



United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USCA)

**4407 Meramec Bottom Rd, Ste J, St Louis , Mo.63129 / 314.200.3193 /
www.germanshepherddog.com**

USCA Trial Rulebook

Preface / Variances

2019 International Utility Dog Regulations (IGP)

**The following information / regulations / variances are to be used in conjunction with
the Official USCA Trial Rulebook for use at all USCA Events effective 1/1/2019
(USCA version: 1.0)**

**PREFACE TO BE USED WITH THE USCA APPROVED WORKING TRIALS RULEBOOK
(USCA Variances and Guidelines not outlined in the rule book)
Approved for USCA Working Dog Events January 2019**



THE UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA

USCA Trial Rulebook Preface and Variances

Page 1 of 12

Version 1.0
January 2019



This document is a preface (including USCA variances and additional guidelines for use at USCA Working Dog Trials). **Additional corrections, clarification, USCA only activities are underlined in the official USCA version of the (Utility Dog Regulations) USCA Trial Rulebook.** It includes approved variances, guidelines and clarification of the rules for the conduct of working dog examinations (trials) for use in all USCA authorized events. It is to be used in conjunction with the 2019 USCA Trial Rulebook. These rules have been adopted for use by the **United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USCA)** with certain amendments and variations from the written by the FCI Working Commission Utility Dog Regulations effective 1.1.2019 and accepted for use in general by USCA and all FCI and WUSV organizations. This document and any approved amendments shall be part of the official rulebook for the conduct of working dog performance / trials / events / (Utility Dog Regulations) sanctioned by the **United Schutzhund Clubs of America.**

Unauthorized duplication is strictly forbidden without approval from the **United Schutzhund Clubs of America**, 4407 Meramec Bottom Road, Suite J, St. Louis, MO 63129. (314) 638-9686.

This information and the following USCA Trial Rulebook include approved variances, revisions, and corrections to verbiage, grammar and clarifications of exercises and titles from the official FCI / WUSV Trial Rules (Utility Dog Regulations) for USCA events. This document may include information translated from the original FCI and WUSV / SV trial rules, reviewed, edited to correctly and effectively address the requirements for USCA Working Dog Trials while still meeting the fundamental descriptions and function of all exercises and titles set by the FCI / WUSV requirements therefore maintaining the integrity of all titles and their international acceptance and reciprocity. Edits / Clarification have been made by the USCA Director of Judges, Nathaniel Roque, and reviewed by Assistant Director of Judges, Ann Marie Chaffin, with additional final review and approval by the USCA Judges Committee, Vadim Plotsker, Mike Gardner, Michael Caputo and Gary McGillivray. These trial regulations will replace any prior regulations and will apply to all judges, clubs, members of USCA and any entry into a USCA Authorized Event. In any unclear rule, the FCI /WUSV / SV (German wording) rulebook will be reviewed by the Director of Judges and may change the meaning / intent of the USCA rule if it is applicable. Any changes must be completed with approval of the USCA Director of Judges and / or the USCA Judges Committee. Additional information, changes and clarification may be added as they are approved by USCA, WUSV/SV and the FCI.

The United Schutzhund Clubs of America is a full member of the WUSV. All working dog titles awarded at authorized USCA Events are recognized by the WUSV and the FCI (per letter of confirmation issued 11.5.2018 by Frans Jansen, President FCI Working Commission for public record).

Additional Titles offered by USCA are available in rulebooks for IPO, AWD, RH, HGH. See the USCA Website for links to these rule books.



