



SCSC

GUEST & MEMBERSHIP PACKET

Rev, 7-26-19

WELCOME!

Southern California Schutzhund Club (SCSC) is one of the first Schutzhund clubs in Southern California. We feel fortunate to have a vast amount of training knowledge within our membership. Our club members have years of experience in high-level training in Schutzhund competition and other sports venues. We are a unique club in that our membership is very self-directed in our training. We do not teach Schutzhund training or basic obedience but practice Schutzhund and share a variety of dog training techniques, related sport skills and styles depending on the individual dogs and trainers and goals for that training session. Appropriate communication between dog and handler is critical to the learning process. Most importantly our club and membership prioritize safety and responsible dog ownership. This information packet will give you an idea of what is expected of guests and prospective new membership and what you can expect from us.

You may consider upon your first visit to SCSC coming without your dog. This allows for concentrated observation and time to familiarize yourself with the standing rules and to ask questions.

Please review our Standing Rules, which are available electronically or in our club training book. These guidelines outline the structure and expectations for everyone in attendance at our training field. If you have any questions about these rules, please ask any club member. SCSC encourages any individual interested in our training sessions to observe free of charge. All guests and prospective members are required to sign in our guest book and complete and sign a liability waiver.

Since it is a privilege to have the use of the training location, we are always respectful of the ground and surrounding areas. Please always clean up after your dog and dispose of any trash or pet waste in the dumpsters only. Please also restrict your dog's potty area to the far side of the parking lot, away from the field. We don't want dogs to eliminate on or near the training field.

SCSC's regular training nights are Tuesdays and Thursday from approximately 7:30pm to 11:00pm. Occasionally our field is unavailable or in use by the POA so please verify our schedule before showing up for training. Guests may be directed to a particular night based on field availability. Protection work is subject to the availability of the helper. Please confer with the TD/TC about obedience and/or protection on the particular night you visit SCSC.



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GUEST POLICY:

Guests interested in SCSC training should contact us in advance of attending training for current contact, schedule and policy information.

Guests will have limited field time based on the number of club members in attendance and should check in by email or phone with contact person, **Training Director (TD)** or **Training Committee member (TC)** in advance

General Rules

Guests must remain in the seating area except with guidance from the TD/TC. Field time with your dog is not guaranteed and must be approved by the TD/TC. All guests must sign in each time and upon first visit complete liability waiver. Children under the age of 12 are not permitted at training. Children must be under control of their parents at all times.

Guests with Dogs: (see categories of participation for more details)

- Dogs/puppies must remain secure in vehicles until club members have had their turn and the TD/TC indicate it is appropriate to bring the dog/puppy for their turn. We strongly encourage the use of crates for securing the dog safely.
- Dogs must be on a fitted, secure collar (Martingale, slip, choke, pinch) and a leash at all times unless otherwise directed by the TD/TC.
- Puppies under 4 months of age may “meet and greet” in the club house (no field time) at no charge for unlimited times until 4 months of age
- Puppies over 4 months of age and/or newbie/novice dogs or handlers may attend up to two Meet N Greets at no charge, after which it's \$30/night donation requested
- Guest Donation requested of \$30 CASH for club attendance with a dog and/or use of the field (OB or Protection)
- Guests participating in an SCSC trial may attend at no charge for 2 weeks prior to the event
- Donations to be collected by membership committee and given to treasurer
- It is expected every dog in attendance will have all state required vaccinations
 - (Puppies not yet vaccinated may visit at owner's risk)
- If time allows, guests may work one dog per night after members' dogs – exceptions must be approved by the Training Director/Committee
- All guest dogs must wait for their turn in the parking lot away from the gate until directed by the TD/TC to enter. Avoid making contact with dogs exiting the gate.
- Dogs exiting the field must be leashed.

Spectators/ Guests with NO DOGS:

- Spectators are welcome to come and observe with no dogs at no charge.



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Categories of Field Use for Guests:

1. **Experienced Obedience/Protection Field Use** (dogs that are older than 4 months and/or experienced handler/dog teams)
 2. **Newbie/Novice** (Dogs older than 4 months and people new to IGP and/or training)
 3. **Puppies** (Under 4 months of age)
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1. **Experienced Obedience/Protection Field Use (with dogs older than 4 months):**
 - For experienced or established guests, they may work dog in obedience or protection as time allows, following members' dogs.
 - **\$30 CASH donation for field use**, unless otherwise authorized by TD/TC.
 2. **Newbie/Novice Visits: (with dogs over 4 months of age)**
 - Newbies: Guests/Dogs who are first-timers to IGP training and just curious about the sport and/or assessing their dog's appropriateness for the sport. This is a "Meet N Greet" with you and your dog is a chance to spend time in the club house and potentially on the field (approx. 5 min interaction) to help assess whether the dog is comfortable in the setting of the field and people.
 - Up to two Meet N Greets at no charge. Following the initial two visits, a **\$30 CASH donation** is requested unless otherwise authorized by the TD/Training Committee. (Field time based on availability)
 - New teams that feel they are ready to try protection work must get authorization from the TD/Training Committee.
 3. **Puppies (with puppies under 4 months of age) – Non-Field Use Visits:**
 - These are typically non-field use sessions for young dogs up to 4 months of age that may be being considered for their drive and temperament for IGP. Puppies may spend time in the club house (if the training schedule permits) **at no charge** and become acclimated to the environment. Please check in advance with the TD/Training Committee about the best days for visiting



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SCSC MEMBERSHIP:

Guidelines for SCSC membership and the process:

When our membership is open anyone may apply. If you are interested in IGP training and participation in our club however, it's important to get a feel for what's required and to be sure it's really suited to you and your dog. Our club seeks prospective members that are self-disciplined, dedicated, can make the time commitment of club training twice/week, have a great interest in the sport, are willing to share ideas and engage with club members about the training, contribute to the overall club environment and to be available for participation in all club activities (i.e. trials, training seminars, set up/break down of club equipment and service on committees and the board of directors).

If you don't have a training background, some supplemental dog obedience training outside of club training is recommended. Our club thrives on self-directed training and does not provide structured training as other clubs may. Club members are encouraged to share ideas, ask questions and spend much time observing training and practicing. Prospective members should evaluate their own training style and knowledge to assess the appropriateness of potential membership.

After an initial mutual evaluation period for both you and club members, and if club membership is open, you may elect to pursue membership. If you haven't downloaded them already, you will be given a copy of our constitution and bylaws, which should be read before you make the decision to join.

The completed application for membership, a non-refundable \$50 application fee along with membership dues of \$500 for the first year (prorated) should be given to the Membership Committee Chair. Applications are available in the training book.

In order to be considered for membership, you will also need two sponsors. These must be members in good standing that will assume responsibility for your progress. Prospective members will have a 90 day probationary period during which time you will have a chance to get to know the members and the club will learn about you and your dog. While you are on probation as a new member, your sponsor should be present at your training sessions unless arrangements have been made for another member to stand in. The sponsor is there to guide you through your application process, answer questions about the club, our training guidelines and protocols and to provide feedback if there are any concerns by the membership about your participation during this time. Keep in mind that our members may already be working with another team and may not have the availability to shepherd another prospective member through this process.



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SCSC MEMBERSHIP (continued)

Training night commitment:

You must attend 75% of all scheduled training sessions during the probationary period (minimum 90 days) to be considered for membership.

We recommend you take some time to get to know our club members in order to determine who might be good sponsors for you and your dog.

The bylaws further elucidate guidelines for the presentation of a prospective member at the club meeting and the subsequent voting process.

We want to be sure that your membership is a good fit for both you and SCSC!