

# FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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## **JUDGES GUIDELINES**

**FOR THE**  
**INTERNATIONAL TESTING STANDARDS**  
**FOR RESCUE DOG TESTS OF THE FCI**  
**IPO-R 2012**



**These Rules were approved by the FCI General Committee in Vienna on April 12 2012.**  
**They are effective from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.**

## General Abbreviations

RD	Rescue Dog
RDT	Rescue Dog Team
RDJ	Rescue Dog Judge
DH	Dog Handler
Dg	Dog
Pnt	Points
Vtm	Victim
VC	Voice Command
HS	Hand Signal
TS	Testing Standards
TOO	Test Organising Officer
Sec	Secretary Rescue Dogs Commission

## General

Judges are not permitted to judge dogs that are in their ownership or dogs that reside with them.

During his work, the RDJ is not allowed to influence the RDT's work by his behaviour.

For national canine organisation's (NCO) testing events or competitions, the decision concerning walking on the worksites for section A outside of the working time, is the responsibility of the test organising officer and the RDJ.

It has to be ensured that a mistake, which is made throughout the entire work (e.g. crooked basic positions) will not be heavily penalised for every exercise. Such a mistake can also be mentioned in the general critique and can also be taken into account at this point. Unused voice commands and/or hand signals will not be assessed negatively.

If the dog executes an exercise only after the 3<sup>rd</sup> VC, the assessment is unsatisfactory. If the dog does not carry out the exercise at all, this exercise is to be assessed with 0 points.

Refusing to do an exercise or part of an exercise is unacceptable and will be penalised with a warning.

In the Area Search, dogs may be equipped with a lighted collar or an identifying harness. By this it is meant, for example, a flashing light or glow stick, which enables the dog handler to recognise the dog in the dark. However, the dogs may not be equipped with flashlights or spotlights for their orientation.

## Approval of the testing area

Before the start of the testing event, the official RDJ has to check all his relevant tasks – especially with regard to the setting up of the worksites – and make the necessary adjustments in agreement with the TOO.

If a correction is not possible, the RDJ makes the decision to accept the test. A written report must be made for the secretary of the FCI Rescue Dogs commission.

## **Timetable**

Prior to the event, a timetable must be drawn up and the performance times of each of the participants must be clearly indicated.

It must be taken into consideration that the assigned RDJ do not work longer than 8 hours per day, with a break being given after 4 hours of work.

It is important that each RDT is assessed by the same RDJ for the same category and level.

The timetable has to be followed as much as possible. Disruption of the timetable is possible through delays, dogs being pulled and/or disqualification. In this case, changes can be made in accordance with the test organising officer and the RDJ.

## **Reasons for warnings by the RDJ**

- Disregarding the RDJ's instruction
- Use of improper aids for the search work
- Touching the dog during obedience/dexterity (apart from praise)

## **Termination**

If a particular section has to be terminated before being completed, the points awarded until this point will be accredited and the participant starts, if and when still necessary, the next section of his/her test.

Reasons for termination are:

- the dog leaves the testing area and does not come back to the DH after the 3<sup>rd</sup> VC
- lack of preparation
- lacking willingness to work
- clear physical limitations
- 2<sup>nd</sup> warning
- the use of food rewards or toys during the exercise
- 2<sup>nd</sup> false alert

## **Disqualification**

In the case of a disqualification, the test must be terminated immediately. No points will be awarded for the whole test. It must be entered into the score book with an explanation. A written report from the RDJ to the secretary of the FCI Rescue Dogs commission follows.

Reasons for disqualification are:

- gross unsportsmanlike behaviour by the DH
- use of compulsive devices in the entire testing area or adjacent areas
- aggressive behaviour of the dog
- injury to the victim
- gun shyness
- temperament flaws

Gun Shyness: Should a dog's behaviour be questionable in view of gun sureness, the RDJ is obliged to carry out a further test. For this purpose, the dog is placed free in the middle of the testing area, the dog handler is at a distance of about 15 paces from the dog and 2 further shots are fired.

The disqualification can result due to the following reasons:

In case of aggressive behaviour of the dog towards persons and/or injury to the victim

- No apparent injury:  
Warning from the FCI Rescue Dogs commission.  
In case of a repeated offence, it is possible, at the request of the Rescue Dogs Commission and via the FCI General Committee, to impose a ban for one year or also a lifetime ban.
- Apparent injury:  
The FCI Rescue Dogs commission initiates the review for a ban on participation. The FCI General Committee can impose a ban on participation in all FCI events for one year or for a lifetime.

