while maintaining our standards.

Who We Are

Dash Dogs™ was founded by Julie Sandoval and Daneen Fox, both lifelong dog sport enthusiasts, trainers and avid dog sport competitors. After seeing firsthand the huge demand for more trials and fun competition options for lure sports, Dash Dogs™ was born. Under their watchful eye and steady hand, Dash Dogs™ is poised to address this need while keeping competitions challenging, fair and exciting for canine and human alike.

Building a Community

Dash Dogs™ seeks to facilitate the building of friendships and a supportive community. Trials should be a social event for people to share their passion and love for their dogs! In this vein competitors are permitted to crate out of their cars or, when space permits, create a tented area outside of their cars, and non-reactive dogs may be set-up in a crating style community similar to those seen at agility trials. It is the owner's responsibility to know their dog and what is best to set them up to succeed. Food is a great way to bring people together and build a level of comradery. We encourage all Affiliates/Trial Hosts to offer food for sale or to assign a potluck coordinator.

Sportsmanship Code

Dash Dogs™ expects all competitors, participants and spectators to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. This includes being courteous to fellow competitors, spectators, trial and club members, and volunteers and being both a good winner and gracious loser. Any and all verbal or physical abuse toward a dog will not be tolerated under any circumstances and may result in



a competitor being dismissed from a class, trial or prevented from participating in future Dash Dogs™ events.

Who May Participate

Eligible Dogs

All dogs over 6-months and under a year of age may compete in a Dash Dogs™ Sprint Trials on a preferred track of 50 yards. All dogs over 1 year may compete in Dash Dogs™ Sprint Trials on the regular 100 yard track or the preferred 50 yard track. Dash Dogs™ welcomes both mixed breed and purebred dogs. Deaf dogs are allowed to run. Bitches in season are eligible to compete but **must wear panties and will run at the very end of the trials**.

In summary, the following dogs are *eligible* to compete in Dash Dogs™ events:

- Dogs 6-months - 1 year run the 50-yard preferred sprint track
- Dogs of any breed, purebred or mixed breed
- Deaf dogs
- Bitches in season but they must wear panties and will run last in the trial

Eligible Handlers

Handlers must be at least 10-years old in order to compete. All minors attending a sanctioned Dash Dog™ event must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at all times.

Dogs That May Not Participate

Ineligible Dogs

While we understand some dogs may be reactive, those dogs who are **aggressive to humans or other dogs** are **not** eligible to participate in Dash Dogs™ events. Should a dog behave aggressively by lunging, snapping and any other dangerous actions toward another competitor, be it human or canine, gate steward, trial secretary, trial worker, volunteer or any other person attending a sanctioned Dash Dogs™ event, this dog will be immediately dismissed from the event and barred from attending any future Dash Dogs™ events. Dogs who are blind, lame, have stitches, open wounds or are ill are ineligible to compete. Lactating bitches are also ineligible to compete.



In summary, the following dogs are *ineligible* to compete in Dash Dogs™ events:

- Dogs aggressive toward people or other dogs
- Blind dogs
- Dogs who are lame, have stitches, open wounds or are ill or lactating.

Becoming a Member of Dash Dogs™

Competitors must become members of Dash Dogs™, and doing so is free. [Here is the link where competitors may join to become a member of Dash Dogs™.](#)

Dog Registration

In order to enter Dash Dogs™ sanctioned events, each dog must be registered. This one-time registration fee is for a lifetime membership and includes the eligibility to enter Dash Dogs™ sanctioned events and the monitoring of the dog's annual and lifetime scores. Registration costs \$20.00 per dog. [Here is the link to register your dog.](#)

Entering a Trial

All competitors will enter a sanctioned Dash Dogs™ trial through the Dash Dogs™ website. Competitors must login and find the trial they are interested in. They may then select the track in which they wish to compete, the Standard 100-yard sprint track or the Preferred 50-yard sprint track. Should a competitor wish to enter a dog FEO, or For Exhibition Only, they must select the "FEO" box **as well** as the sprint track chosen. A dog may run on **BOTH** tracks in the same trial if offered - Standard & Preferred, but can only run on one track per trial for Titles and Placements, the other run in the same trial must be run FEO. Once an entry is submitted, the competitor will immediately receive a confirmation email with details on how to submit payment directly to the Affiliate/Trial Host. **No entry fees will be submitted to Dash Dogs™.** [Here is a link to learn how to enter a Dash Dog Trial](#)

