

REGULATIONS FOR TRACKING TRIALS (TT) SCHEDULE 5 B (03)

Effective 1.04.2022

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1. LICENSING AND HOLDING OF TRACKING TRIALS (TT)

1.1 Licensing and Show Regulations

The regulations relating to licensing and to all other matters to do with shows as set out in Schedule 3 (Championship Shows) and Schedule 4 (Non-Championship Shows) of the Constitution of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa (KUSA) shall apply to Tracking Trials so far as they can be relevant to TT and so far as they do not conflict with the specific terms of this Schedule 5B (TT).

1.2 Scope of Licence

The licence may include any one or more of the following grades: TT 1, TT 2, TT 3, TT 4, TT 5. A club entitled to hold a Championship Show may hold a Championship TT not more than once in any calendar year under the same licence as a Championship Breed Show or under the same licence as another Championship Event or under a separate licence. Any Provincial TT Sub Committee may apply for an TT Show Licence

1.3 Marks, Qualifications and Rating

1.3.1 Qualification in each grade is subject to the dog having scored a minimum aggregate of 70 marks out of a total of 100.

1.3.2 A dog can qualify for all grades of TT at either Championship or Non-Championship shows.

1.3.3 The owner of any dog that has been awarded a Qualifying Certificate may use only the most senior abbreviations to be used are TT 1, TT 2, TT 3, TT 4, TT 5. In order to have the qualifications placed on any registration records, a copy of the relevant Qualifying Certificate, or, in the case of Non-Championship Shows, Record Card must be submitted.

1.3.4 The following ratings can be achieved, depending on the marks:

Excellent	= 96 - 100
Very Good	= 90 - 95.5
Good	= 80 - 89.5
Sufficient	= 70 - 79.5
Insufficient	= 36 - 69.5
Poor	= 00 - 35.5

1.4 The title TT (SA) Champion shall be awarded to a dog that has achieved three qualifications in TT 5 by at least two (2) different judges one of which must be at a Championship Show with a minimum grading of "Very Good". The qualifying dog shall receive a certificate to this effect from the Kennel Union of Southern Africa in terms of Schedule 3 Regulations 42.5

2. ELIGIBILITY OF DOGS FOR COMPETING IN TRACKING TRIALS (TT) AND RECORD CARDS

2.1 All dogs registered with KUSA on the Breed Register, or in the Dogsport Record or any other KUSA record or a record held by any Canine Organisation recognised by KUSA, are eligible to compete in TT.

2.2 Eligibility for:

TT1 - No previous qualification required.

TT2 - The qualification required to compete in TT2 is TT1, FCI-IGPI, or TD 1.
TT3 - The qualification required to compete in TT3 is TT2, FCI-IGP2, or TD 2 or PD or TD3
TT4 - The qualification required to compete in TT4 is TT3, FCI-IGP3, or TD 3.
TT5 - The qualification required to compete in TT5 is TT4.

- 2.3 When handlers report to the Trial Manager on arrival at an TT Non Championship trial, they must satisfy the Trial Manager that they are eligible to compete in the grade for which they are entered, by showing the relevant record card/book satisfactorily completed.
- 2.4 When handlers enter a championship trial, they must satisfy the Show Secretary that they are eligible to compete in the grade which they propose to enter, by sending a photocopy of the KUSA Qualifying Certificate or relevant record book, satisfactorily completed, together with the entry form.
- 2.5 **Record Cards**
When competitors first compete in TT, they are to be issued by the organising club or issued by the Provincial TT Sub-Committee or where there is no Provincial TT Sub-Committee be issued by KUSA, a KUSA TT Record Card. All further qualifying TT results will be duly recorded on this card and countersigned by the officiating Judge. Competitors who have obtained qualification for any particular TT grade through any other tracking Discipline, must prove the eligibility of their dogs based on a result which has been recorded on any relevant "Working Record Card/booklet" issued by KUSA. Once qualified in one particular TT Grade, the dog cannot go back to a lower grade.
- 2.6 A dog must be at least eight (8) months old on the day of the trial to compete in TT 1, while a dog competing in TT 5 shall be at least twenty (20) months old on the day of the trial.
- 2.7 Only a dog which appears to be in good health may compete in TT.
- 2.8 Bitches in season may compete in TT subject to the following conditions:
The bitch in season is kept strictly apart from all other dogs on her arrival at the tracking grounds and until she runs her track. The Trial Manager and the Judge must be informed immediately upon arrival by the competitor that the bitch is in season. Bitches in season will track after the other dogs.
- 2.9 Dogs may only enter and compete in one grade at the time. After having qualified three (3) times in a particular grade, the dog must move up to the next higher grade.
- 2.10 Spayed bitches and castrated dogs may compete in TT.

3. MANAGEMENT OF TRACKING TRIALS

3.1 Trial Manager

When the Tracking Trial is held in combination with another event, the Trial Manager shall perform the duties specified in the relevant Schedule. In addition, however, the following shall apply: The Trial Manager shall be a member in good standing of the Kennel Union and appointed by the Committee of the Club or the Provincial TT Sub Committee holding the Trial. He or she must organise suitable Tracking Grounds which meet with the requirements of the Regulations, together with a sufficient number of competent track layers as well as a steward for TT 1 who will ensure that the handlers lay their tracks in accordance with the time schedule. The Trial Manager shall also be responsible for providing suitable tracking articles, of the size stipulated for each Grade and correctly identified to indicate draw number.