THE UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA

USCA Trial Rulebook Preface and Variances

Page 2 of 12
Version 1.0
January 2019



Table of Contents

	Page
Preface.....	3
USCA Approved Variances	3 - 7
1. Number of Entries	
2. Trial Days	
3. BH and IGP/FH same trial	
4. Trial Authorization	
5. Min number of dogs	
6. Membership to enter USCA Club Event	
7. Membership to enter USCA Championships	
8. Approved Judges	
9. Scorebooks	
10. Phases per dog	
11. Helper Requirements	
12. Trial Secretary	
13. Track Layers	
14. Start of Trial	
15. Practice	
16. Official Start of Trial / no corrective devices	
17. Motional devices / equipment at trial	
18. Paperwork	
19. Field Requirements	
Degree Levels	8
Eligibility/ Requirements	8
Prerequisites	9
Number of Participants	9
Waiting Periods	9
Repeating / Earning Titles	10
Trial Days	11



THE UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA

USCA Trial Rulebook Preface and Variances

Page 3 of 12

Version 1.0
January 2019



PREFACE

The United Schutzhund Clubs of America is a full member Club of the World Union of German Shepherd Dogs (WUSV). Its mission is to "preserve the German Shepherd Dog" in part through the use of approved breed programs,

"Breed Surveys", "Working Dog Trials", and education. USCA supports the efforts of the WUSV and its mission for the German Shepherd Dog and recognizes the value of trials for both "breed temperament testing as well as for organized dog sport". The purpose of the following information is for breed suitability surveys for the German Shepherd Dog as well as for organized "dog sport and competition" for all working breeds.

USCA APPROVED VARIANCES

(IGP, FH, GPr, StP, AD, AWD, IPO)

The United Schutzhund Clubs of America has adopted and / or requested and received variances from the following international rules for Utility Dog Regulations (working dog trials) as accepted by USCA, WUSV and the FCI. The Board of Directors and Judges Committee of USCA have also adopted variances of its own accord for purposes to benefit the organization and its events held in the United States. The following variances / guidelines to the rules are in effect for all USCA trials and will supersede other trial regulations / rules in USCA events.

1. Handlers may enter up to three (3) dogs in USCA club level trials except any and all championship trials (e.g., Regional Championship, Working Dog Championship, National Championship) where the specified limit of two (2) dogs shall apply (now allowed effective 1.1.2019 in IGP international rules)
2. Trial Days. Trials are by nature a public event. Trials must start after 12:00 noon on Friday if Friday is used. Clubs may use Friday or Monday under specific circumstances to host events offering all performance titles and degrees awarded by USCA. Performance titles such BH / IGP 1-2-3 / FH- V- 1, 2 / GPr 1-2-3 / STp / RH 1-2, AD / IPO / AWD / HGH (any approved title) must be offered on Saturday and / or Sunday. Friday and Monday may only be used as over flow in the event that there are more than 24 phases scheduled on the adjoining Saturday or Sunday and under specific special circumstances due to weather or time constraints with Regional Director approval and publicly announced in the trial information to the organization. BH entries or up to 2 phases of an IPO entry may also be completed to meet these weather or time (schedule) needs. Any BH entry that is also entered to earn their IGP, GPR 1 or FH on Saturday or Sunday may complete the BH the day prior (e.g., Friday BH and Saturday IPO). At all times if Saturday or Sunday are not exceeding 36 phases all working title entries (IGP) must complete at least 1 of the 3 phases on Saturday or Sunday. At all times efforts should be made to schedule all phases of the trial on Saturday or Sunday to allow public attendance at the event. If a local club after the flier has been sent wishes to extend their trial to Friday, they must have permission from the Regional Director and notice must be received seven (7) days in advance to the entire region in which the trial is being held, stating the location and time.



THE UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA

USCA Trial Rulebook Preface and Variances

Page 4 of 12

Version 1.0
January 2019



NOTE: In the event of high temperature and due to the time required to complete the AD, the AD may be started on a Friday morning. The head judge or the Regional Director has to be informed and permission obtained as well as notification to the region as stated above.

3. A handler may enter a BH and / or an FH / IGP level during a two (2) day trial, although the BH must be on a separate day than the FH / IPO degree. A waiting period is not required.
4. If clubs anticipate more trial entries than can be accommodated in two (2) days, a three (3) day event should be authorized with performance titles offered on both days of the weekend and the extra day intended for overflow as described above or to allow BH titles to be earned prior to attempting the IGP, GPR 1 or FH on Saturday or Sunday. Clubs are allowed to offer performance titles on Friday or Monday and just one (1) day of a weekend if they are also hosting a Breed Survey or Conformation Show on the other day of the weekend. Breed Surveys and Conformation Shows must be held on Saturday or Sunday.

