



Kennel Union of Southern Africa

SCHEDULE 05E(12) – Regulations for KUSA National Handler of the Year Competition

(Effective 01.10.2025)

1. LICENSING AND SHOW REGULATIONS

The Regulations and other matters governing Championship Shows are set out in Schedule 03 of the KUSA Constitution. These Regulations apply to this Competition insofar as they are relevant and not in conflict with the specific terms of this Schedule 05E(12) or those of Schedule 05K.

Throughout this Schedule, words importing the singular shall include the plural; words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine and neuter genders and vice versa, unless such interpretation is inconsistent with the context thereof.

2. SCOPE OF THE LICENCE

An All-breeds Club, which is qualified to hold a Championship Show in the calendar year in which it is intended to hold the KUSA National Handler of the Year Competitions, may hold the event named in this Schedule in conjunction with such Championship Show, or separate therefrom.

3. ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPETITION

3.1 KUSA National Child Handler Class

For persons of eight (8) but under twelve (12) years of age on the day of the National Competition, who have qualified to enter in terms of Regulation 5 of this Schedule.

3.1.1 In the event a Child Handler electing to move to the Junior Handling Class before the National Competition is held, qualifications gained as a Child Handler become invalid.

3.2 KUSA National Junior Handler Class

For persons of eleven (11), but under eighteen (18) years of age. Open only to Handlers whose eighteenth (18th) birthday does not fall on any of the days on which any stage of this Competition is held.

3.2.1 Qualifications gained as Child Handler are invalid as qualifications for Junior Handler.

3.2.2 KUSA National Junior Handler of the Year shall only be open to winners of Junior Handler Classes.

3.3 KUSA National Adult Handler Class

For persons over eighteen (18) years of age.

4. HOST

Until or unless this Schedule 05E(12) is amended or altered, the Host for the finals of this event shall be KUSA.

5. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRY

- 5.1 A Child or Junior Handler will be considered as having qualified if he has won first place in his Handler Class at any All-breeds Championship Show held between the day after the previous Competition until the day before the current Competition.
- 5.2 Handlers having qualified in terms of Regulation 5.1 shall be invited to compete in the Finals in whichever Handler Class they fall, or elected to fall, at the time of winning the prize which qualified them for the Finals, provided that they are South African citizens and resident in South Africa.

6. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- 6.1 All qualifiers for the KUSA National Child and KUSA National Junior Handler Competitions must provide written proof (a copy of Qualifying Certificate) of qualification for entry as required in terms of Regulation 5.1.
- 6.2 It is not mandatory for any dog competing in these Competitions to compete in a recognised compulsory breed Class at the Show at which the Competitions are held.
- 6.3 All Handlers are required to dress in a manner befitting this competitive event and to display and disport themselves in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner.
- 6.4 The official KUSA Handler Entry Form shall be used which, for any entrant under eighteen (18) years of age shall be signed by their legal Guardian and be accompanied by proof of age in the form of either a copy of a birth certificate, the first page of an identity document, or passport. All Handler Class entries must be on a separate Handler Entry Form and not combined with the breed entry of an exhibit. Any dog that is to be used for Handling in this competition, including the pool dogs, must be eligible for entry at Championship Shows in accordance with Schedule 03 and must be in the registered ownership of a paid-up member of KUSA.
- 6.5 It is a condition of entry that Handlers or any dogs handled in the Final may not be used for any advertising purposes without the written permission of any sponsors for this event.
- 6.6 It is NOT PERMITTED to handle a bitch in season in any Handler Class.

7. PRIZES AND AWARDS

- 7.1 KUSA Floating Trophies for each KUSA National Handler Class shall be engraved with the winner's name.
- 7.2 The winners of the Final in the respective KUSA National Handler Classes will be named KUSA National Child Handler of the Year, KUSA National Junior Handler of the Year or KUSA National Adult Handler of the Year, as relevant.

