



Australian National Kennel Council Ltd ABN 77 151 544 679 trading as Dogs Australia

# **Rules for the conduct of Scent Work Trials**

**Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

**Approved by  
Dogs Australia  
April 2024**

**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the  
Australian National Kennel Council Limited**

(Australian National Kennel Council Ltd trading as Dogs Australia)

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# **RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF SCENT WORK TRIALS**

## **PART 1 – PRELIMINARY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Scent Work is a sport that is based on the task of working detection dogs to locate an odour and communicate to the handler that the odour has been found. Detection is done in a variety of environments and often during changing weather and/or environmental conditions.

Scent Work is a positive, challenging activity that allows dogs the opportunity to use their strongest natural sense in a way that is fun, engaging, and builds and strengthens the foundation of trust between the handler and dog.

Dogs are trained to recognise specific odours and the handler must observe their dog's many changes of behaviour when the dog is in odour and leading up to a final alert on the hide. Dogs may use any non-destructive behaviour to alert their handlers to the location of the hide.

Handlers take their dogs through a search area which may be set up in a variety of environments.

The dog and handler must work together as a team. The handler as part of the team may use body language and verbal encouragement to ensure all sections of the search area are covered, directing the dog's search when necessary and indicating to the Judge when the dog has found the hide. Communication with and praise of the dog during the search is encouraged.

- 1.2 These Scent Work Rules encompass an Odour Search Division.
- 1.3 The purpose of these Rules is to encourage owners, trainers and handlers to further develop and extend their skills by participating in the discipline of Scent Work. The Rules are designed in such a way that, wherever possible, dogs and handlers of all abilities can compete on an equal footing. The Rules also promote the welfare of the dog as paramount.
- 1.4 If interpretation of these Rules is required, clarification should be sought, in writing, through the relevant member body, from the appropriate Committee of Dogs Australia. The Committee's decision shall be binding.
- 1.5 Any person entering a Dogs Australia Scent Work trial does so at their own risk.
- 1.6 The National Scent Work Committee shall review the Rules at five-yearly intervals from the date of implementation of the Rules from this review (that is, 1 July 2024).

## 2. DEFINITIONS

Where referred to in these Rules, the following words will have the meanings assigned to them below:

**“Active search area”**: Areas for which the hide has been set must be separated so as not to confuse a dog who is working. Odour from a nearby search area should never be accessible to a searching dog.

**“Affiliate”**: Any Club affiliated with a Dogs Australia member body.

**“Alert”**: A communication from the handler to the Judge that the dog has indicated the location of the hide.

**“Dogs Australia member body” or “member body”**: The Dogs Australia member body in each State or Territory of Australia.

**“Blank area”**: A search area in which there are no hides.

**“Change of behaviour”**: Behaviour by the dog which makes it clear to the Judge that the dog has found the hide. This could be subtle, such as movement of the ears, or overt such as sitting or gently pawing at the location.

**“Contamination”**: When a handler or dog violates the integrity of the search area or hide such that significant time, replacement objects, and/or a relocation of the hide is required to bring the search area back to a usable condition.

**“Demonstration dog”**: An accomplished dog which has relevant experience in that Class or Element in the Division.

**“Disruption”**: Disruption may occur when a handler touches or a dog moves or damages an object(s) in the search area such that significant time, replacement of objects, and/or a relocation of a hide is required to bring the search area back to a usable condition.

**“Find”**: A hide that has been located by the dog and called by the handler.

**“Finish”**: In Classes with more than one hide, the handler is required to call “Finish” when they believe that all hides for a search area have been located and called, or a blank area is cleared. The “Finish” call stops the official search time.

**“Hide”**: A source of the target odour within a search area. A hide will consist of target odour on a scent aid placed in a scent vessel or container. Depending on the Class and Element, the search area may have multiple hides.

**“Indication” or “alert behaviour”**: A non-destructive behaviour on the part of the dog that communicates to the handler that the hide has been found (see **“Change of behaviour”**).

**“Odour” or “target odour”**: The specific scent or scents used to infuse scent aids.

**“Scent aid”**: A cotton filter or cotton bud that is permeated with the target odour.

**“Scent vessel”**: A receptacle for holding the scent aid which is then used as the hide in a search area. It may be any small object that prevents the scent aid from coming into direct contact with any object or surface in the search area, and that allows odour to escape. Due to safety concerns,

scent vessels must never be made of glass, ceramics, china or other breakable materials of this type.

**“Search area”**: The area at the trial venue where the actual searching and judging activities take place.

**“Search area precinct”**: The area under the control of the Judge which includes the “search area” and the surrounds of the search area. The Judge is responsible for all decisions, including the issuing of penalties (for example, for fouling, physical guidance), while searching teams are in this area, whether searching, or preparing to search or leave after judging has ceased.

**“Start line”**: The section of the search area boundary that the dog should cross to commence the search. The start line will be clearly delineated.

**“Target odour” or “odour”**: The specific scent or scents for which the dog is searching in a particular Class/Element.

### 3. DECISIONS

- 3.1 Decisions of the Committee of the Affiliate conducting any Scent Work trial shall be subject to appeal to the relevant Dogs Australia member body in accordance with the rules of that member body.
- 3.2 The rules of the member body shall apply to any Scent Work trial and to any Affiliate conducting trials. In the event of any inconsistency, the member body rules shall prevail.
- 3.3 Anyone taking part in a trial who openly impugns the actions or decisions of the Judge shall render themselves liable to be debarred from further participation in the trial. They may be ordered from the trial grounds and further dealt with in accordance with the rules of the relevant member body.

### 4. CLASSES, ELEMENTS AND TARGET ODOURS

- 4.1 Search requirements are set out in detail in **Part 5 Scent Work Search Requirements**.

#### 4.2 Classes

There will be five (5) Classes within the Odour Search Division. Factors such as the size of the search area, the number of hides, whether the number of hides is known or unknown to the handler, the introduction of distractions, the maximum height of the hides and the complexity of the scent puzzles presented to the dog will change increase through the Classes.

The Classes are:

- (a) **Novice:** is a basic search with one (1) hide. The dog detects an odour within the search area and works the scent cone back to the strongest concentration of odour. The Novice Class is intended to test the dog for basic odour obedience and understanding of indicating source (the hide).
- (b) **Advanced:** is a simple search with two (2) hides and the introduction of a non-food distraction. The Advanced Class is intended to test the dog with the increased challenge of sourcing odour from two (2) hides within a larger area or with an increased number of containers or vehicles, and similar search times to the Novice Class. The Advanced Class tests the dog's ability to move on from one hide to finding another, while ignoring the distraction.
- (c) **Excellent:** is a complex search within larger areas or with an increased number of vehicles or containers, two (2) distractions and with at least one (1) difficult hide of the three (3) required in the Class. The Excellent Class is intended to challenge the dog to solve a complex scent puzzle(s) including the possibility of inaccessible hides, converging and eddying odour, and elevation. It requires a greater degree of teamwork between the dog and handler to be successful.
- (d) **Master:** includes complex search puzzles such as inaccessible hides, pooling, eddying and channelling odour within larger and multiple search areas, blank areas and an increased number of vehicles or containers. The number of hides is unknown and there are three (3) distractions. The Master Class is intended to test the teamwork between the dog and handler to work efficiently and effectively. The dog

must be able to work with resilience and persistence in the presence of complex odour problems. The handler must be able to read the dog and determine when all the hides have been found or all areas cleared of hides, as well as manage time to ensure the search area is covered.

- (e) **Ultimate:** provides an integrated search environment combining at least three (3) of the four (4) Elements from the Odour Search Division, which are worked as one search. The number of hides and distractions is unknown to the handler. The dog and handler must work autonomously to resolve the challenges set by the Judge in the search area. The team will need to demonstrate sustained resilience and persistence and work in a timely, efficient and effective manner to complete the search. They must be confident that they have identified all the hides present and cleared all search areas before calling "Finish".

### 4.3 Elements

There will be four Elements:

- (a) **Containers:** the hide shall be concealed within a container, and the dog must indicate which container has the hide.
- (b) **Interior:** the hide shall be concealed on, under or in an object or concealed within the environment in an indoor search area.
- (c) **Exterior:** the hide shall be concealed on, under or in an object or concealed within the environment in an outdoor search area.
- (d) **Vehicles:** the hide shall be concealed on the exterior of a vehicle.

### 4.4 Target odours

The target odour can be one (1) or more pure essential oils (that is, they should not include carrier oils) and shall be:

- (a) **Birch** (*Betula lenta*)
- (b) **Anise** (*Pimpinella anisum*)
- (c) **Clove** (*Syzygium aromaticum* - also known as *Eugenia caryophyllata*)
- (d) **Cypress** (*Cupressus sempervirens*).

4.5 These odours may be used in any Class as follows:

- (a) **Novice** Classes shall use one (1) of these target odours across the Elements offered
- (b) **Advanced** Classes may use two (2) of these target odours across the Elements offered
- (c) **Excellent** Classes may use three (3) of these target odours across the Elements offered
- (d) **Master** Classes may use the four (4) target odours across the Elements offered
- (e) **Ultimate** Classes may use the four (4) target odours in the search.

The Affiliate will advertise which target odours will be used in each Class in the



Schedule.

- 4.6 The National Scent Work Committee may recommend to Dogs Australia the inclusion of additional and/or substitute target odours, having regard in particular to the availability of the relevant oil(s) and/or any research findings regarding particular oils.

## **5 TITLES**

- 5.1 All dogs eligible to be entered in a Scent Work trial in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Qualifying Certificates upon meeting the requirements in **Rule 5.2**.

### **5.2 Qualifying Certificates**

All searches will be judged as qualified/not qualified. To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate, a team must:

- (a) locate all hides
- (b) not incur any Non-Qualifying Faults, and
- (c) complete the search within the allotted search time.

### **5.3 Application for titles**

- 5.3.1 When the dog has gained the required number of Qualifying Certificates, an application for a title shall be submitted to the member body in the appropriate format, accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- 5.3.2 Upon approval by the member body, a Dogs Australia title certificate authorizing the use of the relevant title letters after the dog's name will be issued to the applicant.
- 5.3.3 On gaining the title Scent Work Ultimate (SWU) the highest of any previous Class titles for example, SWA, SWE, SWM is retained along with the new title SWU as this title is independently rather than sequentially achieved.
- 5.3.4 For the title of Scent Work Champion (SW Ch.), the title will appear at the beginning of the dog's name and all other Scent Work titles will be removed from after the dog's name.
- 5.3.5 Passes gained in each Class and Element may be used as Qualifying Certificates for both the Scent Work Class Titles and the Scent Work Element Titles.
- 5.3.6 All Qualifying Certificates gained in the Master Interior Class towards a Scent Work Master title and/or a Scent Work Element title that were gained prior to 1 July 2024 will remain valid and count towards these titles even if the titles are gained after 1 July 2024.

## 5.4 Titles available

### 5.4.1 Scent Work Class Titles

- (a) **'SWN'** signifying Scent Work Novice when the dog has gained a total of six (6) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice Class under at least two (2) different Judges. There must be at least one (1) Qualifying Certificate in each of the four Elements and two (2) Qualifying Certificates in two (2) of the Elements.
- (b) **'SWA'** signifying Scent Work Advanced when the dog has achieved its Novice title and gained a total of nine (9) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced Class under at least two (2) different Judges. There must at least two (2) Qualifying Certificates in each of three Elements, and three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the remaining Element.
- (c) **'SWE'** signifying Scent Work Excellent when the dog has achieved its Advanced title and gained three (3) Qualifying Certificates in each Element making a total of twelve (12) Qualifying Certificates in the Excellent Class under at least two (2) different Judges.
- (d) **'SWM'** signifying Scent Work Master when the dog has achieved its Excellent title and gained three (3) Qualifying Certificates in each Element, making a total of twelve (12) Qualifying Certificates in the Master Class under at least two (2) different Judges.
- (e) **'SWU'** signifying Scent Work Ultimate when the dog has achieved its Master title or two (2) Element titles and gained five (5) Qualifying Certificates in the Ultimate Class under at least three (3) different Judges.

The requirements for Scent Work Class Titles are summarized below:

SCENT WORK CLASS TITLES					
CLASS ELEMENT	NOVICE (SWN)	ADVANCED (SWA)	EXCELLENT (SWE)	MASTER (SWM)	ULTIMATE (SWU)
<b>MINIMUM NUMBER OF QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES</b>					
CONTAINERS	1	2	3	3	
INTERIOR	1	2	3	3	
EXTERIOR	1	2	3	3	
VEHICLES	1	2	3	3	
SELECTED FROM ABOVE ELEMENTS	2	1			
MIN TOTAL NO OF QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES	6	9	12	12	5
MIN NO OF JUDGES	2	2	2	2	3

#### 5.4.2 Scent Work Element Titles

Scent Work Element titles require the dog to gain a total of eleven (11) Qualifying Certificates in the relevant Element:

- (a) comprising two (2) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice Class and three (3) Qualifying Certificates in each of the Advanced, Excellent and Master Classes in the relevant Element,
- (b) under at least two (2) different Judges.