A three (3) day event will not be allowed unless the club has three (3) days of activities. It is not intended to allow a club to host a trial on Friday or Monday and a one (1) day event on the weekend. The three (3) day event is intended for larger events with multiple venues. The Regional Director must receive a request from the club for a three (3) day event and will authorize three (3) day events only in the cases listed above. A tentative schedule of the event must be published to the region at least 21 days in advance. All other USCA trial regulations are applicable.

5. The minimum number of dogs for an official working trial is four (4) entries, and one (1) of the entries must be a Working Title (IGP, FH, RH, HGH). Four (4) different dogs must be present at the trial (as required in the 2019 IGP rules) with at least two (2) different handlers.
6. All entries in a USCA Trial must be current USCA members or members of a USCA approved organization. Non-USCA entries into USCA Events may /will be subject to additional entry fees as determined by USCA. All residents of the United States must be a member of a United States USCA recognized Dog Organization; foreign residents may enter at club level competition, provided they have current membership in a foreign dog organization from their country of residence that is USCA recognized: FCI, WUSV Member Club, SV, or DVG.
7. Entry into any USCA Championship Event (regional, national) requires current USCA Membership in good standing.
8. Judges authorized to officiate at USCA Events are:
 - USCA Licensed Judges
 - SV Licensed Judges
 - GSSCC Licensed Judges
 - FCI Licensed Judges from WUSV Member Organizations



THE UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA

USCA Trial Rulebook Preface and Variances

Page 5 of 12

Version 1.0
January 2019



The United Schutzhund Clubs of America is a full member of the WUSV, a German Shepherd Dog Organization, and as such may only allow judges from German Shepherd Dog Organizations to officiate our events. The Working Dog Trial is a portion of the breed temperament testing for the German Shepherd Dog as well as an all-breed sport competition. The above licensed judges are licensed through WUSV recognized organizations and therefore, trained to observe and evaluate the desired temperament of the German Shepherd Dog in a working dog trial as well as the competitive component of "working dog sport" per the official trial rules. Approval must be obtained to use a foreign judge at a USCA Trial. Information on obtaining a foreign judge is available on the USCA website.

Titles awarded at any USCA Event by an approved judge are suitable for breed requirements for the USCA Breed Survey. Titles suitable for the USCA/SV Breed Survey must be issued by a SV or USCA/SV licensed judge, additional information should be confirmed with the National Breed Warden.

9. All dogs entered in a USCA event must have a USCA issued scorebook or a scorebook issued from a USCA recognized organization (registration pedigrees are also sometimes used to record titles and are acceptable). Scorebook bonds in lieu of a score book may be posted by USCA members only to enter a USCA trial.
10. All dogs entered into a trial may not exceed three (3) phases of work in a single trial with the exception of adding an AD with another title or a BH before an IPO 1 title. (i.e., a dog may enter for TR (FPR) 1 and OB (UPr) 1 in the same trial = 2 phases.)
11. All helpers participating at a USCA event must have a current USCA Membership and USCA Helper Book with current "classification" to be allowed to work the level of trial they are participating in. At club level events the helper may be a member of the household of an entry. The same helper is required to work all dogs in a specific level. (i.e., same helper for all IGP 1 entries, same helper for all IGP 3 entries, etc.) This is to help ensure a fair and equal venue for all dogs. At club level events, only one (1) helper is required. The same helper is to be used for the front-half and back-half of the IGP 1 and IGP 2. At championship level events, two (2) helpers are required for IGP 3 (one (1) front-half and one (1) back-half helper). Additional requirements and information are listed in the USCA Helper Program available on the USCA website. At all times during the trial, the helper is under the direction of the judge.
12. Trial secretaries must be current members of USCA and may not be entered in the trial.
13. Tracklayers do not have to be USCA members for a club level event, but must be USCA members for a championship event (e.g., Regional Championship, Working Dog Championship and National Championship, USCA offers a Tracklayers Program and Teaching Track Layers for education and seminars).



