

Minutes / Review and New Clarifications

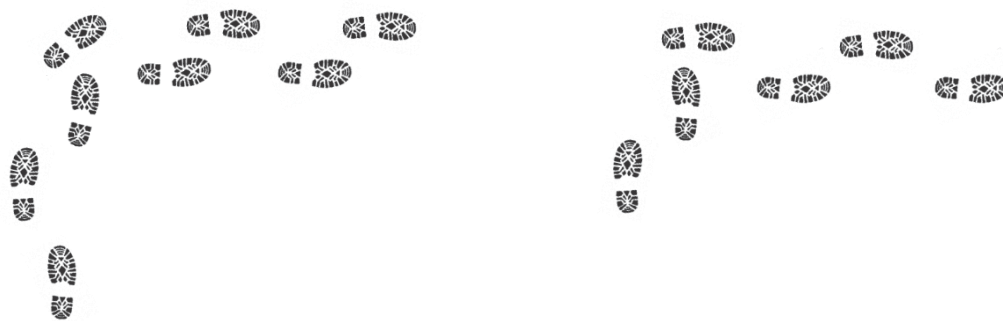
1. Information / clarifications from the March 2019 FCI Judges Meeting Additional information from the meeting will be presented in the near future it's on the website and in the magazine.
 - The Handler must look to the Judge before starting an exercise, failure to do this can be a fault of as much as 10% or 1 category down. USCA Judges have been instructed to not harshly implement this at the club level yet, be lenient, educate and include this in your Handlers meeting and in your critique. After the July Judges meeting we will start to more strongly and uniformly enforce this at all levels of trials.
 - Overtly Loud (Yelling) Commands are faulty (Handler Help) and may have a deduction of up to 1 category down from the overall performance of the exercise. Be careful to distinguish the difference between a strong / firm command and a "yelling" (screaming) command. Implement this as described above with the handler looking to the judge before starting an exercise, be lenient initially and educate our handlers and include this in your critique especially at club levels. After the July Judges meeting we will start to more strongly and uniformly enforce this at all trials.
 - Clarification of the Basic Position (in all phases): The handlers arms must hang in a "natural manner, the left arm can be outside the dog, over the dog or between the dog and handler, based on the dogs position and size in relation to the handler. It is only faulty if the position is being done purposefully to influence the dog (handler help).
 - There are still errors in the FCI English and German Rule Book as well as our USCA Rule Book. A corrected version should be published by July, ver 1.1.

A few of the major mistakes in the current books are:

 - Regarding the identity check of the dog done only by the judge (microchip reader). This is not correct for USCA, we will allow the Judge or anyone they designate to do this, but the reader or tattoo must be read by the judge (other than at championships where there may be a designated person to read the chips or tattoos). Just be sure that especially at club trials you are evaluating the dog's reaction during the identity check.
 - IGP 2 protection there is a mistake in the repositioning from the end of the front half side transport to moving downfield to the "watch" position for the "Attack ON Dog Out Of Motion" (page 49) it says that "the handler takes his dog on leash or off leash", this is wrong. All IGP 2 and IGP 3 protection is done "off leash".

Tracking:

- USCA has developed an alternate method of laying in the corner on a track, the new diagram shows the outside pivoting foot at closer to a 45-degree angle as opposed to the outside foot at a 90-degree angle cutting off the toe of the trailing foot. This was demonstrated on video by one of the FCI Championship Tracklayers so I altered the diagram to show both techniques. What is most important is that the corner is as close to a 90 degree as possible and no longer the 5-7 step slow curve. The USCA tracking Program will also reflect this as an acceptable way to lay the corner. Either way is correct and both create a 90 degree inside angle of the corner.



- At the start of a track it is not faulty if the dog is already tracking before the scent pad or if the dog is slightly ahead of the handler (forging) as it comes to the scent pad. The Tracking must begin with a command when the dog reaches the scent pad and at the scent pad is when the evaluation begins.
- Articles may be laid in or between the footsteps.
- Occasional praise is allowed in IGP 1 -2 tracks as long as it is not used to help the dog.
- If the dog is tangled and the judge allows the handler to down the dog to untangle the line, the handler must return to the end of the tracking line to start the dog.
- If the dog is downed due to distraction from “wild game”. The handler must down the dog from the end of the tracking line and when restarting the dog after the distraction is past the handler must remain at the end of the tracking line and may either give the command to track or recall the dog to the handler (hier) and then without taking a “formal “basic position” give the dog the command to track. The handler must remain in position until the dog is at the end of the line and tracking.

Obedience:

- IGP “Recall over the Wall”
 - If the dog makes no attempt to climb the wall and goes around , all points are lost -15 insufficient “M”
 - If the dog will not stay in basic (with 3 or fewer commands) when the handler leaves it to go to the other side of the wall, all points lost -15 insufficient “M”
 - **If the dog makes an attempt to climb the wall but fails (falls or quits) partial points, low insufficient “M” can be awarded (8 points or less)**

Protection:

- “Hold and Bark”, is now worth 15 pt and it is 10 for the holding and 5 for the barking. So, a dog that is not a strong barking dog but very intensely guarding/holding may still be evaluated in the SG
- A “Blind Search” done by the dog in a “hugging the blind or a weave pole type manner” is faulty and can only at best be rated “SG”, The reason for this is in the description of the exercise. The dog is to come directly to the handler when exiting the searched (open) area of the blind. if it

hugs the blind and uses it like a weave pole in agility it is not coming directly to the handler when called

- If the dog passes the open plane of the blind (pole) it is now always considered to have found the helper, so if it runs around and comes out to the handler the handler only has 1 more time to resend the dog.
- The dog that is gripping the sleeve in the Hold and Bark when the handler is called in to pick up may now be allowed up to 3 commands of “Out-Hier- Fuss” done as much as possible as 1 word command to get the dog to release the sleeve and call out to the handler. For the IGP 1 handler that chooses to go into the blind to pick up and heel out instead of a call out, they may use “Out- Fuss” up to 3 times to get the dog out of the blind. (this is the only time an out command is allowed in a non-gripping exercise.
- When picking up the dog in any protection exercise it is faulty if the handler gives a “sit” command before they are next to the dog in the correct “basic position”.
- IGP 2 Back Transport. When the back transport has gone the required 30 paces the judge signals the helper to stop and the dog/handler do not stop but continue to the side transport position. The handler then disarms the helper and completes the side transport.

Additional information will be sent out over the next couple months and a revised Rulebook will be released by July.

Best of luck with your training and trialing.

Nathaniel Roque

USCA Director of Judges