In the case of a ban, the following procedure is necessary:

- To obtain a written statement from the DH
- To obtain a written statement from the RDJ, TOO persons injured and possible witnesses
- Resolution from the FCI General Committee regarding the ban
- Notification of the ban, including all the dog's data (breed, name, date of birth, chip number and/or tattoo):
  1. The dog handler and his/her NCO in writing and via email
  2. The RDJ and the NCO, at whose event the incident took place, via email

## Alerts

- **General**

If the dog shows an alert different from the one announced but listed in the Rulebook, the alert can then only be scored as "satisfactory" (e.g. "Bringsel dog" barks).

If the dog doesn't show any of the different types of alert, but the DH identifies an alert and announces this to the RDJ, the victim exercise is then evaluated with a partial assessment of "unsatisfactory".

- **Alerts for Articles**

How a dog indicates the articles is not relevant. If the dog retrieves the articles, it can start the track either from where it brings the article or where it picked it up.

- **Barking**

The dog must bark continuously, while staying within 2 meters from the victim / place of alert, until it is reached by its DH. The terrain must be taken into account. Pawing in rubble search is also allowed in addition to barking, whereby the discontinuation of barking while the dog paws is not a fault.

- **The Bringsel Method**

Maintaining contact may also be interrupted under certain circumstances (depending on terrain) without having a negative impact on the evaluation.

Restless holding or respectively gnawing of the Bringsel is not faulty.

In rubble search the dog is not allowed to be put on leash.

Faulty is:

- Running back and forth between the Vtm and the DH
- Barking before taking the Bringsel
- If the dog doesn't run back goal-oriented to the victim
- If the dog drops the Bringsel

- **Recall**

Among others the following can be shown during recall:

- Jumping on or nudging the DH
- Barking at the Vtm and the DH
- Eye contact between DH and dog

### **Search Tactic**

Each outlined phase in the tactical evaluation should be evaluated with 10 points each. Essential criteria for the tactic include: taking into account the terrain and shape, wind direction, assessing the dog's ability, in the case of included buildings also their make-up (entrance, structure...), last known location of the persons, etc.

For National and World Championships tactical restrictions are possible in view of the number of participants and the timetable.

### **Suitability Test RH-E**

Alert exercise and alerting the Vtm: the dog must bark for at least 20 seconds. The Vtm must sit or lie.

During Obedience and Dexterity the dog must wear a large-link chain collar.

## **Tracking Test RH-F                      Level A and B**

In the case of several participants, the order is to be determined on-site by the drawing of lots before beginning of the Tracking Work.

There must be a clear level of difficulty in the course of the track for level B such as change of area, ditches, traversing paths and/or streets, etc.

If the dog lies down where there is no article and the handler confirms that there is no article and gives the command to continue the search = -1 point. For a false indication, which is confirmed by the DH, a deduction of points follows with the value of an article.

If the dog handler has reported that the dog will alert by barking but the dog clearly indicates the victim without barking, the alert will be devalued by half (50%). If the dog does not bark correctly at the prescribed direction or leaves the Vtm at times, the alert will be assessed with a maximum of "satisfactory". Other alerts equivalent.

It is up to the RDJ's discretion, to lengthen the time due to existing circumstances after the last change in direction.

If the track is terminated, the DH leaves the area with his dog on the most direct path. Further search is not permitted. The RDJ decides about an alternative track.

## **Area Search Test RH-FL                      Level A and B**

The search work in the Area is to be carried out at a normal pace. Running by the DH is not allowed.

The dog handler receives a detailed sketch from which the boundary conditions of the area are recognisable. Afterwards he/she must choose his/her tactic. He/she is not allowed to walk around (outside) the testing area!

If the DH finds the Vtm, there will be no reduction in the assessment, if the DH leaves the dog to search freely and the dog then alerts correctly.

Comment to: "An alert, which is not confirmed by the DH, is faulty, but not to be evaluated as false alert". After a non-confirmed alert, a request follows within an acceptable time from the RDJ to the DH to make a decision about the continuation of the work.