THE UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA

USCA Trial Rulebook Preface and Variances

Page 6 of 12

Version 1.0
January 2019



14. The start of a trial is determined by one (1) of the following:
- At championship events the start is the draw (a designated time that the entries draw for placement and turn in scorebooks to the trial secretary).
 - At club level events the start is determined to be after the scorebooks have been turned in or when the first dog has started a phase of the trial for that calendar day whichever comes first.

15. No practice may be done on the trial venue or fields after the official start of a trial or during the course of the trial. At championship events practice for entries ends at the draw and the turn-in of scorebooks and continues to the end of the event at the awards ceremony. At multi-day club level events (with the permission of the judge), entries may practice on the trial venue after the conclusion of each day's official trial activities (e.g., Saturday trial begins at 7 am and concludes at 4 pm as listed on the trial paperwork. After 4 pm until the official start of the trial on Sunday, entries may practice on the trial venue with the permission of the trial secretary and the presiding Judge).

"Bitches in Season" will be placed at the end of the event for Phases B and C (obedience and protection) and allowed practice time at the end of the trial prior to their competition (as outlined in 2019 IGP rules).

During practice, commonly used corrective devices (e.g., prong, choke, electric collars, or heeling sticks, etc.) may be used in a commonly accepted humane manner. Motivational training aids may be used as well in USCA Events.

16. After the official start of the trial and during the trial, corrective devices may not be used on or within sight of the trial venue (the venue is considered to be all trial fields to include tracking fields, competitor parking or any area within the spectator's sight of the event venue). (i.e., corrective devices are choke, pinch, electric collars, heeling sticks, etc.) Abuse of these methods may lead to disqualification and / or unsportsmanlike BOI Charges.

17. Motivational methods of training (e.g., food, toys, etc.) may be used during the trial until reporting into the Judge or entering the trial or tracking field. During tracking, motivational methods of training can only be used at the official designated parking area for tracking. If a competitor is allowed to drive closer to their track the official parking area is NOT considered where they are parked. No starter / practice tracks on the official tracking field. Starter / practice tracks can be laid right next to the parking area, or they can be done on another field away from the official tracking field with host club's permission. (This is to ensure every competitor has the same advantage.) At the trial field (stadium or club field) during obedience and protection, off of the trial field is considered to be behind the fence or on the change of terrain that is different from the trial field as determined by the judge. All use of motivational objects must be stopped, and they must be discarded before entering the trial field. The judge may ask the handler to remove any item that may be a signal or influence the performance of the dog. (i.e., help for the dogs like gloves, hats, vests, etc.)



**THE UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS
OF AMERICA**

USCA Trial Rulebook Preface and Variances

Page 7 of 12

Version 1.0
January 2019



18. Trial Paperwork must be submitted with fees to the USCA office within five (5) days of the completion of the event. USCA requires an administrative entry fee per entry when submitting trial paperwork. There are two (2) fee structures; one (1) is for USCA Member Entries and then a fee for Non-USCA Member Entries and the amounts of these fees are determined by the Board of Directors. Individual clubs hosting the trial may also charge an additional "Trial Entry Fee" at an amount of their decision.

19. Field and equipment guidelines:

All trial fields must be large enough to properly complete the required exercises for the IGP examinations. The minimum size for a working dog trial field is 100' by 200' and must be approved by the Regional Director when affiliating a club. All championship events must meet the standards set by the National Events Manual. At all trials, regardless of the titles offered (examination levels), the obedience field must be set up with the jump, wall and three (3) dumbbells (the WUSV recommendation for the jump and wall are to be set up side by side) and a single blind for the IPO3 long down exercise. For protection for all IPO levels, the field must be set up with all six (6) blinds in proper staggered position (length to width ratio of 100x80) and no other equipment (e.g., jump, wall, dumbbell stand, etc.) shall be on the field. For Championships the use of fixed blinds or other equipment must be considered in the selection of the field.