The Trial Manager must also ensure that the correct articles, together with the tracking patterns, are handed to the respective track layers at the time prescribed and to the steward for TT 1. In TT 2, 3, 4 and 5 it is essential that more than one tracking pattern is available. They are to be used randomly so that competitors do not know in advance the shape of the track they will run. The Trial Manager is also responsible for the orderly running of the trial, and is at the disposal of the Judge(s) during the whole event. The Trial Manager must draw up a detailed time schedule indicating when each track within each Grade must be laid and run. For TT 1, TT 2 and TT 3 the Trial Manager must allow twenty (20) minutes running time per track, for TT 4, thirty (30) minutes and for TT 5, forty (40) minutes each. The time schedule must be strictly adhered to. It must be displayed in a prominent position or a copy handed to each Judge and to each competitor, by no later than the draw for running order.

3.2 Disputes

Any disputed matter requiring a decision during a track, shall be resolved by the Judge of the Grade. A dispute at any other stage in the Trial shall be dealt with jointly by the Judge(s) and the Trial Manager.

3.3 Complaints

Complaints lodged by competitors shall be dealt with in accordance with KUSA regulations.

3.4 Misbehaviour of dogs at a Trial

Serious uncontrollable behaviour of a dog at a TT event will be penalised in accordance with KUSA regulations. Any such action taken shall be reported to KUSA within seven days of the Trial.

3.5 **Number of dogs to be judged**

3.5.1 When TT is offered in combination with any other event, the organising club may make provision for separate Judges for TT.

3.5.2 No Judge shall judge more than the following number of dogs in each grade on one (1) day:

TT 1 – 14 dogs

TT 2 – 14 dogs

TT 3 – 10 dogs

TT 4 – 5 dogs

TT 5 – 5 dogs

Where a Judge must judge more than one (1) grade, the total time spent judging may not exceed seven (7) hours on any one (1) day and the exact composition of these seven (7) hours must be indicated on the time schedule.

3.6 **General Attitude and conduct of handlers**

3.6.1 Either the owner or a deputy may handle the dog but it must be one or the other. Once a dog has commenced work, an owner may not interfere with the dog if a deputy is handling it.

3.6.2 Each handler must report to the Judge (reporting on) at the starting time indicated on the time schedule. The handler must inform the Judge of the dog's name, the handler's name, whether the dog will indicate or retrieve the articles and whether the dog will track free or on leash. If appropriate, the tracking line must already be attached to the dog so that the team may start with no further delay. When the track has been completed or after a team is stopped by the Judge, the handler must also report to the Judge (reporting off), and hand in the articles found. There are no marks allocated to reporting on and off.

3.6.3 The tracking lead, if it is used, must be secured to the tracking harness or to a collar or check chain in a dead link position. The line may be placed over the dog's back or between its forelegs. In no case may the check chain and harness be attached to each other and no additional straps or collars will be allowed.

3.6.4 All handlers should handle their dogs in a sporting manner during the conduct of the trial. Handlers who deliberately treat their dogs in an unsporting manner, for example by abusing or punishing their dogs, can be excluded from the rest of the trial. Such a decision depends on the Judge's discretion and may not be disputed. No appeal will be entertained.

3.6.5 Food may not be carried nor offered to the dog, nor may any other inducement be carried or offered to the dog, between reporting on and reporting off.

3.6.6 **Indicating and Retrieving of Tracking Articles**

As soon as the dog has found an article it must – without any influence from the handler – clearly indicate it immediately or retrieve it. Alternating both methods on the same track is incorrect. To retrieve the dog may either bring the article to the handler or simply pick it up and remain on the spot in stand or sit position. To continue on the track while carrying the article or to lie down with it is incorrect. To indicate the dog can either lie down, sit or stand facing away from or towards the handler. (Alternating these positions is permitted without penalty). Walking on the lead must be penalized by up to 4 marks to be deducted from the article marks.

3.7 **Conditions**

The Trial Manager and the Judge(s) must ensure that all dogs competing in a grade compete under the same conditions as far as this is practical.

3.8 **Weather**

It shall be at the sole discretion of the Judge(s) whether or not competition in any grade should be interrupted on account of the weather. Cancellation of a Trial or any part of it, shall be at the discretion of the Trial Manager in consultation with the Judge(s).

3.9 **Starting time**

All competitors shall be informed of the starting time of the Trial, and competitors and dogs in all Grades shall be present at the site of a Trial at least thirty (30) minutes before that time. Any competitor who is not present thirty (30) minutes before the informed starting time, may be considered by the Judge as withdrawn.

3.10 **Order of Competition**

The order of competition (running order) shall be determined by a draw among the competitors in each Grade. Any competitor who is not present at this draw may, at the discretion of the Judge, not be permitted to compete.

3.11.1 **Tracklayers**

No track shall be laid by a tracklayer who is a member of the same household as the owner or the handler of the dog. The age of the track is to be calculated from the time the tracklayer commences the laying of the track.

