

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>GENERAL REGULATIONS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
Eligibility: .....	3
Unsportsmanlike Conduct:.....	3
Aggression: .....	3
Equipment in Search Areas: .....	3
<b>GENERAL EVENT GUIDELINES.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ELEMENTS OF THE EVENT.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Timing.....	5
Alerts .....	5
Distractors .....	5
Rewards .....	5
Search Areas.....	5
Target Odours .....	5
Hides.....	6
Scoring.....	6
Deductions.....	6
NQs.....	7
Eliminations.....	7
<b>COMPONENTS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Vehicle.....	8
Aerial.....	8
Exterior.....	8
<b>REQUIREMENTS - COMPETITORS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>DEFINITIONS.....</b>	<b>10</b>

# GENERAL REGULATIONS

## **Eligibility:**

- Dogs must be at least 6 months of age to attend this event.
- Minors under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian in the search areas at all events.
- All dogs must be in good health on the day of an event and should be current on all vaccinations required by law for BC.
- Any component may be stopped at the discretion of the judge if at any time the judge deems the dog to be under extreme stress.
- Dogs with a pre-existing condition that may exhibit as unsoundness but that does not cause undue stress or discomfort may compete with a veterinarian's note to be presented at check-in.
- Bitches in heat may not attend this event.

## **Unsportsmanlike Conduct:**

Judges and hosts have the authority to expel any handler from this event who displays unsportsmanlike conduct during the event. These may include but are not limited to:

- Striking, kicking, or otherwise roughly handling a dog.
- Harassing or abusing any event official or competitor.
- Discussing with other competitors the location of a target odour or cleared areas.

## **Aggression:**

All persons must exercise care and control of any dog (not just competing animals) while attending this event.

- A dog that bites (causes a wound) another dog or a person at an event will be expelled from that event with no refund. A notation of the incident will be made to the dog's record.
- A dog that bites (causes a wound) another dog or a person for a second time at an event will be disqualified from that event and all future competition.

## **Equipment in Search Areas:**

- Non-tightening flat collar or non-tightening harness.
- Any length of leash but excluding retractable or chain leads.
- Prohibited in the search area: choke, pinch or prong collars, electronic collars or head halters, items hanging from the leash.

# GENERAL EVENT GUIDELINES

- Handlers must check in with the registration desk to confirm their dog's registration and running order before the handler's briefing.
- There will be a handler's briefing to review general rules and guidelines as well as hide numbers where applicable. Judging criteria may also be reviewed on request.
- There will be a walk-through for handlers (no dogs) of all the search areas before each component/level. The starting mark and boundaries will be indicated during the walkthrough. Allowable off-leash search areas will be indicated (if any). Safety concerns may be addressed to an official at this time. Gross hazards (such as broken glass) will have been removed; however, the environment may not be pristine.
- A running order will be posted in the handler staging area and/or registration desk.
- Dogs must bathroom prior to starting components. Any dog that eliminates in the search area will receive a non-qualifying score.
- There can be no training or non-official use of odour on event grounds. Any oil bottles, tins or kits must be kept inside personal vehicles.
- Besides the judge and timer, only non-competing officials, shadow judges or photographers/videographers should be present during any search, except in the case of an assistant to a disabled person or the parent of a minor. Handlers may request an exception for a non-competitor or a previous competitor to be in the search area.
- Handlers may touch a search object (but are to avoid it) but must receive permission from the judge to pick up or move objects in the search area.
- If components include an optional off-leash search, the location will consider the dog's safety. Dogs must be under good control if not on leash. Handlers may keep their dogs on leash if they prefer.
- All teams must complete the search before score sheets are presented.
- Handlers will be allowed to enter with a second dog if desired. The second dog group will run after all other dogs have finished so that the judge can change the hide location(s) for them. The search area will be the same for both groups.
- A dog may not be entered in the same component more than once in this event. (I.e., a dog may not be run again in the second dog group even with a different handler)
- Volunteers/officials will run their dogs at the start of any component.
- Competitors may pick up their copy of the score sheets from the host once all dogs in their group have run.