The field must also be properly marked. In obedience the long down, start position, start position for the "Retrieve on the Flat", and a four (4) meter minimum starting position from the wall and the jump are to be marked. (The mark for the jump and the wall is minimum distance, and handlers may position further back as they choose). The "Retrieve on the Flat" must be executed in the direction of the "Send Away". If the jump and the wall are side by side, the direction of these exercises is to be in the direction of the "Send Away".

The layout and direction of the work may be determined by the hosting club, but at any time at the judge's discretion based on concerns for safety, sportsmanship, etc., the judge may request the field layout and / or direction of the work be changed.

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



THE UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA

USCA Trial Rulebook Preface and Variances



Degree (Titles) for USCA Trials (events)

Begleithund	Entry Trial Level	BH	(fundamental / entry level)
GPr*	Trial Level 1-2-3	GPr 1-2-3*	(sporting titles)
IGP	Trial Level 1-2-3	IGP 1-2-3	(Breed Suitability / sport titles)
IPO	Trial Level 1-2-3	IPO 1-2-3	(USCA Only)
Entry Trial level	IGP V		(sporting titles)
Endurance test Suitability)	(Breed Suitability)	I AD	(fitness title for Breed
Tracking	Trial Level 1-2-3	FPr / Tr 1-2-3	(sporting titles)
Obedience	Trial Level 1-2-3	UPr / OB 1-2-3	(sporting titles)
FH V	Entry level FH		(sporting titles)
FH 1- 2	Trial Level 1-2	FH 1-2	(Breed Suitability / sport titles)
IGP-FH	Trial Level	IGP-FH	(Breed Suitability / sport titles)
StP	Trial Level 1-2-3	StP 1-2-3	(sporting titles)
AWD **	Trial Level 1-2-3	AWD 1-2-3**	(AWD Rules, link on website)
RH	Trial Level 1-2	RH 1-2 ***	(RH Rulebook, link on website)
IPO	Trial Level 1-2-3	IPO1-2-3	(USCA IPO Rulebook ver: 1.2, USCA Trials Breed Survey only)

For a dog to enter any of the above Trial Levels except for the "AD", they must have obtained a BH

*GPr is obedience & protection together.

** The AWD is the American Working Dog Title 1-2-3 information available in AWD rulebook.

*** The RH is a suitability test to determine ability for Search and Rescue work, USCA is a member of the IRO and promotes the RH as a suitability test for SAR. Additional rules and information are available in the official RH rulebook.

REQUIREMENTS & ELIGIBILITY

Only dogs that appear healthy and can be identified by a tattoo or microchip can be exhibited in a trial. Before being permitted to participate in a trial, each dog must pass a test of impartiality and sureness. The evaluation of self-confidence and impartiality will also take place throughout the entire trial. A dog is to be dismissed from the trial if it demonstrates faulty temperament during the trial, even if the initial test for impartiality was positive.

Minimum age requirement for entry into USCA Only Titles (IGP,AWD):

BH / TR (FPr) 1-3 / OB (UPr) 1-3	15 months
AD	16 months
IGP / IPO / AWD 1	18 months
IGP / IPO / AWD 2	19 months
IGP / IPO / AWD 3	20 months



THE UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA

USCA Trial Rulebook Preface and Variances



PREREQUISITES - Evidence of achieving the BH title (if the handler has never completed a BH and is a first time handler entering a titled dog a BH written test should be required to be completed by the handler to show basic knowledge of requirements as a handler) must be presented before entry into any level, except AD. Dogs that do not possess the IGP 1 title can be permitted to enter the FH provided they have obtained their BH degree. In this case, the awarded title shall have no bearing in regards to Conformation Show or Breed Survey.

NUMBERS OF PARTICIPANTS - On any given day, when one (1) judge is officiating, a maximum of thirty-six (36) individual phases are allowed. If the entries exceed this figure, the trial must be extended to another day or other judge(s) must be secured to officiate. This maximum number of phases does not apply to championship events.