8. JUDGING

- 8.1 When judging this class the Judge shall consider, inter alia,:
 - 8.1.1 That the exhibit is not "blocked" from the Judge's view at any time, i.e. the Handler should avoid being positioned between the exhibit and the Judge;
 - 8.1.2 Any exaggerated handling;

- 8.1.3 The ability of the Handler to control the exhibit;
- 8.1.4 The ability of the Handler to 'set up' the exhibit;
- 8.1.5 The ability of the Handler to gait the exhibit at a desirable pace for the proper assessment of movement;
- 8.1.6 The ability of the Handler to present the exhibit to the best advantage; and
- 8.1.7 The dress, grooming and ring demeanour of the Handler, taking weather conditions into account.
- 8.2 Only standard Handler ring patterns are allowed. (Refer Appendix 1).
- 8.3 The quality of the exhibit shall not be taken into consideration by the Judge.
- 8.4 Under no circumstances should questions be used as a means of testing a Handler's knowledge. A Judge should limit conversation with Handlers.
- 8.5 Handlers who exhibit impatience or heavy-handedness with their exhibits must be penalised.
- 8.6 Any Handler not present after three calls by the Ring Steward would be regarded as absent.
- 8.7 Control of Dogs
 - 8.7.1 Should it become apparent that a Handler is unable to control his own exhibit, the Judge must excuse the handler and exhibit from the ring.
 - 8.7.2 A Judge may request Handlers to swap exhibits, provided that the Judge is confident that the Handler is capable of controlling/handling his new exhibit. Should unruly behaviour occur after swapping, the Judge must instruct the return of the exhibit to the original Handler without penalty.
 - 8.7.3 Swapping of exhibits by Child Handlers is not permitted.
 - 8.7.4 Should an exhibit show any signs of any aggression, the Handler and exhibit shall immediately become liable to be excused from the ring at the Judge's discretion.
- 8.8 Judging Order of KUSA National Junior Handler Finals.

Handlers will enter the ring in draw order (not catalogue order) initially competing with their own exhibits. The Judges will shortlist four (4) Handlers and the four (4) shortlisted Handlers will be required to return to the ring at a scheduled time for the final round to handle unknown dogs. In the final round, each of the four (4) shortlisted Handlers will be required to handle two (2) exhibits from a pool of dogs provided by the organisers. The organisers will provide the Judges with a list of the breeds of dog in the pool and the Judges will select which two breeds each finalist will handle. Each dog in the pool may not be allocated to more than two (2) Handlers. Handlers will be allowed five (5) minutes with each of their allocated dogs prior to the start of the final round and will enter the ring in draw order.
- 8.9 Following the round of judging with new exhibits, the four (4) handlers will return with their original dogs and the winner of the Competition announced.

9. JUDGES

- 9.1 A KUSA Judge must be qualified as specified in Schedule 05K and Schedule 10. A foreign-domiciled Judge shall either be qualified as a specialist Junior Handler (Junior Showmanship) Judge in his own country, or be approved by KUSA to Judge Best in Show in this country.
- 9.2 The National Junior Handler Competition will be judged by two (2) qualified Judges with a referee in attendance.

10. SPONSORSHIP

The event may be sponsored permanently or on an annual basis by any enterprise acceptable to KUSA. In the years when the event is sponsored, the title may be preceded by the name of the sponsor. Should a sponsor elect to withdraw its sponsorship from the event, it will not prejudice the holding of the event in that year or any succeeding year. To ensure that the event is not jeopardised through withdrawal of sponsorship, KUSA and any sponsor shall enter into an agreement in which the terms and conditions of sponsorship are clearly set out.

11. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL INVITATIONAL COMPETITIONS

11.1. Crufts Joe Cartledge Memorial International Junior Handling Competition

- 11.1.1. Only the KUSA National Junior Handler of the Year, chosen at the KUSA National Handler of the Year Competition held in the year prior to Crufts, shall be entitled to represent KUSA/South Africa in The Crufts Joe Cartledge Memorial International Junior Handling Competition. The KUSA Reserve National Junior Handler of the Year, i.e. the handler placed second in the same KUSA National Handler of the Year Competition, shall not be eligible to represent KUSA/South Africa in The Crufts Joe Cartledge Memorial International Junior Handling Competition.
- 11.1.2. The Crufts Joe Cartledge Memorial International Junior Handling Competition is open to Juniors aged up to 19 years. Juniors aged 19 on the day of the final at Crufts may only compete if they had won their National Championship Competition aged 18, but turned 19 between the National Championship Competition and The Crufts Joe Cartledge Memorial International Junior Handling Competition.
- 11.1.3. Exceptions to 11.1.2. above will only be considered in very special circumstances and then agreed to by the Royal Kennel Club, in writing, prior to the entry being submitted.
- 11.1.4. The Royal Kennel Club's decision on whether to accept, or reject, an extraordinary entry will be final.

