



Kennel Union of Southern Africa

## SCHEDULE 11 [B] KENNEL UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA REGULATIONS FOR SCENT WORK

(Effective 01.02.2022)

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

### 2. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- 2.1 **Accessible Hide:** A hide that is reachable by 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 (if there is odour present).
- 2.3 **Alert:** A communication from the handler to the judge that the dog has indicated the location of the scent.
- 2.4 **Armband Number:** A numerical designation given to each dog in a trial. The armband number need not be physically displayed by the dog or handler, but is used on score sheets and in judge's books to help identify the particular dog.
- 2.5 **Auditory Distraction:** Any unusual sound in the search area. May be continuous or spontaneous, automatic or controlled.
- 2.6 **Blank Area:** A search area in which there are no hides. The dog must search and the handler must call "Finish" to proceed to the next search area.
- 2.7 **Change of Behaviour:** Behaviour by the dog which makes it clear to the judge that the dog has found the scent. This could be subtle (such as movement of the ears) or overt (such as sitting or pawing at the location).
- 2.8 **Class:** A particular element and difficulty level (Novice Container, Advanced Exterior etc.)
- 2.9 **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.
- 2.10 **Difficulty Level:** Novice, Advanced, Excellent or Master.
- 2.11 **Division:** Odour Search or Handler Discrimination.
- 2.12 **Element:** A particular search environment. The elements are Container, Interior, Exterior and Buried.

- 2.13 **Event Committee:** A group of at least 4 persons who together have complete responsibility for planning and conducting the event, and who may delegate duties to other officials or volunteers as necessary. The Trial Chairperson and three other people comprise the Event Committee.
- 2.14 **Excusal:** 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.
- 2.15 **Find:** A hide that has been located by the dog and called by the handler.
- 2.16 **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.
- 2.17 **Food Distraction:** A food distraction may be any dog or human food other than chocolate, grapes, avocados, onion, cherries or anything containing xylitol. The food distraction must be contained such that the dog that is searching cannot consume the food.
- 2.18 **Handler:** The individual who takes the dog through the search. This person may or may not be the official Owner of the dog.
- 2.19 **Handler Discrimination:** Classes in which the target scent is the handler's scent, rather than the odour of an essential oil.
- 2.20 **Hide:** A hide refers to an instance of the target odour within the search area. Depending on the difficulty level and element the class may have multiple hides. All hides must be located and called in order to achieve a qualifying score.
- 2.21 **Hide Steward:** The individual who is in charge of placing the scented article in the location designated by the judge in the Handler Discrimination classes.
- 2.22 **Human Distraction:** A human, other than the judge or other officials, who is present in the search area to serve as a distraction.
- 2.23 **Inaccessible Hide:** A hide that no dog of any size, shape or agility can put its nose on.
- 2.24 **Indication:** An indication (or "Alert Behaviour") is a behaviour on the part of the dog that is intended to communicate to the handler that the target odour has been found.
- 2.25 **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, issuing NQ faults and excusals when necessary and making the final call on any and all matters dealing with a search performance.
- 2.26 **Mimic Distraction:** An object (such as a statue or stuffed animal) that depicts a realistic-looking animal, placed in the search area to serve as a distraction.
- 2.27 **Non-Food Distraction:** A non-food distraction is an item other than food that might be enticing to a searching dog. 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.
- 2.28 **Non-Qualifying (NQ):** 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.
- 2.29 **Odour Search:** Classes in which the target scent is one or more of the specified essential oils.
- 2.30 **Official Timer:** 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.
- 2.31 **Physical Barrier:** An object that is solid and flush with the ground or two rows of hanging tarps/curtains that reach the ground with at least 30 cm of space between them, used for the purposes of separating active search areas. Must be at least 1.5 m in height.
- 2.32 **Qualifying (Q):** A Qualifying performance is a run in which the handler-dog team satisfies the requirements for the run to count toward titles.
- 2.33 **Reward:** Any object or handler behaviour (such as food or petting) that serves to mark and encourage a dog to repeat a desirable behaviour.
- 2.34 **Running Order:** The sequence in which the dogs entered in each class will be run. The running order may, but is not required to, be included in the judging program. The trial may deviate from the published running order if a conflict exists or if it facilitates the smooth running of the trial.

- 2.35 **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.
- 2.36 **Scented Article:** An object that has been intentionally permeated with handler scent for the purposes of the search. Scented articles can include a cotton glove, cotton sock, cotton ball or cotton swab.
- 2.37 **Search Area:** The area on the grounds where the actual searching and judging activities take place.
- 2.38 **Spectator:** An individual who is not involved in the administration of the trial who observes a team's search performance. A spectator may be related or may be a stranger to the search team. Spectators are encouraged, when feasible, at Scent Work events.
- 2.39 **Staging Area:** An area on the grounds out of view of the search area(s). The staging area will include all parking, crating, warm-up and waiting areas. The staging area and search area(s) shall be separated by geographical features, walls and/or artificial barriers.
- 2.40 **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 and if they fail to do so are issued a fault.
- 2.41 **Steward:** An individual who assists in the orderly conduction of the event. Some stewards will work in the search area and act as assistants to the judge and others will work in the staging area and be responsible for ushering teams to the start line when it is their turn to search.
- 2.42 **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 handler scent, depending on the division.
- 2.43 **Time Limit:** The maximum time for each search area, beyond which any team who has not located and called all hides will NQ.
- 2.44 **Title:** A specific achievement on the part of the dog. Any earned title appears as a designation behind the dog's registered name on all future KUSA certificates and pedigrees, unless and until they are superseded by a higher title.
- 2.45 **Training:** Any activity intended to strengthen or improve a dog's abilities, skills or knowledge. Specifically for Scent Work, training consists of rewarding a dog for locating and alerting to one of the target odours, outside of the formal search.
- 2.46 **Trial Chairperson:** The individual tasked with the planning and execution of a trial on behalf of the club. The Trial Chairperson must be a club member.
- 2.47 **Trial Secretary:** The individual tasked with the operation of the trial. Their role includes accepting entries, maintaining the database of entrants and results, organising and submitting the report and/or any other duties as specified by the Event Committee. The Trial Secretary does not need to be a club member.
- 2.48 **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 (for example, conformation ring gating is an acceptable visual barrier). Must be at least 60 cm in height.
- 2.49 **Visual Distraction:** A light within the search area. May be continuous or spontaneous, automatic or controlled.

### 3. SCENT WORK MATCHES

- 3.1 A Scent Work match is a sanctioned event in which scores do not count toward titles. A match is less formal than a trial, but still follows the same structure. All trial regulations apply to matches unless otherwise stated. Any club/organisation that is eligible to host Scent Work trials are eligible to host sanctioned Scent Work matches. Anyone in good standing with the Kennel Union of South Africa – With the exception of the match secretary – may be approved to judge at a sanctioned match.

