

Dogs NZ Scent Work Committee Minutes for 19th June 2024

Commenced 7:33pm

1. **Roll:** Karen Magorian (Acting Chair), Amerillis Farmer (AF), Clare Groom (CG), Joanna Upton (JU), Lyn Clearwater (LC), Fiona Hodgson (FH), Jo Searle (JS)
Observers – New Committee members as at 1st July: Judy Wilson (JW), Rachel Rait (RR)
2. **Apologies:** Arend van den Bos (AvdB)
3. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Recorded as accepted **Moved:** Lyn (LC) **Seconded:** Jo (JS)
4. **Matters Arising from previous Minutes:**

Raised by LC – Has the Judges Probationary Assessment form been uploaded to Website? KM advised this has been done.
5. **Report from EC meetings: Fiona**
Regulation 10.7.3 – Wording has been amended by EC as follows:
10.7.3 A handler is permitted to use food or a toy in the scent area without incurring any penalties on one occasion only, in addition to those detailed above relating to rewarding after correct hide identification. Subsequent use of food or a toy will incur penalties.
6. **Email votes:** Nil
7. **Regulations:**
Regulation amendment. Rationale – no date for commencement of term fro 2025 and beyond was in the original regulation. Timeline clarification as per below will be presented by Fiona at June EC meeting:
Regulation 2.1.5 Election of the Scent Work Committee Members
Elections for the members of the Scent Work committee shall be undertaken annually with half of being elected each year and each serving a term of two years commencing 1 July in the year they were elected. The Chairperson will also be elected and serve a term of two years commencing on 1 July in the year they were elected. *Voted/Passed.*
8. **General Business**
 - a) Qualifying Scent Work Trials – Nil received

b) Appointments/Promotions:

Rachel Rait – Excellent Interior – Endorsed

Advanced Promotions: - Requirement to have trained & attained at least three qualifying certificates in the class they are applying for (is this evidence supplied with the application) Also undertaking an External Training Course (evidence supplied)

This should be noted with the application/ perhaps amend the Judges Record Card.

Discussion around Judges promotions /Probationary reports etc, storage of documents could be set up in Google Drive/One Drive – providing access to all committee. Would enable the committee to look back on records should any concerns or issues with a Judge in the future be raised.

AP: For further discussion with incoming committee

Other Matters:

Distraction Guidelines

Jo (JS) – Tabled as below:

“Guidelines” for Scentwork Distractions for Container Searches.

This short document is provided as a guide for DNZ Judges when selecting a “Distraction” to be used in a container search.

Our regulations state that the distraction must be a **non-food item**. (this would be anything that can be consumed by a human or a dog.)

Bearing this in mind, we must remember that all essential oils have a similar chemical

composition, so it would not be in the nature of this sport to use any alternative essential oils or mimic items for example Lavender soap, Lemongrass shampoo or Citronella candle as a distraction. (Anything that is fragrant)

Another thing to consider is, as our dogs are snuffling away searching, that the item is not of a powder-like substance. Containers can get knocked around as different teams work through the search areas. It is our responsibility to ensure their safety (to the best of our ability). We do not want any dog inhaling the distraction.

Ideally, the item used will have some sort of odour, for example a stuffed toy, dog toy, dog equipment, clothing, bird feathers, cat fur – just some examples.

If you are unsure of the suitability of your distraction please have a chat with another experienced Judge, who could talk through your choice with you or maybe suggest an alternative.

AP: SW Committee considered this is a comprehensive document & should be published on the Judges Facebook Page & the DNZ Scent work page. – and that we can/should have items like this posted & pinned for future reference. SW committee to review/update the SW Judges Manual as we recruit more Judges into the Sport.

Off-Line searches

Amerillis (AF) – Presented the following document for discussion. Off-Line searches I would like to request this goes out to the Scent work participants for discussion to enable offline searches.

To make it simple – the below is the proposed change to the current regulations.

10.6 Competitor Equipment

10.6.1 Collar or Harness:

For the duration of the Scent Work Trial, all dogs must always be wearing a harness and/or collar and be on a long line, **unless the search is being conducted off line.**

Any form of slip, electronic, prong or odour emitting collars are strictly prohibited, as is the use of halties.

10.6.2 Lines

10.6.2.1 Lines must not be longer than three metres and must not have a handle/loop.

10.6.2.2 Lines may not be of a retractable or chain type.

10.6.2.3 Lines must not be knotted or have clips or buckles other than what required is required to attach the line to the harness or collar.

10.6.2.4 On line. When required, while in a search area, the dog must be on a line the entire time.

10.6.2.5 Offline Searches: Will be optional and permissible at judges discretion. Handler may alternate between off line and on line as required.

10.6.3 Booties and muzzles: Use of booties and muzzles is permitted. (Re-Number)

There have previously been posts made to Facebook – which these day's is the easiest way to reach the majority of participants.

Feedback has so far been mostly positive with a few concerns.

It would remain optional to both the judge and handlers. If a judge deems the area to be suitable to conduct offline searches, it would then be the trialist's decision whether they would like to conduct their search offline.

If venues specifically state no dogs are to be offleash at any stage of being on the property where a trial is being conducted, then there will not be an option of offline searches.

The search would be conducted exactly the same way as on line searches are now, except the dog will be working off line

Committee discussion regarding a formal consulting process for Off Line searches with Scent Work Handlers/Trialists. This could involve Survey Monkey and/ or request feedback via Email only to the committee. The generic SW email – scentwork@dogsnz.org.nz is only accessed or forwarded to 2-3 people.

AP: KM and JS & JU to look into FB profile and ability to send out notices/ request for Info – Surveys etc via FB group/page etc.

Fiona (FH) - Judges Briefing

Is there an ongoing need to keep repeating the same info to every trialist from Advanced Classes upwards as these entrants should know or understand the requirements of the class and search they have entered
Would retain the briefing for Novice Classes – especially as there is likely to be new or beginner trialists in each of those classes. Briefing could be streamlined.

Lyn (LC) – Judges Facebook Group – need to add new Judges

AP: [Karen to action invites](#)

Jo (JS) No further matters

Claire (CG) No further matters

Joanna (JU) No further matters

Fiona (FH) No further matters

Karen took the opportunity to thank Amerillis and Clare for their valued contribution and service to the Scent Work committee over the last term.

9. Next meeting:

To be advised when Arend returns (7.30 PM via Zoom) Finished 9.22 PM