Requesting Changes to Entry

All changes to trial entries must be made in writing no less than one week prior to trial date to the Affiliate/Trial Host. No changes to entries will be made the day of show, such as corrections or pulling from a trial. Competitors are expected to review their entry confirmation email for accuracy. Affiliates may choose to offer day of show entries and runs may, however, be added in those instances where the Affiliates/Trial Host accepts day of show entries.



Trials and Types of classes at Sprint Trials

Types of Trials

- **Classic - Regular sprint trials for titles and placements**
- **Dash For Cash - Added money pots for placements and Titles**

Types of tracks

- **Preferred 50 yard Sprint Class - All 6 month - year olds must run in this class. All other dogs may choose to enter this class.**
- **Regular 100 yard Sprint Class - open to all dogs over the age of 1 year.**

Sprint Trials

Dash Dogs™ offers the option of 2 Sprint Trial types - Classic and Dash For Cash and 2 track lengths - 100-yard and 50-yard. Affiliates/Trial Hosts may choose to offer one or both track lengths (50-yard or 100-yard Sprint tracks) and one or two trials per day.

Dash for Cash trials are the same fun as a Classic trial with the extra added fun of money prizes for placements. A portion of entry fees will be used and divided up between the fastest times in each height and level. If Dash for Cash will be offered - any and all specifics must be listed in the premium such as monetary breakdown of prize money, etc.

Safety

Safety is paramount. There is nothing that is more important at an event than the safety of dogs and humans. It is the responsibility of the affiliate/host and trial committee that care is taken to ensure the track, the lure equipment and the trial setting is safe and that all safety measures are followed and enforced.

Track Conditions and Maintenance

Track should be as flat as possible and free from holes, rocks, stickers or anything else that could cause injury to a dog running the track.



Fencing

Dash Dogs™ prefers that the track is enclosed with at least the minimum of orange safety fencing but fencing is not mandatory.

Start Line & Start Box

The start box is 25 feet long. Dash Dogs™ believes this gives the handlers plenty of choice as to how far behind the startline to start their dogs to give them the best advantage to hit their stride based on their size.

Catch Area

The catch area shall be a minimum of 30 to 50 yards past the finish line and be free of any solid objects that pose a safety hazard such as walls, trees, vehicles etc.

Lure and Bunny

Hosts have the option of using a continuous loop system or a drag.

Pulleys shall never be inside the sprint track

The lure aka “bunny” is white plastic strips or bag that do not prematurely set off auto timers.

Timing Devices

Affiliates/hosts may use handheld stopwatches or electronic timing devices and must state which method will be used in the premium list.

Points Calculations

- The dog's time to complete the 100 yard sprint is converted into miles per hour. To determine the MPH, 204.545 is divided by the dog's time, rounded to the nearest hundredth of a mile.
 - Example: The dog's time is 9.4 seconds. $204.545 / 9.4 = 21.76$ MPH
- A handicap system is applied to a dog's MPH to determine the number of points earned. See the next section for the different handicaps.
- Points equal the MPH multiplied by the dog's handicap



Handicaps - Regular and Preferred Tracks

- The handicap is based on the height of the dog at its withers:
 - 1.0 for large dogs (18" or greater)
 - 1.5 for medium dogs (12" up to less than 18")
 - 2 for small dogs (below 12").
- For those dogs running the preferred track, the total number of points, using the system above, will be doubled.