### 4. SCENT WORK TRIALS

- 4.1 The Regulations relating to licensing and to all other matters to do with shows as set out in Schedule 3 (Championship Shows) of the Constitution of the Kennel Union of South Africa shall apply to events for Scent Work competitions, so far as they can be relevant to

Scent Work competitions and so far as they do not conflict with the specific terms of this Schedule.

## **5. MANAGEMENT OF SCENT WORK TRIALS**

### **5.1 Clubs Eligible to Hold KUSA Scent Work Trials**

Any club or association that meets the requirements of the Kennel Union of South Africa may be licensed to hold KUSA Scent Work trials. Scent Work trials must be open to all breeds and to mixed breeds 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 stand-alone events or in conjunction with another event.

### **5.2 Order of Classes**

The order in which classes will be run at trial is at the club's discretion.

### **5.3 Number of KUSA Scent Work Trials**

A club is limited to a maximum of 6 Scent Work trials per calendar year.

### **5.4 Entry Fees**

A club holding a KUSA Scent Work event shall not accept an entry fee other than that published or in any way discriminate between entrants, except that a club, at its discretion, may allow for a reduced entry fee for dogs handled by juniors. A junior handler is someone less than eighteen (18) years of age on the day of the event.

### **5.5 Closing Dates**

Clubs shall set a date and time that entries will close. Entries must be received by the Trial Secretary prior to the closing date to be valid. For Scent Work Matches the club may, at its discretion, accept day-of-trial entries. If the club chooses to accept day-of-trial entries, the published closing date and time shall be the date of the event, no sooner than two (2) hours prior to the match start time and no later than 30 minutes before the match start time.

### **5.6 Trial Secretary and Trial Chairperson**

The club holding a trial must name a Trial Secretary and a Trial Chairperson, which cannot be the same person. The Chairperson must be a member of the club. Trial Secretaries and Chairpersons shall be ineligible to judge at the event in which they are acting in these official capacities. Trial Secretaries and Chairpersons may participate in Scent Work trials where they perform these duties, though this participation should not interfere with their official duties.

### **5.7 Event Committee**

A club that has been granted KUSA permission to hold a trial or match must appoint an Event Committee, which will have complete responsibility for planning and conducting the event. The Committee shall be composed of at least four (4) club members (including the Chairperson) and shall ensure the safe, efficient and orderly conduct of the event. Individuals who are judging at the event may not serve on the Event Committee. The Committee is responsible for compliance with all of these Regulations, except those coming under the sole jurisdiction of the judges and has the authority to decide all matters not under the jurisdiction of the judges. A minimum of four (4) Committee members must be present on the grounds during a licensed trial. In the event of absence of Committee members, the Chairperson or an officiating officer shall appoint sufficient members to ensure compliance with this section.

### **5.8 Equipment/Event Officials Supplied by Club.**

#### **5.8.1 Recording supplies**

Pens, pencils, clipboards needed by the judge and stewards.

#### **5.8.2 Containers**

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

#### **5.8.3 Warm-Up Scent Containers**

Clubs must provide one container per odour used in the trial to be placed in the warm-up area.

#### **5.8.4 Boundary markers and check in table**

Traditional conformation ring gating is not required. Clubs may use any boundary markers or gating material they desire provided it is safe for participants and spectators.

5.8.5 **Distraction items**

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

5.8.6 **Timing**

Clubs must provide an official timer and a timing device for each class, which must be capable of measuring time to the hundredth of a second. A backup timing device is recommended.

5.8.7 Extra scenting articles for Handler Discrimination classes.

5.8.8 **Stewards and Hide Steward**

The club shall arrange for one or more steward(s) to organise and call in the exhibitors and assist the judge and for a hide steward to hide the handler-scented item for the handler discrimination classes.

5.8.9 **Photographer/Videographer**

While not required, it is recommended that the club have a photographer/videographer to chronicle the searches.

5.8.10 **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 prepared for use. The Club may designate the duty of supplying these to the judge, but this must be stated in the judging contract. No object containing glass may be used as a scent vessel.

5.8.11 **Forms**

Clubs must provide the Judge's Score Sheets and Judge's Certification report pages.

5.9 **Judging Limits Guidelines**

KUSA Scent Work judges are limited to 120 entries per judge per day.

5.10 **One Judge Per Class**

Each class has only one assigned judge; classes cannot be split between judges.

5.11 **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 geographical features, walls and/or artificial barriers. Clubs must post signs so that no person inadvertently wanders in view of the search area. 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 facilities.

5.12 **Spectator Area**

Spectators are encouraged. The club should establish a dedicated spectator area for each class, where people can convene to watch the search, whenever feasible. The club is encouraged to use tape or flags to delineate the boundaries of the spectator area so that no spectators inadvertently enter the search area. No dogs are permitted in the spectator area(s).

5.13 **Demo Dog**

If at all possible, after the hide(s) have been set, an accomplished search dog that is not entered in the class will run the course. This is to evaluate the real-world difficulty of the search, as designed. If the demo dog encounters unexpected difficulty, the judge should consider adjusting the hide location(s). An accomplished dog is defined as one who has earned the KUSA Scent Work title for that element and difficulty level. The club is responsible for making an appropriate demo dog available to the judge, but it is ultimately the judge's decision on what dog is used as the demo dog. If no demo dog is available, the first dog in the running order will complete the search, after which the judge will determine whether the search, as designed, is acceptable. 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. In no case may an entered dog be run during trial setup as the demo dog and receive credit toward titles.

#### 5.14 **Handler's Briefing**

Judges shall conduct a short handler's briefing prior to the start of each class. The handler's briefing shall take place in view of the search area. In the handler's briefing the judge shall explain if there is an off-leash option, how many hides there are (if the number of hides is known), the maximum height of the hides and communicate the maximum time for the course. Judges may also remind exhibitors of the basic rules, if desired. Exhibitors will be able to ask any questions about the search area at this time. No dogs may be present during the handler's briefing. Judges may state the number and type of distractions, but shall not point out the specific distractions.

#### 5.15 **Recording of Results**

5.15.1 The following information shall be recorded on the official form submitted to KUSA. In the header for each class, the following information must appear:

5.15.1.1 Number of entries (number of entries at closing less the number of entries withdrawn).

5.15.1.2 Number of qualifying scores.

5.15.1.3 Name of the person who judged the class.

5.15.1.4 Maximum time for the class, as set by the judge or Regulations.

5.15.2 For each dog entered in the class, the following information must be given and signed by both the judge and trial secretary:

5.15.2.1 Armband number

5.15.2.2 Dog's KUSA number

5.15.2.3 Dog's date of birth

5.15.2.4 Registered name of the dog

5.15.2.5 Call name of the dog

5.15.2.6 Breed of the dog (if no specific breed, use and "X")

5.15.2.7 Name of the owner

5.15.2.8 Official time

5.15.2.9 Number of faults

5.15.2.10 Result – The result will be one of the following:

Qualified (Q)

Did not qualify (NQ)

Excused (EXC)

5.15.2.11 If a dog earned a placement (1 through 4) for the class, that must also be denoted adjacent to the dog's entry.