The titles gained will be:

- (a) **'SWC'** signifying the Scent Work Containers Element
- (b) **'SWI'** signifying the Scent Work Interior Element
- (c) **'SWX'** signifying the Scent Work Exterior Element
- (d) **'SWV'** signifying the Scent Work Vehicles Element.

The requirements for Scent Work Element titles are summarized below.

<b>SCENT WORK ELEMENT TITLES</b>				
<b>ELEMENT/ CLASS</b>	<b>CONTAINERS (SWC)</b>	<b>INTERIOR (SWI)</b>	<b>EXTERIOR (SWX)</b>	<b>VEHICLES (SWV)</b>
<b>MINIMUM NUMBER OF QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES</b>				
<b>NOVICE</b>	2	2	2	2
<b>ADVANCED</b>	3	3	3	3
<b>EXCELLENT</b>	3	3	3	3
<b>MASTERS</b>	3	3	3	3
<b>MIN TOTAL NO OF QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>MIN NO OF JUDGES</b>	2	2	2	2

#### 5.3.3 Scent Work Champion

Only the elite dogs will qualify for the title of Scent Work Champion (SW Ch.). To be eligible for this title, a dog must obtain the following six (6) titles:

- Class: Scent Work Master (SWM)  
Scent Work Ultimate (SWU)
- Element: Scent Work Containers (SWC)  
Scent Work Interior (SWI)  
Scent Work Exterior (SWX)  
Scent Work Vehicles (SWV)

## 6 SCENT WORK TRIALS

The scheduling of any Scent Work trial shall be subject to the approval of the relevant member body. An Affiliate conducting a Scent Work trial is not required to offer all Elements or Classes at the trial that is, an Affiliate can offer one or some or all Elements and Classes.

### 6.1 Titling Classes

6.1.1 The following titling classes are available:

- (a) **Novice:** For dogs that have not gained the Qualifying Certificates necessary for the Scent Work Novice title or have not gained two (2) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice Class for an Element as part of qualifying towards the relevant Scent Work Element title.

Dogs obtaining two (2) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice Class for any Element are no longer eligible to compete in that Novice Element and must move up to the Advanced Class for that Element.

- (b) **Advanced:** For dogs that have qualified for the Scent Work Novice title or have gained two (2) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice Class for an Element as part of qualifying towards the relevant Scent Work Element title.

Dogs obtaining three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced Class for any Element are no longer eligible to compete in that Advanced Element and must move up to the Excellent Class for that Element.

- (c) **Excellent:** For dogs that have qualified for the Scent Work Advanced title or have gained three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced Class for an Element as part of qualifying towards the relevant Scent Work Element title.

Dogs gaining three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Excellent Class for any Element may continue to compete in that Element and/or may move up to the Master Class.

- (d) **Master:** For dogs that have qualified for the Scent Work Excellent title or have gained three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Excellent Class for an Element as part of qualifying towards the relevant Scent Work Element title.

Dogs gaining three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Master Class for any Element may continue to compete in that Element.

- (e) **Ultimate:** For dogs that have qualified for the Scent Work Master Class title or two (2) Element titles (that is, two of either SWC and/or SWI and/or SWX and/or SWV).

Dogs gaining their SWU title may continue to compete in the Ultimate Class.

### 6.2 Progression through Titling Classes

6.2.1 Dogs may progress through Elements at different speeds (for example, a dog may compete in Novice Interior and Advanced Containers at the same trial).

6.2.2 A dog which has completed two (2) Qualifying Certificates in any Element in the Novice Class or three (3) Qualifying Certificates in any Element in the Advanced Class may not compete further in that Element in that Class unless the final qualification was gained after the closing date of entries for the trial. Upgrade to the next Class (if available at

the trial) may be allowed at the discretion of the Trial Secretary.

- 6.2.3 A dog that is eligible to compete in the Excellent, Master or Ultimate Class may continue to do so in these Classes, regardless of whether they have gained titles in those Classes or not.
- 6.2.4 At the discretion of the Affiliate's Trial Secretary, a handler who completes the necessary Qualifying Certificates for a title and has applied to the member body for that title after the closing date for a trial, may request and be transferred to the next higher Class.
- 6.2.5 Dogs can pursue both their Scent Work Class and Scent Work Element titles at the same time. That is, Qualifying Certificates gained towards Scent Work Class titles can be counted towards the dog qualifying for Scent Work Element titles and vice versa.

### **6.3 Non-titling Classes**

An Affiliate conducting a Scent Work trial may, at its discretion, offer non-titling Classes. Qualifying Certificates cannot be awarded for these Classes.

## **7 EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS**

### **7.1 Eligibility of exhibits**

Scent Work trials are open to dogs that are:

- (a) registered with the relevant member body, and
- (b) 6 months of age or over on the first day of a sanctioned Scent Work trial.

## **8 ENTRIES**

- 8.1.1 All entries must be in a format providing the required data as per the example at **Appendix E** and in accordance with the member body rules and the timelines published in the Schedule.
- 8.1.2 A separate entry form must be submitted for each entry.
- 8.1.3 At any trial a dog may be entered in only one (1) Class within an Element. That is, a dog cannot be entered in Novice and Advanced Containers at the same trial.
- 8.1.4 A dog may be entered in both titling and non-titling Classes when the latter are offered by the Affiliate conducting the trial.

### **8.2 Entry limits**

- 8.2.1 An Affiliate may determine which Classes and Elements will be offered in any trial and will specify such details in the Schedule.
- 8.2.2 An Affiliate may place limits on the number of entries that a Judge can judge at any trial and/or on the number of entries to be accepted in a single Class/Element, set of Classes /Elements or trial. Any such limit(s) on total entries or entries in any Class/Element or for any Judge must be stated in the Schedule.

If a ballot of entries is necessary, the balloting procedures of the member body or

Affiliate (when the member body has no procedure) shall be followed.

8.2.3 An Affiliate may appoint an additional Judge if entry numbers exceed the stated limit.

## PART 2 – ORGANISATION OF THE TRIAL

### 9 ORGANISATION OF THE TRIAL

#### 9.1 Trial requisites

The Affiliate conducting the trial will organize and/or supply:

- (a) All **physical requisites** for set up of the search area(s) and supplies for Judges and stewards that is, suitable vehicles, props, timing devices, boundary markers and so on.
- (b) **Containers:**
  - i. for each of the target odour(s) for each of the Container Classes being held
  - ii. to act as empty containers. Surplus containers must be available to replace any damaged or contaminated containers
  - iii. one warm-up container per target odour used in the trial to place in the warm-up area.
- (c) **Officials** to support the Judge in the conduct of the trial including Hide Stewards, Official Timers/Scribes, Assembly Stewards, and other support people as required.
- (d) **Scent aids and scent vessels:** The Affiliate may delegate responsibility for supplying these to the contracted Judge (or a local judge if travel precludes the contracted Judge from supplying them) and this must be stated in the judging contract.
- (e) **Distractions and props:** Judges may supply distraction items and search area props if required. The Judge will communicate with the Trial Secretary prior to the trial if they propose to bring distractions and props.

#### 9.2 Registration and attendance

- 9.2.1 Handlers are responsible for registering their presence with the Trial Secretary or nominee prior to the commencement of the trial, as specified in the Schedule.
- 9.2.2 Handlers shall follow the direction of trial officials regarding waiting arrangements for their search. It is the handler's responsibility to ensure that they are in the nominated area and ready to commence their search when required.

#### 9.3 Welfare of dogs

- 9.3.1 All handlers whose dogs are entered at a member body sanctioned event shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog are met and shall not put their dog's health or welfare at risk by any action, default, omission or otherwise.
- 9.3.2 The Affiliate will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all dogs can participate in a safe and relaxed manner and will comply with any rules of the relevant member body regarding the conduct of trials, including those relating to weather or climatic conditions.
- 9.3.3 It is the handler's responsibility to ensure that their dog is physically well, and capable of safely executing all the requirements of the search. Dogs with physical or behavioural challenges (including amputees, deaf and/or blind dogs) may participate

provided that, in the opinion of the Judge, they display no signs of physical discomfort or stress and can safely complete the requirements of the Class.

9.3.4 Dogs may be inspected as required by the relevant member body.

#### **9.4 Bitches in oestrus**

9.4.1 Entire bitches may be vetted. Bitches in oestrus or showing a coloured discharge of any sort shall not be permitted to compete in any trial or to remain within the trial venue precinct.

#### **9.5 Dog attire**

9.5.1 During a search, a dog shall only wear a fixed collar and/or a suitable harness and a lead. When a dog is on-lead, the lead must be connected to the collar or harness.

9.5.2 A dog may wear such accessories (for example, paw covers or booties, jackets, and/or hair ties or bows) as the handler deems necessary for the purpose of enabling the dog to safely navigate the search area.

A dog may wear a flea and/or tick collar.

9.5.3 Dogs must not wear:

- (a) any kind of electric, prong, choke, limited slip (for example, martingales) or slip collars, head halters or no-pull harnesses
- (b) odour emitting collars (such as no-bark collars that spray citronella, or DAP calming collars)
- (c) any item attached to the dog's collar or harness, including cameras. Council ID tags may be taped in place
- (d) anything other than mentioned in **Rules 9.5.1 and 9.5.2.**

9.5.4 The lead should be made of a pliable material. Chain leads must not be used. Retractable leads may be used. Any length of lead is permitted for use during the search.

The lead can be used to gently direct the dog away from the boundaries of the search area but cannot be used as a correction device or to guide the dog towards the hide.

9.5.5 For the duration of the trial, all dogs must be on a lead or otherwise restrained (for example, in a crate or car) unless in a designated off-lead area. Dogs will enter and leave the search area on-lead under the control of the handler.

9.5.6 Most searches will be conducted entirely on lead, but an off-lead option may be offered at the discretion of the Judge. The handler may remove the lead in the search area precinct at any point after the Judge has indicated they can commence the search. The handler may remove and/or reattach the lead during the search without further discussion with the Judge.



## **10 PHYSICAL LAYOUT OF TRIAL VENUE**

### **10.1 Trial venue**

- 10.1.1 Where the trial venue is a sub-set of a larger venue, the specific buildings and assembly and search areas will be set out in the Catalogue to define the boundaries of the trial area.
- 10.1.2 Affiliates should ensure that the trial venue provides adequate lighting for the duration of the trial.
- 10.1.3 There shall be no training utilizing the Scent Work target odours on the grounds of a Dogs Australia Scent Work trial, other than in the designated warm-up area. Breach of this Rule shall result in Disqualification.
- 10.1.4 The Affiliate shall provide an area where Judges and/or Hide Stewards can store target odours and prepare hides. Other attendees at the trial, including handlers, shall arrange with the Trial Secretary to store any target odour in their possession in this area for the duration of the trial. The area should be a suitable distance from any of the search areas.

### **10.2 Assembly area**

- 10.2.1 The Affiliate shall establish an assembly area for searching teams out of view of the search area(s) with signs posted so that no person inadvertently moves into view of the search area.
- 10.2.2 The assembly area will include all parking, crating, warm-up, and waiting areas, as well as the Trial Secretary's table for registration and posting of the running order. The assembly area and search area(s) shall be separated by geographical features, walls, and/or artificial barriers.

### **10.3 Warm-up area**

- 10.3.1 The Affiliate shall designate a warm-up area.
- 10.3.2 Affiliates should make every effort to place warm-up boxes at an appropriate distance from the assembly and search areas so as not to unreasonably interfere with any team preparing to search.
- 10.3.3 One (1) labelled container per target odour being used in the trial will be placed in the warm-up area to allow teams to prepare for their search. Affiliates may also place blank containers in the warm-up area if they choose.
- 10.3.4 Handlers should not allow their dogs to eliminate in the warm-up area or unnecessarily damage warm-up containers out of respect for subsequent searching dogs.

## **11 SPECTATORS**

### **11.1 Spectator area**

- 11.1.1 At the discretion of the Judge having regard to the available space, spectators may be permitted to observe any Class other than Novice. Every effort should be made to allow

spectators to observe at least part of an Ultimate Class search. Handlers participating in the Ultimate Class may not spectate the Class until after the completion of their search.

- 11.1.2 Where spectators are allowed, under the direction of the Judge, the Affiliate will establish a dedicated spectator area(s) at least eight (8) metres from the search area(s). The number of spectators permitted may be limited due to the size of the search and/or spectator area(s). No dogs shall be permitted in the spectator area(s).
- 11.1.3 Affiliates shall delineate the boundaries of the spectator area so that spectators do not inadvertently enter the search area.
- 11.1.4 Entry into and exit from the spectator area shall be as directed by officials.
- 11.1.5 Spectators shall take care not to act in a manner that may distract handlers and dogs in the search area and search area precinct.
- 11.1.6 There shall be no food or drinks in the spectator area.
- 11.1.7 Spectators will usually be required to remain in the spectator area from commencement to completion of the Class. However, the Judge may determine that there is a suitable opportunity and it is appropriate to allow spectators to come into and leave the search area precinct during the Class.
- 11.1.8 The Judge or their nominee shall brief spectators prior to the Class commencing about expected behaviours while in the search area precinct.

