

SCHEDULE 11(B) – REGULATIONS FOR SCENT WORK

(Effective 01.10.2025)

1. DEFINITION OF SCENT WORK

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

Communication and praise of the dog during the search are encouraged. Scent Work events provide a fun and safe team activity that is open to all dogs and handlers that meet the eligibility criteria.

- 1.2 In the sport of Scent Work, dogs are trained to recognize specific odours and to alert their Handlers when the odours are detected. Dogs may touch, bark, point with their nose or body, sit, lie down or use any other behaviour to communicate the location of the odour. In Scent Work competitions, dogs are taken through a search area with their human team member ('Handler'). The dog is the star of the Scent Work competition – the Handler guides the dog's search only when necessary and lets the Judge know when the dog has found the hidden scent(s).

2. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- 2.1 **Accessible Hide:** A hide that is reachable by the average a dog such that he is able to put his nose on it.
- 2.2 **Active Search Area:** A search area is defined as 'active' if the hides have been set (i.e. odour is present).
- 2.3 **Alert:** A communication from the Handler to the Judge that the dog is indicating the location of a scent.
- 2.4 **Blank Area:** A search area in which there are no hides. The dog must search the area and the Handler must call 'Finish' in order to proceed to the next search area.
- 2.5 **Catalogue Number:** A numerical designation given to each dog in a Trial. The Catalogue number must be displayed by the Handler and be recorded on the Judge's score sheets.
- 2.6 **Class:** A particular element and difficulty level (e.g. Novice Container, Advanced Exterior)
- 2.7 **Contamination:** When a Handler or dog violates the integrity of the search area or hide such that significant time, replacement objects or a relocation of the hide are required to bring the course back to useable condition.

- 2.8 **Difficulty Level:** Novice, Advanced, Excellent or Master.
- 2.9 **Division:** Odour Search or Handler Discrimination.
- 2.10 **Draw Order:** The sequence in which the dogs entered in each Class will be run. The Trial may deviate from the draw order if a conflict exists or if it facilitates the smooth running of the Trial.
- 2.11 **Element:** A particular search environment. The elements are Container, Interior, Exterior and Buried.
- 2.12 **Excused:** When a team is asked to stop searching and leave the search area in response to specific conditions or behaviours on the part of the dog or Handler.
- 2.13 **Exco Scent Work Sub-Committee:** A Sub-Committee appointed by the Executive Committee (Exco).
- 2.14 **Find:** A hide that has been located by the dog and called by the Handler.
- 2.15 **Finish:** The Handler is required to call 'Finish' when he or she believes that all hides for a search area have been located and called. The 'Finish' call stops the official search time and no further alerts may be made.
- 2.16 **Handler:** The individual who takes the dog through the search. This person may or may not be the Registered Owner of the dog.
- 2.17 **Handler Discrimination:** Classes in which the target scent is that of the Handler, rather than the odour of an essential oil.
- 2.18 **Hide:** A hide refers to an instance of the target odour within the search area.
- 2.19 **Inaccessible Hide:** A hide that no dog of any size, shape or agility can reach with its nose.
- 2.20 **Indication:** An indication is a behaviour on the part of the dog that is intended to communicate to the Handler that the target odour has been found.
- 2.21 **Judge:** The official who evaluates the Handler-dog Team's performance during the event. The Judge is responsible for course design and selecting the hide location, noting faults, excusing the Team when necessary and making the final call on any and all matters dealing with a search performance.
- 2.22 **Junior Handler:** A Junior Handler is someone less than eighteen (18) years of age on the first day of the Trial.
- 2.23 **Non-Qualifying:** A Non-Qualifying performance is a run in which the Handler-dog team does not satisfy the requirements for the run to count toward titles.
- 2.24 **Odour Search:** Classes in which the target scent is one (1) or more of the specified essential oils.
- 2.25 **Official Timekeeper:** The person responsible for keeping the search time of each Handler-dog Team. This person shall monitor and record the actual time it takes the

team to complete the search, ensure that the team does not exceed the maximum allowable time for the search and provide a 30 second warning to the team when required.

- 2.26 **Physical Barrier:** An object that is solid and flush with the ground, used for the purposes of separating active search areas. Must be at least 1.0 m in height.
- 2.27 **Qualifying Performance (Q):** A Qualifying performance is a run in which the Handler-dog Team satisfies the requirements for the run to count toward titles.
- 2.28 **Reward:** Any object or Handler behaviour (such as food or petting) that serves to mark and encourage a dog to repeat a desirable behaviour.
- 2.29 **Scent Aid:** A cotton ball or cotton swab that is permeated with the target odour. The scent aid is placed inside a scent vessel and then hidden in the search area.
- 2.30 **Scented Article:** An object that has been intentionally permeated with the scent of the Handler for the purposes of the search. Scented articles can include a cotton glove, cotton sock, cotton ball or cotton swab.
- 2.31 **Search Area:** The area where the actual searching and judging activities take place.
- 2.32 **Start Line:** A clearly marked boundary, no wider than 1.5 m, beyond which the Search Area lies. The dog and Handler must cross the start line in order to begin the search. Failure to do so will result in the Team being faulted.
- 2.33 **Target Odour:** The specific scent or scents for which the dog is searching in a particular Class. The Target Odour can be essential oil(s) or the scent of the Handler, depending on the Division.
- 2.34 **Time Limit:** The maximum time for each search area, beyond which any Team who has not located and called all hides will incur faults.
- 2.35 **Title:** A specific achievement on the part of the dog. Any title earned may be appended as a suffix to the dog's registered name. Only the most senior title in each Division may be used.
- 2.36 **Visual Barrier:** A separator that provides a psychological boundary to the dog used for the purposes of separating search areas; it need not be flush with the ground or completely opaque (e.g. mesh or wooden fencing). The barrier must be at least 60 cm in height.

3. SCENT WORK TRIALS

- 3.1 The Regulations relating to licensing and to all other matters to do with Shows as set out in Schedule 03 (Championship Shows) of the Constitution of the Kennel Union of South Africa shall apply to events for Scent Work Trials, so far as they can be relevant to Scent Work Trials and so far as they do not conflict with the specific terms of this Schedule.

4. QUALIFICATION OF JUDGES

- 4.1 All locally domiciled Judges shall be members in good standing with KUSA and shall be over the age of eighteen (18) years at the time when formal studies or activities towards a judging qualification commence and/or any judging is undertaken.
- 4.2 Before approving a foreign Judge to officiate at any Scent Work event held under this Schedule, the Executive Committee of KUSA shall be satisfied that such Judge is recognised and approved to judge such events in his country of permanent residence as is proposed he should judge within the KUSA area of jurisdiction.

4.3 Judging Progression

- 4.3.1 It is possible for a Judge to learner judge and become licensed for the different Divisions and elements (Container, Interior, Exterior and Buried) in any order. However, the levels (Novice, Advanced, Excellent and Master) must be done sequentially.
- 4.3.2 A Judge may only judge the Detective Class once he has become licensed in all four elements of the Odour Discrimination Classes.

4.4 Candidate Judges

4.4.1 Fast track judges

- 4.4.1.1 Current Working Trials (Classic) or Obedience Judges, or Scent Work Judges qualified under another organisation, to judge Scent Work, they must:
 - 4.4.1.1.1 Attend a Scent Work Judges' Workshop and submit two (2) course maps for all of the Divisions, elements and levels for which they wish to qualify. These maps will be scrutinised by their peers. This workshop may take place virtually or in person and will be run by the Scent Work Task Team.
 - 4.4.1.1.2 Judge at least three (3) dogs at each level either in the presence of at least two (2) other peers or submit videos of such judging sessions to the Scent Work Task Team. Such judging does not need to take place at a Show.
 - 4.4.1.1.3 Pass a written closed book exam on Schedule 11B, 03, 09 and the TEO Manual, with a pass mark of 80% (eighty percent), set by the Scent Work Task Team.
 - 4.4.1.1.4 Upon completion of marking of the exam, the Scent Work Task Team shall submit the results to the KUSA Office under strict confidentiality.
 - 4.4.1.1.5 Once checked and verified, the KUSA Office shall be the only authority to release results to the candidates.
 - 4.4.1.1.6 After successfully completing the above, KUSA will accredit candidates as Licensed Judges and they may accept appointments to judge Scent Work at Scent Work Trials.
 - 4.4.1.1.7 This option is only valid for six (6) months following publication of this Schedule.

4.4.2 Aspirant Judges

All Aspirant Judges must:

- 4.4.2.1 Have competed in Scent Work at a minimum of three (3) Shows, or act as a Steward or a Timekeeper at a minimum of five (5) Shows.
- 4.4.2.2 Make application in writing to the Exco Scent Work Sub-Committee.
- 4.4.2.3 Attend a Scent Work Judges' Workshop, hosted by the Exco Scent Work Sub-Committee or, where one exists, the Provincial Council Scent Work Ad Hoc Sub-Committee.
- 4.4.2.4 Pass a written closed book exam on the following KUSA Schedules, both with a pass mark of 80% (eighty percent):
 - 4.4.2.4.1 A paper on Schedule 03, the Temporary Exclusion Order (TEO) Manual and Schedule 09 Appendix B, set by the Judges Education Council (JEC) of KUSA; and
 - 4.4.2.4.2 A paper on Schedule 11B, set by the Exco Scent Work Sub-Committee.
- 4.4.2.5 Upon completion of marking of either exam, the JEC or the Exco Scent Work Sub-Committee, as the case may be, shall submit the results to the KUSA Office under strict confidentiality.
- 4.4.2.6 Once checked and verified, the KUSA Office shall be the only authority to release results to the candidates.
- 4.4.2.7 Once these steps have been successfully completed, the Aspirant Judge is now considered a Learner Judge.