## 6. JUDGES

### 6.1 **Judge Eligibility**

Any licensed KUSA Scent Work judge may be approved to judge Scent Work.

### 6.2 **Judging Classes.**

It is possible for a judge to qualify for different Scent Work classes. These classes are:

6.2.1 Odour Discrimination Novice

6.2.2 Odour Discrimination Advanced

6.2.3 Odour Discrimination Excellent

6.2.4 Odour Discrimination Master

6.2.5 Handler Discrimination (all classes)

### 6.3 **Licensed Judges**

To become licensed for a class, a person must:

6.3.1 Be a professional Detection Dog trainer and be approved by KUSA through submitting a document detailing detection dog training experience, as well as pass the Scent Dog Regulations examination for the class.

6.3.2 Complete the following sequence to the satisfaction of KUSA:

6.3.2.1 Attend a Judging Workshop / Training Course and be allocated a Mentor (who shall be a current licensed KUSA Scent Work Judge).

- 6.3.2.2 Shadow judge a minimum of 4 live events (matches and/or trials) and submit a report for scrutiny to their Mentor and Judge of the day. The Mentor will provide a written comment on the submitted Report. On approval of these reports they will be considered Junior Judges and be eligible to move on to the next step.
- 6.3.2.3 Judge a minimum of two live events (matches and/or trials) under the supervision of a relevant Class Judge and submit a report to the Class Judge for scrutiny and approval for each event. On approval of these reports they will be eligible to take the Scent Dog Regulations examination for the class.
- 6.3.2.4 Pass the Scent Dog Regulations examination for the class.
- 6.3.2.5 Attend at least one Judging Workshop / Training Course in every two year cycle.
- 6.3.3 A Judge who has attained licensing for all classes will be considered a Senior Judge. Only Senior Judges will be licensed to judge the Detective class.
- 6.4 **Judging Limits**  
KUSA Scent Work judges are limited to 8 hours per day, including judging, setup and breakdown.
- 6.5 **Designing the Searches**  
Judges are responsible for designing each of the searches at a Scent Work match/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 experiences the conditions first-hand. If the club is offering Container classes at the level of Advanced or above, the club must also submit pictures of the containers that they will be providing for those classes.
- 6.6 **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. Because handlers may handle dogs in multiple different classes, 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.
- 6.7 **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.
- 6.8 **Accessible and Inaccessible Hides**  
A hide is considered accessible if it is in a location where the dog can reach it with his nose. If no dog (of any size, shape or agility) would be able to place its nose on the hide, it is considered inaccessible.
- 6.9 **Setting the Course Time Limits**  
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 so much in size and layout, the judge is in the best position to determine the reasonable time limit, using either their own judgment or a preliminary search with a demo dog.
- 6.10 **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:
  - 6.10.1 **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 the source of the scent by pointing or gesturing. If the area that the handler indicates includes the hide location or the

strongest concentration of odour in the judge's expert opinion, the alert should be considered correct and the judge should respond in the affirmative.

#### **6.10.2 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 expert opinion, the area that the handler indicates includes one 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.

#### **6.11 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.

#### **6.12 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.

#### **6.13 Repeating a Search**

The judge may allow a dog-handler 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. The circumstances must have been caused by the judge, steward or a spectator in order to warrant a re-run.

#### **6.14 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.

#### **6.15 Retention of Results**

Judges are required to retain score sheets and a copy of the signed report in their records for a period of one (1) year after the conclusion of the trial. These documents can be retained in hard-copy or electronic format.

## **7. CLASSES**

### **7.1 Dogs complete these searches in two divisions:**

7.1.1 Odour Search Division

7.1.2 Handler Discrimination Division

### **7.2 The Odour Search Division has four elements:**

7.2.1 Container

7.2.2 Interior

7.2.3 Exterior

7.2.4 Buried

### **7.3 In the *Container* element 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. In the *Interior* element, the target odour is concealed on or in an object in an indoor search area. In the *Exterior* element, 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). In the *Buried* element, the target odour is concealed within a small container and then buried beneath sand or water.**

### **7.4 Each element has four classes, corresponding to four difficulty levels:**

7.4.1 Novice

7.4.2 Advanced

7.4.3 Excellent

7.4.4 Master

### **7.5 In the Handler Discrimination Division, the target scent is that of the handler themselves. Handlers will provide one 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.**



- 7.6 The Handler Discrimination Division includes four classes:
- 7.6.1 Novice
  - 7.6.2 Advanced
  - 7.6.3 Excellent
  - 7.6.4 Master
- 7.7 The *Novice* class is a Container search, the *Advanced* class is an Interior search and the *Excellent* class is an Exterior search, each increasing in difficulty. The *Master* class presents an integrated search in which dogs may encounter hides within any search environment.
- 7.8 There is also a Detective class for very accomplished dogs. In the Detective class dogs may encounter any element during one large search. The Detective class contains multiple areas and many hides, all of which must be found to earn a qualifying score. The hides will be one or more of the target odours from the Odour Search Division. The Detective class is the ultimate qualification for a Scent Work dog.

## 8. TITLES

### 8.1 KUSA Scent Work Titles

KUSA Scent Work titles may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified to have received the necessary number of qualifying performances at each class and level. Higher-level titles will supersede all lower-level titles.

### 8.2 Number of Judges

KUSA Scent Work titles are earned by acquiring the required number of legs, under any number of judges. It is permissible for all legs to be earned under the same judge.

### 8.3 Odour Search Division Basic Element Titles

The titles below will be granted when three qualifying scores are earned during Odour Search Division classes.

#### 8.3.1 Scent Work Container

Scent Work Container Novice (SCN)  
 Scent Work Container Advanced (SCA)  
 Scent Work Container Excellent (SCE)  
 Scent Work Container Master (SCM)

#### 8.3.2 Scent Work Interior

Scent Work Interior Novice (SIN)  
 Scent Work Interior Advanced (SIA)  
 Scent Work Interior Excellent (SIE)  
 Scent Work Interior Master (SIM)

#### 8.3.3 Scent Work Exterior

Scent Work Exterior Novice (SEN)  
 Scent Work Exterior Advanced (SEA)  
 Scent Work Exterior Excellent (SEE)  
 Scent Work Exterior Master (SEM)

#### 8.3.4 Scent Work Buried

Scent Work Buried Novice (SBN)  
 Scent Work Buried Advanced (SBA)  
 Scent Work Buried Excellent (SBE)  
 Scent Work Buried Master (SBM)

### 8.4 Odour Search Division Basic Level Titles

When a dog earns every element basic title in the same difficulty level, they will be granted the Level title. A level title supersedes all basic element titles of that level.