Dash Dogs Levels & Titles

| LEVELS | TITLE | TITLE NAME | TRACK | REQUIREMENTS |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Novice | SDN | Sprint Dog Novice | 100 yards | 150 points |
| Advanced | SDA | Sprint Dog Advanced | 100 yards | 300 points |
| Excellent | SDE | Sprint Dog Excellent | 100 yards | 500 points |
| Master | SDM | Sprint Dog Master | 100 yards | 750 points |
| Champion/Elite | SDCH | Sprint Dog Champion | 100 yards | 1000 points |
| Novice Preferred | SDNP | Sprint Dog Novice Preferred | 50 yards | 150 points |
| Advanced Preferred | SDAP | Sprint Dog Advanced Preferred | 50 yards | 300 points |
| Excellent Preferred | SDEP | Sprint Dog Excellent Preferred | 50 yards | 500 points |
| Master Preferred | SDMP | Sprint Dog Master Preferred | 50 yards | 750 points |
| Champion/Elite Preferred | SDCHP | Sprint Dog Champion Preferred | 50 yards | 1000 points |

Qualification for the Dash Dogs™ Annual Regional & National Sprint Championship

Dash Dogs™ believes national events are a time to celebrate the accomplishments of dogs at all levels. As such, all dogs will be welcome at Dash Dogs™ Annual National Sprint



Championship. More details regarding this national event, including requirements, how to qualify and scoring information, will be released in the future.

Trial Awards & Ribbons

All **affiliates/trial hosts** shall provide the following awards for each level, except where noted. Affiliates/Trial Hosts **may not** deviate from ribbon size or color requirements. **Affiliates must list the awards to be offered at the trial in the Premium. Ribbons and Rosettes must have Dash Dogs/Logo and the affiliate name/logo**

Qualifying Ribbons - Light Blue or light blue/silver Flat ribbon

For each competitor who Q'd in each sprint run. **Dogs who do not cross the finish line by themselves or who soil on the track do not earn points or qualifying scores.**

Placement awards for each Sprint trial per height and level

This would include 1st - 4th Placements in the regular sprint class and preferred class, awarded to the qualifying dogs with the fastest times Dogs who ran FEO (For Exhibition Only) do not qualify for placements.

Placement awards are optional. Affiliates/hosts have the option to offer placement ribbons. All ribbons and awards offered must be listed on the trials premium list.

Title Rosettes

Title Rosettes should be big, bold and beautiful!! These will be the lovely markers along their team's Dash Dogs journey!!

Size of rosettes shall increase as the level of title increases. There shall be no difference in size between the standard or preferred titles.

It is very helpful to trial hosts if you let them know ahead of time that you are close to a certain title before the trial so that they can be prepared.

Ribbons Requirements and Specifications

Dash Dogs™ strongly believes in rewarding those dogs and handlers who have undergone the hard work and tireless preparation required to earn a qualifying score or obtain a title. As such, Dash Dogs™ has paid specific attention to the designing of ribbon requirements. Ranges are provided in certain categories to allow for flexibility on the part of Affiliates, however, deviations from these specifications is **not permitted**. By following these specifications, Affiliates will assist in promoting consistency in all Dash Dogs™ events while also properly honoring the accomplishments of deserving competitors.



TRIAL AWARDS & RIBBONS REQUIREMENTS

| AWARD TYPE | COLOR | RIBBON SIZE | MANDATORY/ OPTIONAL |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| New title: SDN & SDNP | Affiliates choose colors | 3 - 14" streamer w/ 5 "rosette | Mandatory |
| New title: SDA & SDAP | Affiliates choose colors | 3 -14" streamer w/ 5" rosette | Mandatory |
| New title: SDE & SDEP | Affiliates choose colors | 3 - 20" streamer w/ 5 ½" rosette | Mandatory |
| New title: SDM & SDMP | Affiliates choose colors | 3 - 20" streamer w/ 5 ½" rosette | Mandatory |
| New title: SDCH & SDCHP | Medium Blue and Silver and white | 3 - 24" streamer w/ 7" rosette | Mandatory |
| All 1st place Class awards | Blue | Double-flat or 5" 3-streamer rosette | Optional |
| All 2nd place Class awards | Red | Double-flat or 5" 3-streamer rosette | Optional |
| All 3rd place Class awards | Yellow | Double-flat or 5" 3-streamer rosette | Optional |
| All 4th place Class awards | White | Double-flat or 5" 3-streamer rosette | Optional |
| Qualifying Ribbons | Light Blue or Light Blue/Silver | 2 ½ x 10 Single flat or Double flat | Mandatory |