# ELEMENTS OF THE EVENT

## Timing

The search will be timed and all available hides must be found within the time limit. If necessary for scoring, ties will be broken by time with the faster time getting the higher placing. The time starts as the dog's nose passes through the Starting Mark and will end when the handler calls "Alert" or "Find" on the final hide. Time will not stop between components.

## Alerts

When a handler deems the dog has found the location of a hide, he/she must call "Alert" or "Find", preferably with a hand raised for clarity. After the handler has called an alert, the judge may ask them to point to the location of the hide. A handler may not cue/re-cue the dog to search/indicate until the judge has confirmed the call. After the judge has confirmed the alert, the handler may reward his dog or can directly continue the search in the case of multiple hides.

## Distractors

Food distractions may be present at this event but will be contained within a vessel. Other common distractors (e.g., leashes/collars, unused odour containers) will not be present in any component. If a dog picks up or mouths an unintentionally distracting object, handlers may command their dog to disregard or drop it but should avoid touching it if possible.

## Rewards

Dogs may be rewarded in the search area. Rewards may include touch, praise, food and/or toys and must be presented without unduly disturbing or contaminating the search area. Rewards must not be dropped or thrown. If rewarding with food, the food may be presented beside but not overtop of the hide.

## Search Areas

Search areas will be cordoned off or marked so that the boundaries are clearly visible. Walls, fences, and other existing barriers may be used as boundaries.

An obvious Starting Mark will be provided for each search area. Exterior areas will be at least 100 square feet. The maximum size will be 1,000 square feet.

## Target Odours

Wintergreen (gaultheria procumbens)

## **Hides**

Scent swabs will be prepared no more than 72 hours before the event. One drop or dab of essential oil on a Q-tip/cotton ball will be used. Q-tips/cotton balls will be in a scent container/straw and not accessible by the dog. Hides will 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 their 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 will be sufficient time between the two searches to age the hide.

## **Scoring**

All components are scored. The component scores total 90 points. The vehicle search is scored out of a total of 30 points, with 15 points (50% - the minimum qualifying score) attributed to the find. The aerial search is scored out of 30 points with 15 points (50% - the minimum qualifying score) attributed to the find. The exterior search is scored out of 30 points with 15 points (50% - the minimum qualifying score) attributed to the find. Dogs must achieve 50% of the total score for a passing/qualifying score.

## **Deductions**

Both the handler's and the dog's performance are scored. Deductions are guidelines only and may be affected by the judge's impression of the entire performance and the dog and handler as a team.

### **Dog deductions include:**

- Lack of focus/distracted
- False alerts (uncalled by the handler)
- Passing the hide due to lack of commitment or focus
- Disregarding handler direction
- Noticeably damaging or opening up the hide
- Does not pass start line

### **Handler deductions include:**

- Handler not reading dog (e.g. pulling dog off odour)
- Poor control of dog or leash
- Inconsistent search sequence
- Rough commands or handling
- Unduly contaminating the hide or the search area
- Picking up or moving a search item without permission from the judge

## **NQs**

Non-qualifying scores may apply to any component search but will not prevent the team from continuing with other components. After an NQ without a find, the handler may ask the judge to indicate a correct hide location so that the handler may bring the dog to it and reward it.

NQs will be given for the following:

- Timed out – the time limit is exceeded without the dog making an available find as determined by the handler.
- False finds – the handler calls an alert where no hide is located.
- Excused – the dog is excused by the judge for undue stress or obvious pain.
- Elimination in ring – the dog eliminates in 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.
- Handler excuses themselves from a search.
- Repeated harsh commands or rough handling.
- Dog exposes scent container or distraction before the Alert is called by the handler.
- Dog disturbs search area to the extent that hides are no longer identifiable by the judge.
- Dog is wearing prohibited equipment.

## **Eliminations** (applicable at any time during the event)

A team will be excused from the event without refund for:

- Striking, kicking or otherwise aggressively handling a dog or any handling that is considered abusive or inhumane in the opinion of the judge or host
- Harassing or abusing any event official or competitor
- Discussing with other competitors the location of a target odour or clear areas
- Aggression by the dog towards the judge or other officials
- Extreme lack of control of dog
- The unofficial use of trial scents on the event grounds by a handler

The Judge and/or host may dismiss any dog and/or handler from the event site for cause.