4.4.3 Learner Judge

- 4.4.3.1 The Learner Judge must judge Novice and/or Advanced at a minimum of two (2) Scent Work Trials and be signed off as proficient by the supervising Licensed Scent Work Judge who will be appointed by the Exco Scent Work Sub-Committee.
- 4.4.3.2 Course maps must be provided to the Licensed Judge for sign off before the Show.
- 4.4.3.3 The Learner Judge must judge Excellent and/or Masters Classes at one (1) Scent Work Trial and be signed off as proficient by the supervising Licensed Scent Work Judge who will be appointed by the Exco Scent Work Sub-Committee.
- 4.4.3.4 Course maps must be provided to the Licensed Judge for sign off before the Trial. This must include both the Excellent and Master Class regardless of whether or not they are being offered at the Trial.

- 4.4.3.5 If found proficient, the Learner Judge's Record Card must be signed off by the Licensed Judge on each occasion.
- 4.4.3.6 The Learner Judge must undertake their first appointment within two (2) years of becoming a Learner Judge failing which they must complete all the steps again.

4.5 Refresher Courses

- 4.5.1 A Judge is required to attend a Scent Work Refresher Course at least once every two (2) years to maintain his judging status.
- 4.5.2 Such a Refresher Course will be organised by the Provincial Council Scent Work Ad Hoc Sub-Committee. However, the content must be approved by the Exco Scent Work Sub-Committee.
- 4.5.3 The Provincial Council Scent Work Ad Hoc Sub-Committee must monitor and keep a record of the Judges attending the Refresher Courses. The list of Judges' names having completed each Refresher Course must be sent to KUSA for ratification.

4.6 Inactive Judges

- 4.6.1 In the event of a Judge not judging for a period of two (2) years or more, such Judge will be required to:
 - 4.6.1.1 Attend a Refresher Course and judge a minimum of one (1) Show at a KUSA Scent Work Trial under supervision; and
 - 4.6.1.2 Pass a written closed book exam on Schedule 11B with a pass mark of 80% (eighty percent).

5. MANAGEMENT OF SCENT WORK TRIALS

5.1 Clubs Eligible to Hold KUSA Scent Work Trials

Any Club that meets the requirements of the Kennel Union of South Africa (KUSA) may be licensed to hold KUSA Scent Work Trials. Scent Work Trials are open to any dog registered with KUSA, except that Specialty Clubs and Group Clubs may choose to limit entries to the breed or Group applicable to their Club. KUSA Scent Work may be offered as a stand-alone event or in conjunction with other events.

5.2 Order of Classes

The order in which Classes will be run at a Trial is at the Club's discretion.

5.3 Entry Fees

A Club may, at its discretion, allow for a reduced entry fee for dogs handled by Junior Handlers or for Club members.

5.4 The Show Manager

The management of any Scent Work event at a Show shall be entrusted to the Show Manager who shall be a Member in good standing of KUSA and appointed by the show-holding Club.

5.5 Trial Secretary and Trial Manager

The Club holding a Trial must name a Trial Secretary and a Trial Manager, which cannot be the same person. Trial Secretaries and Trial Managers may participate at the Scent Work Trials where they are officiating, though such participation should not interfere with their official duties.

5.6 Stewards and Hide Stewards

The Club shall arrange for one (1) or more Steward(s) to assist the Judge by calling the Handlers to the ring when it is their turn, timing runs, placing Hides, and any other reasonable duty as required by the Judge.

5.7 Equipment/Event Officials Supplied by Club

5.7.1 Recording supplies

Pens, pencils, clipboards needed by the Judge and Stewards.

5.7.2 Containers

Clubs must provide one (1) container per target odour for the Odour Search Division and one (1) container per Handler for the Handler Discrimination Division. Additional containers to hold distractors and to act as empty containers are also required. Containers with glass may not be used.

5.7.3 Warm-Up Scent Containers

Clubs must provide one (1) container per odour used in the Trial to be placed in the warm-up area.

5.7.4 Boundary markers and check in table

Clubs may use any boundary markers or gating material provided it is safe for participants and spectators.

5.7.5 Distraction items

Clubs must provide the distraction items for Classes in which they are required.

5.7.6 Timing

Clubs must provide an official timer and a suitable timing device for each Class; such device must be capable of measuring time to the hundredth of a second. Having a backup timing device on hand is recommended.

5.7.7 Spare scent articles for Handler Discrimination Classes to be used in the event that articles become contaminated.

5.7.8 Scent Aids and Scent Vessels

Clubs must ensure that the scented cotton balls or cotton swabs (Scent Aids) and the scent vessels that are to be used for the Odour Search Division are at the Trial site and ready for use. No object containing glass may be used as a scent vessel.

5.7.9 Number of entries

Clubs should inform Judges of the number of entries for each Class ahead of the Show to allow the Judge to prepare the necessary articles.

5.8 Judging Limits Guidelines

No Judge may judge more than 120 entries per day.

5.9 Number of Judge(s) Per Class

Each Class may only be judged by one (1) assigned Judge. Classes may not be split between Judges.

5.10 Staging Area

The Club shall establish a 'staging area' out of view of the Search Area(s). The staging area will include all parking, crating, warm-up and waiting areas, as well as the Secretary's table for check-ins and posting of running order and results. All Trial operations aside from the actual search and judging activities will take place in the staging area. The staging area and Search Area(s) shall be separated by solid walls and/or artificial barriers. Clubs must clearly identify the Search Area(s) so that no competitor inadvertently wanders in view of the Search Area before their turn. Clubs should take care that exhibitors will not be in view of the Search Area when arriving or leaving the site or when visiting the toilet or catering facilities.

5.11 Handler's Briefing

Judges shall brief the Handlers prior to the start of each Class. The briefing shall take place in view of the Search Area but no dogs may be present during the briefing. During the briefing, the Judge shall explain whether or not there is an off-leash option, how many hides there are (if the number of hides is specified), the maximum height of the hides, the number and type of distractions (If relevant) and state the maximum time for the course. Judges may not point to or describe the specific hides or distractions. Handlers may only ask questions about the Search Area at this time.

5.12 Handler's Scores

As each dog completes its run, the Judge must note its score on his score sheet and announce the score before the next Handler commences his round.

6. CLASSES

6.1 Dogs complete these searches in two (2) Divisions:

6.1.1 Odour Search Division

6.1.2 Handler Discrimination Division

6.2 The Odour Search Division has four (4) elements:

6.2.1 Container

The target odour is concealed within a container (such as a cardboard box or briefcase) and the dog must indicate in which container the scent is hidden.

6.2.2 Interior

The target odour is concealed on or in an object in an indoor search area.

6.2.3 Exterior

The target odour is concealed on or in an object in an outdoor search area (this requires the dog to locate the scent despite changing airflow patterns, weather conditions and natural distractions).

- 6.2.4 Buried
The target odour is concealed within a small container and then buried beneath sand or water.
- 6.3 Each element has four (4) Classes, corresponding to four (4) difficulty levels – Novice, Advanced, Excellent and Master.
- 6.4 In the Handler Discrimination Division, the target scent is that of the Handler. The Handler will provide one (1) or more scented articles (such as a cotton glove, cotton ball or cotton swab) which will then be hidden on the course. The dog will need to locate the Handler's scent, discriminating it from other human scents and indicate this find to the Handler.
- 6.5 The Handler Discrimination Division includes four (4) Classes:
- 6.5.1 Novice
The Handler's scented article will be conducted as a Container search as per 6.2.1.
- 6.5.2 Advanced
The Handler's scented article will be conducted as an Interior search as per 6.2.2.
- 6.5.3 Excellent
The Handler's scented article will be conducted as an Exterior search as per 6.2.3.
- 6.5.4 Master
The Master Class presents an integrated search in which dogs may encounter hides within any search environment.
- 6.6 **Detective Class**
In the Detective Class dogs may encounter any element during one (1) search in a large area. The Detective Class contains multiple areas and many hides, all of which must be found to earn a qualifying score. The scent used will be one (1) or more of the target odours from the Odour Search Division. The Detective Class is the ultimate qualification for a Scent Work dog.

7. ELIGIBILITY

- 7.1 KUSA Scent Work Classes are open to all dogs that are at least six (6) months of age on the first day of the Trial.
- 7.2 All dogs must be registered with KUSA.
- 7.3 **Class Eligibility**
- 7.3.1 Novice Classes are open to dogs who have not yet earned a qualification in a higher level. Once a dog has achieved three (3) legs in any one (1) element, the dog may move to Advanced. However, the dog can continue participating in Novice until it becomes ineligible to do so.