- 8.4.1 Container Novice + Interior Novice + Exterior Novice + Buried Novice = Scent Work Novice (SWN)
- 8.4.2 Container Advanced + Interior Advanced + Exterior Advanced + Buried Advanced = Scent Work Advanced (SWA)
- 8.4.3 Container Excellent + Interior Excellent + Exterior Excellent + Buried Excellent = Scent Work Excellent (SWE)
- 8.4.4 Container Master + Interior Master + Exterior Master + Buried Master = Scent Work Master (SWM)

## 8.5 Handler Discrimination Division Basic Titles

The titles below will be granted when three qualifying scores are earned during Handler Discrimination Division classes:

- Scent Work Handler Discrimination Novice (SHDN)
- Scent Work Handler Discrimination Advanced (SHDA)
- Scent Work Handler Discrimination Excellent (SHDE)
- Scent Work Handler Discrimination Master (SHDM)

## 8.6 The Scent Work Detective Title

The Scent Work Detective (SWD) title will be granted when ten qualifying scores are earned in the Scent Work Detective class.

## 9. ELIGIBILITY

9.1 Eligibility for KUSA Scent Work – KUSA Scent Work classes are open to all dogs that are at least six months of age that are individually registered with KUSA, in any of the official registers e.g. breed register or dog sport register.

### 9.2 Class Eligibility

- 9.2.1 Novice classes are open to dogs who have not completed any title for that particular element.
- 9.2.2 Advanced classes are open to dogs who have achieved the Novice title for that particular element.
- 9.2.3 Excellent classes are open to dogs who have achieved the Advanced title for that particular element.
- 9.2.4 Master classes are open to dogs who have achieved the Excellent title for that particular element.
- 9.2.5 The Detective class is open to dogs who have achieved any Master title within the Odour Search Division.

### 9.3 General Eligibility requirements

#### 9.3.1 Condition of the Dog

Dogs with physical challenges (including amputees) 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. Deaf dogs and blind dogs are allowed to enter. 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.

#### 9.3.2 Bitches in Season

Females in season may not participate.

#### 9.3.3 Physically Challenged Handlers

Judges may modify specific requirements of these Regulations so that physically challenged handlers may compete. Such handlers must be able to move around the search area without physical assistance or guidance. Modifications may be allowed as long as they do not aid the team's performance.

#### 9.3.4 Handling More Than One Dog

Handlers may not handle more than one dog in each class (with the exception of Handler Discrimination classes). Multiple dogs from the same owner may be entered in the same class, provided they are run by different handlers.

#### 9.3.5 Entering Under a Judge

No dog owned or co-owned by the judge or his/her immediate household may be entered in the class where the individual is acting in their official capacity. Stewards and timers may compete in the trial if it does not conflict with the completion of their assignments. A person may not be the timer for a class in which they are directly competing.

## 10. REQUIREMENTS APPLYING TO ALL CLASSES

### 10.1 Search Area Size

Search areas may be any shape. The size of the search area is determined by the element and class level. Search areas do not need to be gated, but the search area

should be marked with flags, cones, coloured adhesive tape, caution tape, plastic fencing, gating or any other material that clearly delineates the boundaries. Dogs and handlers may cross search boundaries without penalty during the search, as long as they remain working. 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

## **10.2 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. Separation should consist of minimum distance, physical barriers or visual barriers.

10.2.1 The following definitions will be used for the purposes of separating active search areas:

10.2.1.1 A physical barrier is either an object that is solid and flush with the ground or two rows of hanging tarps/curtains that reach the ground with at least 30 cm of space between them. Physical barriers must be at least 1.5 m in height.

10.2.1.2 A visual barrier is a separator that provides a psychological boundary to the dog. It need not be flush with the ground or completely opaque. For example, conformation ring gating is an acceptable visual barrier. Visual barriers must be at least 60 cm in height.

## **10.3 Separation of Crating Area and Searching Areas**

The crating area should not be so nearby any search area such that dogs will encounter odour while crated. Dividing a single room between searches and crating is not preferable. If done, the crating area must be separated from the search area(s) by a physical barrier. Crating can never be set up in the same room as a Master search, regardless of the barriers between them. Master searches have an unknown number of hides and there is the risk that handlers in the crating area will overhear how many hides are found before the "finish" call.

## **10.4 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 should be cut in half, and the stems may be trimmed shorter, if preferred. To prepare the odour, two (2) drops of the oil should be applied directly to the cotton ball or cotton swab (both drops must be from the same odour).

10.4.1 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.

## **10.5 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. Some examples of a scent vessel 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.

## **10.6 Reuse of Search Areas**

Search areas may be reused for multiple classes, but the same search area cannot be used for more than 7 interior or exterior hides within a period of 7 days.

## **10.7 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.

### **10.8 Consistent Location of the Scent**

For classes in the Odour Search Division the scent must remain in the same location for each team in the class, unless the hide location is contaminated or circumstances otherwise require relocating the hide. Scent must be relocated between classes, but must be left to stand for 10 minutes before the first dog in the new class begins. These requirements do not apply to the Handler Discrimination Division—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.

### **10.9 Relocating a Hide**

If a hide must be relocated in the middle of 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 (1 part vinegar to 3 parts water) and the scent must be left to stand in the new hide location for 10 minutes before the next dog is run.

### **10.10 Containers**

10.10.1 Containers are used to conceal the scent vessel for container searches in the Odour Search division or the handler-scented item in the Novice class of the Handler Discrimination division. To be suitable, a container must be:

10.10.1.1 able to completely enclose an object

10.10.1.2 used primarily for storage or transport of objects

10.10.1.3 durable enough that it cannot be readily torn or destroyed (nothing less fragile than a cardboard box).

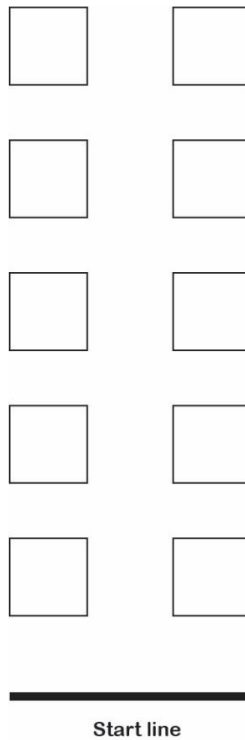
10.10.2 Some examples of appropriate containers are cardboard boxes, briefcases, luggage, backpacks, paint cans, tool boxes, storage bins, musical instrument cases, purses, duffel bags or other similar odour-permeable container, as specified by difficulty level. Containers utilizing glass may never be used.

10.10.3 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. Four-fold boxes, literature mailers, or other designs are acceptable as long as they meet the size requirements and have a seam on the top of the box for odour to escape. If there is a seam on the bottom of the box, that seam must be taped shut.

