



# ***RULES***

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## Season

The season runs October 1 to September 30 each year.

## Toy/Bumper

Official bumper for the HighTide & LowTide disciplines. Sizes: 2½"x12" for the Regular class and 1"x12" for the Mini class.



Any toy/bumper can be used for the TidalWave discipline, with the following exceptions.

- Cannot be alive, or previously alive.
- Cannot be food/treats.

## Sportsmanship

We take sportsmanship very seriously, our ultimate goal is for our participants, and spectators, to have fun. K9Wave is a community. Verbal encouragement and cheering from the handler or from the poolside spectators are ***always*** welcome.

Splashing at the toy/bumper, to help encourage hesitant dogs, is also welcome.

Sportsmanship is defined as, "Exceptional and fair sportsmanship while building a relationship with your dog(s). Be thoughtful, helpful, fair, and share encouragement to fellow participants and their dogs. Conduct (such as fairness, respect for one's opponent, and graciousness in winning or losing) becoming to one participating in a sport" ~merriam-webster.com

We have a zero-tolerance policy for bad-sportsmanship. We have the right to refuse service to anyone. Unsportsman-like conduct can result in removal from the facility grounds and suspension or bans from future events.

### Reminder

- *These are DOGS*
- *This is just a GAME*
- *The staff are VOLUNTEERS*
- *The judges are HUMAN*
- *Your dog isn't competing in the Olympics!*

## Competition Team

The Handler is the person responsible for the dog at the K9Wave event.

- A team consists of a Handler and a Dog with an optional Holder or Guest-Thrower.
- Junior Handler = less than 16 years old.
  - Junior Handlers under the age of 8 must to be accompanied by an adult on the dock.

## Canine Welfare

Handler's are responsible for the safety and welfare of their dogs. Participating dogs must be supervised and under the care and control of their Handlers at all times. Dogs must be leashed or crated at all times, except when on the dock. Only the competing team (Handler/Holder/Dog) are allowed on the dock during the K9Wave event. All participants on the dock will sign a Risk of Release of Liability for K9Wave and the facility.

Dogs must be healthy, over the age of 6 months, and in good condition to participate. All dogs that can safely jump off the dock may participate. It is the Handler's responsibility to ensure that their dogs do not compete in more events than would be advisable given prevailing weather conditions, and specific consideration given to the fitness and general health of the participating dog. The Judge will have final authority on the issue if a dog is unfit to compete.

Abusive/Harsh treatment of any dog, or any conduct of a Handler/Holder/Owner which might be perceived as such, will not be tolerated and will be excused from the K9Wave event.

Only well fitted lifejackets, flat fabric/biothane buckle/clip collars or martingales (and/or harnesses) are allowed when the dog is jumping/swimming in the water. Training aids are allowed to get the dog to and from the dock safely. Slip Martingales, Slip Leashes, and Leashes can be used to get the dog out of the water back onto the dock. Each K9Wave Facility will decide if the use of electronic training aids will be permitted at their location. Leashes should be 6 feet, or less, for best control at the K9Wave event. For safety reasons, retractable leashes and long lines are not allowed at a K9Wave event.

Dogs are allowed to wear fitted float coats (lifejackets) and wet suits.

Bitches in season are not allowed to participate nor competition grounds.

If there is a dog believed to pose a danger to people or other dogs, they will not be permitted to compete and will be asked to leave the K9Wave event grounds. This will be at the discretion of the Event Director or Facility Owner.

## Vaccinations

All dogs at a K9Wave event must have proof of Rabies vaccine or current Rabies Titer (within the last 3 years) and may be required to show proof upon request.

## Registration Information

- All teams need to be [members](#) of K9Wave to participate in a K9Wave event. This is a onetime fee of \$30.00 per team CAD/USD.
- Generally, K9Wave events will open for online registration 12 weeks prior to the first day of the K9Wave event.
- Entry Fees: Each discipline (TidalWave, HighTide, and LowTide) are \$25 CAD/USD.

### Refund Policy:

- The entry fee is non-refundable, even if the dog refuses to jump into the water or the team fails to arrive for their scheduled jump slot.
- Refunds can be issued if Handler and/or dog has illness/injury, up to the discretion of the event host.

## The Pool & Dock

K9Wave events will be held with industry standard competition docks and pools. The dock will be 40' long and the pool will be a minimum of 40'. The dock will be 2' above the water level.