## **11.2 Communication between spectators and handlers**

- 11.2.1 Spectators shall not discuss or share video footage or photographs of the search area or teams' searches before the conclusion of the Class/Element. This includes sharing with handlers or other people privately, electronically or via social media platforms. Any team whose handler is involved in such a discussion or sharing or viewing such footage or images will be disqualified.
- 11.2.2 No spectator or other person may assist the handler or disclose the location of the hide. Spectators should take care to remain neutral to not provide clues to the handler. A Judge may disqualify a team that they reasonably believe has benefited from double handling.
- 11.2.3 Spectators who intentionally or unintentionally assist a handler may be directed by the Judge to leave the spectator area or the trial venue and be reported to the member body.

## **12 PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING DEVICES**

- 12.1 A handler may arrange photography and/or videoing of the team's search by:
  - (a) an official of the Affiliate (if one is available)
  - (b) a spectator (in circumstances where the Judge has permitted spectators to observe the search), or

- (c) use of a wearable camera by the handler.
- 12.2 Videotaping and/or photography may only be undertaken on behalf of the handler for their own personal use or, with the prior permission of the handler, by the Affiliate, for promotional or educational purposes.
- 12.3 A handler or trial official may request to not be photographed or videoed.
- 12.4 The Affiliate may, after consultation with the Judge, designate an area within the search area precinct from which videotaping/photography may be undertaken.
- 12.5 The videographer/photographer must not be situated within the search area. They must not distract the searching dog nor should they be positioned in such a way as to give clues to a hide location. There should be no audible sound from the camera.
- 12.6 The Judge may direct that any photography and/or videoing be discontinued if it is deemed to be disruptive to or impedes any search or any Class.
- 12.7 No photograph or video footage can be used to challenge the Judge's decision.

### **13 HANDLERS**

- 13.1 Persons of differing abilities may compete, provided they can move about the search area without physical assistance or guidance. The use of mobility aids is acceptable. This can include hand or electric powered aids for example, a wheelchair, electric powered or motorised device, crutches or a cane.  
  
The dog must perform all necessary requirements of their search as per these Rules.
- 13.2 Handlers must be:
  - (a) at least 16 years of age, and
  - (b) registered and a current financial member of a member body.
- 13.3 Handlers may not handle more than one (1) dog in the same Element within a Class. Multiple dogs from the same owner may be entered in the same Element within a Class, provided each is handled by a different handler. It is the owner/handler's responsibility to ensure that the second handler is registered with a Dogs Australia member body. The handler's name (if not the owner) shall be recorded in the Catalogue.
- 13.4 No handler or other person, other than those engaged in the administration of the trial, shall be in possession of any of the target odours within the boundaries of the trial venue or subset of the venue as specified in the Catalogue.
- 13.5 Handlers arriving at a trial with target odours must notify the Trial Secretary when checking in. The Trial Secretary will arrange for the odours to be stored in the hide preparation area for the duration of the trial.
- 13.6 After a dog has commenced competing in a Class/Element, no substitution of a handler is permitted in that Class/Element.

- 13.7 Any person who carries out punitive correction or harsh handling of any dog at any time within the precincts of the trial venue shall be disqualified from the trial and reported to and dealt with under the member body rules.
- 13.8 A handler may give the dog verbal commands and/or encouragement and shall not be penalised for such actions. Physical touch as encouragement or reward before or after completion of a search shall not be penalised. Physical touch that provides guidance or direction to the dog may result in penalties up to a Non-Qualifying Fault (NQ).
- 13.9 Handlers may wear a training vest or treat pouch, acceptable to the Judge, to carry food or toy rewards. However, a Qualifying Fault shall be imposed if food is dropped or the toy is thrown or dropped in the search area or the search area precinct.
- 13.10 Handlers must wear appropriate footwear that complies with the safety requirements of the member body. Bare feet, thongs and scuffs must not be worn.
- 13.11 Handlers may only indicate their search outcome with a 'yes' or 'no' (thumbs up or thumbs down) after leaving the search area.
- 13.12 Handlers must not divulge any information about the search, the location of the hide, or details of their search until all teams have completed the particular Class/Element. Breach of this Rule will result in Disqualification from the trial and all results achieved at the trial will be voided.
- 13.13 Handlers are responsible for ensuring that any person attending a trial with them is aware of the prohibition against discussing searches. Where a person not entered in the trial is found to have discussed/be discussing a search before the Class/Element has ended, the Judge or responsible Affiliate official may direct that person to leave the trial venue. The handler whom that person is accompanying may, at the Judge's discretion, be held responsible and penalised in accordance with this Rule. Both may be reported to the member body.
- 13.14 The Trial Secretary will allocate handlers a trial number for each entry submitted. Handlers are required to wear their trial number during their searches. Numbers and names of the handler and dog, together with other relevant information, will be listed in the Trial Catalogue.

## 14 REMOVAL OF A DOG

- 14.1 Any dog that attacks or displays aggressive behaviour towards any person or another dog shall be removed and disqualified from all trialling on the day. The matter shall be addressed in accordance with the incident reporting procedures of the relevant member body.
- 14.2 The Judge shall exclude or order the removal from the trial of:
- (a) any **dog** which is deemed disorderly or unmanageable or which the Judge considers unfit to compete or to be exhibiting extreme stress or fear
  - (b) any **person** who interferes wilfully with another handler or a handler's dog or whose behaviour is objectionable.

## **15 WITHDRAWAL OF A DOG**

- 15.1 A handler may withdraw a dog before or during judging by notifying the Judge or nominated official. Following such a withdrawal, the team will not be able to take any further part in that search.
- 15.2 If a handler withdraws from a Class/Element, no scores shall be awarded and the score sheet shall be marked "Withdrawn (W/D)". If a handler withdraws, no placing shall be awarded to that entry.

## **16 SEARCH AREAS**

- 16.1 Search areas must provide firm, safe footing and adequate lighting for dogs and handlers. However, outdoor searches are frequently done across natural, uneven surfaces and it is the handler's responsibility to be aware of and prepared for this possibility.
- 16.2 Wherever possible, the Affiliate shall submit specific dimensions and layouts of the proposed search area(s) to the Judge no later than thirty (30) days prior to the trial date to assist in search area design. This shall include information on structural obstacles and other objects in the space such as furniture, drains, potential props and so on. Ideally, photographs will be submitted with the layout so that the Judge has a clear understanding of the search area prior to designing the search. It is recognised that a search area layout may change when the Judge reaches the venue and assesses the conditions.
- 16.3 Search areas will be determined by the Judge and may be any shape. The size of the search area is determined by the Judge having regard to the Class and Element.
- 16.4 Search areas of unconventional shapes may not be amenable to an easy calculation of area size. The required search area sizes specified in the Class/Element descriptions shall be approximated to the best of the Judge's ability but are not expected to be exact in all situations.
- 16.5 The search area will be identified by boundary markers or gating material of any kind, provided it is safe for dogs, officials, handlers, and spectators. It shall be highly visible to handlers and the Judge and not obscure the Judge's vision of searching teams.

## **17 PREPARATION FOR THE SEARCH AND SET UP OF SEARCH AREAS**

### **17.1 Preparation and storage of odours**

- 17.1.1 It is recommended that where possible a Judge prepare the target odour(s) for a trial.
- 17.1.2 The "scent aids" must be cotton buds or cotton filters. If cotton buds are used, only those with paper stems (not plastic) may be used. The cotton buds should be cut in half with the stems trimmed shorter, if preferred.
- 17.1.3 To prepare the scent aids for trial, ONE cotton ball shall be used as a carrier vial. This

cotton ball is NOT to be used as a scent aid in a trial, but merely acts as an infuser vessel.

This cotton ball should have 2 drops of target odour oil dripped onto it and be placed in the bottom of an airtight 250ml glass jar. Do not allow the odour vial or dispenser to touch the cotton ball. Thirty (30) pre-cut cotton buds or cotton filters should be placed into this jar.

17.1.4 Once complete, the jar should be made airtight, shaken vigorously and left to stand in a cool dark place for at least 48 hours and not exceeding thirty (30) days. The jar shall be shaken from time to time during this period to ensure all cotton buds or filters are infused equally.

17.1.5 Glass must always be used for scent preparation and storage because the essential oils are corrosive and will break down plastic containers, changing the chemical composition and affecting the scent. Plastic may be used for scent vessels, but the scent aid must be removed from the plastic scent vessel for storage.

17.1.6 All scent vessels used at a trial must be new and unused.

## **17.2 Number of scent aids**

17.2.1 The recommended number of 'scent aids' used in a scent vessel is between one (1) and three (3). The Judge will decide how many 'scent aids' to use guided by the type of search and nature of the environmental conditions.

## **17.3 Layout of search area**

17.3.1 The Judge will determine the layout of the search area, selection of scent vessel(s) and the placement of all hides in the search area, taking care to create a challenging search for each Class, but one that is not unreasonably difficult. The complexity and challenge of the search should correspond to the increasing Class requirements.

## **17.4 Placement of hides**

17.4.1 The scent vessel may be affixed to an object or surface with tape, adhesive or by any other method, so long as it does not harm the object or surface.

17.4.2 The Judge or Hide Steward (under the direction of the Judge) shall undertake the physical placement of the hides and any subsequent adjustment to the hides. Non-powdered latex, vinyl or nitrile gloves should be worn when setting the hides. The hides must be placed at least ten (10) minutes before a search commences.

17.4.3 To minimise contamination, only the person placing the hide may handle the scent vessel or container, and they shall not handle any other objects in the search area. Used gloves shall be disposed in a designated place, away from the warm-up and search area, for later disposal.

## **17.5 Distances between hides**

17.5.1 As a guide for Judges, in the Interior and Exterior Elements, minimum distances between hides containing the same odour and hides containing different odours will apply in Classes which have multiple hides. This will depend on the search area provided. Minimum distances do not apply in the Containers and Vehicles Elements.

Class	Same odour	Different odours
Novice	N/A	N/A
Advanced	2.5m	2.0m
Excellent	2.0m	1.5m
Master	1.5m	1.0m
Ultimate	60cm	45cm

### 17.6.1 Consistent location of hide

- 17.6.1 The hide must remain in the same location for each team in the Class/Element, unless the hide location is contaminated or circumstances arise which, in the opinion of the Judge, require relocation of the hide.
- 17.6.2 If the Judge determines that a hide must be relocated during the running of a Class/Element, 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 with a non-scented alcohol wipe for example, isopropyl, isopropanol or isocol. The relocated scent vessel must be left to stand in the new hide location for a minimum of ten (10) minutes before the next dog is run.
- 17.6.3 The hide may be relocated between Classes but must be left in the new location for a minimum of ten (10) minutes before the first dog in the next Class begins their search.
- 17.6.4 Where a hide is relocated, the previous hide location should be clearly marked and communicated to handlers. At least one other area of similar size in the search area should also be wiped with alcohol wipes.

### 17.7 Accessible and inaccessible hides

- 17.7.1 A hide is considered **accessible** if a dog can pinpoint the exact location of the hide.
- 17.7.2 A hide is considered **inaccessible** if it is positioned in a location where no dog (regardless of size, shape or agility) can pinpoint the exact location of the hide. Dogs should be able to indicate the approximate location of the hide.

### 17.8 Distraction items

- 17.8.1 Certain searches as determined by the Class will include distractions. Distractions must be no closer than fifty (50) cm to a hide.
- 17.8.2 Distractions may be drawn from the following types:

#### (a) Non-food distraction

Any item, other than food, that might be enticing to a dog. The non-food distraction may not contain any artificial scent (such as another essential oil, a perfume, or a scented lotion), but it may contain the scent of another animal (such as a cat toy). A non-food distraction should not be any kind of animal product that can be used as dog food for example, dried cow's ear, wallaby tail.

**(b) Food distraction**

Any substance a dog may be reasonably expected to consume for example, human food or dog food. The food must be in a container. The searching dog should not be able to consume the food and/or the container.

Animal excrement or substances which may be harmful to dogs or humans may not be used.

**(c) Mimic distraction**

An object such as a toy or doll that looks realistic. It may not include a taxidermy specimen. If a mimic distraction is used, the Affiliate must provide a duplicate mimic distraction in case a dog contaminates the original distraction.

**(d) Human distraction**

A person, other than the Judge, who is present inside the search area. The human distraction shall be clothed in normal street attire and not be dressed in a costume that significantly alters their shape or appearance as a human.

They may be standing or sitting, and may look at the dog, but shall not maintain eye contact if the dog's attention should turn to them. The human distraction shall not speak to or intentionally touch the dog.