General Rules

Dog Safety

All competitors, participants and volunteers must **always** be mindful of every dog. Once dogs understand the game, they love it and can become over excited and eager to play. To ensure the safety of everyone, both human and canine, there is a 6' rule in place at all Dash Dogs™ events. This means every dog must maintain a minimum of 6' distance from all other dogs at all times. When dogs are not participating in run, they must be on-leash with their leash being no longer than 6' long; flexi/retractable leashes are **not** permitted on Dash Dogs™ sanctioned trial grounds. Dogs are not permitted to play or otherwise interact with one another where the potential of injury is high while on Dash Dogs™ sanctioned trial grounds. When a dog is not on-leash, they must always be secured within a crate or pen.

Competitor Conduct

All competitors are expected to have read and understood the entirety of these Rules. Competitors are also expected to heed the requests of the Trial Chairperson and Gate Steward and respect their decisions as final. It is our goal to keep the rules at a minimum, so please be kind to your dog, respectful and courteous to people, and be honorable and strive to not have a rule added and named after you.

Competitor Safety

Dash Dogs™ insists all competitors and people that will be on the track for any reason, wear weather appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes as a safety precaution to help avoid injury from the lure.

Spectators

To ensure the community atmosphere of our sanctioned events, Dash Dogs™ welcomes spectators to watch sprint trials. There should not be any spectators, dogs or food within 10 feet of the track.

Spectator Conduct

Spectators are requested to be respectful while the dog is running. Clapping and cheering when the competitor has completed their run is allowed and encouraged. The Gate Steward may ask spectators to step back from the track. Spectators are expected to follow any and all of the Trial Chairperson or Gate Steward's requests.



Video and Photography

While not mandatory, we encourage Affiliates/Hosts to have videographers/photographers at trials. We feel video is a great way to monitor the progression of this sport, lends to accountability and is an invaluable learning tool. Professional videographers and photographers are welcomed and encouraged to shoot and sell their work at Dash Dogs™ sanctioned events. All businesses must abide by local business laws.

Affiliate and Trial Chairperson Briefing

The Affiliate/Host will do a general briefing immediately before the trial to discuss logistics of the trial such as potty areas, where the human bathroom facilities are located, etc. The trial Chairperson will then provide a general briefing to discuss and answer questions about the trial, the track and any safety issues. Holding an in person briefing is always the preferred method but having the information in the form of a hand out, or emailed to each competitor with their final entry confirmations is allowed, especially if the trials will use a time slot sign up or self queueing. However, competitors are expected to have read and understood the entirety of these Rules before attending the trial.

Collars/Leashes

Flexi/retractable leads are **not** permitted on Dash Dogs™ sanctioned trial grounds. No choke chains, prong collars or halti/head collars are permitted in the start box or on the track. Should a competitor feel they must use one of these collars to get from Point A to Point B safely, they may do so, however in order to be permitted to run, their leash must be removed from this collar and attached to a flat or martingale collar to enter the start box. Dogs may run naked or with flat buckle collars and nothing dangling off the collar.

Each dog, in each run, needs a releaser with an approved leash and a catcher with a second approved leash. Dog may run wearing an approved collar (No Dangling tags - remove or securely tape or band so that flat to the collar) and/or an approved muzzle.

Early Release

This is defined as a dog being released prior to the Tally Ho. While it is not considered an NQ, it is frowned upon and if Trail Chairperson or Gate Steward sees a pattern, competitors will be given a warning and then it will be considered a fault or NQ.



Proper Start Line Etiquette and helpful hints

- At the time of release make sure at least 2 of the dogs feet are on the ground and INSIDE of their 25 foot marked start box.
- If you are holding by the collar or body - make sure you throw your leash to the side. You do not want it getting caught up on the dog when you release.
- Do NOT stand on the lure string. Make sure you are aware of where the string is. The lure string can cut right through shoes, so respecting it is always a good thing,
- After releasing the dog, the releaser needs to remain in the start box until the dog is caught.
- STEP ON THE STRING - If you are invited into the start box and choose to release the dog on the other side of the lure string you must wait until the lure stops and the dog is caught to step on the string again and cross back over to exit.
- When the lure is STOPPED and you wish to cross over - YOU SHOULD ALWAYS step ON the string. This helps ensure you don't trip on the string.