10.10.4 Surplus containers for replacement must be available should any of the containers become damaged or contaminated.

### **10.11 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.



**10.12 Collars, Leashes and Harnesses**

- 10.12.1 Dogs must wear a properly fitted collar or harness approved by the judge. The harness will be constructed of plain, pliable material and will be designed so that there is minimal restriction of the dog’s movement. No special training tools, such as electronic collars, prong collars, head halters, choke chains or no-pull harnesses may be used during the search. No odour-emitting collars (such as no-bark collars that spray citronella or calming collars) may be worn or present in the search area.
- 10.12.2 Dogs must enter and exit the search area with the leash attached to the collar or harness, including when 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, only if the area is completely enclosed.

**10.13 Accessories**

Dogs may be outfitted with accessories such as paw covers or booties, jackets, sweaters and hair ties or bows as the handler deems necessary for the dog to safely navigate the search area. Handlers are permitted to wear treat pouches or fanny packs to carry food rewards. 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.

**10.14 Start Line**

For each search area there shall be a start line that the dog and handler must cross. The start line may be a maximum of 1.5 m long. If the dog or handler fails to cross the start line, the judge will record a fault for handler error.

**10.15 “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 NQ.

#### 10.16 **“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 assessed 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 NQ.

#### 10.17 **Incorrect Calls**

If the handler makes an incorrect “Alert” or “Finish” call, the search is over. 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 hide. In the Novice classes only, handlers are also allowed to reward the dog briefly at source if they choose to do so.

#### 10.18 **Rewards**

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). However, these items may not be used to bait the dog toward a specific location to search. 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 search area, the team may incur a fault. Toys that make noise are not allowed.

#### 10.19 **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 or NQ a dog depending on the severity.

#### 10.20 **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 eliminates in an indoor search area, all surfaces or objects in the affected area must be thoroughly cleaned with an enzymatic cleaner. If a dog eliminates 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.

#### 10.21 **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.

#### 10.22 **Distraction Items**

Certain searches, as determined by element and difficulty level, will include distraction items. Distraction items cannot be placed on top of the hide or on top of the location of a previous hide. Distraction items may be of the following type:

10.22.1 *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.

10.22.2 *Food Distraction*: A food distraction may be any kind of human or dog food. The following items are prohibited for use as a food distraction because they are known to be harmful to dogs: chocolate, grapes, avocados, onions, cherries and any food with xylitol. 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.

- 10.22.3 *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.
- 10.22.4 *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.
- 10.22.5 *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.
- 10.22.6 *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 during the briefing the number and type of distractions used but shall not point the specific distraction out to the competitors.

#### **10.23 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 actively looking for the odour source may be faulted or excused by the judge.

#### **10.24 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 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.

#### **10.25 Touching the Dog**

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

#### **10.26 Disruption of the Search Area**

Handlers are not allowed to touch objects in the search area without express permission from the judge.

#### **10.27 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.

#### **10.28 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 themselves or may direct a qualified individual (as determined by the judge) to do so with their supervision. The individual setting hides should wear latex, nitrile or vinyl gloves when doing so and must not touch any other items until the gloves are removed. For classes in the Handler Discrimination division, the judge must designate another individual to set the hides for them (the Hide Steward).

#### **10.29 Official Timer**

10.29.1 Each class must have an official timer 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 official timer will give a 30-second warning to every competitor in the Novice, Advanced and Excellent level classes (no 30-second warning will be given in Master level classes). However, if the warning is late or is not given due to circumstance or oversight, no re-run is due.

10.29.2 The search time shall be determined as follows:

- 10.29.2.1 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."
- 10.29.2.2 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."
- 10.29.2.3 For classes with multiple search areas: The official time for the first search area shall start when the dog's nose crosses the start line for that search area 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." The official time for the first search area will then be recorded on the score sheet while the team is led to the next search area. The timer will then be reset and the timing will follow the same procedure for each additional search area. The official time for each search area will be recorded independently and then combined for a total time.

#### **10.30 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 official timer. The official time will be determined solely by the official timer's device.

#### **10.31 Timer Malfunction**

In the case of a timer malfunction on a qualifying search, the team will have two options:

- 10.31.1 the maximum search time may be recorded as their official time for that class; or
- 10.31.2 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 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 NQ.

#### **10.32 Warm-Up Area**

The club shall designate a warm-up area. One 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 two minutes or less so that others may be able to use the warm-up area as well. Clubs may also place blank containers in the warm-up area if they choose.

#### **10.33 Possession of Odours and Training**



No person other than those engaged in the administration 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.

#### **10.34 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. 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 reasonably 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.

#### **10.35 Spectator Area**

Any person not handling a dog in the current class or any person who has already completed their run in that class, may choose to watch searches from the spectator area. Spectators are absolutely forbidden from discussing details of the search with handlers who have yet to run. Even seemingly innocuous details can inadvertently aid a team's performance. The basic rule is this: If you would not know the information but for being in the spectator area, you cannot discuss the information.

#### **10.36 Photography and Recording Devices**

With the permission of the dog's owner and handler, spectators are encouraged to photo and video dogs and handlers while they search, however under no circumstances may they share this with any handler competing in the same class who has not yet run. Handlers are not allowed to take video while handling a dog, except that wearable cameras such as the "Go Pro" are permitted to be worn by dogs or handlers. These videos are for the enjoyment of those who cannot be present to watch the team search and for the handler to have a keepsake of their experience.

### **11. QUALIFYING PERFORMANCES**

#### **11.1 A Qualifying Performance**

The dog's performance is judged on a qualify/non-qualify basis. 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.

#### **11.2 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 be extremely subtle, for example a turn of the head or twitch of the ears

#### **11.3 Faults**

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

- 11.3.1 Handler error (pulling the dog off scent, excessive interference with a dog that is working, handler actively looking for the scent vessel).
- 11.3.2 Safety concern (taking the dog off-leash in an on-leash only search area, allowing the dog to be put in an unsafe situation).
- 11.3.3 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. Faults affect placements only; there is no maximum number of faults per run. Any team who finds and calls all of the hides within the search time with no NQ faults will qualify. 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.

#### **11.4 Non-Qualifying Faults**

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

- 11.4.1 The handler calls "Alert" on the incorrect location.
- 11.4.2 The handler calls "Finish" before all hides in the area have been located.
- 11.4.3 The maximum time for the class or search area is exceeded.
- 11.4.4 The handler is not able to point to the location of the hide when asked by the judge.