11.2. FCI Junior Handling World Championships Competition

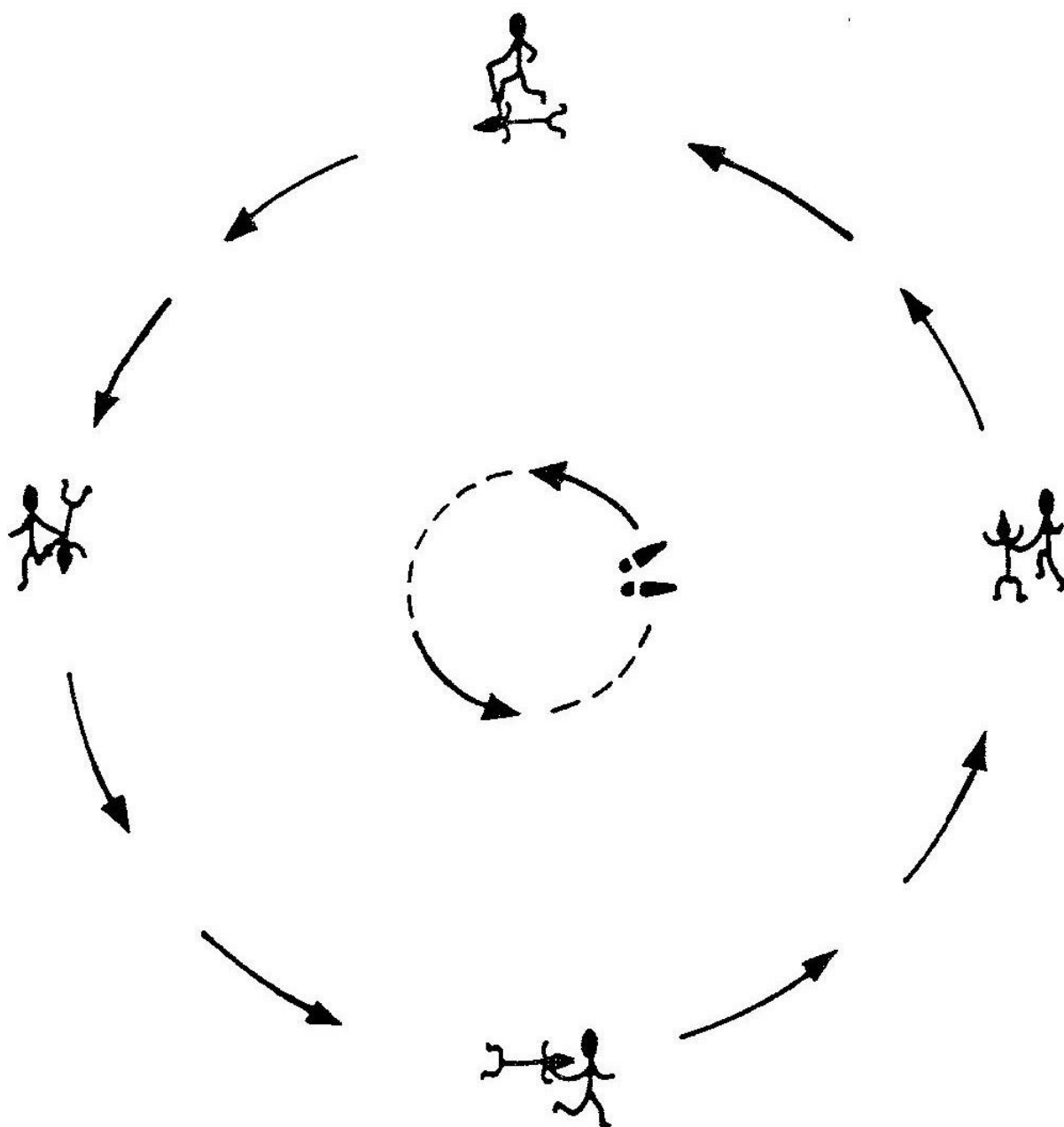
- 11.2.1. KUSA is entitled to designate a participant to represent KUSA/South Africa to compete in the Junior Handling Final at the FCI Junior Handling World Championships Competition only, in any year the Competition is held.
- 11.2.1.1. The KUSA National Junior Handler of the Year, chosen at the KUSA National Handler of the Year Competition held in the year prior to the World Dog Show, shall be entitled to represent KUSA/South Africa as its designated participant in the Junior Handling Final at the FCI Junior Handling World Championships Competition.