- 7.3.2 Advanced Classes are open to dogs who have not yet earned a qualification in a higher level. Once a dog has achieved three (3) legs in any one (1) element, the dog may move to Excellent. However, the dog can continue participating in Advanced until it becomes ineligible to do so.
- 7.3.3 Excellent Classes are open to dogs who have not yet earned a qualification in a higher level. Once a dog has achieved three (3) legs in any one (1) element, the dog may move to Master. However, the dog can continue participating in Excellent until it becomes ineligible to do so.
- 7.3.4 Master Classes are open to dogs who have achieved the Excellent title for that particular element and have not achieved a qualification in the Detective Class.
- 7.3.5 The Detective Class is open to dogs who have achieved the title of Grand Champion in the Odour Search Division.

7.4 Not for Competition (NFC) Entries

- 7.4.1 Clubs shall have the discretion to allow Not for Competition (NFC) entries at Shows. Dogs entered NFC must run at the end of a Class.
- 7.4.2 Dogs may participate in a lower level than that for which they are qualified but may not participate at a higher level.
- 7.4.3 NFC entries shall be identified as such on the Draw Order and shall not be eligible for prizes or qualifications.

7.5 General Eligibility requirements

7.5.1 Condition of the Dog

Dogs of any physical ability, including those with challenges (e.g. blind, deaf), are eligible to participate provided that, in the opinion of the Judge, they display no signs of physical discomfort and can safely complete the search. Dogs with bandages, sutures or visible wounds are not eligible to take part. Dogs that are both deaf and blind are able to participate as long as the Handler is in control of the dog at all times, the dog can complete the requirements of the Class and the dog does not appear to be under undue stress in the opinion of the Judge.

7.5.2 Bitches in Season

Bitches in season and pregnant or lactating bitches may not participate in any Trial.

7.5.3 Handling More Than One (1) Dog

Handlers may handle more than one (1) dog in each Class, however:

- 7.5.3.1 Handlers with a second dog will run after all the Handlers have run their first, or only, dog.
- 7.5.3.2 Once all the first, or only, dogs have run, those Handlers with a second dog will run their second dog.

7.5.3.3 Once all the second dogs have run, those Handlers with a third dog will run their third dog. The Draw Order will continue as such until all dogs have run in the Class.

7.5.3.4 Prior to the running of each group (i.e. first or only dogs, second dogs, third dogs etc.) the location of the hide(s) must be changed and a ten (10) minutes break taken before the next group is allowed to start.

7.5.4 **Participation by Judge(s)**

No dog owned or co-owned by the Judge or his immediate household may be entered in the Class where the individual is acting in their official capacity. Stewards and Timekeepers may compete in the Trial if it does not conflict with the completion of their assignments. A person may not be the Steward or Timekeeper for a Class in which they are taking part.

8. JUDGING OF CLASSES

8.1 Designing the Searches

Judges are responsible for designing each of the searches at a Scent Work Trial. The Clubs must submit specific dimensions and layouts of the search areas to the Judge no later than thirty (30) days prior to the event date to aid in search design. Additionally, information on furniture and structural obstacles must be communicated to the Judge. Ideally, photographs will be submitted with the layouts so that the Judge has a clear understanding of the search area prior to designing the course. It is understood that course layouts may change when the Judge reaches the site and views the conditions first-hand. If the Club is offering Container Classes at the level of Advanced or above, the Club must also submit details (ideally including photographs) of the containers that they will be providing for those Classes to the Judge.

8.2 Nesting of Searches

'Nesting' of searches is prohibited. Nesting searches refers to the practice of utilizing the lower level Class setup (including hide placement) and simply increasing the area and adding hides and distractions for higher level Classes. As Handlers may handle dogs in more than one (1) Class, the hides must be relocated between levels. This does not prohibit Clubs from reusing a Search Area for additional Classes, but the hide locations must always change from Class to Class.

8.3 Selecting the Hide Locations

Judges are responsible for selecting the hide locations, taking care to create a challenging course for each level, but one that is not unreasonably difficult.

8.4 Accessible and Inaccessible Hides

A hide is considered Accessible if it is in a location where the average dog can reach it with his nose. If a dog of average size, shape or agility is not able to place its nose on the hide, it is considered Inaccessible.

8.5 Setting the Course Time Limits

8.5.1 For many Classes, Judges are responsible for setting the actual course time limits within the pre-set minimum and maximum allowable times. Because each search area may vary in size and layout, the Judge is in the best position to determine the reasonable time limit.

- 8.5.2 A Judge may extend the time limit of a course should he feel that the Search Area is presenting unexpected difficulties to the dogs.

8.6 Confirmation of the Alert

When the Handler calls Alert, the Judge is responsible for confirming whether the alert is correct or incorrect. If the dog is clearly indicating the source of the scent, the Judge should respond in the affirmative when the Handler calls Alert. If the source is unclear:

8.6.1 Accessible Hides

If the dog is near the source of the scent, but it is not clear to the Judge that the dog has communicated the exact location to the Handler, the Judge should ask 'where?' The Handler must then indicate or explain the source of the scent, but the Handler may not touch the hide. If the area that the Handler indicates includes the hide location or the strongest concentration of odour in the Judge's opinion, the Alert should be considered correct and the Judge should respond in the affirmative.

8.6.2 Inaccessible Hides

For Inaccessible Hides, the dog will not be able to pinpoint the exact location of the hide, so the Judge will be looking for the dog to get as close as possible to the Inaccessible Hide location. If the Judge is not sure where the dog is indicating, the Judge should ask 'where?' If, in the Judge's opinion, the area that the Handler indicates includes one (1) or more of the locations where the dog would have encountered the escaping odour from the inaccessible hide, the Alert should be considered correct and the Judge should respond in the affirmative.

8.7 Judge's Decision is Final

The Judge's decision regarding whether the Alert is correct is always final. Argument from a competitor as to whether the location indicated is sufficient will not be allowed. The Judge may penalise such interaction with a disqualification.

8.8 Assessing Faults

It is the Judge's responsibility to assess faults for handling errors and mild rule infractions during the search. The Judge shall have complete control and final say over matters in the Search Area.

8.9 Repeating a Search

The Judge may allow a Team to repeat a search if, in the opinion of the Judge, the team encountered extraordinary circumstances that were out of the control of the Handler.

If the first dog to run encounters unforeseen difficulties such that the Judge decides to adjust the hide location(s), that dog will be re-run at the end of the Class, with no penalty. In situations where the first entered dog must be used to evaluate the search, the run must occur after the briefing and immediately prior to the other dogs in the Class.

8.10 Approval of Results

Upon conclusion of the Trial the Judge must examine and sign each page of the report to certify that the information matches their records.

9. QUALIFYING PERFORMANCES

9.1 A Qualifying Score

A dog's performance will result in a qualification, a non-qualification, or a disqualification. A qualifying performance is achieved when the Handler successfully locates and calls all hides in a Search Area within the time allowed for the Class without committing any non-qualifying faults or disqualifying errors.

9.2 Alerts

No specific or formal alert behaviour is required from the dog, but there must be a change in behaviour from the dog such that the Judge can tell that the dog has found the scent. The change in behaviour may range from being extremely subtle, for example a turn of the head or twitch of the ears through to a freeze in motion or bark.

9.3 Faults

Teams that commit errors during the search will be penalised with faults. The faults are:

- 9.3.1 Handler error (pulling the dog off scent, excessive interference with a dog that is working, Handler actively looking for the scent vessel).
- 9.3.2 Safety concern (taking the dog off-leash in an on-leash only search area, allowing the dog to be put in an unsafe situation).
- 9.3.3 Mildly compromising the search area (Handler moving an object in the search area without the Judge's permission, messy reward delivery).

Each fault can be given multiple times in the same search, if warranted. At the Judge's discretion, multiple faults will result in the team being excused. However, the Judge will give one warning to the competitor. Repeated faults may result in a disqualification.

Any Team who finds and calls all of the hides within the search time, and that does not incur any non-qualifying faults, will earn a qualification. Faults will not be called out by the Judge during the search. The Judge should briefly explain any faults assessed to the Handler at the completion of the search, if time allows.

9.4 Non-Qualifying Faults

The following behaviours will result in a non-qualifying performance:

- 9.4.1 The Handler calls 'Alert' on an incorrect location.
- 9.4.2 The Handler calls 'Finish' before all hides in the area have been located.
- 9.4.3 The maximum time for the Class or Search Area is exceeded.
- 9.4.4 The Handler is not able to point to the location of the hide when asked by the Judge.
- 9.4.5 Any harsh handling or harsh corrections by the Handler.
- 9.4.6 The Handler allows the dog to disrupt the search area unduly. This includes excessive food residue or intentional biting, hard scratching, pouncing or other

behaviour by the dog that causes damage to the scent container, object or Search Area.

Note: Should a dog's nose or feet get caught on containers or other objects, this shall not be considered a disruption of the area.

9.5 Disqualification

Dogs disqualified from a search may, at the discretion of the Judge, still be allowed to compete in other Classes in which they are entered. A dog who is disqualified from a search must vacate the Search Area immediately. Dogs should be disqualified from the search if, in the opinion of the Judge, any of the following criteria are met:

- 9.5.1 The dog is not under the Handler's control.
- 9.5.2 The dog or Handler stops working or performs disruptive behaviour for ten (10) or more seconds after a warning has been issued by the Judge.
- 9.5.3 The dog eliminates (urinates, defecates, or vomits) in the search area.
- 9.5.4 The dog shows signs of extreme stress or fear.
- 9.5.5 The Handler receives assistance from a spectator or another Handler.
- 9.5.6 The Handler requests to be excused, for any reason.
- 9.5.7 Other reasons, at the Judge's discretion.