- 11.4.5 Any harsh handling or harsh corrections by the handler.
- 11.4.6 The handler allows the dog to disrupt the search area unduly. This includes excessive food residue or intentional biting, hard scratching, pouncing or other by the dog that causes damage to the container/object/area

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

#### 11.5 Excusals

Dogs excused from a search may still be allowed to compete in other classes in which they are entered, at the discretion of the judge. A dog who is excused from a search must vacate the search area immediately. Dogs should be excused from the search if, in the opinion of the judge, any of the criteria below are met:

- 11.5.1 The dog is not under the handler's control.
- 11.5.2 The dog or handler stops working or performs disruptive behaviour for 10 or more seconds after warning from the judge.
- 11.5.3 The dog eliminates (urinates, defecates, or vomits) in the search area.
- 11.5.4 The dog shows signs of extreme stress or fear.
- 11.5.5 The handler receives assistance from a spectator or another handler.
- 11.5.6 The handler requests to be excused, for any reason.
- 11.5.7 Other reasons, at the judge's discretion.

#### 11.6 Placements

The top four (4) performing qualifying teams shall be awarded placements 1-4. Placements are based on fewest number of faults and then on time (a team with no faults will place higher than a faster-finishing team with faults). If teams are tied on both number of faults and time, then a coin-flip will determine the placements.

## 12. THE ODOUR SEARCH DIVISION

### 12.1 The Odour Search Division

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

### 12.2 Difficulty Levels

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

### 12.3 Elements

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

### 12.4 Odours

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

- 12.4.1 Novice classes shall utilise Cypress only.
- 12.4.2 Advanced classes may utilise Cypress and/or Anise.
- 12.4.3 Excellent classes may utilise Cypress and/or Anise and/or Clove.
- 12.4.4 Master Classes may utilise Cypress and/or Anise and/or Clove and/or Vetiver.

### 12.5 Proximity of Search Areas by Element

Container search areas, whether or not odour is present, may be no nearer than 6 m from an active search area without a physical barrier. There must always be a visual barrier between containers 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 may be no nearer than 9 m from another active search area without a physical barrier. "Active" exterior search areas may be no nearer than 9 m from another active search area without a physical barrier. Buried search areas, whether or not odour is present, may be no nearer than 6 m from another active search area without a physical barrier. 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.

### 12.6 Container Searches.

The Container search element is based on the work of detection dogs to search packages for contraband. In the Container classes the dog must locate the target odour(s), which is/are hidden in one or more containers within a search area and communicate the find to their handler. A container can be a cardboard box, a back pack, a briefcase, a storage bin, a piece of luggage etc., as required by difficulty level. Container searches may be conducted either inside or outside. Classes that specify a “variety” of containers shall utilise no more than 5 of any identical container type.

#### **12.6.1 Container Novice Class**

Ten identical cardboard box containers are laid out on the floor of the search area. The boxes are arranged in two rows of five containers. Each box 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 and no more than 40 m<sup>2</sup>. One of the containers holds the target odour of Cypress. The dog has two 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. The Container Novice Class is open to all dogs.

#### **12.6.2 Container Advanced Class**

Fifteen containers of various size and type are laid out on the floor of the search area. The containers may be arranged in three rows of five containers, in a circle or in a “U” formation. Each container 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 and no more than 60 m<sup>2</sup>. Two of the containers hold the target odour, which may be Cypress or Anise (each scent vessel may contain the same odour or one may contain Cypress and the other may contain Anise). One 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 two 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. The Container Advanced Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Container Novice (SCN) title.

#### **12.6.3 Container Excellent Class**

Twenty containers of various size and type are laid out on the floor of the search area. The containers may be arranged in four rows of five containers, in a circle or in a “U” formation. Each container 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 and no more than 80 m<sup>2</sup>. The target odours will be hidden in three of the containers. There will be two distractions at this level and may be non-food, food, auditory or visual. The target odours at this level will be Cypress and/or Anise and/or Clove. The dog has three 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. The Container Excellent Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Container Advanced (SCA) title.

#### **12.6.4 Container Master Class**

Twenty containers of various size and type are laid out on the floor of the search area. The containers may be arranged in four rows of five containers, in a circle or in a “U” formation. Each container 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 and no more than 80 m<sup>2</sup>. The target odour(s) will be hidden in one, two or three of the containers. The handler will not know the exact number of hides at this level. There will be three 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 and/or Anise and/or Clove and/or Vetiver. The dog has four 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 timer will not give a 30-second warning at this level (but handlers can self-time, if they wish). The Container Master Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Container Excellent (SCE) title.

### The Container Element

	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXCELLENT	MASTER
SCENTS	Cypress	Cypress and/or Anise	Cypress and/or Anise and/or Clove	Cypress and/or Anise and/or 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 <sup>2</sup>	40-60 m <sup>2</sup>	60-80 m <sup>2</sup>	60–80 m <sup>2</sup>

## 12.7 Interior Searches

The interior search element tests the dog’s ability to locate the target odour in an indoor search environment. An interior area is defined as one that protects airflow from intruding from the outside (it must have four 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 include screened in porches, tents or sheds where the siding does not reach the ground. The search will 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 with coloured adhesive tape, caution tape, plastic fencing or by some other method. The minimum and maximum times are specified, but the actual time limit in each of these classes will be determined by the judge.

### 12.7.1 Interior Novice Class

The target odour is hidden in a room or part of a room with an area of not less than 10 and not more than 20 m<sup>2</sup>. The target odour of Cypress is hidden on, under or in an object within the room. There is one hide at this level, which must be accessible and may not be located higher than 60 cm off the floor. There will be no intentional distractions. The dog must find the target scent and communicate the find to its handler. The handler must call “Alert” when the dog

indicates the find. The time limit is set by the judge and must be between 1 and 3 minutes. The Interior Novice Class is open to all dogs.

#### **12.7.2 Interior Advanced Class**

The target odours are hidden in a room or part of a room with an area of not less than 20 and not more than 40 m<sup>2</sup>. The target odours of Cypress and/or Anise are hidden within the search area. There are two hides at this level, which must be accessible and may not be located higher than 90 cm off the floor. There will be one 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 time limit is set by the judge and must be between 1 and 3 minutes. The Interior Advanced Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Interior Novice (SIN) title.

#### **12.7.3 Interior Excellent Class**

The target odours of Cypress and/or Clove and/ or Anise are hidden in two distinct search areas in one or more rooms or part of a room. The separation of these two distinct search areas must conform to the "proximity of search areas" requirements - the dog should not encounter odour from Search Area 2 while searching Area 1. It is not sufficient to simply divide a single room in half to create two search areas. The total space of the two search areas must not be less than 40 and not more than 80 m<sup>2</sup>. Each search area will be worked independently, with a separate time limit. There are three 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 three total between the two areas. Two of the hides must be accessible and none may be located higher than 1.2 m off the floor. There are two distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory or visual. 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. When the handler believes that all hides have been found in the search area, then he/she 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 time limit is set by the judge and must be between 1 and 3 minutes per search area. The Interior Excellent Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Interior Advanced (SIA) title.