3.11.2 In all grades when a track is being laid dogs and handlers must be placed out of sight of the Tracklayer.

3.12 **Competition by officials at trials**

A Judge at a trial may not enter or handle a dog in the same Discipline (Breed, Obedience, Working Trials, FCI-IGP, Dog Jumping and Agility, Carting, TT) as that in which he is officiating. A Judge at a show may not handle a dog in any discipline on the day(s) that he is officiating. This restriction does not apply in respect of another

show held on the same day under a different licence, OR, if the show is split over two days/weekends under the same licence.

A KUSA representative may not enter, exhibit or handle a dog registered in his name at any KUSA-licensed event held at the same venue on the day(s) that he is officiating, nor in the same Discipline held under the same licence on any day. This restriction does not apply in respect of another Show held on the same day under a different licence, OR, if the show is split over two days/weekends under the same licence.

3.13 **Catalogue numbers**

Handlers must display catalogue or entry numbers prominently when competing.

4. JUDGING AT TRACKING TRIALS (TT)

4.1 **Judges**

Judges whose names appear on the KUSA Judges' List for the following disciplines may judge at Tracking Trials:

TT 1 – FCI- IGP I or higher and/or TD 1 or higher or judges qualified under item 4.1

TT 2 – FCI-IGP II or higher and/or TD 2 or higher or judges qualified under item 4.1

TT 3 - Licensed Judge (IGP) and/or TD 3 or PD Judge or judges qualified under item 4.1

TT 4 - Licensed Judge (IGP) or a KUSA Qualified PD or TD3 Judge or judges qualified under item 4.1

TT 5 - Licensed Judge (IGP) or a KUSA Qualified PD or TD3 Judge or judges qualified under item 4.1

4.1.1 **Qualification and Training for Judges**

4.1.1.1 For the purpose of this regulation the term "Learner Judge" means a person not yet qualified to judge at a particular trial and who accompanies the appointed licensed Judge (TT) at a trial and independently, and without consultation with the appointed Judge or any other person, marks the competitors in the Trial as if he were the appointed Judge. A Learner Judge's marks will have no bearing on the results of, or the awards made at a Trial and are not to be made known to the competitors. The Learner Judge's marking is solely to enable him to prepare a report as described in these Regulations.

4.1.1.2 Before a person can act as a Learner Judge (TT) he must:

4.1.1.3 Have one (1) year's active TT experience by having qualified at least one dog in TT I or higher and have participated in at least 4 TT shows as a competitor OR have been verified by his sponsoring club as having been a TT trainer for a continuous period of at least two (2) years and have had at least generated 4 entries in Tracking Trials during that time.

4.1.1.4 Have been involved twice as an official during an TT Show.

4.1.1.5 Be proposed by letter from an affiliated Club to, and be accepted by, the Provincial Council TT Sub-Committee in which area he resides. Where there is no such sub-committee, proposal to be made direct to KUSA.

4.1.1.6 Make an application in writing to the Provincial Council TT Sub-Committee in which area he normally resides. Where there is no such sub-committee, application to be made direct to KUSA.

4.1.1.7 Pass a written examination of fifteen (15) questions from Schedule 3 and fifty (50) questions from Schedule 5B TT (pass mark 80%).

4.1.1.8 The Provincial TT Sub-committee, or KUSA, will then allocate the Learner Judge to a Licenced Judge (TT). No more than two (2) people may be Learner Judges in any one (1) Grade at any single event.

4.1.1.9 Within thirty (30) days of the Show, the Learner Judge must in the case of Grade 4 and 5 reports submit his report to the Licensed Officiating Judge who will examine the report as to whether it is acceptable and he will then comment on the report and send it within (60) sixty days of the Show to the TT Committee of the Provincial Council in whose area the Learner Judge normally resides, or KUSA, if applicable. In the case of Learner Judges for TT 1, 2 and 3, the learner judge's mark sheets on the day shall be considered as the report and must be handed to the officiating tutor judge for approval after the grade is completed. The Licensed Officiating Judge shall then assess whether or not the learner judge has produced correct and acceptable results compared to his own assessment of the dogs entered. The Licensed Officiating Judge must sign the mark sheets if they are deemed acceptable and submit them with a covering letter approving the "reports" if applicable, to the process described in Regulation 4.1.1.9. This will represent the reports referred to in Regulation 4.1.1.13

4.1.1.10 The Grade 4 and 5 reports, together with the Licensed Judge's comments, will be examined by the Provincial Sub-Committee, or KUSA, and if accepted by the tutor judge the report will be passed on to EXCO for tabling and ratification.

4.1.1.11 If deemed necessary by the Licensed Officiating Judge the Learner Judge may be asked to present himself to an Examining Committee composed of two (2) Licensed Judges (TT) and the Chairman of

the Provincial TT Sub-Committee, who will then discuss with him the doubtful points in the report.

The results of this meeting will decide whether the report is passed or failed.