## **PART 3 - CONDUCT OF THE TRIAL**

### **18 DEMONSTRATION DOG**

- 18.1 After the hide(s) has been set, a demonstration dog should, where possible, run the search area blind to evaluate the appropriateness of the search for the Class as designed. If the demonstration dog encounters unexpected difficulty, the Judge may adjust the search time and/or the hide location(s) in accordance with these Rules.
- 18.2 In situations where the Affiliate is unable to provide a demonstration dog, the first dog in the running order will complete the search. Based on this search the Judge will determine whether the search as designed is acceptable. If the first dog to run encounters unforeseen difficulties that is, the dog is unable to find the hide and the Judge decides to adjust the hide location(s) in accordance with these Rules, the dog's first search will be discounted and the dog will be given the opportunity to re-run at the end of the Class/Element without penalty.

### **19 CONDUCT OF THE SEARCH**

#### **19.1 General**

- 19.1.1 As they progress through the Classes, the standard and quality of the work presented by a team should increase and should be judged accordingly.
- 19.1.2 The search area will be clearly defined by boundaries, but a dog may need to work outside the search area while following odour. The dog and handler may cross search area boundaries during the search without penalty.

#### **19.2 Handlers' briefing**

- 19.2.1 The Judge shall conduct a short handlers' briefing prior to the start of each Class/Element. The briefing may be in front of the search area or in an area away from the search area. The location will be at the Judge's discretion.
- 19.2.2 In the handlers' briefing the Judge shall indicate:
- (a) if there is an off-lead option
  - (b) how many hides there are (in Classes where the number of hides is known)
  - (c) the maximum height of the hides
  - (d) for Interior searches only, the number of different search areas, and
  - (e) the maximum time for each search.
- 19.2.3 Handlers may ask questions about the search area and clarify relevant Rules as required during the briefing.
- 19.2.4 No dogs may be present during the handlers' briefing.

#### **19.3 Judging schedule**

Handlers within a Class/Element shall run in catalogue order. The steward, in consultation with the Judge, has the discretion to allow a dog to be judged out of

sequence at the request of the handler if it is determined that a valid conflict exists.

#### **19.4 Trial stewards**

- 19.4.1 The Affiliate shall appoint as many trial stewards as it considers necessary to facilitate conduct of the trial. Trial stewards shall:
- (a) bring each team to the search area precinct, and
  - (b) carry out orders from the Judge (such as repositioning items in the search area), and any other duties as required by the Affiliate or the Judge, including acting as the Official Timer.

#### **19.5 Timing**

- 19.5.1 The Official Timer/Scribe, under the direction of the Judge:
- (a) shall record the search time of each team. This includes monitoring and recording the actual time (to one-hundredth of a second) it takes the team to complete the search
  - (b) shall ensure that the team does not exceed the maximum allowable time for the search, and
  - (c) may provide a 30 second warning to the handler.
- 19.5.2 The official time for each search shall start when any part of the dog or handler's body crosses the start line or any part of the search area boundary. Failure of the dog to cross the defined start line will incur a Qualifying Fault.
- 19.5.3 The official time shall stop:
- (a) in Novice Classes when the handler calls "Alert"
  - (b) in all other Classes when the handler calls "Finish".
- 19.5.4 In Classes with multiple search areas, the official time for the first search area will be recorded on the score sheet while the team is led to the next search area, if applicable. The timer will then be reset, and timing will follow the same procedure for each additional search area. The official time for each search area will be recorded independently and then combined for a total time for that Element.
- 19.5.5 In the case of a timer malfunction on a qualifying search, the handler will have two (2) options:
- (a) the maximum search time is recorded as their official time for that Class/Element, or
  - (b) the team re-runs the search at the end of the Class/Element. In that case, the first search outcome will be voided. The outcomes of the second search will be recorded as the search result. That is, if the handler chooses to re-run the search for time and fails to complete a qualifying performance on the re-run, the team will be awarded a Non-Qualifying Fault.
- The hide must be relocated and left to stand for at least ten (10) minutes prior to the re-run search.
- 19.5.6 Handlers may wear watches or other timing devices in the search area to be aware of the time remaining in their search. However, in no case may a handler use their own

timing device to dispute the conclusion of the Official Timer. The official time will be determined solely by the Official Timer's device.

#### **19.6 Handler looking for the hide**

A handler shall not actively look for the hide during the search. Any handler who, in the opinion of the Judge, actively looks for the hide shall incur a Non-Qualifying Fault.

#### **19.7 Touching the dog**

A handler may touch their dog at any time during the search as encouragement or praise but not to guide or correct the dog.

#### **19.8 Crossing search area boundaries**

Teams may cross search area boundaries without penalty during the search provided they continue working.

#### **19.9 Disruption of the search area**

A handler may not touch objects in the search area without express permission from the Judge. Breach of this Rule shall result in a penalty as determined by the Judge.

#### **19.10 Barking/vocalisation**

19.10.1 Within reason as determined by the Judge, a dog may bark or vocalise while participating in a search without penalty.

19.10.2 If the Judge determines that the dog is barking out of frustration or is becoming overly disruptive in a way that threatens future use of the trial venue, the Judge shall give the handler a warning. If the handler is unable to stop the dog's disruptive behaviour within ten (10) seconds after the warning, the dog shall be excused from the search and shall incur a Non-Qualifying Fault.

19.10.3 A dog which is excused from a search may, at the discretion of the Judge, still be permitted to participate in other Classes/Elements in which the dog is entered at the trial.

#### **19.11 Alerts – accessible hides**

19.11.1 The dog must demonstrate an alert behaviour to indicate location of the hide, but the nature of the alert behaviour is not prescribed.

19.11.2 The Judge may use their discretion to allow for environmental factors such as wind, sun, shade, rain and so on. As a guide, the Judge should allow for a parameter of up to 15 cm on any axis (vertical, horizontal or diagonal) in ideal conditions for all Classes for the handler to indicate a hide location.

19.11.3 The handler shall confirm the dog's indication of the hide with the word "Alert". If a verbal confirmation is not possible due to environmental factors or a handler's ability, before commencing the search the handler may inform the Judge who may approve an alternative form of confirmation, such as an obvious hand signal.

- 19.11.4 When the handler calls “Alert”, the Judge shall confirm whether the alert is correct or incorrect.
- 19.11.5 If, in the opinion of the Judge, the dog is clearly indicating the hide, the Judge should respond “Correct” when the handler calls “Alert”.
- 19.11.6 If the dog is near the hide, but it is not clear to the Judge that the dog has communicated the exact location to the handler or the handler is unclear where the dog has indicated, the Judge should ask “Where?” The handler must then indicate the hide location by pointing or gesturing to an area within the prescribed size parameter.
- 19.11.7 Once the “Alert” call has been given, the handler must prevent the dog from continuing to work the hide and cannot ask the dog to re-indicate the hide. Doing so will incur a Non-Qualifying Fault.
- 19.11.8 If the handler gestures to an area that is larger than the prescribed size parameter, the Judge should ask the handler to indicate an area within those parameters.
- 19.11.9 If the hide is not in the area indicated by the handler, the alert should be considered “Incorrect”, and the team will incur a Non-Qualifying Fault.
- 19.11.10 For a hide that is out of reach due to a dog’s height, the area to which the handler gestures need not encompass the location of the hide, but it must be clear that the dog has identified the axis of the hide, whether vertical or diagonal, taking account of likely odour movement in the conditions.
- 19.11.11 If the handler calls ‘Alert’ on a previously located hide the Judge should respond ‘already found’.

#### **19.12 Alert confirmation for inaccessible hides**

- 19.12.1 For inaccessible hides, the dog will not be able to pinpoint the exact location of the hide but is expected to get as close as possible to the inaccessible hide location.
- 19.12.2 The area to which the handler gestures must encompass either the location of the hide, or the location that is the closest the dog can possibly get to the inaccessible hide location, having regard to odour movement.

#### **19.13 “Finish” calls**

- 19.13.1 The “Finish” call is used in Classes that contain multiple hides (Advanced, Excellent, Master and Ultimate) and is required to stop timing of the search.
- 19.13.2 The handler is required to call “Finish” when all hides have been located for the search area or, for Classes with an unknown number of hides, when the handler believes that all hides have been located or a “blank room’ cleared.
- 19.13.3 In the Advanced Class, if the handler fails to correctly call “Finish” within the maximum time allowed for the search or before leaving the search area precinct, the team will receive a Qualifying Fault and the maximum time allowed for that search.
- 19.13.4 In the Excellent Interior and the Master Classes, the number of hides in the search area

is unknown. The handler must call "Finish" within the search time (including each area in multiple area searches). Failure to do so will incur a Non-Qualifying Fault.

#### **19.14 Incorrect Calls**

If the handler makes an incorrect "Alert" call, a Non-Qualifying Fault will be incurred.

#### **19.15 Rewards and reinforcers**

- 19.15.1 When a dog correctly finds the hide, the handler may reward the dog with a food or toy reward. Food or toy rewards may be used by the handler at any time during the search (for example, to calm and focus a nervous dog). These items may be used as a reward only. They may not be used to guide the dog toward a specific location to search or a penalty will be incurred.
- 19.15.2 A handler may reward at or away from the hide but must take care not to contaminate the search area with food particles or saliva.
- 19.15.3 If a toy is used, the toy must always stay in contact with the handler, that is, the toy cannot be thrown or dropped. Toys that make a noise shall not be used.

#### **19.16 Contamination of the search area**

- 19.16.1 Dropping food while rewarding a dog in the search area precinct is considered a contamination of the search area, regardless of whether the food is dropped on, near, or away from the hide.
- 19.16.2 Contamination of the search area is regarded as a Qualifying Fault or Non-Qualifying Fault, depending on the Judge's assessment of the severity of the contamination.

#### **19.17 Cleaning contamination in the search area**

- 19.17.1 If a search area is contaminated, every effort must be made to return the area to its original condition before running the next dog.
- 19.17.2 If a dog eliminates in an indoor search area, all surfaces or objects in the affected area must be thoroughly cleaned with water. If a dog eliminates in an outdoor search area, any small objects such as rocks or sticks that are affected should be removed, and the ground should be sprayed with water.
- 19.17.3 At least one other place of similar size in the search area should also be sprayed or wiped with water using a fresh wipe.
- 19.17.4 This Rule also applies to the search area precinct which is under the Judge's control for the purpose of the Class/Element being judged.
- 19.17.5 If an area or object is contaminated by food residue or saliva, the food residue should be removed and the area or object should be wiped down with water. Any container that is contaminated by significant food residue or saliva should be replaced.

## PART 4 - JUDGES AND JUDGING

### 20 JUDGES

- 20.1.1 All Judges at any Scent Work trial must be approved by the relevant member body for judging the advertised Class.
- 20.1.2 The Judge may sign a Qualifying Certificate for each qualifying dog, denoting the relevant Division, Class and Element. Judging sheets must be given to the Trial Manager who is responsible for forwarding these documents and a marked catalogue to the Secretary of the relevant member body within seven (7) days of the trial.

### 21 JUDGING

#### 21.1 Maximum hours judging

A Judge may judge a maximum of:

- (a) eight (8) hours at a one-day trial (including set-up time) or
- (b) five (5) hours for an evening trial (including set-up time).

#### 21.2 Time Allocation

Maximum number of searches\* to be judged should be guided by the number of searches in a Class(s) on the day. Judges may specify on their contracts how many entries they are willing to judge at the trial.

Search times should be calculated based on the following estimated time allocation:

Function	Time allocated	No of dogs
Administration/Setup/Breaks	120 mins per day	
Novice	4 mins per entry	15 per hour
Advanced	4 mins per entry	15 per hour
Excellent (except Interior)	5 mins per entry	12 per hour
Excellent Interior (2 search areas)	6 mins per entry	10 per hour
Master (except Interior)	6 mins per entry	10 per hour
Master Interior (2-3 search areas)	7 mins per entry	8 per hour
Ultimate	10 mins per entry	6 per hour

\*Note that Excellent and Master Interior searches and the Ultimate Class refer to 'searches' not 'search areas'. For example, while an Interior search may be across multiple areas, for the purposes of determining time it is considered one 'search'.

#### 21.3 Role and authorities of the Judge

- 21.3.1 The Judge shall:
- (a) have and maintain complete control and decision-making over matters in the search area and search area precinct
  - (b) design each of the searches including search area design and selecting (or relocating) hide locations
  - (c) set a time limit for the search as required under these Rules

- (d) evaluate each team's performance during the search
  - (e) when the handler calls "Alert" or "Finish", confirm whether the call is correct or incorrect. "Correct" or "Incorrect" calls must be given after every Finish call in multiple area searches
  - (f) assess the team for any penalties and Rule infractions during the search and award penalties as required
  - (g) assign a Qualifying or Non-Qualifying result for each search
  - (h) act as hide steward if preferred.
- 21.3.2 Judges may modify specific requirements of these Rules or of a particular search so that handlers of differing abilities may compete, provided that such modifications do not aid the team's performance.
- 21.3.3 If, in the opinion of the Judge, a dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar or extraordinary circumstances outside the handler's control, the Judge has the discretion to determine whether all or the relevant component of the search may be re-run.