#### **12.7.4 Interior Master Class**

The target odour(s) of Cypress and/or Clove and/or Anise and/or Vetiver are hidden in three distinct search areas in one or more rooms or part of a room. The separation of these distinct search areas must conform to the "proximity of search areas" requirements - the dog should not encounter odour from one search area while searching another area. It is not sufficient to simply divide a single room in half to create two search areas. The total space of all search areas must be not less than 60 and not more than 100 m<sup>2</sup>. Each search area will be worked independently, with a separate time limit. There are an unknown number of hides per area: either zero, one, two, or three (with a maximum of six hides for the entire class). Any or all hides may be inaccessible, but none may be located higher than 1.5 m off the floor. One of the search areas may be "blank" (with no hide) if the judge chooses. An area cannot be used as a blank area if it was used for a hide in 7 days prior to the search. There are three distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic. The dog must find the target scent(s) and communicate the find(s) to its handler. 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/she must call "Finish" to stop the time. The time limit is set by the judge and must be between 1 and 3 minutes per search area. The timer will not give a 30-second warning at this level (but handlers can self-time, if they wish). The Interior Master Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Interior Excellent (SIE) title.

## The Interior Element

	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXCELLENT	MASTER
SCENTS	Cypress	Cypress and/or Anise	Cypress and/or Anise and/or Clove	Cypress and/or Anise and/or 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 <sup>2</sup>	20-40 m <sup>2</sup>	2 Areas, total 40-80 m <sup>2</sup>	3 Areas, total 60 – 100 m <sup>2</sup>

### 12.8 Exterior Searches

The exterior search element tests the dog's ability to locate the target scent in an area with natural airflow and in spite of everyday distractions such as the sounds and smells of nature. The search may be in a covered area but should have no more than two solid walls. The search area boundaries will be clearly delineated by coloured adhesive tape, caution tape, flags, plastic fencing, conformation ring gates or by some other method. The minimum and maximum time are specified, but the actual time limit in each of these classes will be determined by the judge.

#### 12.8.1 Exterior Novice Class

The target odour of Cypress is hidden in an outdoor area at least 20 but not more than 40 m<sup>2</sup>. There is one hide at this level, which must be accessible and may not be located higher than 60 cm above the ground. There will be no intentional distractions. The dog must find the target scent and communicate the find to its handler. The handler must call "Alert" when the dog indicates the find. The time limit is set by the judge and must be between 2 and 4 minutes. The Exterior Novice Class is open to all dogs.

#### 12.8.2 Exterior Advanced Class

The target odours of Cypress and/or Anise are hidden in an outdoor area at least 40 but not more than 80 m<sup>2</sup>. There are two hides at this level, which must be accessible and may not be located higher than 90 cm above the ground. There will be one 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 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 time limit is set by the judge and must be between 2 and 4 minutes. The Exterior Advanced Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Exterior Novice (SEN) title.

#### 12.8.3 Exterior Excellent Class

The target odours of Cypress and/or Anise and/or Clove are hidden in an outdoor area not less than 80 but not more than 150 m<sup>2</sup>. There are three hides at this level, one of which may be inaccessible and none of which may be located higher than 1.2 m above the ground. There are two distractions, which may be non-

food, food, auditory or visual. The dog must find the target scents and communicate the finds to its handler. 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 time limit is set by the judge and must be between 3 and 5 minutes. The Exterior Excellent Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Exterior Advanced (SEA) title.

#### 12.8.4 Exterior Master Class

The target odour(s) of Cypress and/or Anise and/ or Clove and/or Vetiver are hidden in an outdoor area not less than 150 but not more than 200 m<sup>2</sup>. There are one, two, three or four hides at this level, all of which may be inaccessible, 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 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 time limit is set by the judge and must be between 3 and 5 minutes. The timer will not give a 30-second warning at this level (but handlers can self-time, if they wish). The Exterior Master Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Exterior Excellent (SEE) title.

#### The Exterior Element

	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXCELLENT	MASTER
SCENTS	Cypress	Cypress and/or Anise	Cypress and/or Anise and/or Clove	Cypress and/or Anise and/or 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 <sup>2</sup>	40-80 m <sup>2</sup>	80-150 m <sup>2</sup>	150-200 m <sup>2</sup>

### 12.9 Buried Searches

12.9.1 The Buried search element simulates the task of Human Remains Dogs to search for scents that have been buried under the ground or submerged under water. The Buried classes use tote boxes filled with substrate, with the odour at the bottom. The dog must determine which tote box(es) conceal the target odour(s). The boxes will be covered with a metal grid to prevent the dogs from being able to dig. Buried classes may be conducted either indoors or outdoors. The tote boxes utilised for the Buried classes must be approximately 40 cm wide by 28 cm long by 18 cm high (up to 5 cm smaller or larger 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 into the storage tote (these can be purchased as “cooling grids” or “baking grids”).

- 12.9.2 Classes that utilise sand must only use “play sand”. Classes that utilise water must use potable (drinking-quality) water.
- 12.9.3 The scent vessel for the sand boxes must be a round, mesh, tea ball/tea infuser approximately 5 cm in diameter, made of stainless steel. The scent vessel for the water boxes must be a segment of opaque tubing, secured to the bottom of the box with suction cup clips.
- 12.9.4 Buried Novice Class**  
Six tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in two rows of three, at least 30 cm apart. The search area must be at least 15 but not more than 20 m<sup>2</sup>. Each box will be filled equally, with enough sand that the buried scent vessel will be covered with 10 cm of sand. One of the boxes will conceal a scent vessel containing Cypress. There are no intentional distractions at this level. The dog has two minutes to locate the target scent and communicate the find to its handler. The handler must call “Alert” when the dog indicates the find. The Buried Novice Class is open to all dogs.
- 12.9.5 Buried Advanced Class**  
Eight tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in any arrangement, at least 30 cm apart. The search area must be at least 20 but not more than 40 m<sup>2</sup>. Each box will be filled equally, with enough water that the submerged scent vessel will be covered with 10 cm of water. Each of the boxes will have a scent vessel affixed to the bottom. Two of the scent vessels will contain a scent aid scented with either Cypress or Anise. There is one non-food distraction at this level. The dog has three 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. The Buried Advanced Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Buried Novice (SBN) title.
- 12.9.6 Buried Excellent Class**  
Twelve tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in any arrangement, at least 30 cm apart. The search area must be at least 30 but not more than 40 m<sup>2</sup>. Six of the boxes must contain sand and six must contain water, filled equally with enough material that the scent vessel is covered with 10 cm of material. The boxes containing water will each have a scent vessel affixed to the bottom, which may or may not conceal one of the target odours. Three of the boxes will contain a scent aid scented with either Cypress, Anise, or Clove. There are two distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory or visual. Distractions are not buried or submerged. The dog has four 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. The Buried Excellent Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Buried Advanced (SBA) title.
- 12.9.7 Buried Master Class**  
Sixteen tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in any arrangement, at least 30 cm apart. The search area must be at least 40 but not more than 50 m<sup>2</sup>. Eight of these boxes must contain sand and eight must contain water, filled equally with enough material that the scent vessel is covered with 10 cm of material. The boxes containing water will each have a scent vessel affixed to the bottom, which may or may not conceal one of the target odours. There are an unknown number of hides at this level; one, two, three or four of the boxes will contain a scent aid scented with Cypress, Anise, Clove, or Vetiver. There are three distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic. Distractions are not buried or submerged. The dog has five 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 timer will not give a 30-second warning at this level (but handlers are allowed to self-



time, if they wish). The Buried Master Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Buried Excellent (SBE) title.