- 4.1.1.12 The above system will apply to all reports on TT 1 up to and including TT5.
 - 4.1.1.13 A person who has qualified under the provisions made in 4.1.1.1 up to and including 4.1.1.7 and acts as a Learner Judge (TT) will submit two (2) reports on each Grade 1,2,3,4, and 5. Such reports need not be submitted in that order. It is not necessary for a Learner Judge (TT) to judge the next lower Grade at Championship level before submitting reports on the higher Grades.
 - 4.1.1.14 No person may judge a Grade at a Championship Show or Non-Championship Show until he has been a Learner Judge twice for that Grade and had his reports acknowledged (Grades I to III) or approved (Grade 4 and 5) by KUSA.
 - 4.1.1.15 Any report may be referred by the Provincial Councils to the Executive Committee for a decision as to approval or rejection.
 - 4.1.1.16 All reports except TT 4 and TT 5 become effective when passed by Provincial Councils and the original report is received and acknowledged by KUSA. Reports in respect of TT 4 and TT 5 become effective when approved by the Executive Committee.
 - 4.1.1.17 No report by a Judge/Learner Judge shall be considered unless a minimum of three (3) dogs competed throughout the Grade (except for TT 4 and TT 5 where a minimum of one (1) dog is required and a minimum of five (5) dogs in total over five (5) shows) are reported on in detail. The report must contain detailed comment on the performance of the dogs scoring highest and next highest marks as well as the dog scoring the lowest marks in addition to general comment on the performance of all other dogs competing in the Grade.
 - 4.1.1.18 When a Learner Judge's report is approved, his Record Card must be endorsed accordingly by the Chairman of his Provincial Council's TT Sub-Committee. Where there is no such Sub-Committee, the endorsement to be made by KUSA. When the last IGP 5 report is approved, the Judge will send the endorsed Report Card to KUSA for the issue of his TT Judge's Licence. No Judge shall accept an appointment to judge any Trial for which his Record Card has not been endorsed.
 - 4.1.1.19 All locally domiciled Judges shall be members in good standing of the Kennel Union 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 No mandatory intervals are required between judging appointments.
 - 4.3 For the purpose of uniformity, the method of judging must remain within the spirit of these regulations. The Judge must adhere to the specific directives for evaluation which are given in the Description of Exercises. Where marks are specifically allocated to articles, legs and corners, no marks in excess for that portion of the track may be deducted. E.g. if a leg is worth 20 marks then no more than 20 marks can be deducted for that portion of the track.
 - 4.4 Appointment of Judges normally resident outside the area of jurisdiction of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa will be considered by the KUSA Executive Committee in the light of the Judge's qualifications recognised by the appropriate canine authority in the Judge's country of permanent residence and in terms of Article 25.4 of the Constitution.
 - 4.5 No Judge shall require any dog or handler to do anything, nor penalise a dog or handler for failing to do anything which is not required by these Regulations or by this Schedule.
 - 4.6 As each dog completes its track, its score must be entered by the Judge on the Judge's score sheet, and that score must be made known to the handler. Scores may not subsequently be changed except to correct arithmetical errors. The scores awarded and commented on by the Judge should also be made known to the spectators as soon as is practically possible.
- 4.7 **Competitors' knowledge of Regulations**
All handlers are expected to have thorough knowledge of the Regulations for the Grade in which they are competing.

5. GENERAL DEFINITIONS OF TRACKING APPLICABLE TO TT

5.1 Differentiation between "Track Steadiness", "Track Reliability" and "Track Incorruptibility".

- 5.1.1 "Steadiness": The "steady" dog will not wind scent. He might be disturbed by sound or visual signs, but he will remain on the track without resorting to searching. One has to consider that during the work on a fresh track, the "scented track" (as it is perceived by the dog) does not necessarily correspond with the "physical track" (as it has been laid). A varying side wind can create deviations in the "scented track". The attempt by the dog to follow the "scented track" can, in particular, be observed when he overshoots a corner. Depending on the wind direction, this is, in principle, not a fault. It will now become clear if the dog is "steady" enough to strive for the track again or if he will start searching. If the dog is not steady enough on the starting scent, it is possible that it may go over onto a cross-track, particularly if it is a fresher track.

- 5.1.2 “Reliability”: The dog which shows reliability has learned to differentiate between the starting scent and the scent of older and fresher cross tracks, provided there is at least three to five minutes of difference in the age of the tracks.
- 5.1.3 “Incorruptibility”: The “incorruptible” dog shall remain on his starting track under every circumstance, even when cross tracks are of the same age.

6. SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISES FOR TRACKING TRIAL GRADE ONE (TT 1)

6.1 Marks

Track = 80 marks

Two articles (10 + 10) = 20 marks

Total: 100 marks

Qualification: 70 %

- 6.2 **Command allowed:** “Track”, “soek” or equivalent. If the command is repeated, it must be the same command as at the start.

6.3 Leash

Dogs to track on a 10-metre-long leash, or free at the handler’s discretion; both cases are marked equally.

6.4 General procedure, laying and running the track

The track is between 350 and 400 paces long each pace is approximately 50cm, must be at least twenty (20) minutes old and laid by the handler. There are two (2) articles on the track and the track must have two (2) corners of ninety (90) degrees. The Judge or a steward must be present to indicate to the handler how it will be laid. To lay the track, the handler approaches in the direction of the first leg, then indicates the start of the track by means of a stake which he plants in the ground on his left side. After standing next to the stake for approximately one (1) minute, the handler proceeds to lay the track as indicated by the Judge, dropping the first article in the middle of the first or second leg. The second article must be dropped at the end of the track. After placing the last article, the handler must continue for several more paces in the same direction and then return by a detour to the Judge. If the end of the track has not been reached fifteen (15) minutes from the starting time, the track must be abandoned at the instruction of the Judge.