- 11.2.1.2. The KUSA Reserve National Junior Handler of the Year, i.e. the handler placed second in the same KUSA National Handler of the Year Competition, shall be entitled to represent KUSA/South Africa as its designated participant, should the winner of the KUSA National Handler of the Year Competition, for whatever reason, not be able to attend the FCI Junior Handling World Championships Competition.
- 11.2.2. The representative must be a National Citizen of South Africa.
- 11.2.3. KUSA's designated participant must be less than 19 years of age on the day of FCI Junior Handling World Championships Competition Final at the World Dog Show.
- 11.3. Invitees, whether by qualification or designation, must cover all expenses, including travel and accommodation, in order to compete in either The Crufts Joe Cartledge Memorial International Junior Handling Competition, or the FCI Junior Handling World Championships Competition.
- 11.4. KUSA shall neither endorse, nor support, the campaign or selection of any South African Junior Handler to represent another country in the Crufts Joe Cartledge Memorial International Junior Handling Competition or the FCI Junior Handling World Championships Competition.

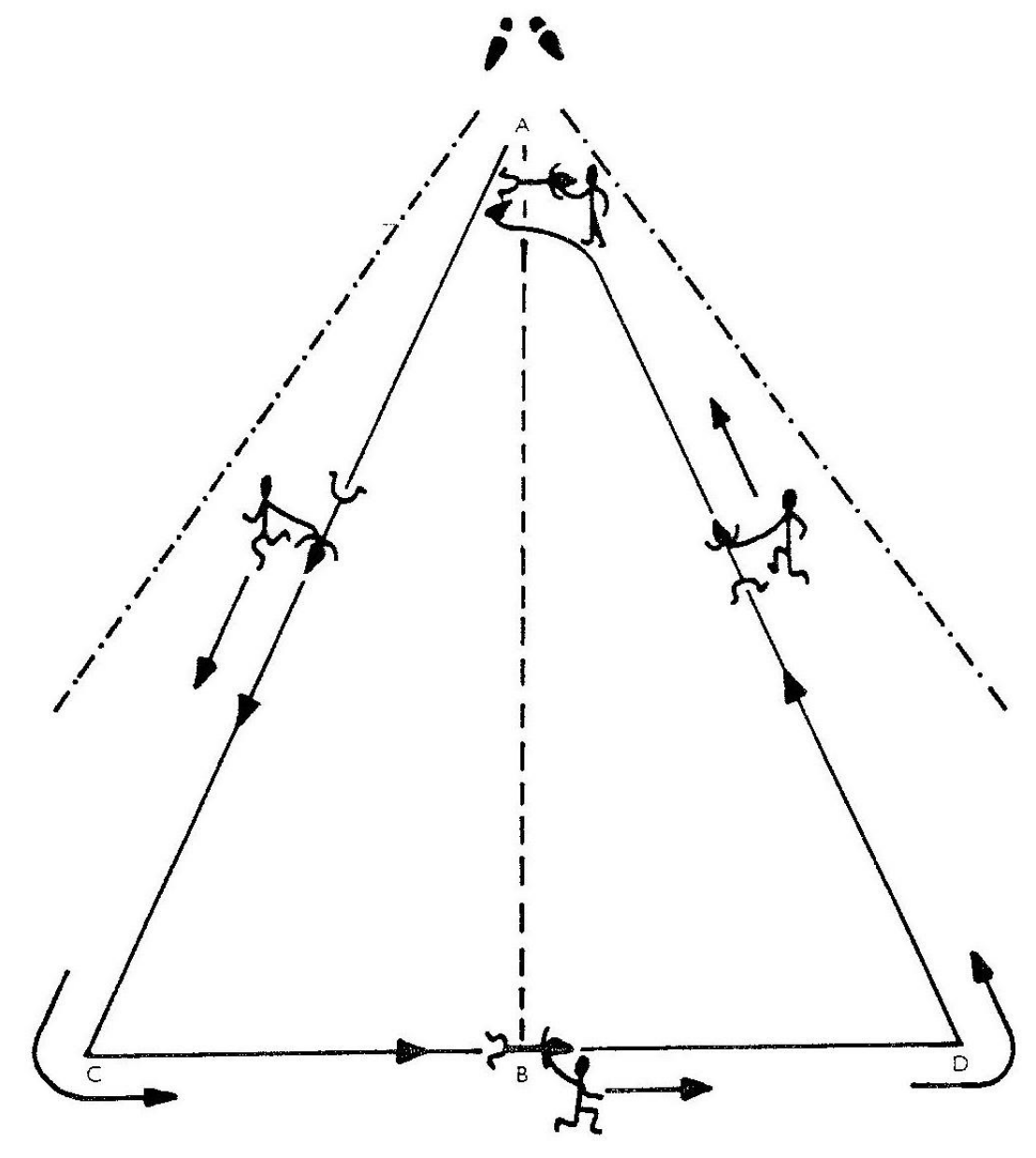
APPENDIX 1