The specialized "K9Wave 20' Dock Games" require a minimum of 20' dock with a minimum of 35' pool. The dock will be 2' above the water level.

## 20' Dock Games

We have introduced a 20' dock competition as an opportunity for shorter docks/pools to host competitions with specialized divisions and ability to earn titles. The title legs and tiers are the same for 40' and 20' dock disciplines. The division distances have been proportionally adjusted for the 20' dock. Each disciplines rules apply to both full dock and 20' Dock Games. The one rule exception is for LowTide, where the bumper is placed at 29' (instead of 39' for the full dock).

## Event Format

- Tides run hourly, with a maximum of 25 teams per Tide
- Typical running orders will be: Friday Z-A, Saturday A-Z, and Sunday Z-A by dogs call-name. Subsequent or additional days will be offset.
- The Mistress (or Master) of Ceremonies will announce who is "next up the dock", "on deck" and "in the hole" before each team begins.

- Handlers must check in at least 30 minutes prior to competing in their first discipline.
- Conflicts in running order must be addressed during check-in so they can be resolved quickly.
- Final running orders will be posted before the start of each wave on a whiteboard for all to see/access.
- Scores will be announced after every jump, including the celebrations of Personal Bests achieved and Titles earned.

## Classes

- **Regular** Class - Dogs that measure 16" and over at the withers.
- **Mini** Class - Dogs that measure under 16" at the withers.
  - Preliminary measurements will be completed on first day of competition for dogs under 16".
  - All Mini Dogs under 24 months will be measured at the beginning of each season.
  - Official Measurements for Mini Dogs by two judges after the dog turns 2 years.
  - All Mini Dogs will be measured prior to competing in Regionals by two judges. If the dog measures 16" or over at Regionals, they will compete with the Regular Class.

## Standard Event Schedule (Suggested)

### **Friday** (Alpha Order Z-A)

- 10am LowTide
- 11am TidalWave
- Noon TidalWave
- 1:30pm TidalWave or Catch-a-Wave
- 2:30pm TidalWave
- 3:30pm TidalWave
- 4:30pm HighTide

### **Saturday** (Alpha Order A-Z)

- 10am LowTide
- 11am TidalWave
- Noon TidalWave
- 1:30pm TidalWave or Catch-a-Wave
- 2:30pm TidalWave
- 3:30pm TidalWave
- 4:30pm HighTide

### **Sunday** (Alpha Order Z-A)

- 10am LowTide
- 11am TidalWave
- Noon TidalWave
- 1:30pm TidalWave or Catch-a-Wave
- 2:30pm TidalWave
- 3:30pm TidalWave
- 4:30pm HighTide

## **K9Wave Games/Disciplines**

### **TidalWave Discipline**

Also known as the "long distance jump". Measures the dog's distance jumping from the end of the dock to where the dog's base of the tail enters the water. Each jump will be judged by manual eye (not camera).

- Teams get 2 judged back-to-back attempts to earn their best score.
- Teams will have option of 1 practice jump and 2 scored jumps within a period of 3 minutes, once on the dock, for each Tide. Judge will score first 2 jumps
- Handler **MUST** tell the Judge **PRIOR** to jumping they want a practice jump. Then, the Judge **MUST** confirm the practice jump. Otherwise, the jump will be their first attempt and scored.
- Dogs must jump of their own free will. No blocking or pushing allowed.
- Handler may bring multiple Floatable bumpers/toys onto the dock.
  - No Food allowed on the dock.
- If a bumper/toy has been thrown but the dog does not jump, the bumper/toy can be retrieved and re-thrown only once per jump. The judge can **NOT** assist in retrieval.
- If a dog jumps from the dock, but the bumper/toy has **NOT** been thrown, the dog can be recalled to the dock to try the attempt within their allotted time.
- If a dog jumps from the dock, and the bumper/toy does get thrown in after the dog jumps, that does constitute a scored jump.
- The best of the 2 scored jumps will be the final score.

### **TidalWave TidePool Division**

TidePool allows dogs not comfortable with, or able to, jumping off the dock an opportunity to participate and title in our TidalWave discipline using the pool ramp as their entry point.

- Jumps in TidePool will be judged as a "jump/no jump". Distance will not be judged in the TidePool division.
- Criteria for titles will remain the same, 5 jumps in the TidePool division will earn the TidalWave Starter title and each title thereafter based on number of jumps.
- The toy or bumper must be thrown past the end of the ramp and all four of the dog's feet must leave the ramp to count as a jump.
- You may take a practice jump as usual, just be sure to let the judge know.
- Once you enter the TidePool division, there can be no changes made in that Tide. If you wish to change from TidePool to our regular jumping class, you may do so at the end of the current Tide.