Helpful Hints for releasing the dog

- You will come in and set up in the start box once the gate person (Hunt Master) invites you in. They are waiting until the bunny is in place.
- Come in and get in position, making sure the dog has 2 feet in the start box and you are not on the string.
- The huntmaster will then ask you to let them know you are ready. They will then signal the lure operator to start the lure. The lure operator will then say TALLY HO.
- DO NOT RELEASE THE DOG BEFORE you hear the HO in TALLY HO. You can release anytime AFTER the HO in TALLY HO!
- If the dog takes off after the bunny, fabulous! Exit the area when it is safe.
- If the dog hesitates, is unsure or just does not get the game yet - BE QUIET and be as still as you can. Pretend you are a post. Look down the track. You are trying to not be a sight, sound or movement distraction. Let the dog sort out the problem themselves. Give them all the chances to hear the catch person call etc.



Proper catching Etiquette

- If your dog gets the game - Fabulous! Catch your dog and remember it is never “bad” to actually catch the bunny!
- If your dog is not sure or new to the sport that is ok. They may be doing a couple of “recalls” as their first few runs, but usually in no time they are chasing the bunny!
- When you are the catch person with a newbie dog you need to be LOUD and BIG!!! Shout their names, be encouraging, jump up and down, wave your arms.
- Treats and toys may be used at the finish line in the catch area but not on the actual track.
- The closer to the finish line you are the sooner down the track your dog will start slowing down. You may want to start close to the finish line and then as the dog gets moving, start running away from the finish line - that might make the dog run faster and also won’t cause premature slowing.

Rewarding Your Dog

Dash Dogs™ believes strongly that the dog should be rewarded upon each run. This may be accomplished by either treating the dog at the end and taking care not to contaminate the track or briefly playing with them with a toy, or verbal praise.

Helpful Extra's

- Remember lots of praise and a big party back at your set up.
- It is always a good idea to warm up and cool down dogs after their runs.
- Being mindful of toenail length is important. Running on long toenails is painful.
- Most trial hosts will have a photo area set up - Dash Dogs™ LOVES to see photos of Dash Dogs™

Disqualifications

Should a dog or a competitor earn a disqualification, their run will end immediately and they will earn (0) points for that run. The following count as disqualifications:

- Eliminating on the track
- Dog aggressive or threatening to humans during run or catch area
- Competitor harshly verbally or physically reprimanding a dog
- Unsportsmanlike conduct to Trial Chairperson, other competitors, spectators or trial workers



Elimination in the track Area

This is defined as dogs who urinate, defecate or vomit on the track or track area. Once a dog has eliminated in the track area, the team will be assessed a (0) point score and the run will immediately stop. While we understand it can be frustrating for a competitor in this situation, any harsh verbal or physical reprimanding of the dog will cause the competitor to be dismissed from the trial.

Dog Aggressive or Threatening to Humans During Search

Should a dog behave aggressively by lunging, snapping and any other dangerous actions toward another competitor, be it human or canine, the gate steward, trial chairperson, trial worker, volunteer or any other person attending a sanctioned Dash Dogs™ event, this dog will be immediately dismissed from the event and may be barred from attending any future Dash Dogs™ events.

Competitor Harshly Verbally or Physically Reprimanding a Dog

Dash Dogs™ believes strongly that dogs should be treated with respect and will not tolerate any competitor who harshly verbally or physically reprimands their dog. Any such competitor will earn a disqualification and will be dismissed from the trial.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

All competitors are expected to practice good sportsmanship while participating in Dash Dogs™ trials. Dash Dogs™ is also a spectator sport, therefore cursing is not permitted. Therefore, any competitor who curses threateningly at their dog, Dash Dogs™ official, trial host, staff, volunteer, spectator or fellow competitor will earn an unsportsmanlike conduct disqualification for that particular trial.

