

SCENT WORK REGULATIONS REVIEW

Note: ALL the following Scent Work Regulation corrections, additions and proposed changes were tabled at Dogs NZ Scent Work Committee Meetings over the past twelve months, where they have been discussed and endorsed either unanimously or by majority vote.

Regulation Move & Amended Numbering

3.14 Previews are not permitted.

To protect the integrity of the hide handlers are prohibited from watching the scent area being set-up or other handlers undertaking the search until after their own search has been completed.

~~3.14~~3.15 Videotaping/Photography

Videotaping/photography of a ~~competitor~~ handler may be undertaken on behalf of a participant for their own personal use. No photograph or video footage may however be used to challenge a Scent Work Judge's decision. Neither shall any photographs or video footage be made available for viewing at any time till after completion of the trial.

Rationale

Clarification of regulations pertaining to spectating.

Grammatical corrections.

Regulation Change

6.5 Scent Work Awards

6.5.1 Novice Container Scent Detection Award

After a dog has attained ~~two~~ **three** qualifying Scent Detection Certificates for each of the two Novice Container patterns (i.e., both patterns must have been achieved ~~twice~~ **three times**) under at least two different judges, it is entitled to be awarded the suffix of NCS after its name.

Rationale

Currently, the ability to progress from Novice to Advanced has become easily obtainable within a singular weekend. In turn, participants are being asked to enter an Advanced Class they are not yet adequately prepared for. Increasing the pre-requisite criteria addresses the current situation.

Regulation Addition**9.1 Consistent Hide Location**

For classes in the Odour Search Division the hide must remain in the same location for each competitor, unless the hide location is contaminated or circumstances arise which, in the opinion of the Judge, otherwise require relocating the hide.

If the Judge determines that a hide, **vehicle or other item** must be relocated during the running of a class, it should be moved to a location that presents the same challenges as at the original location. The location of the original hide should be wiped and the scent vessel or container must be left to stand in the new hide location for 15 minutes before the next dog is run. At least one other area of similar size, should also be wiped with an Enzymic cleaner.

Rationale

Greater clarification of regulation intent.

Regulation Change/Relocation**9.9.2 Timing**

Dog must find the Target Odour within the time outlined for the Level and Class of Trial.

- All Novice Levels and Classes – Three minutes.
- Advanced Container – Three minutes. All other Advanced Classes - Four minutes.
- Excellent Container – Three minutes. All other Excellent Classes – **Five Four** minutes.
- Masters Container – Three minutes. **All other Masters Classes – Four minutes**

9.9.3 Teamwork

The trial will be judged on the dog and handler working as a team. A participant may give verbal encouragement during the search and may touch their dogs as direction or praise, but may not guide the dog.

Rationale

Accommodation of introduced Master Classes.

Clarification of regulation reference to Handler/Dog Teamwork.

New Regulation – under 9.9 Search Set-up

- 9.9.8 If a Vehicle, Interior or Exterior search area must be reused and the hide was placed on an item that cannot be removed, the previous placement area must be clearly indicated.**

Rationale

Clarity as to actions required in instances of fouling.

Regulation Addition

9.10 Penalties

9.10.1 Penalty points may be applied for:

- . Poor lead handling including unnecessary dropping of the line, detaching the dog from lead when in the opinion of the presiding judge this was unnecessary and tangling of the line.
- . Impeding the dog while it is searching.
- . Placing the dog in an unsafe situation.
- . Handler accidentally touching an object in the search area. No penalty shall apply however if the dog touches the container or article to either seek for or indicate the Target Odour location.
- . Dog knocking over or retrieving a container.
- . Dog picking up and mouthing of the Scent Receptacle
- . ~~Not calling "Alert" or "Finish" after a participant's dog indicates the location of a Target Odour within the time requirements for the Class being judged.~~
- . Handler not giving both audible and visual alert.
- **An alert is called on a previous found hide**
- **More than once, the food or toy reward is used to reset/refocus the dog in the search**

Rationale

Additional penalties applied for searches.

Regulation addition

9.10.3 A disqualification will be recorded if:

- ☐ Any handler or dog is found in any of the search areas before their search.
- ☐ A dog defecates or urinates in the search area.
- ☐ A container is destroyed (i.e., the judge deems the container unusable).
- ☐ A handler or dog shows aggression to others.
- ☐ Excessive corrections are displayed.
- ☐ Any person, other than the Judge, introduces scent samples into the search area.
- ☐ **Any dropping of food or toy in the search area.**

Rationale

Clarity as to the action required for fouling a Search Area.

Regulation addition & amended numbering

10.7 Rewards

10.7.3 A handler is permitted to use food or a toy to reset/refocus their dog within the scent area on one occasion only without incurring any penalties. Subsequent resets/refocusing will however incur penalties.