## Titles

*TidalWave divisional title legs will be awarded for each successful jump classed by Division. Handlers will be earning ribbons at each facility.*

Title	Jumps	Abbreviation
TidalWave Starter	5	TWS
TidalWave Advanced	25	TWA
TidalWave Master	50	TWM
TidalWave Professional	75	TWP
TidalWave Expert *	100	TWX
* each additional 25 Jumps		TWX2, TWX3, etc

## Division Tiers

*These TidalWave Division Tiers are specific to a full dock (40') length*

Divisions	Mini Class Distance	Regular Class Distance
TidePool	1	1
Chinook	2' - 3'11"	2' - 4'11"
Whirlwind	4' - 7'11"	5' - 9'11"
Storm	8' - 11'11"	10' - 14'11"
Monsoon	12' - 15'11"	15' - 19'11"
Cyclone	16' - 19'11"	20' - 24'11"
Typhoon	20' - 23'11"	25' - 29'11"

## TidalWave<sup>20</sup> Division Tiers

*These Division Tiers are specific to a 20' dock length (refer to TidalWave section above for the 40' Dock Division Tiers)*

Divisions	Mini Class Distance	Regular Class Distance
TidePool	1	1
Chinook	2' - 2'11"	2' - 3'11"
Whirlwind	3' - 5'11"	4' - 7'11"
Storm	6' - 7'11"	8' - 12'11"
Monsoon	8' - 10'11"	13' - 17'11"
Cyclone	11' - 13'11"	18' - 22'11"
Typhoon	14' - 17'11"	23' - 27'11"
Hurricane	18' - 21'11"	28' - 30'11"
Tsunami	22' +	31' +



## **Catch-a-Wave Discipline**

Catch-a-Wave (CW) is defined as a long distance jump with a catch of the bumper/toy in the air.

- This discipline requires two judges (Each jump will be judged by manual eye (not camera)
  - One judge will determine the dog's distance jumping from the end of the dock to where the base of the dog's tail enters the water.
  - The other judge will determine the distance of the toy when it is caught in the air.
- The combined scores for Jumping Distance + Toy Distance = Score
- Teams get two judged back-to-back attempts to earn their best score.
- The best of the 2 scored jumps will be the final score.
- The toy must be airborne (released from the handlers' hand) before the dog can grab the toy out of the air for a catch score.
- The dog CAN land in the water and still catch the toy in the air for a catch score. (Assuming no part of the toy touches the water before the catch)
- Toy cannot be thrown after the dog enters the water.
- Teams will have the option of 1 practice jump and 2 scored jumps within a period of 3 minutes. Timer starts once the team enters the dock.
- Handler MUST tell the Judge PRIOR to jumping they want a practice jump. Then, the Judge MUST confirm the practice jump. Otherwise, the jump will be their first attempt and scored.
- Dogs must jump of their own free will. No blocking or pushing allowed.
- Handler may bring multiple Floatable bumpers/toys onto the dock. (No Food allowed on the dock.)
- If a bumper/toy has been thrown but the dog does not jump, the bumper/toy can be retrieved and re-thrown only once per jump.
- If a dog jumps from the dock, but the bumper/toy has NOT been thrown, the dog can be recalled to the dock to try the attempt within their allotted time.
- If a dog jumps from the dock, and the bumper/toy does get thrown in after the dog jumps, that does constitute a scored jump.

### **Tiebreakers**

Listed in order of priority:

1. Each team's 2nd (lower) score is compared
2. Most previous CW scores are compared

## Titles

*Catch-a-Wave divisional title legs will be earned for EACH eligible Grab, classed into the appropriate Catch-a-Wave Division.*

Title	Jumps	Abbreviation
Catch-a-Wave Starters	4	CWS
Catch-a-Wave Advanced	10	CWA
Catch-a-Wave Masters	20	CWM
Catch-a-Wave Professional	30	CWP
Catch-a-Wave Expert*	40	CWX
*Each additional 10 Grabs	50, 60, 70, ETC	HTX2, HTX3, etc