- The BH - VT, with or without the general knowledge examination, equals two (2) phases.
- The AD event may have up to twenty (20) dogs per one (1) judge. The AD does not count toward the daily maximum phases of a scheduled trial. The AD may be held on the same day as the IPO trial. Dogs may be entered in the IPO trial and the AD.
- Tracking – Obedience – Protection are each counted as one (1) phase.
- FH is counted as three (3) phases.
- A minimum of four (4) dogs must be entered. At least one (1) must be entered for a working title (IGP, RH, FH, HGH).
- It is only allowed for any one (1) handler to handle a maximum of three (3) dogs per club trial and two (2) dogs per championship trial.

WAITING PERIODS - Dogs are only allowed to be exhibited in one (1) IGP /IPO degree (IGP /IPO 1, 2, 3 or FH 1 or FH 2) per scheduled trial.

A dog shown in TR (FPr) can be also shown in one (1) OB (UPr) title at the same trial (not to exceed three (3) phases per trial).

Value for each title or test:

BH	= 2 phases	FH- V-1,2	= 3 phases each
TR (FPr) 1,2,3	= 1 phase each	IGO-FH	= 3 phases (per day)
OB (UPr) 1,2,3	= 1 phase each	IGP V	= 2 phases
GPr 1,2,3	= 2 phases each	StP 1,2,3	= 1 phase each
IGP 1-2-3	= 3 phases each	RH 1,2	= 3 phases each

No waiting period exists from BH to IGP / IPO 1. However, they must be completed on separate days (i.e., BH on Saturday, and IPO 1 on Sunday).

A minimum of 70% is needed to pass any level of a degree in order to advance to the next level. For Breed Survey requirements for the German Shepherd Dog a minimum of 80% in the protection phase must be attained.



THE UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA

USCA Trial Rulebook Preface and Variances

Page 10 of 12

Version 1.0
January 2019



REPEATING EARNING TITLES / DEGREES - Repeating titles and tests below the dog highest earned title level (IGP / IPO 2-3) level is possible as many times as desired at the title level below what currently is held by the dog. However, the dog going for their initial degree will be ranked ahead of those that have already earned their degree for the same level. This holds true for awards, trophies, placements, sports medals, etc. It is up to the discretion of the handler to repeat a title / degree but not at the same scheduled trial on the same date. It is also not permissible for a handler to participate in two (2) different sanctioned trials on the same day. At the championship level the first-time dog earning any level title is considered the same as a dog that has already obtained that level title for the purpose of awards.

The examination levels / titles are to be completed in sequence for IGP, IPO, AWD, RH – starting with level 1 - 2 - 3 except for FH or FPr/TR, UPr / OB these may be completed in any sequence. For IGP / IPO, RH, AWD the dog may only be shown at the next higher level after passing the previous lower level (a passing score in each phase is a minimum of seventy (70) points). The age requirement is also to be taken into consideration, a dog may not move up to a higher level title / degree until it has reached the minimum age for the specific title / degree.

TRIAL DAYS - (See Approved USCA Variances #2 at start of rulebook for complete details) Trials are by nature a public event and should be held on Saturdays and Sundays. Fridays and in special circumstances Mondays may be used. Trials that use Friday must start after 12:00 noon. In special situations Mondays and officially declared holidays may be approved. Friday trials can only be sanctioned in combination with a Saturday trial. Monday trials may only be approved in combination with Saturday and Sunday and, only if, more dogs enter Saturday's and Sunday's trial than can be accommodated. If a local club after the flier has been sent wishes to extend their trial to Friday, they must have permission from the Regional Director and notice must be received seven (7) days in advance by the entire region in which the trial is being held, stating the location and time. The only exception to the above rule is if a local trial is to be held on Friday in conjunction with a championship (regional level on up).

NOTE: In the event of high temperature and due to the time required to complete the AD, the AD may be started on a Friday morning. The head judge or the Regional Director has to be informed and permission obtained.

A handler may enter a BH and / or an FH / IPO level during a two (2) day trial, although the BH must be on a separate day than the FH / IPO degree. A waiting period is not required.



**THE UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS
OF AMERICA**

USCA Trial Rulebook Preface and Variances

Page 11 of 12

Version 1.0
January 2019



Intentionally Left Blank

END OF PREFACE