If the dog distances itself more than 2m from the Vtm, the score to be awarded is "unsatisfactory". A dog, which only alerts the Vtm for a short time and then runs back to the DH, will receive no points for this alert.

It is up to the RDJ, to carry on with the search work after all the Vtms have been found.

The Vtms must leave the hiding place after having been located, which includes removal of a blanket and other such items.

## **Rubble Test RH-T                      Level A and B**

The RDJ needs to wear the necessary protective clothing on the rubble, especially helmet and safety shoes.

Distraction by smouldering fire and/or engine noise and/or strokes of a hammer and/or drums and/or sound carriers etc. must be arranged with the RDJ.

Helpers must act neutrally and are not allowed to disturb the dog during the exercise.

The attempt by a dog to advance to the victim from a different, closer place, after the initial alert is sounded, is not considered faulty.

If a dog has **obviously** picked up the scent of a person and leaves the spot without wanting to advance to the victim from another side, this person can only be marked as “satisfactory” in the case of a subsequent alert, even though the DH initially did **not** report the alert. Additional mistakes in the other alert work can lead to further reduction of the alert points. It is up to the RDJ, to carry on with the search work after all the Vtms have been found.

### **Avalanche Test RH-L                      Levels A and B**

Blankets, back-packs or similar items are not allowed to be left behind in the hiding places. With the depth of the burying of the Vtm the height of the covering is meant. Covering the receiver (Avalanche Transceiver, LVS) should be about 30cm.

### **Water Work RH-W                                      Levels E, A and B**

The victims and the personnel need to wear a long wetsuit. The dog’s harness for the work in the water should be a standardised harness without swimming aids. The stipulated distance of 25 metres and 40 metres need to be marked on the water’s surface using buoys. The end of the rope must float and always be fitted with a reinforced end. The end of the rope must be secured to a life-saving ring. The captain should also have a helper with him/her in the boat. The helper watches the rope. In order to avoid bruises on the hands, while handling or pulling the rope, protective gloves must be worn. For the safety of the dogs the helper lies on the surfboard, however he is completely motionless throughout the exercise. The order of both the distances will be determined by the judge.

### **Obedience and Dexterity for RH-F, FL, T**

The straddle position by the DH is generally incorrect and devalues the particular exercise. If VC and HS are allowed, it is optional for the DH to also use only one. If he uses both, they should be given at the same time. Group: The RDJ may decide that the group can stop while the DH shows the “figure eight”. If the DH gives an obviously false command for a position during the exercise “Distance Control”, the exercise will be marked as “unsatisfactory”. In the English version the position ‘stay’ (steh) is to be understood as ‘stand’. The utility article must be shown to the RDJ before the drawing of lots and must be useable on the spot. Jute rolls / tugs (“Beissrollen”), toys or similar are not considered to be an article. Primed articles (wrapped gloves or other assembled articles) are also not permitted. The ladder must be fitted with two cross-pieces on the outer edges. If the dog does not reach the last rung with both paws and/or is lifted down before the last rung, as a consequence the exercise will be marked down accordingly.

For the execution of the exercise “Directability at a Distance“, the DH may change position towards the direction set out for the dog as well as making a side step in a particular direction, without however leaving the spot.

If the middle is not approached, the exercise can be marked with a maximum of “satisfactory“, if a table is not shown, the work is marked as “unsatisfactory“.

Laying down under distraction: while lying down a minimum distance (10m) to the detached table or the equipment must be maintained.

The evaluation of “m” unsatisfactory in the case of a false position is to be adjusted to the mistake. A dog which sits calmly all the time is to be marked with as “unsatisfactory“, while shifting positions will lead to further deductions.

### **Obedience and Dexterity for RH-L**

For the general parts and all the exercises, which correspond to those in section B for RH-F, FL and T, the same execution is valid as is described in section B for RH-F, FL and T.

The exercises 7 and 8 can also be carried out individually before or after the search work (e.g. following ski tracks while walking to the search work).

### **Obedience and Dexterity for RH-W**

For the general parts and all the exercises, which correspond to those in section B for RH-F, FL and T, the same execution is valid as is described in section B for RH-F, FL and T.

The distance of 50 metres there and back for the boating for all levels is sufficient.

The exercises 8 and 9 can be carried out individually before or after the water test.

**The German text is the authentic version.**