## Division Tiers

*These Catch-a-Wave Division Tiers are specific to a full dock (40') length*

Divisions	Mini Class Distance	Regular Class Distance
Chinook	1' - 7'11"	1' - 7'11"
Whirlwind	8' - 11'11"	8' - 14'11"
Storm	12' - 14'11"	14' - 19'11"
Monsoon	15' - 19'11"	20' - 29'11"
Cyclone	20' - 24'11"	30' - 39'11"
Typhoon	25' - 29'11"	40' - 49'11"
Hurricane	30' - 34'11"	50' - 59'11"
Tsunami	35' +	60' +

## Catch-a-Wave<sup>20</sup> Division Tiers

*These Division Tiers are specific to a 20' dock length (refer to the Catch-a-Wave section above for the 40' Dock Division Tiers)*

Divisions	Mini Class Distance	Regular Class Distance
Chinook	1' - 7'11"	1' - 7'11"
Whirlwind	8' - 10'11"	8' - 13'11"
Storm	11' - 13'11"	14' - 18'11"
Monsoon	14' - 17'11"	19' - 25'11"
Cyclone	18' - 22'11"	26' - 32'11"
Typhoon	23' - 27'11"	33' - 39'11"
Hurricane	28' - 32'11"	40' - 49'11"
Tsunami	33' +	50' +

## HighTide Discipline

HighTide (HT) is defined as a long distance jump with a suspended-bumper grab. Measures the dog's jump distance from the end of the dock to where the dog will Grab a suspended [K9Wave Bumper](#) from 2 clips above the water.

- Must use the official [K9Wave Bumper](#)
- An "Eligible Grab" is when the dog physically grabs or knocks the [K9Wave Bumper](#) from the rig into the water. The dog does not have to retrieve the bumper.
- Distance increases by 6" or 1' increments (Handlers choice).
- Distance can be increased or decreased to any distance.
- **Regular Class** will have a "K9Wave Bumper" suspended 2' above the dock (4' above the water).
  - Minimum HighTide score is 5 feet.
- **Mini Class** will have a Mini [K9Wave Bumper](#) suspended 1' above the dock (3' above the water).
  - Minimum HighTide score is 3 feet.
- Handler can elect for one practice jump, at the beginning of their turn, at any distance.
- Maximum of 5 attempts, regardless of misses.  
*For example, a team can miss their first 4 attempts and achieve a grab on their final attempt to earn a score.*
- Handlers have 45 seconds to send their dogs once the [K9Wave Bumper](#) is declared "Ready" by a judge.
- "Rest" can be requested only once during a dog's HighTide turn. It can be up to 30 seconds after a Grab or miss.
- If a dog refuses 1x, at any distance, the Handler can withdraw at that time without penalty.
- A toy may be thrown into the water after the dog attempts and misses the suspended K9Wave Bumper.

### Tiebreakers

Listed in order of priority:

1. Lowest number of misses
2. Lowest start distance
3. Average HT score/rank
4. Last HT score
5. HT Jump Off

## Titles

*HighTide divisional title legs will be earned for EACH eligible Grab, classed into the appropriate HighTide Division.*

Title	Jumps	Abbreviation
HighTide Starters	4	HTS
HighTide Advanced	10	HTA
HighTide Masters	20	HTM
HighTide Professional	30	HTP
HighTide Expert*	40	HTX
*Each additional 10 Grabs	50, 60, 70, ETC	HTX2, HTX3, etc

## Division Tiers

*These HighTide Division Tiers are specific to a full dock (40') length*

Divisions	Mini Class Distance	Regular Class Distance
Chinook	3' - 5'6"	5' - 8'6"
Whirlwind	6' - 8'6"	9' - 12'6"
Storm	9' - 10'6"	13' - 15'6"
Monsoon	11' - 12'6"	16' - 18'6"
Cyclone	13' - 14'6"	19' - 21'6"
Typhoon	15' - 16'6"	22' - 24'6"
Hurricane	17' - 18'6"	25' - 27'6"
Tsunami	19' +	28' +

## HighTide<sup>20</sup> Division Tiers

*These Division Tiers are specific to a 20' dock length (refer to the HighTide section above for the 40' Dock Division Tiers)*

Divisions	Mini Class Distance	Regular Class Distance
Chinook	3' - 4'6"	5' - 6'6"
Whirlwind	5' - 6'6"	7' - 8'6"
Storm	7' - 8'6"	9' - 10'6"
Monsoon	9' - 10'6"	11' - 12'6"
Cyclone	11' - 12'6"	13' - 14'6"
Typhoon	13' - 14'6"	15' - 16'6"
Hurricane	15' - 16'6"	17' - 18'6"
Tsunami	17' +	19' +

## LowTide -&- LowTideRAMP Disciplines

Measures the sprint time, in seconds, from when the dog's back feet leave the dock to when the dog's teeth grab the suspended [K9Wave Bumper](#).

