

## **Rule Book Changes January 2018**

Page 4 - Hosts must hold a Container search before an Interior or Exterior search for Started and Advanced Levels. Components in Excellent and Elite may be run in any order. It is not required to offer all Components at a trial, except for Elite which must offer all three Components.

Page 6 - Dogs must achieve 50% of the total score of each Component for a passing/qualifying score PLUS find all available hides in each Component.

Dogs must achieve 50% of the total score of each Component for a passing/qualifying score PLUS find both hides in each Component.

Dogs must achieve 50% of the total score of each component for a passing/qualifying score PLUS find all available hides in each component and identify the clear room in the Interior Search.

Page 7 - Timed out – the time limit is exceeded without the dog making an available find as determined by the handler or the handler not calling “Clear” for a blank area or “Finish/Done” before leaving the search area.

Leaving the search area – a dog *or* handler moves entirely out of the search area boundaries due to avoidance, fear or distraction.

Page 8 - Distractors must be safely contained and inaccessible to the dog.

Should a dog pick up or mouth an unintentionally distracting object, handlers may command their dog to disregard it or drop it but should not touch it.

Page 9 – Maximum size for Started and Advanced is 1,000 square feet and 2,000 square feet for Excellent and Elite Levels.

**Red/White Thyme** (*thymus vulgaris*) – Target odour added at SD-E Scent swabs must be prepared a maximum of 72 hours prior to the trial.

## **Hides**

Scent swabs must be prepared a maximum of 72 hours prior to the trial. One drop or dab of essential oil on a cotton swab, pad or ball will be used for Started, Advanced and Excellent. At Elite level any absorbent material may be used. Scented swabs *et al.* must be in a scent container/straw and not accessible by the dog. Hides must be placed in the search areas by the judge a minimum of 15 minutes before the first dog enters the search area.

Hides will remain in the same location for all the dogs competing at the same level, except in the case of group for handlers running a second dog where permitted. The judge may also move the hide or replace a vehicle at his/her discretion if the area is being marked up or has been contaminated. If the hide is moved for handlers with second dogs or due to contamination, there must be sufficient time between the two searches to age the hide.

Note that if hides are placed adjacent to one another in any component, they must be different odours. Eg. Pine and Thyme.

Elite level any absorbent material may be used. Scented swabs *et al.* must be in a scent container/straw and not accessible by the dog.

Page 11 – Excellent Exterior Search – 3 hides, time limit 5 minutes

The time will start once the dog's nose passes through the SM. The timer will stop the clock when the handler calls "Clear", "Finish" or "Done".

Page 12 - **E-Exterior Search**

Three hides are placed out of easy view in an outdoor area containing at least 15 potential locations for hides.

The time will start once the dog's nose passes through the SM. The timer will stop the clock when the handler calls "Clear", "Finish" or "Done".

Page 13 - **Sporting Detection Grand Master Champion – SD-GMCH**

A MACH title plus an SD-ELCH. Scores must be achieved under at least three (3) different judges.

Page 16 - Vehicles should be clean.

Page 17 - (as long as Containers are held first in Started and Advanced)

Page 18 – 19

## **GENERAL TRIAL DEFINITIONS**

**Alert (Formal alert)** – a distinct behaviour that is easily observable by the judge and is performed at a hide location. The behaviour should be performed as close to the hide as is possible for the dog and the accessibility of the hide. No points are lost if the dog's trained alert moves it away from the hide (eg. downing at a high hide) as long as it is clear the dog has identified the source of the odour prior to the change of position. Typical formal alerts include: sit, down, nose point/freeze. Other distinct behaviours are acceptable, particularly in an elderly or disabled dog.

**Boundaries** – Interior and Exterior areas searches must have some form of marking to outline the available space for searching. Typical markers include tape, caution tape, rope or traffic cones. Natural boundaries such as curbs, fences or walls are acceptable. Boundaries are not required for vehicles or container searches where the objects themselves indicate the searchable area.

**Boxes** – are used for Container searches at the Started and Advanced Levels. These may be of any material (eg. cardboard, plastic, wood) but should be reasonably durable. A dog should not be able to easily open the box by pressing with it's nose, placing a paw on it or stepping on it.

**Clothing (dog)** – it is permissible for the dog to wear anything covering portions of the dog for warmth, safety or comfort, including boots, coats or snoods. Clothing that may not be allowed includes anything that in the opinion of the judge interferes with the dog's mobility, comfort and ability to search effectively. Belly bands or panties are only allowed for dogs with a medical condition and are accompanied by a veterinary note, except in the case of bitches in heat who are required to wear panties.

**Containers** – these can be boxes (see above) or for Excellent and Elite Levels may also include common alternatives such as luggage, coffee cans, video cases etc. Objects should be large enough to hold a scented swab in a small container and should be opaque. Objects should also be safe for dogs to sniff and walk on. At Started and Advanced, containers must be on the ground. At Started Level they must also be indoors. At Excellent and Elite, containers may be off the ground, but should still be readily accessible in an open area. The goal is to test the dog against distractors and converging odour.

**Contamination** – Contamination occurs when foreign material is dropped in the search area that may disrupt the searching of following teams. This may include food or human odour from a handler touching items in the search area unnecessarily and excessively.

**Elimination** – Grounds for elimination from a trial are listed on page 8 of the Rule Book. If a team is eliminated they will be asked to leave the trial grounds immediately and may not continue to compete. Both the judge and the host are able to dismiss from a trial a handler or dog due to a witnessed incident.

**Exterior Search** – is to be conducted in a location that is open to the elements. If inside or adjacent to a structure, it must have no roof and at least one open wall is recommended. For example, it can be in a three-sided unroofed courtyard or in a pavilion with a roof but no walls.

**Interior Search** – is to be conducted in an area with a roof and at least three sides, but preferably fully contained by walls.

**Trial** – An SDDA trial is defined as a single offering of any Level in a 12-hour period and will be assigned a unique trial number. A trial event is two or more trials on the same or consecutive trial days.

**Trial Official** – At an SDDA trial, officials include the judge and the host.

**Vehicles** – vehicles for searching are defined as a conveyance for people or goods. They should be large enough to provide sufficient areas to place hides and be solid enough to block airflow for a portion of the vehicle. For example: cars and trucks, trailers (box, tent, etc.), ATVs and lawn tractors are considered vehicles, but bicycles, wheelbarrows or push lawnmowers are not.