The handler must show the articles to the Judge before laying the track. Only articles in everyday use (not plastic or metal), with a length of 150 mm, a width of 50 - 60 mm and a thickness of 20 - 30 mm may be used. They must be handed to the handler for scenting, fifteen (15) minutes before the track has to be laid. While the track is being laid, the dog must be placed out of sight. If possible, the scent of the track must not be disturbed whilst the articles are being placed. The handler may not shuffle or trample the place where the articles are dropped nor may he stop so as to deliberately create a scent pad when placing the articles.

After laying the track, the handler proceeds to his dog and prepares it for the working of the track. When called, he reports to the Judge and informs the Judge whether the dog will retrieve or indicate the articles. Indicating and retrieving on the same track is incorrect. At a command from the Judge, the dog is taken slowly and calmly to the start and is commanded to begin. The dog must be given sufficient time to take scent.

Before starting the track, as well as at the start and at any other time during the track, any pressure on the dog or anything which could awaken the dog’s desire to rush onto the track must be avoided. The dog should take scent calmly with its nose close to the ground. As soon as the dog begins to track, the handler remains on the spot and allows the ten (10) metre long tracking lead to glide through his hand up to the end. He then follows his dog strictly at this distance. In the case of the free-tracking dog, this distance must also be maintained. The tracking lead may hang slack during the performance of the track.

As soon as the dog has found an article he must, without any influence from the handler, immediately pick it up or indicate it convincingly. If the dog retrieves it may, after having picked up the article, stand, sit or return to the handler. The handler may walk to the dog after it has picked up the article. It is however incorrect for the dog to continue on the track whilst carrying the article. It is also incorrect for the dog to pick up the article whilst in the down position. Indication of the article is by standing, sitting or lying down and these positions may be alternated without penalty. The handler then drops the tracking lead, immediately walks to the dog and raises the article to show that the dog has found it. Thereafter, the handler and dog continue on the track. After completion of the track the handler shows the articles found by the dog, to the Judge.

6.5 Evaluation:

False starting, dawdling, repeated circling at the corners, constant encouragements, incorrect indication or picking up or dropping an article must be penalised by up to four (4) marks. Reset on track, persistent dawdling, consistently tracking with a high nose, rushing onto the track, voidance of bowels and bladder whilst on track and hunting or similar behaviour will be penalised by up to four (4) marks.

For incorrectly indicated or picked up articles up to four (4) marks may be deducted. For each article not found, ten (10) marks will be deducted. For indicating or picking up articles not placed by the handler, four (4) marks will be deducted. Walking on the lead must be penalized by up to 4 marks to be deducted from the article marks

7. SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISES FOR TRACKING TRIAL GRADE TWO (TT 2)

7.1 Marks

Track = 80 marks

Two articles (10 + 10) = 20 marks

Total: 100 marks

Qualification: 70 %

7.2 Command allowed:

“Track”, “soek” or equivalent. If the command is repeated, it must be the same command as at the start.

7.3 Leash

Dogs to track on a ten (10) metre long leash, or free, at the handler’s discretion. Both cases are marked equally

7.4 General Procedure, laying and running the track

The track is approximately 600 paces long and must be at least thirty (30) minutes and laid by a tracklayer **not from the same household as the dog**. There are two (2) articles on the track. The track must have two (2) corners of ninety (90) degrees. The Trial Manager, with the agreement of the Judge, decides on the format of the track, taking into consideration the topography of the land. To lay the track, the tracklayer approaches in the direction of the first leg, then indicates the start of the track by means of a stake which he plants in the ground on his left side. After standing next to the stake for approximately one (1) minute, the tracklayer proceeds to lay the track as indicated by the Judge, dropping the article in the middle of the second leg (halfway between the first and second corner). The second article must be dropped at the end of the track.

After placing the second article, the tracklayer must continue for several more paces in the same direction as the last leg and then return by a detour to the Judge. If the end of the track has not been reached fifteen (15) minutes from the starting time, the track must be abandoned at the instruction of the Judge. The tracklayer must show the articles to the Judge before he proceeds to lay the track. Only well-scented articles, carried in his pockets for at least thirty (30) minutes may be used by the tracklayer. Only articles in everyday use (not metal or plastic), with a length of 150 mm, a width of 50 - 60 mm and a thickness of 20 - 30 mm may be used. Whilst the track is being laid, the handler and dog must remain out of sight. If possible, the scent of the track must not be disturbed whilst the articles are being placed. The tracklayer must not shuffle nor trample the place where the articles are dropped, nor may he stop so as to deliberately create a scent pad when placing the articles.

The articles must be placed on the track and not beside it. In the meantime, the handler prepares the dog to work the track. When called, the handler proceeds to the Judge with the dog and informs him whether the dog retrieves or indicates the articles. Indicating and retrieving on the same track is incorrect. At a command from the Judge, the dog is taken slowly and calmly to the start and is commanded to begin. The dog must be given sufficient time to take scent. Before starting the track, as well as at the start and at any other time during the track, any pressure on the dog or anything which could awaken the dog’s desire to rush onto the track must be avoided. The dog should take scent calmly with its nose close to the ground.