10. SCENT WORK RECORD CARDS

- 10.1 A dog may compete in Scent Work, provided it has been issued with a Scent Work Record Card. Such Record Card can be obtained from a Provincial Council Scent Work Ad Hoc Sub-Committee or from the KUSA Office. The issuing authority will advise the Handler what information and documentation is required for the issuing of the Scent Work Record Card.
- 10.2 Then Handler must present their dog(s) Scent Work Record Card to the Judge or his Steward at each Show prior to their Class commencing.
- 10.3 At the conclusion of a Class, if the dog has qualified, the Judge will enter the necessary information onto the dog's Scent Work Record Card.
- 10.4 Should Handlers who have not yet acquired a Scent Work Record Card for their dog wish to enter the Novice Class, they may do so as Not for Competition (NFC). A dog entered NFC is not eligible for a placing, or to receive a qualification. Such dog may not be entered more than three (3) times without a Record Card. A Provincial Council Scent Work Ad Hoc Sub-Committee is entitled to request a Handler to refrain from entering further Scent Work events if no attempt is made to obtain a Scent Work Record Card.

11. THE ODOUR SEARCH DIVISION

11.1 The Odour Search Division

Classes in which the target scent is one (1) or more essential oils are deemed to be part of the Odour Search Division. The Classes within the Odour Search Division include four (4) difficulty levels and four (4) different Elements (search environments).

11.2 **Difficulty Levels**

Classes within the Odour Search Division are offered in one (1) of four (4) difficulty levels, each with its own specific set of requirements: Novice, Advanced, Excellent, and Master.

11.3 **Elements**

Classes within the Odour Search Division are conducted in one (1) of four (4) Elements (search environments). These are Container, Interior, Exterior, and Buried.

11.4 **Odours**

The target odours shall be **Cypress** (*Cupressus sempevirens*), **Anise** (*Pimpinella anisum*), **Clove** (*Eugenia caryophyllata*) and **Vetiver** (*Vetiveria zizanioides*).

11.4.1 Novice Classes shall utilise Cypress only.

11.4.2 Advanced Classes may utilise Cypress and/or Anise.

11.4.3 Excellent Classes may utilise Cypress, Anise and/or Clove.

11.4.4 Master Classes may utilise Cypress, Anise, Clove and/or Vetiver.

11.5 **Proximity of Search Areas by Element**

Container Search Areas, whether or not odour is present, must be a minimum of 6 m from an active Search Area unless separated by a physical barrier. There must always be a visual barrier between Container Search Areas and other Search Areas so that dogs are not cued to search the other area by the sight of the containers. The ideal distance between a Container Search Area and another active Search Area is greater than 9 m. Active Interior Search Areas must be a minimum of 9 m from another active Search Area unless a physical barrier is present. 'Active' Exterior Search Areas must be a minimum of 9 m from other Active Search Areas unless a physical barrier is present. Buried Search areas, whether or not odour is present, must be a minimum of 6 m from other Active Search Areas unless a physical barrier is present. However, the ideal distance is greater than 9 m. There must always be a visual barrier between buried boxes and other Search Areas so that dogs are not cued to search the other area by the sight of the boxes.

11.6 **Container Searches.**

In the Container Classes the dog must locate the target odour(s), which is hidden in one (1) or more containers within a Search area and communicate the find to their Handler. Container searches may be conducted either inside or outside. Classes that specify a 'variety' of containers shall utilise no more than five (5) of any identical container type.

11.6.1 **Container Novice Class**

Ten (10) identical cardboard boxes are to be laid out on the floor of the search area with the boxes arranged in two (2) rows of five (5) containers each. The boxes must be at least 30 cm apart and each row must be at least 1 m apart. The Search Area must be at least 25 m² but no more than 40 m² in size. The target odour of Cypress must be placed into one (1) container. Each dog will have a

maximum of two (2) minutes to locate the container with the target scent and communicate the find to its Handler. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates the find.

11.6.2 **Container Advanced Class**

Fifteen (15) containers of various size and type are laid out on the floor of the search area. The containers may be arranged in three (3) rows of five (5) containers, in a circle or in a 'U' formation. The containers must be at least 30 cm apart and, if rows are used, each row must be at least 1 m apart. The Search Area must be at least 40 m² but no more than 60 m² in size. The target odour will be placed into two (2) of the containers. Cypress and/or Anise may be used. Each scent vessel may contain the same odour or one (1) may contain Cypress and the other may contain Anise. One (1) non-food distraction will be placed in the search area. The distraction may be in a container or loose in the Search Area. If in a container, it may NOT be in the same container as the odour. The dog has a maximum of two (2) minutes to locate the containers with the target scents and communicate the finds to its Handler. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates each find. After the second 'Alert' call, the Handler must call 'Finish' to indicate that all hides have been found and to stop the time.

11.6.3 **Container Excellent Class**

Twenty (20) containers of various size and type are laid out on the floor of the Search Area. The containers may be arranged in four (4) rows of five (5) containers, in a circle or in a 'U' formation. The containers must be at least 30 cm apart and, if rows are used, each row must be at least 1 m apart. The Search Area must be at least 60 m² but no more than 80 m² in size. The target odours will be hidden in three (3) of the containers. There will be two (2) distractions at this level and these may be non-food, food, auditory or visual. The target odours at this level will be Cypress, Anise and/or Clove. The dog will have a maximum of three (3) minutes to locate the containers with the target scent and communicate the finds to its Handler. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates each find. After the third 'Alert' call, the Handler must call 'Finish' to indicate that all hides have been found and to stop the time.

11.6.4 **Container Master Class**

Twenty (20) containers of various size and type are laid out on the floor of the search area. The containers may be arranged in four (4) rows of five (5) containers, in a circle or in a 'U' formation. The containers must be at least 30 cm apart and, if rows are used, each row must be at least 1 m apart. The Search Area must be at least 60 m² but no more than 80 m² in size. The target odour(s) will be hidden in one (1), two (2) or three (3) of the containers. The Handler will not know the exact number of hides at this level. There will be three (3) distractions at this level and these may be non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic. The target odour(s) at this level will be Cypress, Anise, Clove and/or Vetiver. The dog will have a maximum of four (4) minutes to locate the container(s) with the target scent and communicate the find(s) to its Handler. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates each find. When the Handler believes all hides have been located he/she must call 'Finish'. The Timekeeper will not give a 30-second warning at this level but Handlers can self-time, should they wish.

The Container Element

	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXCELLENT	MASTER
SCENTS	Cypress	Cypress and/or Anise	Cypress, Anise and/or Clove	Cypress, Anise, Clove and/or Vetiver
# OF CONTAINERS	10	15	20	20
TYPE OF CONTAINERS	Identical cardboard boxes	Various size and types	Various size and types	Various size and types
ARRANGEMENT	2 rows of 5 containers	3 rows of 5 containers, circle or 'U' formation	4 rows of 5 containers, circle or 'U' formation	4 rows of 5 containers, circle or 'U' formation
MINIMUM DISTANCES	30 cm in all directions, 1 m between rows	30 cm in all directions, 1 m between rows (if rows are used)	30 cm in all directions, 1 m between rows (if rows are used)	30 cm in all directions, 1 m between rows (if rows are used)
# OF HIDES	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	1-3 (unknown)
TIME LIMIT	2 minutes	2 minutes	3 minutes	4 minutes
DISTRACTIONS	None	1 non-food distraction	2 non-food, food, auditory or visual	3 non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic
REQUIRED CALLS	Alert only	2 Alert calls and Finish	3 Alert calls and Finish	Alert(s) and Finish
SIZE OF SEARCH AREA	20-40 m ²	40-60 m ²	60-80 m ²	60–80 m ²

11.7 Interior Searches

An Interior Search Area is defined as one that protects airflow from intruding from the outside (it must have four (4) solid walls that reach all the way to the ground and a roof). Doors and windows are permissible as long as they are able to be closed (though whether they need to be closed for the search is at the discretion of the Judge). Improper areas for an Interior Search Area include screened in porches, tents or sheds where the siding does not reach the ground. The search should take place inside a room or rooms in a building or permanent structure (such as an office, classroom, kitchen, bathroom, warehouse, shed, recreational vehicle etc.). The entire room need not be utilised for the Search Area but, if part of the room is excluded from the Search Area, then the boundaries should be clearly delineated. The minimum and maximum times are specified below, but the maximum time limit in each of these Classes will be determined by the Judge.

11.7.1 Interior Novice Class

The target odour is hidden in an area of not less than 10 m² and not more than 20 m². The target odour of Cypress is hidden on, under or in an object within the Search Area. There is one (1) hide at this level, which must be accessible to the average dog and may not be located higher than 60 cm off the floor. There will be no intentional distractions. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates the find. The maximum time limit will be set by the Judge and must be between one (1) and three (3) minutes.

11.7.2 **Interior Advanced Class**

The target odours are hidden in an area of not less than 20 m² and not more than 40 m². The target odours of Cypress and/or Anise are hidden within the Search Area. There are two (2) hides at this level, which must be accessible to the average dog and may not be located higher than 90 cm off the floor. There will be one (1) non-food distraction. The dog must find the target scents and communicate the finds to its Handler. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates each find. After the second 'Alert' call, the Handler must call 'Finish' to indicate that all hides have been found and to stop the time. The maximum time limit will be set by the Judge and must be between one (1) and three (3) minutes.