### The Buried Element

	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXCELLENT	MASTER
SCENTS	Cypress	Cypress and/or Anise	Cypress and/or Anise and/or Clove	Cypress and/or Anise and/or Clove and/or Vetiver
# OF HIDES	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	1-4 (unknown)
# OF CONTAINERS	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 <sup>2</sup>	20-40 m <sup>2</sup>	30-40 m <sup>2</sup>	40-50 m <sup>2</sup>

## 13. THE HANDLER DISCRIMINATION DIVISION

### 13.1 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.

### 13.2 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 glove or cotton sock. 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 sealed in a plastic bag to be hidden on the course.

### 13.3 Scenting the Article

Handlers may utilise any method that they wish to scent the article. Suggestions include rubbing the article on the handler's body or storing the article in dirty laundry.

### 13.4 Handlers as Spectators

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

### 13.5 Search Area

The boundaries of the search area will be clearly delineated by coloured adhesive tape, caution tape, flags, plastic fencing, conformation ring gates or by some other method. 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.

### 13.6 Difficulty Levels

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

### 13.7 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 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 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.

### **13.8 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, if the handler wishes.

### **13.9 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.

### **13.10 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 container per handler and no container used for a handler's scent can be subsequently re-used. When setting the course, the container with the handler's scent will replace an empty container. When returning the scented article to the handler, the empty container will be returned to the space so that there are always 10 containers in the search area.

### **13.11 Handler Discrimination Classes**

#### **13.11.1 Handler Discrimination Novice**

Container Search.

Ten identical cardboard box containers are laid out on the floor of the search area in two rows of five. Each box 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 and no more than 40 m<sup>2</sup> and no items other than the containers may be present in the search area. One of the containers holds the article scented by the handler, one holds an article scented by the judge and eight of the containers are empty. The scented article must be a cotton glove or cotton sock. There are no intentional distractions. The dog has two 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. The Handler Discrimination Novice Class is open to all dogs.

#### **13.11.2 Handler Discrimination Advanced**

Interior Search.

The handler-scented article—which must be a cotton ball or cotton swab—is hidden in a room or part of a room with an area of not less than 15 and not more than 40 m<sup>2</sup>. There is one hide at this level, which must be accessible and may not be located higher than 60 cm off the floor. Also hidden on the course is one scent aid scented by the judge. There are no intentional distractions. The dog must locate the handler scent and communicate the find to its handler. The handler must call "Alert" when the dog indicates the find. The time limit is set by the judge and must be between 2 and 5 minutes. The Handler Discrimination Advanced Class is open to dogs who have earned the Handler Discrimination Novice (SHDN) title.

#### **13.11.3 Handler Discrimination Excellent**

Outdoor search.

The handler-scented article—which must be a cotton ball or cotton swab—is hidden in an outdoor area at least 40 but not more than 60 m<sup>2</sup>. There is one 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 scent aid scented by the judge. There is one non-food distraction. The dog must locate the handler scent and communicate the find to its handler. The handler must call “Alert” when the dog indicates the find. The time limit is set by the judge and must be between 3 and 6 minutes. The Handler Discrimination Excellent Class is open to dogs who have earned the Handler Discrimination Advanced (SHDA) title.

#### 13.11.4 Handler Discrimination Master

Combined search.

At this level the search area presents the team with two or more elements (container, interior or exterior) within one search. For example, the search area may span indoors and outdoors, may be an indoor search that includes containers or any other combination. The handler scent may not be buried.

Three handler-scented articles are hidden in two distinct search areas. The total space of all search areas must be not less than 30 m<sup>2</sup> and not more than 80 m<sup>2</sup>. Each search area will be worked independently, with a separate time limit. 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 are two additional scent aids, one scented by the judge and one scented by a steward. There are one or two distractions at this level, which may be non-food, food, visual, auditory, human or mimic. The dog must find the handler scents and communicate the finds to its handler. 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 time limit is set by the judge and must be between 2 and 3 minutes for each search area. The timer will not give a 30-second warning at this level (but handlers can self-time, if they wish). The Handler Discrimination Master Class is open to dogs who have earned the Handler Discrimination Excellent (SHDE) title.

#### 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	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 <sup>2</sup>	15-40 m <sup>2</sup>	40-60 m <sup>2</sup>	2 areas, 30-80 m <sup>2</sup> total

#### 14. THE DETECTIVE CLASS

#### 14.1 **The Detective Class**

The Detective Class offers an integrated search environment with an unknown number of hides in a variety of elements. The intent of the Detective Class is to emulate as closely as possible the work of a true detection dog.

#### 14.2 **Eligibility**

The Detective Class is open to dogs who have acquired at least one Master title within the Odour Search Division.

#### 14.3 **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 but not more than 500 m<sup>2</sup>. 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.

#### 14.4 **Number and Placement of Hides**

There should be a total of five to ten hides per course. Hides can be on, under or in any object or container, 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. Anywhere in the search area is fair game, except that hides cannot be in the search boundary markers or on the persons of judges, stewards or human distractions.

#### 14.5 **Search Time**

The total search time will be determined by the judge and must be between 7 and 15 minutes. There will be no 30-second warning in the Detective class, but handlers can self-time if they wish.

#### 14.6 **Target Scent**

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

#### 14.7 **Running Off-Leash**

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

#### 14.8 **Distractions**

Four to six intentional distractions (of any type discussed in these rules) will be used on the course.

#### 14.9 **“Alert” Call**

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.

#### 14.10 **“Finish” Call**

The handler should call “Finish” when he or she believes all hides have been located for the entire course.

#### 14.11 **Course Map**

After the “Finish” call or at the expiration of the allotted time the handler will be told whether they qualified and be given a course map showing the location of each hide on the course. Handlers are forbidden from displaying, discussing or sharing the course map until the class is complete.

#### 14.12 **Spectators**

The event organiser should make every effort to allow spectators to observe at least part of the course. Whenever possible, spectator area(s) should be created to allow guests and other handlers to observe these elite and accomplished search teams. Handlers participating in the Detective Class may not observe others until after the completion of their run.



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Fedco 12-2021/CPA/Updated 30 March 2022

Most recent changes to this Schedule is effective as of 01.02.2022