As soon as the dog begins to track, the handler remains on the spot and allows the ten (10) metre long tracking lead to glide through his hand up to the end. He then follows his dog strictly at this distance. In the case of a free-tracking dog, this distance must also be maintained. The tracking lead may hang slack during the performance of the track. As soon as the dog has found an article he must, without any influence from the handler, immediately pick it up or indicate it convincingly. If the dog retrieves it may, after having picked up the article, stand, sit or return to the handler. The handler may walk to the dog after it has picked up the article. It is however incorrect for the dog to continue on the track whilst carrying the article. It is also incorrect for the dog to pick up the article whilst in the down position. Indication of the article is by standing, sitting or lying down and these positions may be alternated without penalty. The handler then drops the tracking lead, immediately walks to the dog and raises the article to show that the dog has found it. Thereafter, the handler and dog continue on the track. After completion of the track, the handler shows the articles found by the dog, to the Judge.

7.5 Evaluation:

False starting, dawdling, repeated circling at the corners, constant encouragements, incorrect indication or picking up or dropping an article must be penalised by up to four (4) marks. Reset on track, persistent dawdling, consistently tracking with a high nose, rushing onto the track, voidance of bowels and bladder whilst on track and hunting or similar behaviour will be penalised by up to four (4) marks. For incorrectly indicated or picked up articles up to four (4) marks may be deducted. For each article not found, ten (10) marks will be deducted. For indicating or picking up articles not placed by the handler, four (4) marks will be deducted. Walking on the lead must be penalized by up to 4 marks to be deducted from the article marks

8. SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISES FOR TRACKING TRIAL GRADE THREE

(TT 3)

8.1 Marks

Track = 80 marks

Three articles (7+7+6) = 20 marks

Total: 100 marks

Qualification: 70 %

8.2 Command allowed:

“Track”, “Soek” or equivalent. If the command is repeated, it must be the same command as at the start.

8.3 Leash

Dogs to track on a ten (10) metre long leash or free, at the handler’s discretion. Both cases are marked equally.

8.4 General Procedure, laying and running the track

The track is approximately 800 paces long and must be at least sixty (60) minutes old and laid by a tracklayer not from the same household as the dog. There are three (3) articles on the track. The track must have four (4) corners of ninety (90) degrees. The Trial Manager, with the agreement of the Judge, decides on the format of the track, taking into consideration the topography of the land. Different tracking patterns must be used. This means that corners and articles may not be in the same position for each track.

To lay the track, the tracklayer approaches in the direction of the first leg, then indicates the start of the track by means of a stake which he plants in the ground on his left side. After standing next to the stake for approximately one (1) minute, the tracklayer proceeds to lay the track as indicated by the Judge, dropping the first article after about 100 paces and the second article in the middle of the second or third leg, The third article must be dropped at the end of the track. After placing the last article, the tracklayer must continue for several more paces in the same direction and then return by a detour to the Judge. If the end of the track has not been reached twenty (20) minutes from the starting time, the track must be abandoned at the instruction of the Judge. The tracklayer must show the articles to the Judge before he proceeds to lay the track. Only well-scented articles, carried in his pockets for at least thirty (30) minutes may be used by the tracklayer. Only articles in everyday use, with a length of 100 mm, a width of 20 - 30 mm and a thickness of 10 to 15 mm may be used. Whilst the track is being laid, the handler and dog must remain out of sight. If possible, the scent of the track must not be disturbed whilst the articles are being placed. The tracklayer must not shuffle nor trample the place where the articles are dropped, nor may he stop so as to deliberately create a scent pad when placing the articles. The articles must be placed on the track and not beside it. In the meantime, the handler prepares the dog to work the track. When called, the handler proceeds to the Judge with the dog and informs him whether the dog retrieves or indicates the articles. Indicating and retrieving on the same track is incorrect.

At a command from the Judge, the dog is taken slowly and calmly to the start and is commanded to begin. The dog must be given sufficient time to take scent. Before starting the track, as well as at the start and at any other time during the track, any pressure on the dog or anything which could awaken the dog’s desire to rush onto the track must be avoided. The dog should take scent calmly with its nose close to the ground. As soon as the dog begins to track, the handler remains on the spot and allows the ten (10) metre long tracking lead to glide through his hand up to the end. He then follows his dog strictly at this distance. In the case of a free-tracking dog, this distance must also be maintained. The tracking lead may hang slack during the performance of the track. As soon as the dog has found an article he must, without any influence from the handler, immediately pick it up or indicate it convincingly. If the dog retrieves it may, after having picked up the article, stand, sit or return to the handler.

The handler may walk to the dog after it has picked up the article. It is however incorrect for the dog to continue on the track whilst carrying the article. It is also incorrect for the dog to pick up the article whilst in the down position. Indication of the article is by standing, sitting or lying down and these positions may be alternated without penalty. The handler then drops the tracking lead, immediately walks to the dog and raises the article to show that the dog has found it. Thereafter, the handler and dog continue on the track. After completion of the track, the handler shows the articles found by the dog, to the Judge.