# COMPONENTS

Target Odour for all Components - Wintergreen

There are three components in the Summer Fun event:

1. Vehicle – 1 hide
2. Aerial – 1 hide
3. Exterior Search – 1 hide

Each dog will complete the 3 components consecutively without a rest period between.

All 3 components must be completed within the 10-minute time limit. Time will not stop between components. The handler must call three alerts to stop the time. A formal, trained response by the dog is not required.

Food distractors may be present in any/all of the components.

Accessibility of hides: Hides will be up to 92 centimeters (3 feet) above any accessible surface. Hides should not be readily visible but will not be fully enclosed (e.g. In a fully closed drawer or suitcase).

Dog and handler will, when called by a steward or judge, wait outside the Starting Mark (SM). Handlers have 10 seconds to enter the search area once they have confirmed they are ready to start. Time starts once the dog's nose passes through the SM and ends when the final alert of three is called, when time runs out, or when handler chooses to end the search).

The hide box will contain a single scented cotton swab, pad or ball in a small container.

## **1 – Vehicle Search**

The target scent is placed on the exterior of the vehicle, no more than 6 inches underneath.

## **2 - Aerial Search**

A single hide is placed in one of fifteen suspended containers. Containers may be of any form and may be hanging freely or suspended from a wall or fence.

## **3 - Exterior Search**

A single hide is placed out of easy view within a marked area in an outdoor area containing approximately 15 - 20 potential locations for hides. Locations may include furniture (picnic tables, patio chairs etc.), vegetation, fences, retaining walls or planters.

# REQUIREMENTS – COMPETITORS

1. Upon arrival the exhibitor should check in with their dog to determine their place in the running order. Note that the running order may change for each component.
2. The handler should know the scheduled event start time and be present and ready to go when they are called by the steward from the staging area.
3. The dog should be wearing allowable equipment.
4. The leash may be any length that allows the dog to work freely but not interfere with officials. No extendable or chain leashes allowed.
5. All dogs will approach and leave the search area on leash, even if the area has been designated as safe for unleashed searches. In the case of a secured room, the leash may be removed before crossing the starting mark once the area has been secured. Please check with the gate steward if you are unsure.
6. Dog clothing and accessories may be worn for the dog's comfort and safety with the judge's approval, if they do not interfere with the search. Accessories that emit odour are not permissible.
9. Handlers may bring rewards in the form of toys, treat containers or tugs into the search area. The presentation of the rewards must not, in the judge's opinion, contaminate the search area. It is recommended that toys and tugs be clean so as not to introduce dirt or hair onto the hide.
10. Handlers should avoid touching containers or furniture with hands or reward items to limit contamination.
11. Dogs may walk on or touch search elements but should be prevented from damaging them or contaminating the environment.
12. Handlers may communicate freely with their dog throughout the search if it is not deemed by the judge to be harsh (NQ) or abusive (elimination).
13. Handlers may touch or lift their dogs throughout the search so long as it is deemed appropriate by the judge.
14. Any questions remaining after the judge's briefing should be addressed to the host employees or judge before crossing the Starting Mark.
15. Handlers are expected to keep their dogs under control at all times. The judge or the event host may expel any person who fails to control a dog (even one not entered in the event) and allows it to interfere with any person or dog or with the ability of others to stage or trial their dogs.
16. Dogs should be on leash at all times when not contained in a crate, vehicle or pen and while not competing in a designated off-leash search area.

# DEFINITIONS

Alert (Formal alert) – a distinct behaviour that is easily observable and is performed at a hide location. Typical formal alerts include sit, down, nose point/freeze. A formal alert is not required for any component at this event.

Boundaries – Interior and Exterior areas searches will 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.

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.

Container Search – A search involving 15 opaque and clearly vented containers. Containers do not have to precisely match and will have a maximum height of 30 cm (12 in). Objects will be safe for dogs to sniff and walk on. This search does not require marked boundaries.

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 this event are listed on page 7 of the Rule Book. If a team is eliminated, they will be asked to leave the event grounds immediately and may not continue to compete. Both the judge and the host can dismiss, from an event, a handler or dog due to a witnessed incident.

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

Interior Search – A search conducted in an area with a roof and at least three sides, but preferably fully contained by walls.

Event Official – At this event, officials include the judge, host, and host employees.