11.7.3 **Interior Excellent Class**

The target odours of Cypress, Clove and/ or Anise are hidden in two (2) distinct Search Areas. The dog should not encounter odour from Search Area 2 while searching Area 1. The total space of the two (2) Search Areas must not be less than 40 m² and not more than 80 m². Each Search Area will be worked independently, with a separate time limit. There are three (3) hides at this level. The exact number of hides per search area will not be communicated to the Handler; they will only know that there are a total of three (3) between the two (2) areas. Two (2) of the hides must be accessible to the average dog and none may be located higher than 1.2 m off the floor. There are two (2) distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory or visual. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates each find. When the Handler believes that all hides have been found in the Search Area, then he must call 'Finish' to stop the time for that Search Area. The process will be repeated for the second Search Area, with the 'Alert' call(s) and the 'Finish' call to stop the time. The maximum time limit will be set by the Judge and must be between one (1) and three (3) minutes per search area. A total time will be calculated using the combined times of the two (2) Search Areas.

11.7.4 **Interior Master Class**

The target odour(s) of Cypress, Clove, Anise and/or Vetiver are hidden in three (3) distinct search areas. The dog should not encounter odour from one (1) Search Area while searching another area. The total area of all three (3) Search Areas must be not less than 60 m² and not more than 100 m². Each Search Area will be worked independently, with a separate time limit. There are an unknown number of hides per area: either zero (0), one (1), two (2), or three (3) (with a maximum of six (6) hides for the entire Class). Any or all hides may be inaccessible to the average dog, but none may be located higher than 1.5 m off the floor. At the Judges discretion, one (1) of the Search Areas may be left 'blank' (with no hide). There are three (3) distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates each find. When the Handler believes that all hides have been found in the Search Area, then he must call 'Finish' to stop the time. The maximum time limit will be set by the Judge and must be between one (1) and three (3) minutes per search area. The Timekeeper will not give a 30-second warning at this level (but Handlers can self-time, should they wish. A total time will be calculated using the combined times of the three (3) Search Areas.

The Interior Element

	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXCELLENT	MASTER
SCENTS	Cypress	Cypress and/or Anise	Cypress, Anise and/or Clove	Cypress, Anise, Clove and/or Vetiver
# OF HIDES	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	0-3 per area, 2-6 per Class (unknown)
BLANK AREA	None	None	None	Maximum 1
TIME LIMIT (set by Judge)	1-3 minutes	1-3 minutes	1-3 minutes per search area	1-3 minutes per search area
DISTRACTIONS	None	1 non-food distraction	2 non-food, food, auditory or visual	3 non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic
REQUIRED CALLS	Alert only	2 Alert calls and Finish	3 Alert calls and Finish	Alert(s) and Finish
MAX HEIGHT OF HIDES	60 cm	90 cm	1.2 m	1.5 m
ACCESSIBILITY	Accessible only	Accessible only	1 hide may be inaccessible	All hides may be inaccessible
SIZE OF SEARCH AREA	10-20 m ²	20-40 m ²	2 Areas, total 40-80 m ²	3 Areas, total 60 – 100 m ²

11.8 Exterior Searches

The search may be in a covered area but the area should have no more than two (2) solid walls.

11.8.1 Exterior Novice Class

The target odour of Cypress is hidden in an area at least 20 m² but not more than 40 m² in size. There is one (1) hide at this level, which must be accessible to the average dog and may not be located higher than 60 cm above the ground. There will be no intentional distractions. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates the find. The maximum time limit will be set by the Judge and must be between two (2) and four (4) minutes.

11.8.2 Exterior Advanced Class

The target odours of Cypress and/or Anise are hidden in an area at least 40 m² but not more than 80 m² in size. There are two (2) hides at this level, which must be accessible to the average dog and may not be located higher than 90 cm above the ground. There will be one (1) non-food distraction. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates the finds. After the second 'Alert' call, the Handler must call 'Finish' to indicate that all hides have been found and to stop the time. The maximum time limit will be set by the Judge and must be between two (2) and four (4) minutes.

11.8.3 Exterior Excellent Class

The target odours of Cypress, Anise and/or Clove are hidden in an area not less than 80 m² but not more than 150 m² in size. There are three (3) hides at this level, one (1) of which may be inaccessible to the average dog and none of which may be located higher than 1.2 m above the ground. There are two (2) distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory or visual. The Handler must

call 'Alert' when the dog indicates the finds. After the third 'Alert' call, the Handler must call 'Finish' to indicate that all hides have been found and to stop the time. The maximum time limit will be set by the Judge and must be between three (3) and five (5) minutes.

11.8.4 Exterior Master Class

The target odour(s) of Cypress, Anise, Clove and/or Vetiver are hidden in an outdoor area not less than 150 m² but not more than 200 m² in size. There are one (1), two (2), three (3) or four (4) hides at this level, all of which may be inaccessible to the average dog, but none of which may be located higher than 1.5 m above the ground. The exact number of hides is not known to the Handler. There are three (3) distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates the finds. When the Handler believes that all hides have been located he/she must call 'Finish' to stop the time. The maximum time limit will be set by the Judge and must be between three (3) and five (5) minutes. The Timekeeper will not give a 30-second warning at this level but Handlers can self-time should they wish.

The Exterior Element

	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXCELLENT	MASTER
SCENTS	Cypress	Cypress and/or Anise	Cypress, Anise and/or Clove	Cypress, Anise, Clove and/or Vetiver
# OF HIDES	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	1-4 (unknown)
TIME LIMIT (set by Judge)	2-4 minutes	2-4 minutes	3-5 minutes	3-5 minutes
DISTRACTIONS	None	1 non-food distraction	2 non-food, food, auditory or visual	3 non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic
REQUIRED CALLS	Alert only	2 Alert calls and Finish	3 Alert calls and Finish	Alert(s) and Finish
MAX HEIGHT OF HIDES	60 cm	90 cm	1.2 m	1.5 m
ACCESSIBILITY	Accessible only	Accessible only	1 hide may be inaccessible	All hides may be inaccessible
SIZE OF SEARCH AREA	20-40 m ²	40-80 m ²	80-150 m ²	150-200 m ²

11.9 Buried Searches

- 11.9.1 The Buried Classes will use a suitable sized container filled with substrate, with the odour at the bottom. The dog must determine which container(s) contain the target odour(s). The containers will be covered with a metal grid to prevent the dogs from digging in the container. Buried Classes may be conducted either indoors or outdoors. The containers utilised for the Buried Classes must be approximately 40 cm wide by 28 cm long by 18 cm high (a maximum of 5 cm leeway in the measurements is permissible) and must have latching handles. The metal grid must be approximately 40 cm wide by 28 cm long, sized to be able to be latched onto the container. (Cooling grids as used in baking are suitable).

- 11.9.2 Classes that utilise sand as a substrate may only use 'play sand'. Classes that utilise water as a substrate must use potable (drinking-quality) water.
- 11.9.3 The scent vessel for containers containing sand must be a round, mesh, tea ball/tea infuser approximately 5 cm in diameter, made of stainless steel. The scent vessel for the water containers must be a segment of opaque tubing, secured to the bottom of the container.
- 11.9.4 **Buried Novice Class**
Six (6) containers will be placed in the search area, in two (2) rows of three (3) containers, at least 30 cm apart. The Search Area must be at least 15 m² but not more than 20 m² in size. Each container will be filled equally, with enough sand that the buried scent vessel will be covered with 10 cm of sand. One (1) of the containers will conceal a scent vessel containing Cypress. There are no intentional distractions at this level. The dog has a maximum time of two (2) minutes to locate the target scent and communicate the find to its Handler. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates the find.
- 11.9.5 **Buried Advanced Class**
Eight (8) containers will be placed in the search area, in any arrangement, with the containers placed at least 30 cm apart. The Search Area must be at least 20 m² but not more than 40 m² in size. Each container will be filled equally, with enough water that the submerged scent vessel will be covered with 10 cm of water. Each of the containers will have a scent vessel affixed to the bottom. Two (2) of the scent vessels will contain a scent aid scented with either Cypress or Anise. There is one (1) non-food distraction at this level which may not be buried or submerged. The dog has a maximum time of three (3) minutes to locate the target scents and communicate the finds to its Handler. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates each find. After the second 'Alert' call, the Handler must call 'Finish' to indicate that all hides have been found and to stop the time.
- 11.9.6 **Buried Excellent Class**
Twelve (12) containers will be placed in the search area, in any arrangement, with the containers placed at least 30 cm apart. The Search Area must be at least 30 m² but not more than 40 m² in size. Six (6) of the containers must contain sand and six (6) must contain water, filled equally with enough substrate that the scent vessel is covered with 10 cm of substrate. The containers containing water will each have a scent vessel affixed to the bottom, which may or may not conceal one (1) of the target odours. Three (3) of the containers will contain a scent aid scented with either Cypress, Anise, or Clove. There are two (2) distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory or visual. Distractions may not be buried or submerged. The dog has a maximum time of four (4) minutes to locate the target scents and communicate the finds to its Handler. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates each find. After the third 'Alert' call, the Handler must call 'Finish' to indicate that all hides have been found and to stop the time.
- 11.9.7 **Buried Master Class**
Sixteen (16) containers will be placed in the search area, in any arrangement, with the containers placed at least 30 cm apart. The Search Area must be at least 40 m² but not more than 50 m² in size. Eight (8) of these boxes must contain sand and eight (8) must contain water, filled equally with enough substrate that the scent vessel is covered with 10 cm of substrate. The containers containing water

will each have a scent vessel affixed to the bottom, which may or may not conceal one (1) of the target odours. There are an unknown number of hides at this level; one (1), two (2), three (3) or four (4) of the containers will contain a scent aid scented with Cypress, Anise, Clove, or Vetiver. There are three (3) distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic. Distractions may not be buried or submerged. The dog has a maximum time of five (5) minutes to locate the target scent(s) and communicate the find(s) to its Handler. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates the find. When the Handler believes that all hides have been located he/she must call 'Finish' to stop the time. The Timekeeper will not give a 30-second warning at this level but Handlers are allowed to self-time should they wish.