## 22 SCORING

### 22.1 Penalties

- 22.1.1 Penalties shall be applied for actions occurring while the dog is under the control of the Judge. Penalties include Qualifying Faults, Non-Qualifying Faults or Disqualification, according to the nature and type of action observed or experienced.

### 22.2 Qualifying Faults

- 22.2.1 Actions occurring during the search which will be assessed as Qualifying Faults, include:
- (a) **handling error** for example:
    - dog not crossing the start line at the commencement of the search
    - crowding the dog while it is searching
    - dropping food in the search area and search area precinct
    - toy thrown or dropped in the search area or search area precinct
    - physical touch that provides guidance or direction to the dog
    - lack of teamwork
    - in the Advanced Class, the handler leaves the search area precinct without calling "Finish".
  - (b) **minor safety concern** that is, allowing the dog to be put in an unsafe situation for example, where the dog becomes frightened or defensive
  - (c) **mildly and accidentally compromising the search area** for example:
    - handler accidentally touches an object in the search area without the Judge's permission
    - untidy reward delivery

- poor lead handling
- dog retrieving a hide or distraction.

22.2.2 Each Qualifying Fault can be applied multiple times in the same search, if warranted. Qualifying Faults affect placings only. There is no maximum number of Qualifying Faults per search. Any team that finds and calls all hides within the search time with no Non-Qualifying Faults will qualify.

22.2.3 Qualifying Faults will not be called out by the Judge during the search. If time permits, the Judge may briefly explain any assessed faults to the handler at the completion of the search.

### **22.3 Non-Qualifying Faults**

22.3.1 The following actions are deemed to be Non-Qualifying Faults:

- (a) the maximum time for a search has been exceeded
- (b) the handler calls "Alert" on the incorrect location. While the dog should not qualify in this Element, the Judge may indicate where the nearest hide is, to allow the dog to find a hide and be rewarded
- (c) the handler calls "Finish" before all hides in the search area have been located
- (d) in the Excellent, Master and Ultimate Classes, where the number of hides is unknown, the handler does not call "Finish" before the expiration of the search time
- (e) the handler is not able to point to the location of the hide when asked by the Judge
- (f) the handler re-cues the dog to indicate a hide after the handler has called "Alert" including where the Judge has asked "Where"
- (g) the handler touches, moves or disrupts any object in the search area without express permission from the Judge and this has interfered with or contaminated or changed the search area such that it impacts unfairly on subsequent searches
- (h) when, in the opinion of the Judge, a handler actively looks for the hide
- (i) the dog is not under the handler's control
- (j) the dog or handler stops working or performs disruptive behaviour for ten (10) or more seconds after warning from the Judge
- (k) the handler is unable to stop the dog's barking/vocalising, after a warning from the Judge
- (l) taking the dog off-lead in an on-lead only search area or allowing the dog to be put in a potentially serious unsafe situation for example, where there is a potential for the dog to be injured
- (m) the Judge considers the dog is unfit to compete
- (n) the dog shows signs of or is exhibiting undue stress or fear



- (o) physical touch that provides guidance or direction to the dog
- (p) any violation of the Rules relating to dog attire.

22.3.2 The Judge may determine that because of the Non-Qualifying Fault incurred (whether because of an action or a behaviour) the handler and dog should be excluded from further searching. The handler shall be excused from the search area. A handler who is excused from a search must vacate the search area precinct immediately.

22.3.3 A handler who is excused from a search may still be allowed to compete in other Classes or Elements in which they are entered at that trial.

22.3.4 However, at the discretion of the Judge, depending on the severity of the situation and taking into consideration the health and welfare of the dog (for example, illness or injury concerns), the Judge may excuse the dog from the remainder of the trial. It would not usually be considered a reportable offence.

#### 22.4 Disqualification

22.4.1 A handler and dog shall be disqualified from the trial and/or the search and the Judging Chart must be marked 'Disqualified (DQ)' if, in the opinion of the Judge, one or more of the following actions occur.

22.4.2 From the **search and/or the trial depending on the severity of the incident** or whether the incident was considered deliberate or intentional or accidental:

- (a) the dog eliminates (urinates, defecates or vomits) in the search area or search area precinct
- (b) any harsh handling or correction of the dog by the handler for example, harsh verbal or physical reprimands, intimidating or abusive commands
- (c) the handler solicits assistance from a trial official, spectator or another handler
- (d) the handler discusses a search with any other person before the Class/Element has finished
- (e) the handler allows the dog to disrupt the search area unduly. This includes:
  - excessive food contamination or saliva on a container, object or in the search area as determined by the Judge. Excessive saliva will only be penalized if the handler could reasonably have prevented the contamination but did not do so
  - intentional biting, hard scratching, pouncing or other behaviour by the dog that causes damage to a container, object or the search area. Where a dog's nose or paws get caught on containers or the dog paws at or gently picks up a container or other objects in the search area, this shall not be considered a disruption of the search area.

22.4.3 From the **trial in the most serious of incidents** and which shall be **reported** to the member body in accordance with the relevant Rules and Regulations:

- (a) any dog that attacks or displays aggressive behaviour towards any person or another dog, including while at the trial and during searches
- (b) the handler openly impugns the actions or decisions of the Judge
- (c) any handler who openly interferes willfully with another handler or a handler's dog or

in the opinion of the Judge, the handler's behavior is objectionable

- (d) the handler fails to declare that they are in possession of target odours while at the trial venue
- (e) the handler undertakes training utilizing the target odours at the trial venue or subset of the venue as specified in the Catalogue, other than in the designated warm-up area.

## **23 MARKS AND PLACINGS**

- 23.1 When possible, the results for each Class/Element, including results and the Judge's name will be displayed at the trial and be accessible to all handlers, but not before judging of the Class/Element is finished.
- 23.2 Placings shall be based on the fewest number of Qualifying Faults, and then on time. A team with no Qualifying Faults will place higher than a faster finishing team with Qualifying Faults. Only teams with qualifying results shall receive placings.

## PART 5 - ODOUR SEARCH DIVISION

### SCENT WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENTS BY ELEMENT AND CLASS

#### 24 CONTAINERS ELEMENT

##### 24.1 Requirements

- 24.1.1 The Containers Element search requirements test a dog's ability to locate the hide(s), concealed within one (1) or more containers within a search area, and communicate the find to their handler.
- 24.1.2 Container searches may be conducted either indoors or outdoors.
- 24.1.3 Containers shall be used to conceal the scent vessel or act as the scent vessel for Container searches. The scent vessel is to be adhered/secured in place within a container. Alternatively, the scent aid may be secured directly within a suitable container.
- 24.1.4 A container is any receptacle for holding the hide. To be suitable, a container must:
- (a) be used primarily for storage or transport of objects
  - (b) be able to completely enclose the hide that is, it must have material on all sides that prevents the hide falling out
  - (c) be durable enough that it cannot be readily torn or destroyed (nothing more fragile than a cardboard box)
  - (d) be safe for the searching dog that is, glass, ceramics and china must never be used
  - (e) allow target odour to be accessible to the searching dog.
- 24.1.5 Containers can include cardboard boxes, tins, briefcases, luggage, backpacks, storage bins, or any other similar odour-permeable container, acceptable to the Judge having regard to the Class. When cardboard boxes are used, the base of the boxes must have no opening or be taped shut.
- 24.1.6 It is the Judge's responsibility to ensure that the choice of containers (texture, size, fabric, variety, robustness) and the arrangement used provide suitable variety and challenge for the searching team commensurate with the Class being judged.
- 24.1.7 Containers should be stable enough in position to not move around with minor disruption by the dog such that the dog is either faulted for disrupting the search area or the handler becomes disoriented with containers searched because they have moved out of relative position. If necessary, containers can be weighted for example, with bags of sand, water or a brick.
- 24.1.8 Containers should, where possible, be at least one (1) metre from any wall, boundary or other structural object.
- 24.1.9 Containers shall be at least thirty (30) cm apart, and if rows are used, each row shall be at least ninety (90) cm apart.

- 24.1.10 Containers in the Novice Class must be cardboard boxes or lidded plastic boxes with multiple holes drilled in the box. They must all be identical. They shall be at least 23 cm long by 19 cm wide. They must be no less than 6 cm and no more than 20 cm tall.
- 24.1.11 When using cardboard boxes in higher Classes, several different sized boxes may be used to increase the challenge and add variety.
- 24.1.12 Container(s) used for the hides in a search should not be re-used at the same or future trials.
- 24.1.13 Each hide may contain the same target odour or there may be a mix of the approved trial target odours. That is, one (1) hide may contain one target odour and another hide(s) may contain a different target odour(s).
- 24.1.14 Minimum distances between hides containing the same odour and hides containing a different odour do not apply in this Element.
- 24.1.15 In the Containers Advanced, Excellent and Master Classes, the distraction may be in a container or loose in the search area, except for food distractions which must be in a container. If the distraction is placed in a container, it should be a container like those being used in the search. It must not be placed in a container with a hide.
- 24.1.16 Distractions must be no closer than fifty (50) cm to a hide.
- 24.1.17 The minimum and maximum times for a Containers Element Search are specified, but the actual time limit for each Class shall be determined by the Judge.

## **24.2 Containers Novice Class**

- 24.2.1 The search area shall be at least 25 and no more than 35 square metres.
- 24.2.2 No fewer than ten (10) and no more than fifteen (15) identical containers shall be laid out on the ground of the search area. The containers may be arranged in rows or in a "U" formation.
- 24.2.3 One (1) of the containers shall contain the hide.
- 24.2.4 There shall be no intentional distractions.
- 24.2.5 The dog shall locate the container with the hide and communicate the find to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge. The time limit for the search shall be between one (1) and two (2) minutes.

## **24.3 Containers Advanced Class**

- 24.3.1 The search area shall be an area of at least 35 and no more than 55 square metres.
- 24.3.2 No fewer than fifteen (15) and no more than twenty (20) containers which may be identical or may vary in size and type shall be laid out on the ground of the search area. The containers may be arranged in rows, a "U" formation or in a circle.

- 24.3.3 Two (2) of the containers shall contain a hide each.
- 24.3.4 There shall be one (1) non-food distraction.
- 24.3.5 The dog shall locate the containers with the hides and communicate the find to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge. The time limit for the search shall be between two (2) and three (3) minutes.

#### **24.4 Containers Excellent Class**

- 24.4.1 The search area shall be an area of at least 55 and no more than 75 square metres.
- 24.4.2 No fewer than twenty (20) and no more than thirty (30) containers which may be identical or may vary in size and type shall be laid out on the ground of the search area. The containers may be arranged in rows, in a "U" formation, a circle, a pattern or random.
- 24.4.3 Three (3) of the containers shall contain a hide each.
- 24.4.4 There shall be two (2) distractions which may be non-food or food.
- 24.4.5 The dog shall locate the containers with the hides and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge. The time limit for the search shall be between three (3) and four (4) minutes.

#### **24.5 Containers Master Class**

- 24.5.1 The search area shall be an area of at least 55 and no more than 75 square metres.
- 24.5.2 No fewer than twenty-five (25) and no more than thirty-five (35) containers which may be identical or may vary in size and type shall be laid out on the ground of the search area. The containers may be arranged in rows, in a "U" formation, a circle, or a pattern or random.
- 24.5.3 One (1), two (2) or three (3) of the containers shall contain the hide(s).
- 24.5.4 There shall be three (3) distractions which may be non-food, food, mimic or human.
- 24.5.5 The dog shall locate the containers with the hides and communicate the find to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge. The time limit for the search shall be between three (3) and four (4) minutes.