Competitor Excusing Dog

Competitors may decide to excuse their dog from a run due to stress, illness or lack of focus. In this situation, the team will be assessed (0) points for this particular run. Competitors may opt to continue running in other runs they have signed up for on that day, should they feel it is in the best interest of their dog.



Reruns

There are three specific scenarios when a trail chair, gate steward may allow a competitor to rerun a search:

Timer Malfunction

In the event of timer malfunction the team shall be granted

Lure Malfunction

In the event of a lure malfunction after the dog has been released in which the dog crosses the finish line, the time may be accepted as official or owner/handler may opt for a rerun and the declined time may not be used as the official time.

Something out of the ordinary

This scenario would include things like but not limited to anything that causes significant distraction to the dog running and did not happen during the rest of the runs at the trial. For example, A re-run would be granted for a bird that landed on the track and would not move and caused the dog to not finish the run, but there would not be a rerun if there was a party with loud music close by and while this loud music was playing during all the runs only one dog reacted and did not finish the run. The Trial chairperson will partner with the gate steward to determine those affected competitors, and will permit them to be re-run. All steps will be taken to avoid this situation from arising in the first place.

Trial Chairperson's Decision is Final

In all trials, the Trial Chairperson's decision is final. Competitors are expected to respect this fact and not challenge or question the Trial Chairperson's decision, in particular showing video footage after a run questioning a Trial Chairperson's decision. Should a competitor have a question relating to the trial or some other procedural matter, they may touch base with the Trial Chairperson or contact Dash Dogs™ directly at info@DashDogs.org.

Staging

Affiliates/Trial Hosts are entrusted to decide the best manner in which to arrange staging areas to promote a smooth and efficient running of a trial. Dash Dogs™ suggests Affiliates/Trial Hosts utilize technology (e.g. walkie talkies, cell phones, text messages, etc.) to allow their trial



workers to most efficiently communicate when a dog is ready to enter or exit the staging area and the track. The only requirement is that all dogs and competitors maintain the required 6' distance from one another and follow all collar and leash rules and requirements. Affiliates/Trial Hosts should work hand-in-hand with the Track Crew to provide the most efficient running of the trial.

Class Order

The Affiliate/Trial Host is in the best position to determine the run order which will produce the most efficient and smooth running of the trial. Therefore, the Affiliate/Trial Host has the discretion to decide the run order and if hosting two trials in one day, to run concurrently or consecutively. Affiliates/Trial Hosts are urged to think out of the box and utilize online sign up for time slots to run, allowing self queueing trials, etc.

Dog-in-White

Prior to the running of the first dog, a dog-in-white will be run to help the track crew assess lure and track. The dog-in-white will determine that the lure and track are functioning correctly, if any changes are necessary.

Questions or Concerns:

Dash Dogs™ has an open-door policy. Therefore, if anyone be it a competitor, spectator, volunteer, official or Affiliate/Trial Host has a question or concern, they are welcome to contact Dash Dogs™ directly at info@DashDogs.org. However, we also believe in the importance of fairness and going through a chain-of-command. Therefore, if you see something at a trial that you have a question about, raise it to the Trial Chairperson first, and give them an opportunity to address it. It may then be elevated to the organization level, if need be.

Sharing in Successes and Good Times Had

We love seeing photos and reading stories of dogs and handlers who had fun and success at a Dash Dogs™ event. Whether it be earning a title or the first time a dog was brave enough to venture down that long track, we want to hear about it. Feel free to join the [Dash Dogs™ Facebook Group](#) and post your photos and stories there, and help us build a truly supportive Dash Dogs community.

How to Become an Affiliate/Trial Host

Affiliates/Trial Hosts enable more dogs and handlers to play the great game of Sprint Trials by hosting sanctioned Dash Dogs™ trials and events! **Information regarding becoming an Affiliate and the link to submit the Affiliate Application may be found on the Dash Dogs™ website or by [clicking here](#)**



Official Dash Dogs™ Logo and Name

The official Dash Dogs™ name and logo may only be used with written permission. The official name and logo must be used on any and all ribbons, photo areas, paperwork and in any area or item used for promotion for any official Dash Dogs™ sanctioned event.