The Buried Element

	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXCELLENT	MASTER
SCENTS	Cypress	Cypress and/or Anise	Cypress, Anise and/or Clove	Cypress, Anise, Clove and/or Vetiver
# OF HIDES	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	1-4 (unknown)
# OF CONTANERS	6	8	12	16
ARRANGEMENT OF CONTAINERS	2 rows of 3	Any	Any	Any
TIME LIMIT	2 minutes	3 minutes	4 minutes	5 minutes
DEPTH	10 cm	10 cm	10 cm	10 cm
DISTANCE BETWEEN CONTAINERS	30 cm	30 cm	30 cm	30 cm
DISTRACTIONS	None	1 non-food distraction	2 non-food, food, auditory or visual	3 non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic
REQUIRED CALLS	Alert only	2 Alert calls and Finish	3 Alert calls and Finish	Alert(s) and Finish
SIZE OF SEARCH AREA	15-20 m ²	20-40 m ²	30-40 m ²	40-50 m ²

12. THE HANDLER DISCRIMINATION DIVISION

12.1 The Handler Discrimination Division

Classes in which the target scent is the Handler's scent, rather than the odour of an essential oil, are deemed to be part of the Handler Discrimination Division.

12.2 Scented Article

The Handler is required to provide the scented article for Handler Discrimination Classes. For the Novice Class, the required scented article is a cotton item (e.g. glove, sock or handkerchief) which should be pre-scented by the Handler. For the Advanced, Excellent and Master Classes, the required scented articles may be cotton balls or cotton swabs. The article(s) should be thoroughly scented by the Handler and placed in a sealable plastic bag to be given to the Hide Steward for hiding in the Search Area.

12.3 Handlers as Spectators

Handlers may watch other search Teams, even for the Classes in which they are competing and have not yet run.

12.4 Search Area

The search area for the Novice (Container) search may be either indoors or outdoors. Dogs and Handlers may cross search boundaries without penalty during the search, as long as they remain working.

12.5 Difficulty Levels

Classes within the Handler Discrimination Division are offered in four (4) difficulty levels, each with its own specific set of requirements: Novice, Advanced, Excellent, and Master.

12.6 Hiding the Scented Article

The Hide Steward will be responsible for hiding the Handler-scented article and will wear latex, nitrile or vinyl gloves while doing so. Although it is permitted for the Odour Division Classes, Judges are not permitted to set their own hides for the Handler Discrimination Classes. This is because the Judge's scent is used for discrimination, so extra care must be taken not to expose the Handler-scented article to the Judge's scent. The Hide Steward will collect the sealed plastic bag containing the scented article(s) from the Handler when he or she is called to the Search Area for their run. The Handler will then retreat to a location blocked by a wall or partition while the scented article(s) is placed on the course. The Hide Steward will proceed to the location determined by the Judge for the hide, remove the Handler-scented article from the plastic bag and affix the article to the object or surface. The scented article may be affixed to an object or surface with tape, adhesive putty or by any other method, as long as it does not harm the object or surface. The Handler-scented article may not be enclosed in a scent vessel. The Steward will then call the Handler to the start line with their dog.

12.7 Cuing the Dog with an Article

Handlers may use an additional scented article to cue the dog to search for their scent. This can be done on the start line and can also be done at any time during the Class at the Handlers discretion.

12.8 Returning the Scented Article to the Handler

At the conclusion of the search, the Hide Steward will remove the article from the hide location and return it to the plastic bag. The sealed plastic bag will then be returned to the Handler before he or she leaves the Search Area.

12.9 Re-use of Containers for the Novice Search

The hide location may be different for each dog in a Class. The Club shall provide one (1) container per Handler and no container used for a Handler's scent may be subsequently re-used.

12.10 Handler Discrimination Classes

12.10.1 Handler Discrimination Novice (Container)

Ten (10) identical cardboard box containers are laid out on the floor of the search area in two (2) rows of five (5) each. The boxes must be at least 30 cm apart and each row must be at least 1 m apart. The Search Area must be at least 25 m² but no more than 40 m² and no items other than the containers may be present in the

Search Area. One (1) of the containers will contain the article scented by the Handler, one (1) will hold an article scented by the Judge and the remaining eight (8) containers are to be empty. No intentional distractions are allowed. The dog has a maximum of two (2) minutes to locate the container with the Handler-scented article and communicate the find to its Handler. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates the find.

12.10.2 Handler Discrimination Advanced (Interior)

The Handler-scented article is hidden in a room or part thereof with an area of not less than 15 m² and not more than 40 m². There will be one (1) hide, which must be accessible to the average dog and that may not be located higher than 60 cm off the floor. Also hidden on the course will be one (1) scent aid scented by the Judge. The remaining containers must be empty. No intentional distractions are allowed. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates the find. The maximum time limit is set by the Judge and must be between two (2) and five (5) minutes.

12.10.3 Handler Discrimination Excellent (Outdoor)

The Handler-scented article is hidden in an outdoor area at least 40 m² but not more than 60 m² in size. There is one (1) hide at this level, which must be accessible and may not be located higher than 60 cm above the ground. Also hidden on the course is one (1) scent aid scented by the Judge. There is one (1) non-food distraction. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates the find. The time limit is set by the Judge and must be between three (3) and six (6) minutes.

12.10.4 Handler Discrimination Master (Combined)

At this level, Handlers will be required to navigate two (2) or more Elements (Container, Interior or Exterior) within one (1) search. For example, the Search Area may include an indoor and an outdoor search or, it may be an indoor search that includes containers or any other combination of Elements. The Handler-scent may not be buried. Three (3) Handler-scented articles are hidden in two (2) distinct search areas. The total space of all search areas must be not less than 30 m² and not more than 80 m² in size. Each Search Area will be worked independently, with a separate time limit allocated to each. None of the Search Areas may be blank. None of the hides may be inaccessible and none may be located higher than 60 cm above the ground. Also hidden on the course will be two (2) additional scent aids, one (1) scented by the Judge and one (1) scented by a Steward. There are one (1) or two (2) distractions at this level, which may be non-food, food, visual, auditory, human or mimic. The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates each find. In each search area the Handler must call 'Finish' to indicate that all hides have been found and to stop the time. The maximum time limit is set by the Judge and must be between two (2) and three (3) minutes for each of the Search Areas. The Timekeeper will not give a 30-second warning at this level but Handlers can self-time should they wish).

Handler Discrimination

	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXCELLENT	MASTER
SEARCH ENVIRONMENT	Container	Interior	Exterior	At least 2 different
# OF HIDES	1	1	1	3
ARTICLE	Cotton glove/sock/handkerchief	Cotton ball/swab	Cotton ball/swab	Cotton balls/swabs
NUMBER OF SCENTS	1 Handler, 1 Judge	1 Handler, 1 Judge	1 Handler, 1 Judge	3 Handler, 1 Judge, 1 Steward
TIME LIMIT	2 minutes	Set by Judge, 2-5 minutes	Set by Judge, 3-6 minutes	Set by Judge, 2-3 minutes per search area
MAX HEIGHT	On ground	60 cm	60 cm	60 cm
DISTRACTIONS	None	None	1 non-food	1 or 2 non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic
REQUIRED CALLS	Alert only	Alert only	Alert only	Alert(s) and Finish
SIZE OF SEARCH AREA	25-40 m ²	15-40 m ²	40-60 m ²	2 areas, 30-80 m ² total

13. THE DETECTIVE CLASS

13.1 The Detective Class

The Detective Class offers an integrated search environment with an unknown number of hides in a variety of elements. This Class is open to dogs who have achieved the title of Grand Champion in the Odour Division.

13.2 Search Area

The course must span both the interior and exterior of a building or structure. The total search area must be at least 200 m² but not more than 500 m² in size. Any excluded areas will be clearly defined, but there will be no separate and distinct Search Areas. Teams may wander in and out of included rooms and go back and forth between interior and exterior areas when seeking hides.

13.3 Number and Placement of Hides

There will be five (5) to ten (10) hides per course at the discretion of the Judge. Hides can be on, under or in any object or container, and at any height. Hides can also be buried in house plants or in the exterior grounds as long as the soil is determined by the Judge to be sufficiently odour-permeable. Hides cannot be on the search boundary markers or on the persons of Judges, Stewards or human distractions.

13.4 Search Time

The maximum total search time will be determined by the Judge and must be between seven (7) and fifteen (15) minutes. There will be no 30-second warning in the Detective Class, but Handlers can self-time should they wish.