## 24.6 Summary of Containers Element search requirements

	<b>Novice</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>Size of search area</b>	25 – 35 sq m	35 – 55 sq m	55 – 75 sq m	55 – 75 sq m
<b>Number of containers</b>	10-15	15-20	20-30	25-35
<b>Types of containers</b>	Identical cardboard or plastic boxes	Various size and type	Various size and type	Various size and type
<b>Arrangement of containers</b>	Rows or “U” formation	Rows, “U” formation or circle	Rows, “U” formation, circle, pattern or random	Rows, “U” formation, circle, pattern or random
<b>Minimum distance between containers</b>	30 cm in all directions; 90 cm between rows	30 cm in all directions; 90 cm between rows	30 cm in all directions; 90 cm between rows	30 cm in all directions; 90 cm between rows
<b>Minimum perimeter distance</b>	1 metre	1 metre	1 metre	1 metre
<b>Number of hides</b>	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	1-3 (number unknown)
<b>Time limit</b>	1-2 minutes	2-3 minutes	3-4 minutes	3-4 minutes
<b>Distractions</b>	None	1 non-food	2 non-food or food	3 non-food, food, mimic or human
<b>Required calls</b>	Alert only	2 Alert calls and Finish	3 Alert calls and Finish	Alert(s) for each find and Finish

## **25 INTERIOR ELEMENT**

### **25.1 Requirements**

- 25.1.1 The Interior Search Element tests the dog's ability to locate the hide in an indoor search environment.
- 25.1.2 An interior search area is defined as one that protects airflow from intruding from outside that is, it must have a ceiling and four walls that reach all the way to the floor. The Judge has discretion as to whether any doors or windows in the area are open or closed during the search and whether any heating or air-conditioning appliances are switched on.
- 25.1.3 The search shall take place inside a room or rooms in a building (such as an office, classroom, kitchen, bathroom or warehouse). The entire room need not be used for the search area. If part of the room is excluded, the search area boundaries shall be clearly defined.
- 25.1.4 The specific challenges provided in an Interior search include room size (and part or whole), type of room (which can provide their own unique environmental conditions and smells), inclusions (furniture, metal appliances and so on), hide height, search time allowed, and exposure to internal elements such as heating, air conditioning, sun/shade from a window).
- 25.1.5 Excellent and Master Interior searches include multiple rooms/areas. Master searches may include a blank room/area. The dog and handler will be required to search all rooms/areas and call 'Alert' to a hide(s) being present; and 'Finish' to advise that they have found all hides in the room/area or, that it is a 'blank room/area'.
- 25.1.6 The Judge may include props (such as furniture, children's toys and/or other objects) in an Interior Search for hide placement and/or to add interest and/or complexity to the search area.
- 25.1.7 The chosen hides shall be hidden on, under, or in an object or any walls or doors or windows within the search area. They must not be hidden on boundary markers, such as bunting or witches' hats.
- 25.1.8 Each hide may contain the same target odour or there may be a mix of the approved trial target odours. That is, one (1) hide may contain one target odour and another hide(s) may contain a different target odour(s).
- 25.1.9 Minimum distances between hides containing the same odour and hides containing a different odour apply in this Element.
- 25.1.10 Distractions must be no closer than fifty (50) cm to a hide.
- 25.1.11 The minimum and maximum times for an Interior Element Search are specified, but the actual time limit in each of these Classes shall be determined by the Judge.

### **25.2 Interior Novice Class**

- 25.2.1 The search area shall be a room or part of a room with an area of not less than 10 and not more than 20 square metres.

- 25.2.2 There shall be one (1) hide, which shall be accessible and located not higher than 60 cm off the floor.
- 25.2.3 There shall be no intentional distractions.
- 25.2.4 The dog shall find the hide and communicate the find to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between one (1) and three (3) minutes.

### **25.3 Interior Advanced Class**

- 25.3.1 The search area shall be a room or part of a room with an area of not less than 15 and not more than 35 square metres.
- 25.3.2 There shall be two (2) hides, which shall be accessible and located not higher than 90 cm off the floor.
- 25.3.3 Hides containing the same odour must be a minimum of two and a half (2.5) metres apart. Hides containing different odours must be a minimum of two (2) metres apart.
- 25.3.4 There shall be one (1) non-food distraction.
- 25.3.5 The dog shall find the hides and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between one (1) and three (3) minutes.

### **25.4 Interior Excellent Class**

- 25.4.1 An Interior Excellent search requires two (2) distinct search areas. The total space of the two (2) search areas shall be not less than 35 and not more than 75 square metres.
- 25.4.2 If the search areas are in one room, there must be a clear boundary between each search area.
- 25.4.3 Each search area shall be searched independently, with a separate time limit.
- 25.4.4 There shall be three (3) hides, two (2) of which shall be accessible and none of which shall be located higher than 120 cm off the floor. There will be no blank areas.
- 25.4.5 Hides containing the same odour must be a minimum of two (2) metres apart. Hides containing different odours must be a minimum of one and a half (1.5) metres apart.
- 25.4.6 Handlers will not know which of the two search areas has one hide and which area has two hides. A handler who incorrectly calls 'Finish' in the first search area will not usually be allowed to progress to the second area, however this is at the discretion of the Judge.
- 25.4.7 There shall be two (2) distractions which may be non-food or food.
- 25.4.8 The dog shall find the hides and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between one (1) and three (3) minutes per search area.

### **25.5 Interior Master Class**

- 25.5.1 An Interior Master search requires two (2) or three (3) distinct search areas in one (1) or more rooms, or parts of a room. The total space of the search areas shall not be less



than 55 and not more than 100 square metres.

- 25.5.2 If the search areas are in one room, there must be a clear boundary between each search area.
- 25.5.3 Each search area shall be searched independently, with a separate time limit.
- 25.5.4 There shall be one (1) to five (5) hides in a Master Interior search. There shall be no more than three (3) hides in any one search area. Only one (1) search area can be blank.
- 25.5.5 Hides containing the same odour must be a minimum of one and a half (1.5) metres apart. Hides containing different odours must be a minimum of one (1) metre apart.
- 25.5.6 All hides may be inaccessible. None shall be located higher than 150 cm off the floor.
- 25.5.7 There shall be three (3) distractions which may be non-food, food, mimic or human.
- 25.5.8 The dog shall find the hides and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between one (1) and three (3) minutes per search area.

## 25.6 Summary of Interior Search requirements

	<b>Novice</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>Size of search area</b>	10–20 sq m	15–35 sq m	2 areas 35–75 sq m total	2–3 areas 55 – 100 sq m total
<b>Blank areas</b>	None	None	None	1
<b>Number of hides</b>	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	1–5 (unknown)
<b>Max. height of hides (cm)</b>	60	90	120	150
<b>Accessibility</b>	Accessible only	Accessible only	1 hide may be inaccessible	All hides may be inaccessible
<b>Time limit</b>	1 – 3 minutes	1 – 3 minutes	1 – 3 minutes per search area	1 – 3 minutes per search area
<b>Distractions</b>	None	1 non-food	2 non-food or food	3 non-food, food, mimic or human
<b>Required calls</b>	Alert only	2 Alerts and Finish	3 Alerts and Finish	Alert(s) for each find and Finish

## **26 EXTERIOR ELEMENT**

### **26.1 Requirements**

- 26.1.1 The Exterior Search Element tests the dog's ability to locate a hide(s) in an area with natural airflow and changing airflow patterns, weather conditions and natural distractions such as the sounds and smells of nature. The search area may be covered but shall have no more than two (2) walls. The search area boundaries shall be clearly defined.
- 26.1.2 The challenges in this Element arise from the external environment with varied urban environments, bigger search areas, variable weather conditions, and the need to ignore everyday contamination.
- 26.1.3 The Judge may include props (for example, furniture, flowerpots) in an Exterior Search for hide placement and/or to add interest and/or complexity to the search area.
- 26.1.4 The hides must not be hidden on boundary markers, such as bunting or witches' hats.
- 26.1.5 Each hide may contain the same target odour or there may be a mix of the approved trial target odours. That is, one (1) hide may contain one target odour and another hide(s) may contain a different target odour(s).
- 26.1.6 Minimum distances between hides containing the same odour and hides containing a different odour apply in this Element.
- 26.1.7 Distractions must be no closer than fifty (50) cm to a hide.
- 26.1.8 The minimum and maximum time for an Exterior Search is specified, but the actual time limit in each of these Classes shall be determined by the Judge.

### **26.2 Exterior Novice Class**

- 26.2.1 The search area shall be an outdoor area of at least 15 but not more than 35 square metres.
- 26.2.2 There shall be one (1) hide, which shall be accessible and located no higher than 60 cm above the ground.
- 26.2.3 There shall be no intentional distractions.
- 26.2.4 The dog shall find the hide and communicate the find to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between two (2) and four (4) minutes.

### **26.3 Exterior Advanced Class**

- 26.3.1 The search area shall be an outdoor area of at least 35 but not more than 75 square metres.
- 26.3.2 There shall be two (2) hides, which shall be accessible, and located not higher than 90 cm above the ground.

26.3.3 Hides containing the same odour must be a minimum of two and a half (2.5) metres apart. Hides containing different odours must be a minimum of two (2) metres apart.

26.3.4 There shall be one (1) non-food distraction.

26.3.5 The dog shall find the hides and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between two (2) and four (4) minutes.

#### 26.4 Exterior Excellent Class

26.4.1 The search area shall be an outdoor area of at least 75 but not more than 140 square metres.

26.4.2 There shall be three (3) hides. One (1) hide may be inaccessible. None of the hides may be located higher than 120 cm above the ground.

26.4.3 Hides containing the same odour must be a minimum of two (2) metres apart. Hides containing different odours must be a minimum of one and a half (1.5) metres apart.

26.4.4 There shall be two (2) distractions which may be non-food or food.

26.4.5 The dog shall find the hides and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between three (3) and five (5) minutes.

#### 26.5 Exterior Master Class

26.5.1 The search area shall be an outdoor area of at least 140 but not more than 200 square metres.

26.5.2 There shall be one (1), two (2), or three (3) hides. The handler shall not know the exact number of hides. Any or all hides may be inaccessible. None shall be located higher than 150 cm above the ground.

26.5.3 Hides containing the same odour must be a minimum of one and a half (1.5) metres apart. Hides containing different odours must be a minimum of one (1) metre apart.

26.5.4 There shall be three (3) distractions which may be non-food, food or mimic or human.

26.5.5 The dog shall find the hides and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between three (3) and five (5) minutes.

#### 26.6 Summary of Exterior Search requirements

	<b>Novice</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>Size of search area</b>	15 – 35 sq m	35 – 75 sq m	75 – 140 sq m	140 – 200 sq m
<b>Number of hides</b>	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	1–3 (unknown)
<b>Max. height of hides (cm)</b>	60	90	120	150
<b>Accessibility</b>	Accessible only	Accessible only	1 hide may be inaccessible	All hides may be inaccessible

<b>Time limit</b>	2 – 4 minutes	2 – 4 minutes	3 – 5 minutes	3 – 5 minutes
<b>Distractions</b>	None	1 non-food	2 non-food or food	3 non-food, food, mimic or human
<b>Required calls</b>	Alert only	2 Alert calls and Finish	3 Alert calls and Finish	Alert(s) for each find and Finish

## 27 VEHICLES ELEMENT

### 27.1 Requirements

- 27.1.1 The challenge difficulty in a Vehicles Element search is set by the types and variety of vehicles used, the number of vehicles, the number of hides, the number and type of distractions, the search time and the environmental conditions. The choice of vehicles should reflect the complexity of the Class and allow for varied scent puzzles to be set such as inaccessible hides, converging odour etc.
- 27.1.2 A vehicle is any wheeled apparatus larger than 1 cubic metre where possible which provides multiple suitable hide placement areas. It must be suitably secured to prevent injury to the searching dog and handler.
- 27.1.3 A motorised vehicle can include (but is not limited to) a standard car, van, utility, truck, tractor, forklift, bobcat, large motorbike, golf cart, wheelchair, mobility scooter or ride-on mower.
- 27.1.4 A non-motorised vehicle can include (but is not limited to) a trailer, dog trailer, horse float, caravan or boat/jet ski on trailer.
- 27.1.5 Items such as wheelie bins, garden wheelbarrows, bicycles, scooters (including e-scooters), a wheeled esky and children's toy cars are not considered suitable for vehicle searches. This is because they do not provide sufficient environmental challenges for airflow in and around a vehicle, have limited suitable hide placement areas and are unstable. Wheeled apparatus used for dog training and dog sports (for example, show trolleys) should be avoided.
- 27.1.6 In some circumstances it may be necessary for one vehicle to be relatively small (for example, a large wheelbarrow). Judges should ensure that the average size across all vehicles used is approximately equal to the equivalent number of small sedans.
- 27.1.7 The vehicles shall be parked in an open, outdoor area or in a large, covered area which has adequate ventilation to allow air movement around and under vehicles. This is to minimise the exposure of the Judge, officials and searching teams to vehicle smells (oil, fumes etc).
- 27.1.8 Hides in vehicle searches shall only be placed on the external frame for example, bumper, seams, or number plate, wheel (hubcaps/spokes), or wheel wells of the vehicles. Hides shall not be placed in the interior, on the roof or bonnet of a vehicle. A handler will never be required to open a vehicle door or direct the dog into or on any

vehicle to locate the hide.