~~10.7.3~~ **10.7.4** If a toy is used, it must not be of a type that can make a noise, and it must always stay in contact with the ~~competitor~~ **handler** (i.e., toys may not be thrown).

Rationale

Clarity of current regulation intent.

Regulation amendment

11.1.1.2 Preparation Table.

Where possible, a small, elevated platform may be located at no less than ~~ten (10)~~ **two (2 m)** metres prior to the actual Search Area start line. At this station, handlers will be permitted to place ~~one~~ **their** reward item (including food, **which must be in a closed container**, or toy) for the purpose of post search reinforcement. However, at no time must the reward article (including food, **or container**) be permitted to contact the floor or ground surface.

Rationale

Clarity of current regulation intent. Correction of an existent error.

Regulation condensing /rewrite & amended numbering

Delete existing 11.2 Novice Container Search

Delete existing 11.3 Advanced Container Search

Delete existing 11.4 Excellent Container Search

Delete existing 11.5 Master Container Search

Delete existing 11.6 Novice Interior Search

Deleting existing 11.7 Advanced Interior Search

Delete existing 11.8 Excellent Interior Search

Delete existing 11.9 Novice Exterior Search

Delete existing 11.10 Advanced Exterior Search

Delete existing 11.11 Excellent Exterior Search

Delete existing 11.12 Novice Vehicle Search

Delete existing 11.13 Advanced Vehicle Search

Delete existing 11.14 Excellent Vehicle Search

Replacement Regulations

11.2 Equipment (New)

11.2.1 Provision of equipment. Except for Scent Receptacles, which must be provided by the Scent Work Judge, all containers and other equipment used (such as Velcro), must be provided by the host organisation along with additional containers and equipment should this become necessary for replacements such as contaminations.

11.2.1.1 Container Searches.

Novice - Twelve five-litre opaque plastic or metal containers, weighted with an approximate weight of 1kg to prevent dogs from nudging them over.

All containers are to be identical in shape and size, with a minimum height of 20cm, with each container having a covered/fitted lid with 8 – 10 holes of 5mm diameter to allow the dog to smell the scent but not access it.

Advanced - Sixteen containers of various types and sizes, each being of no less than 2 litre capacity, and weighted to prevent dogs from nudging them over.

Excellent - Twenty-one containers of various types and sizes, each being no less than 1 litre capacity, and weighted to prevent dogs from nudging them over.

Master - Twenty-eight containers of various types and sizes, each being no less than 1 litre capacity, and weighted to prevent dogs from nudging them over.

All container searches must be conducted on a level surface such as grass, concrete, or asphalt.

Identical surplus containers for replacement must also be available should any of the containers become damaged or contaminated.

11.2.1.2 Target Containers. Target Containers (i.e., the ones containing a Scent Receptacle) and containers containing non-food distractions should remain in the same position for all participants. However, the presiding Scent Work Judge may choose to move the Target Container, Distraction Container, or all containers if they deem this to be necessary (for example, a dog has fouling fouled near the containers).

11.2.1.3 Container placement.

Novice - Either in a single straight row of 12 (twelve) containers (known as 'Configuration A', a metre apart, and a metre on each side as well as at the end of the row or, two rows of 6 (six) containers (known as "Configuration B"), each row being 1.5 – 2 metres apart, as well as a 1 metre spacing on each side and end of the rows.

Advanced and Excellent - Placed in **equal rows**, with each row being 1.5 – 2 metres apart or, in a 2.5m diameter circle or, square or, "C" or, "L" or, "n" or, N or, "U" or, "V" shape formation with at least 50cm spacing between each container.

Master - Containers are placed in a random order with at least 50cm, but no greater than 2m spacing between them, within a regulation scent work area.

11.2.1.4 Additional Items

For Interior and Exterior Searches, the Presiding Scent Work Judges may also add to the Search Area, props to enhance interest and/or add complexity.

11.2.1.5 Vehicle Searches

For Novice Vehicle searches, there shall be one vehicle. For Advance Vehicle searches, there shall be two – three vehicles. For Excellent and Master Vehicle searches, there shall be three – four vehicles.

All vehicles must be thoroughly checked prior to a Scent Search Trial for fuel/ oil leaks and fumes, and that they are not hot (from recent use). Neither should they have any sharp or protruding parts that could harm the dog.

11.3 Scent Receptacles

11.3.1 - Scent Receptacle Number in each Scent Work Class Trial shall be:

Novice Level – One Scent Receptacle

Advanced Level – Two Scent Receptacles

Excellent Level – Three Scent Receptacles

Master Level – One - Four Scent Receptacles

For Container Searches, no more than one Scent Receptacle or distraction may be placed in a single container.

11.3.2 – Scent Receptacle Placement

Maximum height of Scent Receptacles placement above the Search Area level is:

All **Novice** Classes – 60cm.

All **Advanced** Classes – 90cm.