13.5 Target Scent

The target scent may be Cypress, Anise, Clove and/or Vetiver. All odours need not be present and each odour can be used multiple times.

13.6 Running Off-Leash

Handlers will have the option to run the Detective Class off-leash, regardless of whether or not the area is completely enclosed.

13.7 Distractions

Four (4) to six (6) intentional distractions (of any type) must be used on the course.

13.8 'Alert' Call

The Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog indicates each find.

13.9 'Finish' Call

The Handler must call 'Finish' when he or she believes all hides have been located for the entire course.

13.10 Course Map

After the 'Finish' call or at the expiration of the maximum time allowed, the Handler will be told whether or not they qualified and be shown a course map indicating the location of each hide on the course. Handlers are forbidden from displaying, discussing or sharing the course map until the Class is complete.

14. TITLES

14.1 KUSA Scent Work Titles

KUSA Scent Work titles are earned by acquiring the required number of legs in each Division and Class. Legs must be earned under one (1) or more Judges.

14.2 Champion status

14.2.1 Any dog which has earned three (3) qualifications in the Master level of an Odour Division element (Container, Interior, Exterior, Buried), or the Master level of the Handler Discrimination Division, will be eligible to apply to KUSA for the title of Scent Work [Div / element] Champion.

14.2.2 Qualifying runs may be earned at any Show provided the Judge is a Licensed Judge.

14.2.3 The qualifications towards any one (1) Champion title, must have been earned under at least two (2) different Judges.

14.3 Grand Champion status

Any dog which has earned three (3) or more Scent Work Champion titles will be eligible to apply to KUSA for the title of Grand Champion Scent Work.

14.4 Supreme Champion status

Any dog which has earned five (5) or more qualifying runs in the Detective Class will be eligible to apply to KUSA for the title of Supreme Champion Scent Work.

15. REQUIREMENTS APPLYING TO ALL CLASSES

15.1 Search Area Size

Search areas may be any shape. The size of the search area is determined by the element and Class level. It is understood that many search areas, being of unconventional shapes, may not be amenable to an easy calculation of area size. The required search area sizes specified in the Class descriptions should be approximated to the best of the course designer's ability, but is not expected to be exact in all situations.

15.2 Proximity of Search Areas

'Active' Search Areas (areas for which the odour has been set) must be separated so as not to confuse a dog who is working. Odour from a nearby area should never be accessible to a searching dog in another Class. Separation should consist of minimum distance, physical barriers or visual barriers and take weather conditions such as wind into account.

15.3 Separation of Staging Area and Searching Areas

The staging area should not be so nearby any Search Area such that dogs will encounter odour while crated or Handlers can see or hear the current search activity.

15.4 Preparation and Storage of Odours

The 'Scent Aid' must be cotton balls or cotton swabs. If swabs are used, only those with paper stems (not plastic) may be used. The swabs may be cut in half, and the stems may be trimmed shorter, if the Judge so requests. To prepare the odour, two (2) drops of essential oil should be applied directly to the cotton ball or cotton swab (both drops must be from the same odour). 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 container for storage.

15.5 Placement of Odours

The scent aid must always be placed inside a scent vessel, which is then hidden in the Search Area. Only one (1) scent aid may be used per scent vessel and only one (1) scent vessel may be used per hide. The scent vessel 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 scent to escape. Examples of suitable scent vessels include a plastic straw, empty lip balm tube or a metal tin. Due to safety concerns, scent vessels may never contain glass. The scent vessel may be affixed to an object or surface with tape, adhesive putty or by any other method, as long as it does not harm the object or surface.

15.6 Reuse of Search Areas

Search Areas may be reused for multiple Classes, but enough time must be allowed for the scent from the previous class to dissipate. This time will vary according to the location and weather conditions. For example, indoor search areas may need longer time than external areas. The Judge is responsible for determining the length of time to be allowed.

15.7 Hides on Boundary Markers

The hide may never be placed on or inside an object that is put in the Search Area to denote the boundary (such as a cone or flag). However, the hide may be placed on a

wall or structure that is natural to the Search Area and is used as the outer limit of the Search Area. For example, the side of a building may be used as the edge of a search area and the side of the building may be in play.

15.8 Consistent Location of the Scent

- 15.8.1 For Classes in the Odour Search Division the scent must remain in the same location for each Team participating in the Class, unless the hide location is contaminated or circumstances otherwise require relocating the hide.
- 15.8.2 Scent must be relocated between Classes, but must be left to stand for ten (10) minutes before the first dog in the new Class begins. These requirements do not apply to the Handler Discrimination Division where the scented article may be placed in a different location for each Team, even within the same Class and there is no minimum time required for the Handler-scent to be left to stand before the Team searches.

15.9 Relocating a Hide

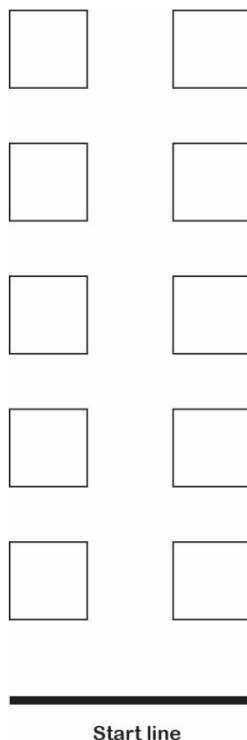
If a hide must be relocated during a Class, it should be moved to a location that presents the same challenges as at the original location. The location of the original hide should be wiped with white vinegar diluted with water (one (1) part vinegar to three (3) parts water) and the scent must be left to stand in the new hide location for ten (10) minutes before the next dog is run.

15.10 Containers

- 15.10.1 Containers are used to conceal the scent vessel for container searches in the Odour Search Division or the Handler-scented article in the Novice Class of the Handler Discrimination Division. To be suitable, a container must be:
 - 15.10.1.1 able to completely enclose an object;
 - 15.10.1.2 used primarily for storage or transport of objects;
 - 15.10.1.3 durable enough that it cannot be readily torn or destroyed (nothing less fragile than a cardboard box).
- 15.10.2 Some examples of appropriate containers are cardboard boxes, briefcases, luggage, backpacks, paint cans, tool boxes, storage bins, musical instrument cases, purses, duffel bags or other similar odour-permeable container, as specified by difficulty level. Containers consisting entirely or partly of glass may never be used.
- 15.10.3 Containers in Novice searches must be cardboard boxes and must all be identical. Novice cardboard boxes must be of uniform size and shall be at least 25 cm long by 20 cm wide; they must be no less than 8 cm and no more than 20 cm high. Boxes must have a seam/holes on the top of the box for odour to escape. If there is a seam on the bottom of the box, it must be taped shut.
- 15.10.4 Additional containers for replacement must be available should any of the containers become damaged or contaminated.

15.11 Arrangement of Rows

Whenever the word 'rows' is used, it refers to parallel straight-line rows. Boxes arranged in rows cannot be angled or offset from each other. The start line must be positioned on the short end of the setup, as illustrated below.



15.12 Collars, Leashes and Harnesses

15.12.1 Dogs must wear a properly fitted collar or harness approved by the Judge. The harness must be constructed of plain, pliable material and will be designed so that there is minimal restriction of the dog's movement.

15.12.2 Dogs must enter and exit the Search Area with the leash attached to the collar or harness. This includes while waiting in the Search Area before and after their search. The leash should be made of plain, pliable material. Any length of leash and/or retractable leashes are permitted for use during the search. The leash can be used to gently guide the dog away from the boundaries of the Search Area, but cannot be used as a correction device. Most searches will be conducted entirely on leash, but an off-leash option may be offered at the discretion of the Judge but only if the area is completely enclosed.

15.13 Accessories

Dogs may be outfitted with accessories such as paw covers or booties, jackets, sweaters, cooling coats and hair ties or bows as the Handler deems necessary for the dog to safely navigate the Search Area. A wearable camera such as a Go Pro may be mounted to the dog's harness, if desired. The final word on whether or not an accessory is allowed shall rest with the Judge.

15.14 Start Line

For each Search Area there shall be a start line that the dog and Handler must cross prior to commencing their search. The start line may be a maximum of 1.5 m wide. If the dog or Handler fails to cross the start line, the Judge will record a fault for Handler error. Timing will begin when the Team (or any part thereof) crosses this line.

15.15 **'Alert' Calls**

Handlers must confirm the dog's indication with the word '*Alert*' when the dog indicates a find. If a verbal confirmation is not possible due to environmental factors or a Handler's disability, the Handler may inform the Judge of an alternate confirmation, such as an obvious hand signal. If it is not immediately obvious where the dog is indicating when alert is called, the Judge may ask the Handler to point to the source location. The Handler is not allowed to re-cue the dog to search or indicate after the alert is called and doing so will result in a non-qualifying run.

15.16 **'Finish' Calls**

The "Finish" call is used in Classes that contain multiple hides. The Handler is required to call '*Finish*' when all hides have been located and called for the search area (or, for Classes with an unknown number of hides, when the Handler believes that all hides have been located and called). The 'Finish' call is required to stop the time for the search. If the Handler fails to call 'Finish' after correctly calling all hides in the area for Classes where the total number of hides in the area is known to the Handler, the Team will be penalised with a fault and the maximum search time will be recorded for the Team. If the Handler fails to call 'Finish' for a Class in which the number of hides in the area is unknown, leaving the search area without calling "Finish" will result in a non-qualifying score.