- 27.1.9 Hides will usually not be placed more than 5 cm under a vehicle. This is to ensure the dog's safety and for the handler to observe the dog searching. Areas such as wheel arches, where spaces progressively narrow in size also need to be noted to prevent a dog's heads being caught while they search for odour.
- 27.1.10 Where large, non-traditional types of vehicles which are higher off the ground are used in a search (for example, cherry pickers, tractors, farm equipment), the Judge may place hides more than 5 cm under the vehicle. The Judge must ensure that searching dogs are able to safely move in and around the vehicle without any potential for harm or fear.
- 27.1.11 Where hides are placed more than 5cm under a vehicle, the Judge will communicate this possibility during the handlers' briefing.
- 27.1.12 All vehicles used in Vehicle Classes shall be thoroughly checked for fuel/oil leaks and fumes, shall not be hot, or have sharp or protruding parts which could harm the dog or handler.
- 27.1.13 The size of the search area depends on the number and size of vehicles used. The vehicles must be no less than 1.5 and no more than 2 metres apart to allow easy passage of the dog and handler. If the search area is bounded by walls or fences, including retaining walls, there must be at least 1.5 metres between any vehicle and the wall or fence.
- 27.1.14 In searches with multiple hides, there may be up to two (2) hides on any one (1) vehicle.
- 27.1.15 Distractions must be no closer than fifty (50) cm to a hide.
- 27.1.16 Each hide may contain the same target odour or there may be a mix of the approved trial target odours. That is, one (1) hide may contain one target odour and another hide(s) may contain a different target odour(s).
- 27.1.17 Minimum distances between hides containing the same odour and hides containing different odours do not apply in this Element.
- 27.1.18 Vehicle searches must be conducted on lead.
- 27.1.19 The minimum and maximum time for a Vehicle Element Search is specified but the actual time limit in each of these Classes shall be determined by the Judge.

## **27.2 Vehicle Novice Class**

- 27.2.1 There shall be two (2) or three (3) vehicles set in a line and facing in the same direction. Vehicles may be side by side or one behind the other.
- 27.2.2 There shall be one (1) hide which shall be placed on any vehicle.
- 27.2.3 There shall be no intentional distractions.
- 27.2.4 The dog shall find the hide and communicate the find to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be-between two (2) and four (4) minutes.

### 27.3 Vehicle Advanced Class

- 27.3.1 There shall be two (2) or three (3) vehicles set in a line and facing in different directions. Vehicles may be side by side or one behind the other.
- 27.3.2 There shall be two (2) hides which shall be placed on any vehicle(s).
- 27.3.3 There shall be one (1) non-food distraction.
- 27.3.4 The dog shall find the hides and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between two (2) and four (4) minutes.

### 27.4 Vehicle Excellent Class

- 27.4.1 There shall be three (3) to four (4) vehicles placed in any pattern that is, the vehicles may be all in a row and facing in different directions, perpendicular to each other or randomly placed.
- 27.4.2 There shall be three (3) hides which shall be placed on any vehicle(s).
- 27.4.3 There shall be two (2) distractions which may be non-food and/or food.
- 27.4.4 The dog shall find the hides and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between three (3) and five (5) minutes.

### 27.5 Vehicle Master Class

- 27.5.1 There shall be three (3) or four (4) vehicles, placed in any pattern that is, the vehicles may be all in a row and facing in different directions, perpendicular to each other or randomly placed.
- 27.5.2 There shall be one (1), two (2) or three (3) hides which shall be placed on any vehicle(s). The number of hides shall be unknown to the handler.
- 27.5.3 There shall be three (3) distractions which may be non-food, food, mimic or human.
- 27.5.4 The dog shall find the hides and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between three (3) and five (5) minutes.

### 27.6 Summary of Vehicle Search requirements

	<b>Novice</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>No of vehicles</b>	2-3	2-3	3-4	3-4
<b>No of hides</b>	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	1 to 3 (unknown)
<b>Time limit</b>	2-4 minutes	2-4 minutes	3-5 minutes	3-5 minutes
<b>Distractions</b>	None	1 non-food	2 non-food, food	3 non-food, food mimic or human

<b>Required calls</b>	Alert only	2 Alert calls and Finish	3 Alert calls and Finish	Alert(s) for each find and Finish
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## 28 ULTIMATE CLASS SEARCH

### 28.1 Preamble

- 28.1.1 The Ultimate Class offers an integrated search environment which includes at least three (3) of the four (4) Elements in these Rules with an unknown number of hides and distractions.
- 28.1.2 The intent of the Ultimate Class is to enable handlers and dogs to demonstrate the skills, experience and expertise gained from the first four Classes in these Rules in a longer, integrated search.
- 28.1.3 The Ultimate Class tests the dog's resilience and the handler's capacity to manage the searching dog's work in the environment to complete the search within the prescribed time.

### 28.2 Eligibility

- 28.2.1 The Ultimate Class is open to dogs who have gained their Master title (SWM) or two (2) Element titles (that is, a SWC and/or SWI and/or SWX and/or SWV title).
- 28.2.2 Dogs trialing in the Ultimate Class may continue to trial in the Excellent or Master Classes at the same trial.
- 28.2.3 Dogs gaining their title in the Ultimate Class may continue to compete in the Ultimate Class.

### 28.3 Search areas

- 28.3.1 The search area must include both **Interior** and **Exterior Elements** (as described in these Rules) with a building or structure, and shall include at least one of:
- (a) **Containers** (as described in these Rules) with a minimum of twenty (20) and a maximum of thirty (30) containers in the search; and/or
- (b) **Vehicles** (as described in these Rules) with a minimum of three (3) and maximum of six (6) vehicles.
- 28.3.2 The total search area must be at least 200 but not more than 500 square metres.
- 28.3.3 The Class search area will be clearly marked. Any excluded areas will be clearly defined. There will be no separate and distinct search areas marked out within the Class search area.
- 28.3.4 Teams may move in, out of and between all included search areas when searching for hides.

## **28.4 Set-up of the search areas**

- 28.4.1 The target odours may be any of the four (4) target odours approved under the Rules. Not all odours need to be present, and each odour can be used multiple times.
- 28.4.2 Hides containing different odours must be placed a minimum of 45 cm from each other. Hides using the same target odours must be placed a minimum of 60 cm apart.
- 28.4.3 There should be a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of ten (10) hides in the entire search area.
- 28.4.4 Hides can be placed anywhere in the search area including on, under, or in any object or container within the Element criteria specified in these Rules. Hides cannot be on any boundary marker or cone or on the persons of Judges, officials, or human distractions.
- 28.4.5 All hides may be inaccessible.
- 28.4.6 The maximum height of a hide is 150 cm.
- 28.4.7 Hides may be buried to a maximum depth of five (5) cm. Buried hides should be in distinct areas rather than heavily grassed areas or garden beds where dogs could dig to access the hide, and consequently contaminate the area. Examples of buried hides could include:
- (a) flowerpots filled with sand (spares to be provided in case of contamination to the hide pot)
  - (b) sandpits
  - (c) pebbled/gravelled/mulched areas.
- 28.4.8 Four (4) to six (6) intentional distractions will be used in the search area which may be non-food, food, mimic or human.
- 28.4.9 Distractions must be no closer than fifty (50) cm to a hide.
- 28.4.10 There shall be at least three (3) different types of distractions.
- 28.4.11 At least two (2) distractions must be placed so that they are invisible to the handler but the distraction odour is available to the dog. For example, a distinct odour (food, animal hair) in a container that allows the odour to readily dissipate for the dog to smell, but the container is placed in a location that is not visible to the handler. The handler must read their dog's response to the odour to determine whether it is an alert to a hide or a response to a distraction.
- 28.4.12 In the Ultimate Class, soft toys can include those that mimic real life animals or people, and human distractions can include people playing with toys or balls or walking through the search area.

## **28.5 Conduct of the search**

- 28.5.1 The total search time will be determined by the Judge and must be between seven (7) and fifteen (15) minutes.



- 28.5.2 No 30 second warning provided in the Ultimate Class. Handlers can self-time if they wish.
- 28.5.3 At the Judge’s discretion, handlers have the option to run the Ultimate Class off-leash, regardless of whether the area is completely enclosed or not. All non-competing dogs should be safely contained and not visible from the search area. Any handler running their dog off-lead in a non-enclosed area does so at their own risk.
- 28.5.4 The handler must work the search area in an efficient manner that minimizes the dog repeatedly searching the same areas. Time limits will encourage the handler to continually move their dog through the search area while carrying out a detailed search.
- 28.5.5 The dog must find the hides and communicate the finds to its handler. The handler must call “Alert” when the dog indicates each find.
- 28.5.6 For the dog and handler to qualify they must find all the hides and call ‘Finish’ within the time limit set by the Judge. The team must not incur any Non-Qualifying Faults.
- 28.5.7 Failure to call Finish before the Official Timer calls the expiration of time will be a Non-Qualifying Fault.
- 28.5.8 After the “Finish” call or at the expiration of the allotted time the handler will be told whether they qualified or not.
- 28.5.9 Handlers must not discuss the search area or their search until the Class is complete. Penalty for doing so will result in Disqualification (DQ) from the trial.

## 28.6 Course map

- 28.6.1 A course map/photo/video showing the location of each hide in the search area will be made available as soon as possible after completion of the trial.

## 28.7 Ultimate Class Summary

<b>Search Area Size</b>	200-500 square metres total
<b># of Hides</b>	3 -10 per search
<b>Known or Unknown Hides</b>	Unknown number of hides
<b>Hide distance</b>	No closer than 45cm for different target odours No closer than 60cm for the same target odours
<b>Max Height of Hides</b>	150 cm
<b>Max buried depth</b>	5cm
<b>Accessibility</b>	Any or all hides may be inaccessible
<b>Time Limit</b>	7-15 minutes as set by the Judge
<b>Distractions</b>	4-6 Any type allowed under the Rules with the additional options allowed for in this Class. At least 3 different types to be used. 2 distractors must be invisible
<b>Required Calls</b>	Alerts and Finish

**APPENDIX A : DOGS AUSTRALIA - SCENT WORK JUDGE'S MARK SHEET NOVICE-MASTER**

<b>Affiliate:</b>						<b>Date:</b>		
<b>Class:</b> Novice      Advanced      Excellent      Master					<b>Judge:</b>			
<b>Element:</b> Containers      Interior      Exterior      Vehicles					<b>Time Allowed (min:sec)</b>			
<b>Odour:</b> Birch      Anise      Clove      Cypress								
<b>Handler Number:</b>			<b>Result:</b> Q      NQ      DQ			<b>Faults:</b> F/A      T/O		
<b>Hide Found:</b> NO      1      2      3      4      5			<b>Search Areas Completed:</b>			<b>Other:</b>		
<b>Time Recorded (min:sec.)</b> __ __								
			1	2	3	<b>Total Faults:</b>		
<b>Handler Number:</b>			<b>Result:</b> Q      NQ      DQ			<b>Faults:</b> F/A      T/O		
<b>Hide Found:</b> NO      1      2      3      4      5			<b>Search Areas Completed:</b>			<b>Other:</b>		
<b>Time Recorded (min:sec.)</b> __ __								
			1	2	3	<b>Total Faults:</b>		
<b>Handler Number:</b>			<b>Result:</b> Q      NQ      DQ			<b>Faults:</b> F/A      T/O		
<b>Hide Found:</b> NO      1      2      3      4      5			<b>Search Areas Completed:</b>			<b>Other:</b>		
<b>Time Recorded (min:sec.)</b> __ __								
			1	2	3	<b>Total Faults:</b>		
<b>Handler Number:</b>			<b>Result:</b> Q      NQ      DQ			<b>Faults:</b> F/A      T/O		
<b>Hide Found:</b> NO      1      2      3      4      5			<b>Search Areas Completed:</b>			<b>Other:</b>		
<b>Time Recorded (min:sec.)</b> __ __								
			1	2	3	<b>Total Faults:</b>		

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX B: DOGS AUSTRALIA – SCENT WORK JUDGE’S MARK SHEET - ULTIMATE**

<b>Affiliate:</b>				<b>Date:</b>		
<b>Judge:</b> :		<b>Elements:</b>	<b>Containers</b>	<b>Interior</b>	<b>Exterior</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>
<b>Handler Number:</b>	<b>Time Allowed (min)</b>		<b>Time Recorded</b>		<b>Total Faults</b>	
	Pass   Q   NQ   DQ		<b>Distractions:</b>			
<b>Hides</b>	<b>Odour</b>	<b>Element</b>	<b>Comments</b>			<b>Result</b>
1	B A Cl Cy	C I E V				
2	B A Cl Cy	C I E V				
3	B A Cl Cy	C I E V				
4	B A Cl Cy	C I E V				
5	B A Cl Cy	C I E V				
6	B A Cl Cy	C I E V				
7	B A Cl Cy	C I E V				
8	B A Cl Cy	C I E V				
9	B A Cl Cy	C I E V				
10	B A Cl Cy	C I E V				

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_



## APPENDIX D: SUMMARY OF PENALTIES

### D1: BY PENALTY DEDUCTIONS

DESCRIPTION	RULE	QUAL FAULT <sup>1</sup>	NQ	DQ	EXCIUSE	REPORT
<b>QUALIFYING FAULTS</b>						
<b>Handling error</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>dog not crossing the start line</li> <li>crowding the searching dog</li> <li>dropping food</li> <li>physical touch - guidance or direction</li> <li>toy thrown or dropped</li> <li>Advanced Class - handler leaves without calling "Finish"</li> <li>lack of teamwork.</li> </ul>	13.8 19.5.2 19.13.3 19.16.2 22.2.1(a)	X	X			
<b>Minor safety concern</b> dog put in an unsafe situation (frightened/defensive)	22.2.1(b)	X				
<b>Mildly, accidentally compromising search area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>handler accidentally touches object without Judge's permission</li> <li>untidy reward delivery</li> <li>poor lead handling</li> <li>dog retrieving a hide or distraction.</li> </ul>	19.9 19.15.2 22.2.1(c)	X	X			
<b>NON-QUALIFYING FAULTS</b>						
Maximum search time exceeded	22.3.1(a)		X			
"Alert" called on incorrect location	19.14 22.3.1(b)		X			
"Finish" called before all hides located	19.13.2 22.3.1(c)		X			
<u>Excellent, Master and Ultimate Classes</u> Unknown number of hides - "Finish" not called before search time expired	19.13.4 22.3.1(d)		X			
Handler cannot point to hide location	19.11.2 19.11.6 19.1.10 22.3.1(e)		X			
Handler re-cues dog to indicate a hide where the Judge has asked "Where"	19.11.7 22.3.1(f)		X			
Handler touches, moves or disrupts any object in the search area without Judge's permission	19.9 22.3.1(g)	X	X			
Handler actively looks for the hide	19.6 22.3.1(h)		X			
Dog not under the handler's control	14.2(a) 22.3.1(i)		X		X	

<sup>1</sup> **Qualifying Fault:** Points are deducted but the team can still qualify.