RING PATTERNS AS REFERRED TO IN SCHEDULES 05E(12) REG 8.2 and 05K REG 4.1.7

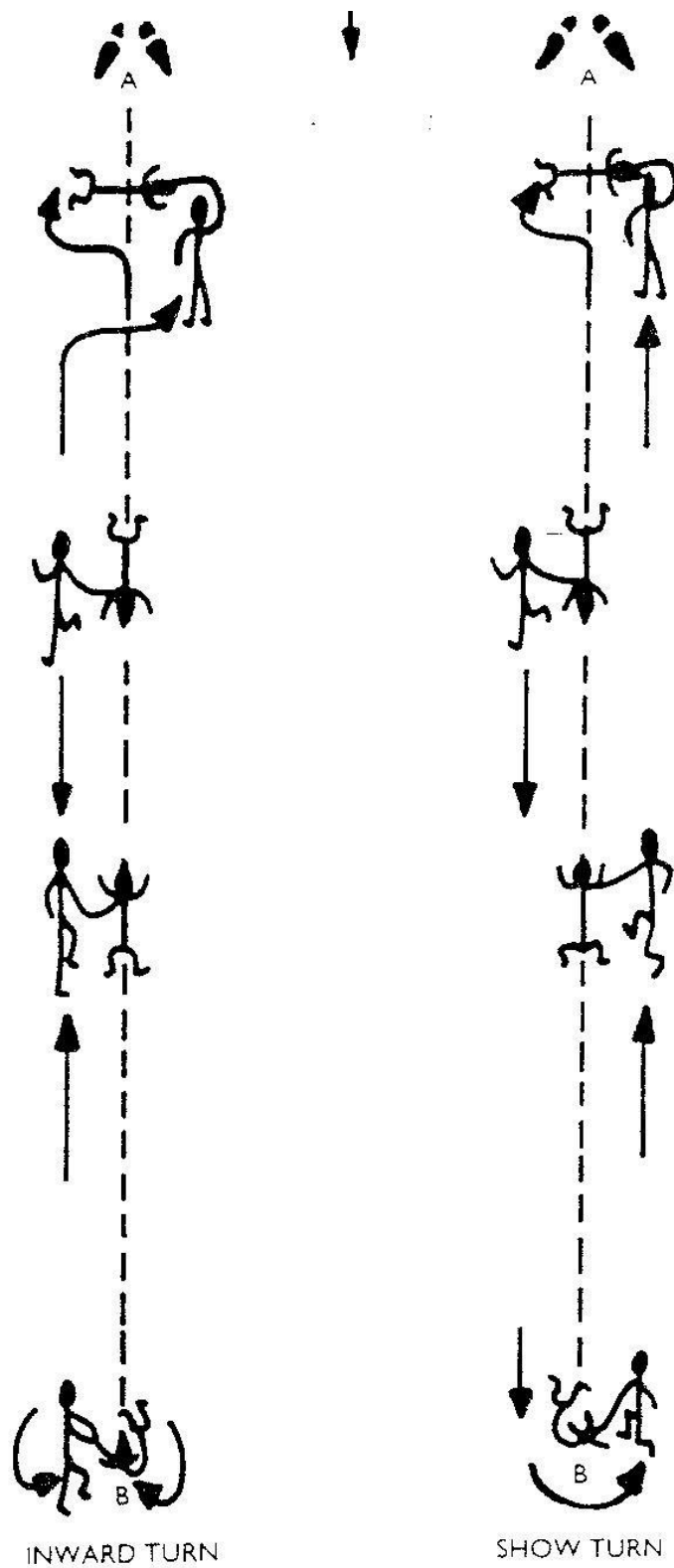
1. THE CIRCUIT



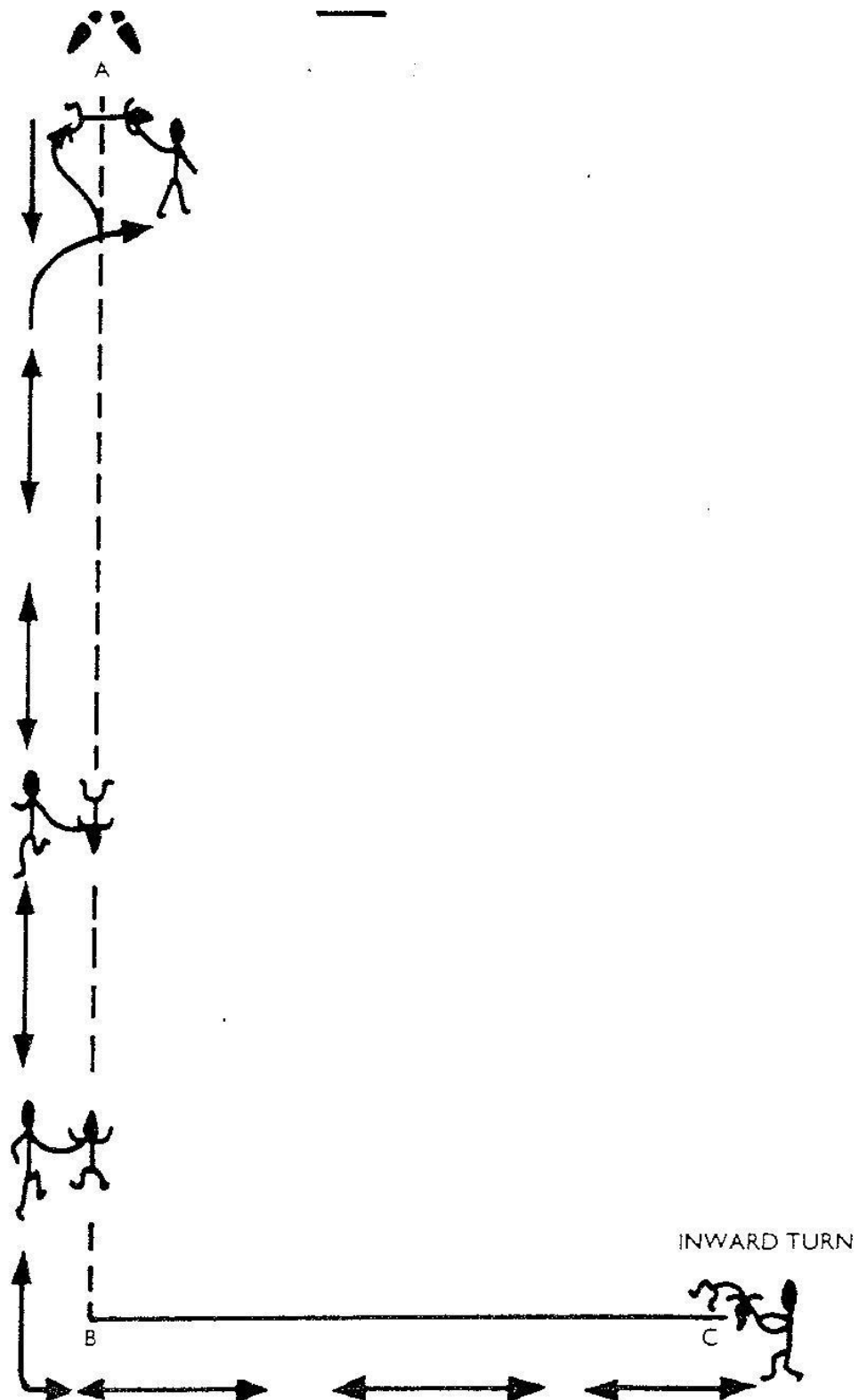
2. THE TRIANGLE



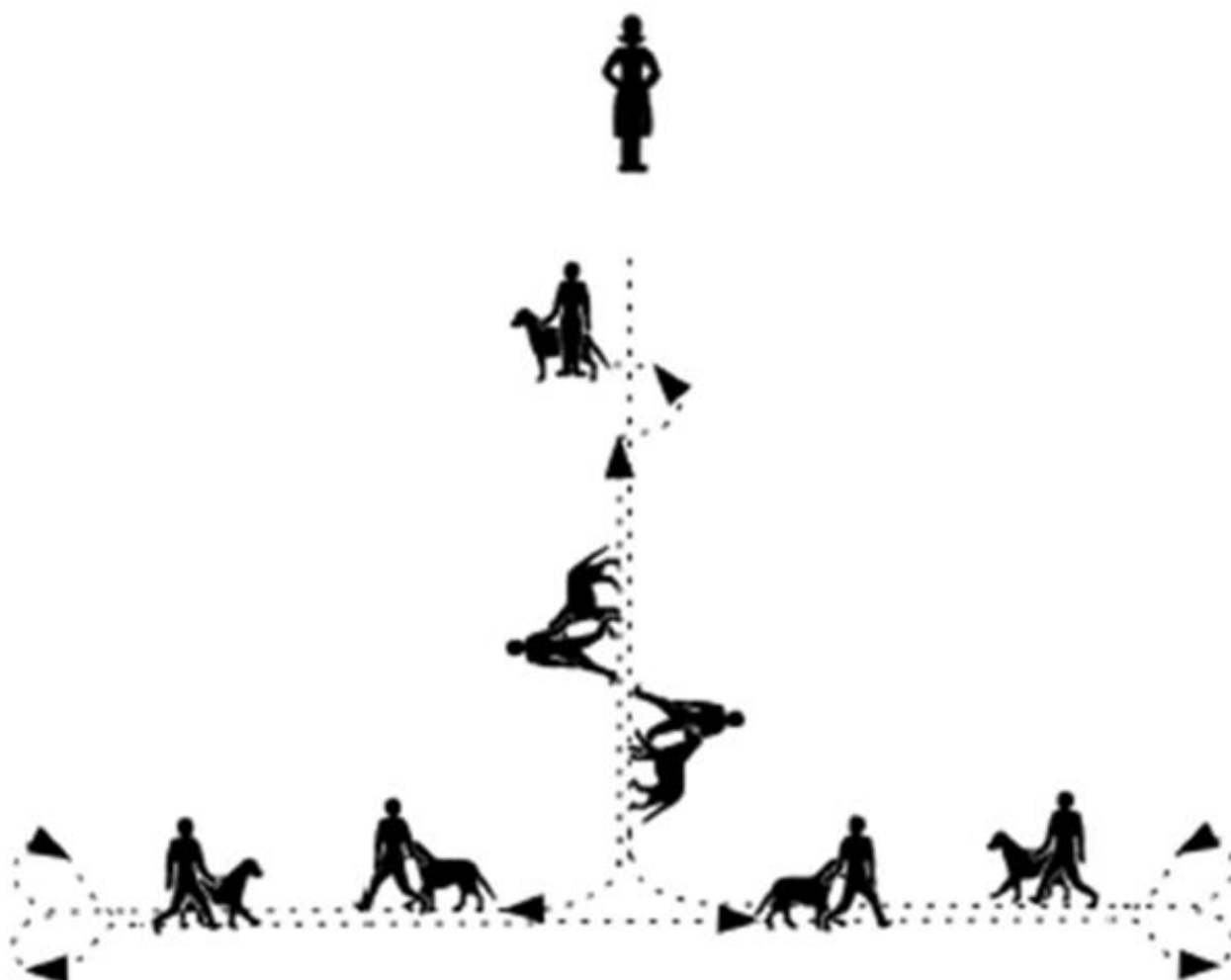
3. THE AWAY AND BACK / UP AND DOWN



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Fedco 06-2023/PM Updated 23.08.2023
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This Schedule has an effective date of 01.10.2025