8.5 Evaluation:

False starting, dawdling, repeated circling at the corners, constant encouragements, incorrect indication or picking up or dropping an article must be penalised by up to four (4) marks. Reset on track, persistent dawdling, consistently tracking with a high nose, rushing onto the track, voidance of bowels and bladder whilst on track and hunting or similar behaviour will be penalised by up to four (4) marks. For incorrectly indicated or picked up articles up to four (4) marks may be deducted. For each article not found, the relevant mark allocated for each article, as indicated under 8.1. Marks, will be deducted. For indicating or picking up articles not placed by the

handler, four (4) marks will be deducted. Walking on the lead must be penalized by up to 4 marks to be deducted from the article marks.

9. SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISES FOR TRACKING TRIAL GRADE FOUR (TT 4)

9.1 Marks

Track = 80 marks Four articles = (4x5) 20 marks Total: 100 marks Qualification: 70 %

9.2 Command allowed:

“Track”, “soek” or equivalent. If the command is repeated, it must be the same command as at the start.

9.3 Leash

Dogs to track on a ten (10) metre long leash, or free at the handler’s discretion. Both cases are marked equally.

9.4 General procedure, laying and running the track

The dog shall prove its “tracking reliability” over a distance of between 900 and 1200 paces, paces are approximately 50cm. The track shall be at least three (3) hours old and laid by a tracklayer who is not from the same household as the dog. The Trial Manager, with the agreement of the Judge, decides on the format of the track, taking the topography of the land into consideration. There shall be six (6) corners of ninety (90) degrees, and the track to be followed must be crossed in two (2) places, relatively far apart. This cross track must be laid by a second tracklayer, thirty (30) minutes after the first Tracklayer has completed laying the original track.

Before laying the track, the Tracklayer will have scented four (4) tracking articles for thirty (30) minutes in his pocket. The articles will be common objects (not plastic or metal) such as a wallet or spectacle case and shall not be larger than 100 x 100 x 20 mm nor less than 75 x 75 x 10 mm and their colour should not differ too much from that of the environment of the Trial.

To lay the track, the Tracklayer approaches in the direction of the first leg, then indicates the start of the track by means of a stake which he plants in the ground on his left side. Before laying the track, the tracklayer must remain standing next to the stake for about one (1) minute (during this period, light trampling is permitted) and thereafter proceed to lay the track at normal pace.

The first article may not be laid less than two hundred and fifty (250) paces from the start. Not more than one article may be placed on any one leg. The fourth article will be placed at the end of the track. Articles may not be placed at, or close to corners. The articles must be placed on the track and not beside it. The tracklayer will clearly indicate the position of the articles on his map.

It is essential that the track where possible be laid over varying types of terrain and must traverse a well used roadway e.g. a dirt or gravel road. When called, the handler together with the dog, shall report to the Judge with the dog ready to begin tracking. Whilst the track is being laid the dog and handler must remain out of sight.

At the start the dog must be given time to take scent intensively without the interference of the handler (only the command to track is allowed). The handler shall also avoid any pressure on the dog which will awaken the dog’s desire to rush onto the track. As soon as the dog begins to track, the handler remains on the spot and allows the ten (10) metre long tracking lead to glide through the fingers up to the end. He then follows his dog strictly at this distance. In the case of a free-tracking dog, this distance must also be maintained. The tracking lead may hang slack during the performance of the track.

In the event that the handler is under the impression that the dog did not take scent properly, he may restart the dog at the starting stake, provided the dog has not gone further than fifteen (15) paces. However, for this he will be penalised four (4) marks.

The track must be worked calmly so that the handler can follow at normal pace. The Judge and the tracklayer must follow to keep the team under scrutiny from a distance of not more than fifty (50) paces.

As soon as the dog has found an article he must, without any influence from the handler, immediately pick it up or indicate it convincingly. If the dog retrieves it may, after having picked up the article, stand, sit or return to the handler.

The handler may walk to the dog after it has picked up the article. It is however incorrect for the dog to continue on the track whilst carrying the article. It is also incorrect for the dog to pick up the article whilst in the down position. Indication of the article is by standing, sitting or lying down and these positions may be alternated without penalty.

The handler then drops the tracking lead, immediately walks to the dog and raises the article to show that the dog has found it.

Thereafter, the handler may briefly praise the dog before giving the command to continue on the track. After completion of the track, the handler shows the articles found by the dog, to the Judge. The dog will be penalised for following the decoy track up to ten (10) metres. A recast in the case of the dog following the first decoy track will be permitted at an automatic deduction of ten (10) marks. If the dog follows the second decoy track or follows the first decoy track for more than ten (10) metres then the dog will be called off and the exercise terminated. (If the dog continues beyond ten (10) metres the Judge will discontinue the exercise.)

9.5 Evaluation

The maximum score of one hundred (100) marks may only be allocated to a dog which has worked the complete track, from start to finish at normal pace and has correctly found all four (4) articles. All corners must be worked convincingly.

The dog should not be influenced by the decoy tracks.

10. SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISES FOR TRACKING TRIAL GRADE FIVE (TT 5)

10.1 **Marks** Track = 80 marks Articles = (6 x 3 + 1 x 2) = 20 marks Total: 100 marks

Qualification: 70 %

10.2 **Command allowed:**

“Track”, “soek” or equivalent. If the command is repeated, it must be the same command as at the start.

10.3 **Leash**

Dogs to track on a ten (10) metre long leash or free, at the handler’s discretion. Both cases are marked equally.