**NQ: Non-qualifying Fault.** Faults that result in a non-qualifying outcome.

**DQ: Disqualification.** This may be from the Class or in more serious cases may be from the trial.

**Excusal:** In the case of an NQ Fault, the Judge may also determine that the team should immediately leave the Search Area.

**Report:** Serious misbehaviours or incidents that shall be reported to the member body.

DESCRIPTION	RULE	QUAL FAULT <sup>1</sup>	NQ	DQ	EXCIUSE	REPORT
Dog or handler stop working or performs disruptive behaviour for 10 seconds after warning	22.3.1(j)		X			
Handler cannot stop dog's barking/vocalising, after Judge's warning	19.10.2 22.3.1(k)		X		X	
Handler removes dog's lead in on-lead only search or puts dog in potentially serious unsafe situation (injury)	22.3.1(l)		X		X	
Judge considers the dog is unfit to compete	14.2(a) 22.3.1(m)		X		X	
Dog shows signs of/exhibiting undue stress/fear	14.2(a) 22.3.1(n)		X		X	
Physical touch - guidance/direction to dog	13.8 19.15.1 22.2.1(a) 22.3.1(o)		X			
Violation of Rules re dog attire.	9.5.1 9.5.2 9.5.3 22.3.1(p)		X			
<b>DISQUALIFICATION – FROM SEARCH AND/OR TRIAL</b>						
Dog eliminates (urinates, defecates or vomits) in the search area/precinct	22.4.2(a)			X	X	
Harsh handling/correction of dog by handler (harsh verbal/physical reprimands, intimidating or abusive commands)	13.7 22.4.2(b)			X	X	X
Handler solicits assistance from official, spectator or another handler	22.4.2(c)			X		X
Handler discusses search before Class/Element finished	11.2.2 double handling 13.11 handler 13.12 – other 22.4.2(d) 28.5.9			X		X
Handler allows dog to unduly disrupt search area unduly (excessive food contamination/saliva; intentional biting, hard scratching, pouncing etc that damages a container, object or search area.	14.2(a) 22.4.2(e)			X	X	
<b>DISQUALIFICATION – FROM TRIAL AND REPORTED TO MEMBER BODY</b>						
Dog attacks or displays aggressive behaviour	14.1 22.4.3(a)			X	X	X
Handler openly impugns Judge's actions or decisions	3.3 22.4.3(b)			X	X	X

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>RULE</b>	<b>QUAL FAULT<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>NQ</b>	<b>DQ</b>	<b>EXCIUSE</b>	<b>REPORT</b>
Handler openly interferes willfully with another handler/dog or handler's behavior is objectionable	14.2(b) 22.4.3(c)			X		X
Handler fails to declare possession of target odours at trial venue	13.4 22.4.3(d)			X		X
Handler undertakes training using target odours at trial venue other than in warm-up area	10.1.2 22.4.3(e)			X		X
<b>WITHDRAWAL</b>						
Handler withdraws dog before/during judging	15.1				<b>WD</b>	

**D 2: SUMMARY OF PENALTIES – BY SUBJECT MATTER**

DESCRIPTION	RULE	QUAL FAULT <sup>2</sup>	NQ	DQ	EXCLUDE	REPORT
<b>HANDLER BEHAVIOURS</b>						
<b>Handling error</b> • crowding the searching dog • lack of teamwork.	22.2.1(a)	X				
<b>Mildly, accidentally compromising search area</b> • handler accidentally touches object without Judge’s permission • untidy reward delivery • poor lead handling	19.9 19.15.2 22.2.1(c)	X				
Handler <b>touches, moves or disrupts</b> any object in the search area without Judge’s permission	19.9 22.3.1(g)	X	X			
Handler allows dog to <b>unduly disrupt search area</b> (excessive food contamination/saliva; intentional biting, hard scratching, pouncing etc that damages a container, object or search area.	14.2(a) 22.4.2(e)			X	X	
Handler cannot point to <b>hide location</b> if asked by judge “where”.	19.11.2 19.11.6 19.1.10 22.3.1(e)		X			
Handler <b>re-cues dog</b> to indicate a hide where the Judge has asked “Where”	19.11.8 22.3.1(f)		X			
Handler actively <b>looks for the hide</b>	19.6 22.3.1(h)		X			
Dog not under the <b>handler’s control</b>	14.2(a) 22.3.1(i)		X		X	
Dog or handler <b>stop working or performs disruptive behaviour</b> after 10 second warning	22.3.1(j)		X			
Handler cannot stop dog’s <b>barking/vocalising</b> , after Judge’s warning	19.10.2 22.3.1(k)		X		X	
<b>Handling error</b> • physical touch - guidance or direction	22.2.1(a)	X				
Physical touch - <b>guidance/direction</b> to dog	13.8 19.15.1 22.2.1(a) 22.3.1(o)		X			
<b>Harsh handling/correction</b> of dog by handler (harsh verbal/physical reprimands, intimidating or abusive commands)	13.7 22.4.2(b)			X	X	X

<sup>2</sup> **Qualifying Fault:** Points are deducted but the team can still qualify. X

**NQ: Non-qualifying Fault.** Faults that result in a non-qualifying outcome.

**DQ: Disqualification.** This may be from the Class or in more serious cases may be from the trial.

**Excusal:** In the case of an NQ Fault, the Judge may also determine that the team should immediately leave the Search Area.

**Report:** Serious misbehaviours or incidents that shall be reported to the member body.



DESCRIPTION	RULE	QUAL FAULT <sup>2</sup>	NQ	DQ	EXCIUSE	REPORT
Handler <b>solicits assistance</b> from official, spectator or another handler	22.4.2(c)			X		X
Handler <b>discusses search</b> before Class/Element finished <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>double handling from spectators</li> <li>handler discusses</li> <li>other party discusses</li> </ul>	11.2.2 13.13 13.12 22.4.2(d) 28.5.9			X		X
Handler openly <b>impugns Judge's actions or decisions</b>	3.3 22.4.3(b)			X	X	X
Handler openly <b>interferes willfully with</b> another handler/dog or handler's behavior is objectionable	14.2(b) 22.4.3(c)			X		X
Handler fails to declare <b>possession of target odours</b> at trial venue	13.5 22.4.3(d)			X		X
Handler undertakes <b>training using target odours</b> at trial venue other than in warm-up area	10.1.2 22.4.3(e)			X		X
<b>DOG BEHAVIOUR</b>						
<b>Handling error</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>dog does not cross start line</li> </ul>	19.5.2 22.2.1(a)	X				
<b>Mildly, accidentally compromising search area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>dog retrieving a hide or distraction.</li> </ul>	22.2.1(c)	X				
Dog or handler <b>stop working or performs disruptive behaviour</b> after 10 warning	22.3.1(j)		X			
<b>Dog eliminates</b> (urinates, defecates or vomits) in the search area/precinct	22.4.2(a)			X	X	
<b>Dog attacks or displays aggressive behaviour</b>	14.1 22.4.3(a)			X	X	X
<b>SEARCH BEHAVIOURS</b>						
<b>Handling error</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced Class - handler leaves without calling "Finish"</li> </ul>	19.13.3 22.2.1(a)	X				
Maximum <b>search time exceeded</b>	22.3.1(a)		X			
"Alert" called on <b>incorrect location</b>	19.14 22.3.1(b)		X			
"Finish" called <b>before all hides located</b>	19.13.2 22.3.1(c)		X			
Excellent, Master and Ultimate Classes Unknown number of hides - "Finish" not called <b>before search time expired</b>	19.13.4 22.3.1(d)		X			
<b>SAFETY AND WELFARE CONCERNS</b>						
<b>Minor safety concern</b> dog put in an unsafe situation (frightened/defensive)	22.2.1(b)	X				
<b>Serious safety concern</b> Handler removes dog's lead in on-lead only search or puts dog in potentially serious unsafe situation (injury)	22.3.1(l)		X		X	
Judge considers the dog is <b>unfit to compete</b>	14.2(a) 22.3.1(m)		X		X	

DESCRIPTION	RULE	QUAL FAULT <sup>2</sup>	NQ	DQ	EXCIUSE	REPORT
Dog shows signs of/exhibiting <b>undue stress/fear</b>	14.2(a) 22.3.1(n)		X		X	
Violation of Rules re <b>dog attire</b>	9.5.1 9.5.2 9.5.3 22.3.1(p)		X			
<b>REWARD BEHAVIOURS</b>						
<b>Handling error</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dropping food</li> <li>• physical touch - guidance or direction</li> <li>• toy thrown or dropped</li> </ul>	13.9 19.16.2 22.2.1(a)	X				
<b>WITHDRAWAL</b>						
Handler withdraws dog before/during judging	15.1				<b>WD</b>	

**APPENDIX E: SAMPLE OFFICIAL SCENT WORK ENTRY FORM**

To be held under the Rules and Regulations of the State/Territory Member Body.  
**PLEASE WRITE IN INK AND USE BLOCK LETTERS. USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH ENTRY**

**Affiliate:** ..... **Date of Trial:** / /  
 (Name of club for which entry is made)

**EXHIBITOR'S DECLARATION** I hereby apply to enter the following exhibit in terms of and upon the conditions set out in the State/Territory Member Body's Constitution, Rules and Regulations by which I agree to be bound, and I hereby certify to the correctness of the particulars endorsed hereon.

**BREED:**  
 .....

**NAME OF EXHIBIT:**  
 .....  
 Details of dog entered must be identical with the registration of the Dogs Australia Member Body

**Date of Birth:** ..... **Sex:** ..... **Registered No:**  
 .....  
 D or B

**Name of Registered Owner/Lessee:** .....

**Membership No:** ..... **Postal Address:**  
 .....  
 .....

**Post Code:** ..... **Phone:** ..... **Email:**  
 .....

**Handler name (if different from owner/lessee):** ..... **Membership No:**  
 .....

**Class and Element entered:**

<u>Class:</u>	<u>Element:</u>	Containers	Interior	Exterior	Vehicles
Novice		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Excellent		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Master		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ultimate		<input type="checkbox"/>			

I certify that this exhibit has been vaccinated in accordance with Member Body Rules.

Usual Signature of owner/lessee(s)

**Entry Fees** .....  
**Catalogue** ..... **Sundries** .....  
**Total** .....  
**Payment method and date** .....

## APPENDIX F GUIDELINES FOR SCENT WORK SCHEDULES

Subject to member body requirements, published Schedules for Scent Work trials normally include the following information:

1. The name of the Affiliate conducting the trial.
2. The date and venue at which the trial is to be conducted.
3. Details of the venue. Where the trial venue is a sub-set of a larger venue, the specific buildings and/or areas will be specified, to define the boundaries of the trial venue in scope for the Rules.
4. The closing date for entries.
5. The address to which entries should be forwarded and/or details of the online entry system being used.
6. Entry fees and other charges such as catalogues.
7. Classes and Elements offered and the Judge(s) for each.
8. Target odours to be used in each Class.
9. Vetting requirements
10. Commencement time for judging.
11. Contact mobile phone number for the Affiliate on the day of the trial.
12. Entry limits or a statement that entry is unlimited.
13. Entry acceptance methods for limited entry trials.
14. In the case of a ballot, the date, hour, and location of, and process for the ballot.
15. Such other information specific to the trial as the Affiliate considers appropriate.
16. Where relevant, the Schedule should also include a statement to the effect:

*“It is not appropriate to visit the trial location prior to the trial date. Many trial venues are real-life environments and such visits may risk the host losing the opportunity to use the venue in future.”*