- The bumper is placed at the 39' mark, at 1" above water level.
  - LowTide**20**: The bumper is placed at the 29' mark, at 1" above water level.
- Timer stops when the dogs teeth grab the bumper. NOTE: This is before the clips are released from the bumper strings.
- Dogs will start in front of the 15ft mark on the dock.
- Handlers have 30 seconds to send their dogs once the K9Wave Bumper is declared "Ready"
- The dog will get 2 attempts, and the best time of the 2 attempts will be the final score.

The LowTideRamp discipline is geared toward those dogs who don't want to or can't jump from the dock. Same rules apply except that the time starts when the back feet leave the ramp.

To qualify for the LowTideRAMP discipline... both judged attempts must be ramp. If jumped from dock on first try and ramp on second try... second try wont count but they get to play.

## Titles

*LowTide divisional title legs will be earned for EACH eligible sprint score.*

Title	Jumps	Abbreviation
LowTide Starters	4	LTS
LowTide Advanced	10	LTA
LowTide Masters	20	LTM
LowTide Professional	30	LTP
LowTide Expert	40	LTX
	50, 60, etc	LTX2, LTX3, etc

### **LowTide Division Tiers**

*These Division Tiers are specific to a full dock (40') length*

Divisions	Mini Class	Regular Class
Chinook	12.00 - 59.99	10.00 – 59.99
Whirlwind	11.00 - 11.99	9.00 – 9.99
Storm	10.00 - 10.99	8.00 - 8.99
Monsoon	9.00 - 9.99	7.00 – 7.99
Cyclone	8.00 - 8.99	6.00 - 6.99
Typhoon	7.00 - 7.99	5.00 - 5.99
Hurricane	6.00 - 6.99	4.00 - 4.99
Tsunami	0.01 - 5.99	0.01 - 3.99

*Note: Scores of 60 seconds or more do not qualify (DNQ) for division ranking.*

### **LowTide<sup>20</sup> Division Tiers**

*These Division Tiers are specific to a 20' dock length (refer to the LowTide section above for the 40' Dock Division Tiers)*

Divisions	Mini Class	Regular Class
Chinook	10.00 - 59.99	9.00 – 59.99
Whirlwind	9.00 - 9.99	8.00 – 8.99
Storm	8.00 – 8.99	7.00 - 7.99
Monsoon	7.00 - 7.99	6.00 – 6.99
Cyclone	6.00 – 6.99	5.00 - 5.99
Typhoon	5.00 - 5.99	4.00 - 4.99
Hurricane	4.00 - 4.99	3.00 - 3.99
Tsunami	0.01 - 3.99	0.01 - 2.99

*Note: Scores of 60 seconds or more do not qualify (DNQ) for division ranking.*

## Ribbons

### Qualifying Jumps

Teams receive a qualifying jump ribbon for every earned K9Wave score which also counts as a leg towards a title. (*Catch-a-Wave not pictured*)



### Personal Best (flag)

Every new personal best receives a PB flag attached to their qualifying ribbon or rosette.



### Division Titles

Teams receive a rosette with each title accomplishment.



## Rankings

Rankings restart from zero with each new season. [View Current Rankings](#)

### Requirements:

- **TidalWave** - average of their Top-5 scores
- **HighTide** - average of their Top-3 scores
- **LowTide** - average of their Top-3 scores

## Grand Championship

The plan for 2026... 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in September will be the Grand Championship.

Goal: More inclusive, without forcing people to travel away from their home dock to compete.

- Held at each facility.
- The schedule would be at the same time at all facilities.
- The scores would all be tabulated together on the TeamPortal and we'll crown/celebrate placements in real-time
- Facilities could have a computer monitor setup so people can watch the scores live, or login to their TeamPortal and watch score live there too.
- Championship awards will be distributed to each facility for them to award as soon as the category is complete.
- The tentative schedule:
  - Friday is reserved for Last Chance Qualifying tides.
  - Quarter-finals on Saturday.
  - Semi-finals & Finals on Sunday.