10.4 **General procedure, laying and running of the track**

The track shall be a minimum length of 1200 to 1500 paces (one pace = 50cms). It shall be three (3) hours old and laid by a tracklayer who is not from the same household as (unfamiliar to) the dog. The Trial Manager, with the agreement of the Judge, decides on the format of the track, taking the topography of the land into consideration. There shall be a total of seven (7) corners, including two (2) acute angles and a marked curve, the beginning and end of which count as a corner each. The track to be followed must be crossed in at least two (2) places, relatively far apart. This cross track must be laid by a second Tracklayer, thirty (30) minutes before the track is to be run.

It is essential that the track where possible be laid over varying types of terrain and must traverse a well used roadway e.g. a dirt or gravel road. The Tracklayer must at all times be able to inform the officiating Judge precisely where he has laid the track. Whilst the track is being laid the dog and handler must remain out of sight.

Before laying the track, the Tracklayer will have scented eight (8) everyday objects for thirty (30) minutes. These may not be made of metal or plastic, they must not exceed 100 x 30 x 10 mm in size and their colour may not differ too much from that of the environment of the track. The objects must be placed on the track, not next to it, and the tracklayer must not create a hot spot or disturb the soil when placing the article on the track. One (1) article is placed in the initiating search area and another at the end of the track. The others are placed at the discretion of the Judge.

The track begins in an initiating search area, which is 20 x 20 m in size. No one, apart from the Tracklayer, may have entered this area. The Tracklayer puts two (2) stakes into the ground, to mark one (1) of the sides of the square (the “base line”).

The tracklayer begins the track from either marker or any point between them along the base line. He walks into the square from this spot in any direction (the “starting line”) and drops the initiating article which is one of the eight already scented by the Tracklayer. This article then marks the start of the track, and the Tracklayer stands next to the article for about a minute before laying the rest of the track at a normal pace. The starting line does not necessarily indicate the direction of the first leg which may go straight ahead, or at any angle to the article. The first leg may, however, not intersect the starting line or the base line.

When the handler is called to report to the Judge, the team is directed to the initiating search area and the Judge indicates the base line to the handler. The dog has three (3) minutes to find the “initiating” article in the search area and begin to track or it will be disqualified. The handler may begin the search by standing at any spot along the base line. He may only cross the base line into the square when the ten (10) metre tracking line is played out completely and the dog is ten (10) metres away. During the search, the handler may direct the dog verbally or by hand cues. When the dog finds the article, the handler goes to the dog and officially starts it on the track. If the dog has been searching free, the handler may at this point attach a tracking line. The dog must be given ample time to take scent at the article. The dog must be trained in such a way that it calmly, and without influence of the handler, thoroughly takes the scent of the article. If the dog picks up the track at a point beyond the article and begins tracking confidently, the handler is to follow and proceed to track as usual. In such a case, no marks will be deducted for not finding the article.

The initial search may be carried out with the dog on leash or free. However, if the dog is searching free, bypasses the initial article and starts searching confidently, the handler may not stop the dog to add a leash but must allow the dog to continue tracking free. No re-start is allowed.

The handler may not awaken the dog’s desire to rush onto the track with a hand signal.

No form of pressure or restraint may be applied on the dog by the handler during the search, at the start of the track or on the track. If there is any repeated influence, pulling on the lead, or acoustic signs in the case of a dog which tracks free, the Judge will end the exercise. Once the dog begins to track, the handler stands still and allows the ten (10) metre long tracking leash to glide through his fingers up to the end. The handler then follows the dog at this distance and the same distance must also be maintained if the dog tracks free. The track must be run calmly so that the handler can follow the dog at a normal pace.

The tracking lead may hang slack during the performance of the track. As soon as the dog discovers an article it must immediately indicate or retrieve the article in an obvious manner without any intervention from the handler. The handler then drops the tracking lead, if it is being used, immediately walks to the dog and raises the article to show that the dog has found it. Thereafter, the handler may briefly praise the dog and then must command it to continue tracking.

After completion of the track, the handler shows the articles found by the dog, to the Judge.

It is incorrect for the dog to indicate or retrieve articles which have not been dropped by the tracklayer. If the dog follows the cross track more than the length of the tracking line, the judge will end the exercise. The dog should not be penalized for articles inadvertently dropped by the track layer.

The handler may ask the Judge for a short break in the running of the track if he is of the opinion that, due to circumstances such as hot weather, the dog needs to stop briefly. If the Judge agrees to a break, no points will be deducted and a re-start after the break will not be penalised. However, the total time for the running of the track will not be extended beyond the stipulated time.

At the Judge's discretion, a handler may damp down a dog, its head, eyes and nose, with a wet cloth. This must be done during any break in the track permitted by the Judge, or when the dog stops to indicate an article. However, the handler must show this wet cloth to the Judge before the start of the track and obtain approval to carry it. After completion of the track, the handler shows the articles found by the dog, to the Judge.

10.5 **Evaluation**

Full marks may only be awarded to a dog which has worked the complete track, from start to finish, at a normal pace and has correctly found all seven (7) articles on the track. All corners must be worked convincingly. The dog should not be influenced by the decoy tracks.



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Most recent changes to this Schedule is effective as of 01.04.2022