15.17 **Incorrect Calls**

If the Handler makes an incorrect 'Alert' or 'Finish' call, the search will be terminated. Teams do not proceed to the remaining Search Areas after an incorrect call. In all Classes, if the Handler calls "Alert" on an incorrect location, the Handler shall be informed of the correct location of one (1) hide.

15.18 **Rewards**

15.18.1 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). Handlers are permitted to wear treat pouches or moon bags to carry food rewards.

15.18.2 Rewards may not be used to bait the dog toward a specific location to search.

15.18.3 When a dog correctly finds the scent, the Handler may reward the dog with a food or toy, which may be delivered at or away from source. The Handler must take care not to contaminate the Search Area with food particles or saliva. Toys may be thrown, but if the toy or the dog causes disruption to the Hide(s) or Search Area, the team will incur a fault regardless of whether or not they have completed the search. Toys that make a noise are not allowed.

15.19 **Contamination of the Search Area**

Dropping food while rewarding a dog is considered a contamination of the Search Area, regardless of whether the food is dropped on, near or away from the hide. If contamination is found in the search area, a Judge can fault a Team depending on the severity of the contamination.

15.20 **Cleaning Contamination in the Search Area**

If a Search area is contaminated, every effort must be made to return the area to pristine condition before the running of the next dog. If a dog fouls in an Indoor Search area, all surfaces or objects in the affected area must be thoroughly cleaned with an enzymatic cleaner. If a dog fouls in an Outdoor Search area, any small

affected objects such as rocks or sticks should be removed and the ground should be sprayed with an enzymatic cleaner. 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 significant saliva should be replaced.

15.21 **Residual and Lingering Odour**

If Search Areas are reused during the course of the day, the Judge must inform Teams during the Handler's briefing (and may remind them on the start line) of the prior hide locations, to warn of possible residual or lingering odour. These areas must also be marked with stickers or tape in such a way that they are visible to the Handler.

15.22 **Distraction Items**

Certain searches, as determined by Element and difficulty level, will include distraction items. Distraction items cannot be placed on or close to the location of a previous hide. Distraction items may consist of any of the following:

- 15.22.1 *Non-Food Distraction*: Non-food distraction may be one of the following items: tennis ball, dog toy, empty dog dish, dog brush, leash or harness. No other items are permitted to be used as the non-food distraction.
- 15.22.2 *Food Distraction*: A food distraction may be any kind of human or dog food safe for dogs. Whenever a food distraction is used it must be enclosed within a container such that a searching dog would be unable to consume the food and such containers should be large enough that they cannot be swallowed whole. The container should also not be easy to open if disturbed by the dog.
- 15.22.3 *Visual Distraction*: A visual distraction is a mild light in the search area, such as the backlight of a cell phone, a flashlight trained on the ground, an LED keychain etc. The light may be continuous during the search or may turn on and off (though it may not flash). If the light turns on and off, it should either do so on a pattern (i.e. every 3 seconds it turns on, every 3 seconds it turns off) or it should do so when the dog reaches a certain place in the search area. The light may be automatic or controlled. If controlled, the person controlling the light should take care that the use of the light distraction is uniform for all dogs in the Class. The room lights or any light used for functional illumination in the area may not be used as the visual distraction.
- 15.22.4 *Auditory Distraction*: An auditory distraction is any unusual sound in the Search Area. The sound may be continuous during the search or may be spontaneous. If spontaneous, the sound should be triggered when the dog reaches a certain place in the Search Area. The sound may be automatic or controlled. If controlled, the person controlling the sound should take care that the use of the auditory distraction is uniform for all dogs in the Class. Examples of an auditory distraction would be a toy that makes a noise when touched or approached, clapping or a cell phone ringtone. Excessive or startling sounds should not be used—banging of pans, dropping of heavy objects or slamming of doors is not permissible. The sound is not intended to frighten the dog, merely to vie for the dog's attention such that it is a challenge to remain focused on the search.

15.22.5 *Mimic Distraction*: A mimic distraction is an object (such as a stuffed animal or statue) that looks like a realistic animal. If a mimic distraction is used, a backup item must be available in case a dog contaminates the object.

15.22.6 *Human Distraction*: A human distraction is a person, other than the Judge, who is present inside the Search Area. The human distraction may be standing or sitting and may look at the dog, but may not maintain eye contact if the dog's attention should turn to them. The human distraction may not speak to or intentionally touch the dog.

For Container and Buried Classes, the distraction may be in a container or loose in the Search Area. If in a container, it may NOT be in the same container as the odour. For Classes with a distraction, the Judge shall explain the number and type of distractions used during the briefing but shall not point out the specific location out to the competitors.

15.23 **Handler Looking for the Odour Source**

The Handler should not be actively looking for the scent vessel while the dog searches. It is the job of the dog to find the source of the scent. It is the Handler's job only to read their dog and communicate to the Judge when the dog has found the source. Any Handler who is deemed to be actively looking for the odour source may be faulted or excused by the Judge.

15.24 **Barking/Vocalisation**

Within reason, as determined by the Judge, a dog may bark or vocalize while participating in Scent Work Classes. However, 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 venue, the Judge shall give the Handler a warning. If the Handler is unable to get the dog to stop the disruptive behaviour within ten (10) seconds after the warning, the dog shall be excused from the search. The dog may still be permitted to participate in other Classes in which the dog is entered that day, at the discretion of the Judge excusing the dog.

15.25 **Touching the Dog**

Handlers are allowed to touch the dog at any time during the search for direction or praise.

15.26 **Disruption of the Search Area**

Handlers are not allowed to touch objects in the search area without the express permission of the Judge.

15.27 **The Stewards**

The Stewards are in charge of bringing each Team to the start line, carrying out orders from the Judge (such as repositioning items in the Search Area) and any other duties as required by the Club or the Judge. The Club may appoint as many Stewards as they need to complete the required tasks.

15.28 **Setting of Hides**

For each Class in the Odour Search Division, the Judge is responsible for ensuring that the scent is placed in the appropriate hide location(s) that they have chosen. The Judge may set the hides himself or may direct a qualified individual (as determined by the Judge) to do so under his supervision. The individual setting the hide(s) should wear latex, nitrile or vinyl gloves when doing so and may not touch any other items

until the gloves are removed. For Classes in the Handler Discrimination Division, the Judge must designate one (1) individual to set the hides for him (the Hide Steward).

15.29 Official Timekeeper

15.29.1 Each Class must have an official Timekeeper who will monitor the official time for the Class and communicate to the Judge the final run time to the hundredth of a second. The Timekeeper will give a 30-second warning to every competitor in the Novice, Advanced and Excellent level Classes (a 30-second warning will NOT be given in Master Classes). However, if the warning is late or is not given due to circumstance or oversight, no re-run is due.

15.29.2 The search time shall be determined as follows:

- 15.29.2.1 For Novice Classes: The official time shall start when the dog's nose crosses the start line or when any part of the Handler's body crosses the start line, whichever is first. The official time shall stop when the Handler calls 'Alert'.
- 15.29.2.2 For Classes with multiple hides in a single Search Area: The official time shall start when the dog's nose crosses the start line or when any part of the handler's body crosses the start line, whichever is first. The official time shall stop when the Handler calls 'Finish'.
- 15.29.2.3 For Classes with multiple search areas: The time recorded for each Search Area worked will be recorded on the scoresheet and a total time calculated by adding all the times together.

15.30 Self-Timing

Handlers are permitted to wear watches or other timing devices in the search area in order 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 Timekeeper. The official time recorded will be that of the Timekeeper's device only.

15.31 Timer Malfunction

In the case of a timer malfunction on a qualifying search, the Team will have two (2) options:

- 15.31.1 the maximum search time may be recorded as their official time for that Class; or
- 15.31.2 the Team may re-run the search at the end of the Class.

If the team chooses to re-run the search, the hide location(s) must be relocated and left to stand for ten (10) minutes prior to their search. 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 not score a qualifying run.

15.32 Warm-Up Area

The Club shall designate a warm-up area. One (1) labelled container per target odour being used on that day will be placed in the warm-up area. This will allow Teams to prepare themselves for the search prior to their run. Each Team should limit their warm-up to a maximum time of two (2) minutes so as to allow each Team a chance to

warm up adequately. Clubs may, at their discretion, place blank containers in the warm-up area.

15.33 Possession of Odours and Training

No person other than those engaged in the administration of the Show, shall be in possession of any of the target odours when on the grounds. There shall be no training on the grounds other than in the designated warm-up area.

15.34 Spectators and Double Handling

Spectators are encouraged, however, no one outside the Search Area may assist the Handler or disclose the location of the hide to any Team. Spectators should take care to remain neutral in order to not provide clues to the Handler. Judges may excuse or re-run exhibitors whose dogs they have reasonable cause to believe have benefited from double handling. Spectators who intentionally or unintentionally give aid to a Team may be asked to leave the spectator area by the Judge. Handlers may not watch other exhibitors from their Class prior to their turn, except in the case of Handler Discrimination Classes.



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Fedco 12-2021/CPA/Updated 30 March 2022
Fedco 06-2025/CPA/Updated 23.07.2025

The most recent changes to this Schedule are effective as of 01.10.2025