DOGS VICTORIA

REG. NO. A0023882W

REGULATIONS

PART 14 - SCENT WORK

Last update: 15 January 2026

To be read in conjunction with DOGS AUSTRALIA Regulations, Codes & Policies

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14 – SCENT WORK

(15/10/21)

14.1 TRIAL ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

14.1.1 Schedules

-*Submission of draft fixture schedules and judges' contracts* - deleted (duplication) refer to regulation 3.4.12 (15/01/26)

All rules, regulations, definitions or instructions in the nature of Rules and Regulations printed in the schedule shall be deemed to be Regulations of the trial and shall have the same effect as if they formed part of these Regulations, provided they are not inconsistent with these Regulations. The schedule shall contain:

14.1.1.1 The closing date for entries.
14.1.1.2 The name of the Affiliate conducting the Trial.
14.1.1.3 The address of the venue where trial is to be held.
14.1.1.4 The status of the trial (Open, Restricted to Group, Restricted to Breed, Limited to Class and/or Element).
14.1.1.5 The date(s) on which the trial is to be held.
14.1.1.6 The name of each of the contracted judges.
14.1.1.7 The classes and elements allocated to each judge.
14.1.1.8 The target odours to be used at each class level.
14.1.1.9 The entry fee per class.
14.1.1.10 The order that classes are to be judged.
14.1.1.11 Whether vetting of bitches is to be conducted, and if so, at what time.
14.1.1.12 Check-in opening and closing times.
14.1.1.13 Morning and afternoon briefing times.
14.1.1.14 Morning and afternoon judging times.
14.1.1.15 The availability and cost of catalogues.
14.1.1.16 A list of the trophies and sashes to be awarded.
14.1.1.17 Contact details of the Trial Secretary including telephone number and email address.

14.1.2 Trial Catalogue

The trial catalogue shall contain:

14.1.2.1 The name of the Affiliate conducting the Trial.
14.1.2.2 Notification to the effect that the body is affiliated with Dogs Victoria and that the fixture is held under the Rules and Regulations of Dogs Victoria, and that a copy may be perused at the office of the Secretary of the fixture.
14.1.2.3 Diagram(s), photograph(s) or description of the trial precincts (search areas, staging area and check-in).
14.1.2.4 The date(s) on which the trial will be held.
14.1.2.5 A list of classes, elements and allocated judges.
14.1.2.6 The target odour to be used in each class.
14.1.2.7 Briefing, walk-through and judging commencement times.
14.1.2.8 A list of the trophies and sashes to be awarded.
14.1.2.9 The name of Dogs Victoria Representative.

14.1.3 Balloting

14.1.3.1 Balloting is to be conducted in each element where entries are excessive.

14.1.3.2 Each element is to be balloted separately.

14.1.3.3 Where there are excessive entries in a particular element or elements, affiliates can consider adding another judge if the trial venue provides for additional search areas.

14.1.3.4 Normally a competitor can be balloted out only once, and is then exempt from any further balloting in that class at that trial, unless there are excess entries that cannot be accommodated by contracting an additional judge.

14.1.3.5 Where a ballot is conducted, it must be done in public by at least two affiliate committee members. The date, time and place must be advertised in the trial schedule.

14.1.3.6 No preference is to be given to club members, volunteers/helpers, nor any consideration given to the distance travelled by competitors or whether a competitor required only one pass for a title.

14.1.4 Entry Refunds

14.1.4.1 Where the judge announced on the Trial Schedule is changed, a competitor may withdraw their entry prior to the commencement of the trial. Upon written request, lodged before the completion of the trial, the competitor shall be entitled to a refund of entry fees.

14.1.4.2 Competitors who are unsuccessful in a ballot will have their entry fees refunded.

14.1.5 Cancellation of Trial

14.1.5.1 Prior to the commencement of or during a trial, where conditions are deemed to be unsafe for dogs and/or competitors, the judge(s) and or Committee conducting the trial may suspend, terminate or cancel classes or elements. If the conditions are considered to be unsafe as a result of extreme weather, refer to Regulation 14.2.