All **Excellent** Classes – 120cm

All **Master** Classes – 150cm

11.3.2.1 - A scent receptacle can be accessible or inaccessible at any level as long as the placement is consistent with the level of difficulty at that level.

11.3.3 Scent Receptacles are to be constructed and supplied by the presiding Scent Work Judge, using only the approved Essential Oils for Dogs New Zealand Qualification purposes (refer 7.4.1)

11.3.4 Scent Receptacles may be magnetic or be secured, providing the scent holes are not obscured).

11.3.5 All Scent Receptacles should be placed in the desired location no less than 15 minutes before commencement of a Search Trial. This also applies to any replacement samples/containers.

11.3.6 For Container searches, the Scent Receptacle should be placed inside the container.

For Interior searches, Scent Receptacle(s) may be hidden on, under, or in an Object, solid wall, door, or window within the Search Area, no less than 15 minutes before commencement of a Search Trial.

For Vehicle Searches, Scent Receptacles may only be placed on the vehicles frame (bumper, seams, and number plate), wheel (hubcaps/spokes), or in the wheel wells of

the vehicles. NEVER in the interior of a vehicle, or on its roof or bonnet. Neither should it be placed greater than 5 cm under a vehicle.

For all searches, a Handler's dog must not be able to make physical contact with the Scent Aid.

11.4 Distractions

11.4.1 Except for Advanced, Excellent and Master Containers, NO intentional distractions are permitted in any other Level or Class.

For Advanced Container, one non-food distraction is to be placed in one of the containers (not containing a Scent Receptacle).

For Excellent Container, two non-food distractions are to be placed in separate containers (not containing a Scent Receptacle).

For Master Container, **up to** three non-food distractions are to be placed in separate containers (not containing a Scent Receptacle).

11.5 Search Area Size

11.5.1 Container

Novice - 40-50 m² (e.g. 2.5m x 15.5m – 5m x 9.5m).

Advanced - 50 – 80m² (e.g. 6m x 8m – 10m x 8m).

Excellent - 80 – 90 m² (e.g. 10m x 8m – 10m x 9m).

Master - Minimum of 80m² (e.g. 10m x 8m).

11.5.2 Interior

Novice – One area 45 – 70m² (e.g. 7m x 7m – 8.5m – 8.5m). Areas may include an entire or partial area of a room. If a room is not fully utilized, the Search Area boundaries must be clearly defined.

Advanced – One – Two adjoining areas 50 – 90m² (e.g. 7m x 7m – 9.5m x 9.5m).

Excellent - One - Two **adjoining** areas, total Search Area size is a minimum of **70 m²**, but not exceeding 130m² (e.g. 7m X 10m– 11.5m x 11.5m).

Master - Two – Four adjoining areas, total Search Area size is a minimum of **110 m²**, but not exceeding 170m² (e.g. 10.5m x 10.5m – 13m x 13m).

11.5.3 Exterior Search

Exterior Search Areas may be in a covered area but should have no more than two walls. Search Areas are required to be clearly defined.

Novice – 45 – 70m² (e.g. 7m x 7m – 8.5m – 8.5m)

Advanced – 50 – 90m² (e.g. 7m x 7m – 9.5m x 9.5m).

Excellent – 90 – 155m² (e.g. 9.5m x 9.5m – 12.5m x 12.5m).

Master – 155 - 215m² (e.g. 12.5m x 12.5m – 14.5m x 14.5m).

11.5.4 Vehicle Search

Size of the Search Area will vary, depending upon the number and size of vehicles used. For Search Area designation purposed, the Search Area shall consist of a perimeter of 2m around the side of the vehicle. Vehicles must however be no less than 1.5m, and no greater than 2m apart.

Total Search Area is required to be clearly defined using markers.

Rationale

Incorporation of Scent Work Master Interior, Exterior and Vehicle Scent Work Classes. Establishing conciseness of current Regulations without altering definition. (*11 pages is condensed to three*).

Glossary

Scent aid": A cotton ball or cotton bud that is permeated with the target odour. These are then hidden in the search area.

"Scent Receptacle": A receptacle for holding the scent aid. This may be any small object that prevents the scent aid from coming into direct contact with any object or surface in the search area but allows the scent to escape. For safety reasons, scent vessels may never contain glass.

"Restricted Trial" **The restricted trial will be conducted under the same conditions i.e. Containers, Vehicle and search areas (Interior or Exterior) by the same or a different judge.**

"Vehicle" **The vehicle provided must be able to be driven or towed. If driven – no smaller than a ride on mower or golf cart. If towed no smaller than a standard six (6) X four (4) garden trailer (e.g. 1.8m X 1.2m) The vehicle provided must have suitable areas available for hide placements.**

Rationale

Clarity of current descriptions.

Additional definitions to enhance clarity of meaning.