14.1.5.2 Where a trial has commenced but is cancelled due to unsafe conditions, or extreme weather, all awards made will stand.

14.1.6 Check in Procedures

14.1.6.1 All competitor numbers must be collected at the assembly area prior to entering the search areas.

14.1.6.2 Bitches are to be examined if vetting is stated in the trial schedule.

14.1.6.3 Each competitor is responsible for presenting themselves to the Assembly Steward when their number is called.

14.1.7 Judges and Officials

14.1.7.1 A member of a judge's immediate family or household may not compete in any element being judged by that judge.

14.1.7.1 A judge must not judge a dog in which the judge has an ownership interest or any dog in which the judge had such an interest during the previous 12 months.

14.1.8 Order of Judging

14.1.8.1 The Trial Secretary and Assembly Steward are responsible for the order that dogs are judged.

14.1.8.2 Dogs should be judged in catalogue order unless conflicting with another element.

14.1.8.3 Allowance should be made for judges to compete prior to commencing their judging duties.

14.1.8.4 Members of the same immediate family or household who are entered in the same element must be judged back-to-back.

14.1.8.5 If a competitor has entered more than one dog in any element, all such dogs must be judged back-to-back.

14.2 EXTREME WEATHER – SCENT WORK (Amended 15/12/25, 15/08/24, 15/06/24)

14.2.1 DEFINITIONS

Refer to Regulation 3.2

14.2.2 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.3

14.2.3 AFFILIATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.4

When scheduling a trial for days when the temperature may be reasonably expected to exceed 30 degrees Celsius, consideration is to be given to:

- scheduling an early start or a twilight trial
- provision of shade in search areas for judges, stewards and competitors waiting to compete
- provision of drinking water for judges, officials and volunteers
- provision of water and paddling pools for use by dogs; and
- scheduling so that judges and officials can be rotated throughout the day.

14.2.4 CONDUCT OF A TRIAL IN THE HEAT

- All persons attending the trial are responsible for their own, and their dogs' safety and welfare. Each person must bring shade, shelter and wet weather equipment for themselves and their dogs
- Particular attention is to be paid to dogs at higher risk of heat stress, including brachycephalic breeds and high drive dogs
- Judges and stewards are to be prepared to allow dogs running in multiple elements sufficient time between runs. Competitors are to consider competing in less elements if the weather is hot; and
- The judge shall exclude or order the removal from the competition of any dog suffering signs of heat stress as the dog is unfit to compete (Dogs Australia Rules for the Conduct of Scent Work Trials - Rule 14.2(a) Welfare of Dogs).

14.2.5 CANCELLATION OF A COMPETITION

Refer to Regulations 3.5.20.4 and 3.5.20.5

14.2.6 'WAIT AND SEE APPROACH' - JUDGING TO BE SUSPENDED

Judging at a trial will be suspended if the temperature reaches 32 degrees Celsius during the course of the event and will remain suspended until the second (and if applicable) third temperature readings are taken in accordance with Regulation 3.5.20.5.

Refer also to Regulation 3.5.20.6

14.2.7 'WAIT AND SEE' APPROACH – JUDGING MAY CONTINUE

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.7

14.2.8 POSTPONEMENT, RELOCATION (INCLUDES MOVE INDOORS) AND CHANGE OF COMMENCEMENT TIME

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.8

14.2.9 LIGHTNING AND THUNDER

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.9

14.2.10 CLUSTER TRIALS

Where multiple trials are scheduled over a day or a number of days, then a case-by-case (trial-by-trial decision shall be made.

14.2.11 REFUNDS OF ENTRY FEES FOR EVENTS CANCELLED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.10

14.2.12 STATUS OF AWARDS WHEN AN EVENT IS CANCELLED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER

Refer to Regulation 14.1.5.2