

FAQ

IGP Information as clarified by the SV and will be followed at all USCA

This is the most current memo sent by the SV/VDH regarding clarifications on rules and how to evaluate specific things that have been in question or were not very clear as written in the rulebook.

Clarification that USCA has been implementing and all USCA Judges have been aware of are in bold next to the SV memo.

Explanations of the VDH Committee for Utility Dogs on the FCI-IGP regulations

Dear Sirs and Madams,

We politely ask you to pass this information on within your club (USCA).

The VDH Commission for Utility Dog Sports would like to use this information to provide competitors and also the judges with more detailed explanations of the new IGP Rules and their interpretation, as well as answer any questions that arise.

The Commission will make the final evaluation and questions transparent for everyone

These are divided in the individual areas,

The individual areas are listed under the following points:

1. General information about the Rules
2. Explanations of the examination levels (Titles)
 - 2.1 Endurance tests
 - 2.2 Companion dog exam
 - 2.3 IbgH (***N/A - not offered / done in USCA or GSSCC Canada***)
 - 2.4 IGP / FH exams
 - 2.4.1 Phase A Tracking
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 - 2.4.3 Phase C Protection
 - 2.5 Browsing test

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3. Frequently asked questions

3.1 General information about the Rules

3.2 Endurance test

3.3 Companion Dog Exam

3.4 IbgH **(N/A - not offered / done for USCA)**

3.5 IGP / FH

3.6 Other examination levels (IGP-V, IGP-ZTP, browsing test)

1. General

- Qualifications for the any championship are only valid for the team, same dog and handler
- All year round on weekends and public holidays
- Friday can be used in conjunction with Saturday if on Saturday if there are more than 36 phases. Exception: Participants take the BH / VT plus another entry level (IGP 1, FH 1, etc.). **(same as in USCA Variances, no change)**
- Condition for a connection with Friday: **(same as in USCA Variances, no change)**

Trial cannot start before 12:00 p.m. and only a maximum of half (18) of the phases are allowed.

2 titles may be earned in the following combination of "two-day trials " Day 1 BH / VT, Then on Day 2 any one of these - IGP1, IGPV, F Pr.1, U Pr.1, AD, I FH-V, I FH1,

- Not IGP-FH (as described in rules)

According to the VDH commission's decision of January 13th, 2019, the starting prerequisite for the IGPFH is the IFH2 **(this is how it is listed in the USCA rulebook and how it will be done at USCA trials and is different than in FCI rulebook. The FCI states that there is no prerequisite)**

BH -The minimum age for the SV/VDH was set at 15 months. ***(also for USCA)***

- Social compatibility (temperment)

If there is a lack of social compatibility ***(if a DQ for dog aggression the judge must send a***

report to the DOJ in USCA and then a join determination by the DOJ and Judges Committee

will be made based on USCA Aggression Policy), all dogs DQ must take the BH / VT again

before being allowed to enter another trial. If the dog does not pass the BH / VT due to a lack of

social compatibility during the re-presentation, he may only try 1 addition time (total 2

attempts to pass a BH after a DQ for temperment before a lifetime ban if supported by the

Judges Committee and motion passed by the USCA EB).

- Units per examination level / additional declarations

BH-VT with written examination are 3 units ***(so this has changed back to 3 points***

/phases if a written test is required for 1st time handlers, also remember any 1st time hander

entering a trial even if it is with a “bought dog” with a title should take the written test if it is

their first time handling in a USCA trial).

IGP-FH are 3 units per day

- Disabled dogs
- Verbal (voice) commands, are as always in the past in German ***(USCA allows any language to be used as long as it remains the same command for the same behavior throughout the trial in all phases).***
- ID (Chip or Tattoo) control

If the chip or tattoo is not found, the handler performs the search himself. The judge then reads

out again. ***(USCA allows the judge to allow anyone, handler, judge, trial secretary use the chip***

reader , this is a variance. The judge will be watching the dogs temperament during the ID

check).

- The minimum number of dogs and handlers required to hold a trial are a minimum of 4 different dogs and at least 2 handlers (this includes all types of tests except the endurance test) ***This is how it has always been for USCA Trials.***

Additional explanations of the individual examination levels

AD Endurance test - The BH / VT is mandatory for the endurance test. ***(this is the same for all USCA trials and has been in the USCA rulebook since starting IGP).***

The AD is also for smaller breeds after approval by the VDH ***(USCA has and we will continue to allow any breed to do an AD if they want to).***

BH / VT

- BH dogs may not be paired with IGP dogs due to the gunshot during the obedience.
- Walking through a group of people is only shown on the leash in the BH.
- In the basic position, the line is removed before starting the straight line of the free heeling sequence. ***(Remove the leash in the Basic position heading down field for the off leash heeling)***
- The dog may be praised before the start of the off leash heeling (this is the point between the on leash heeling and starting the off leash heeling). Off leash heeling has no right turns it is only a straight line out, about turn, normal / fast / slow / normal pace and at the end of the straight line (returning down field) the final basic position is shown. ***(remember a heel command is required for change of pace)***
- The sit and the down out of motion exercise with recall can be done in motion or from a stop (basic position). If done from a stop the handler should pause for 3 seconds before leaving the dog.

- Down under distraction.

There is no information about the evaluation criteria with regard to partial evaluation in the new FCI rules. According to the FCI GHK, the old regulation will remain the same with partial evaluation when the dog in motion dog completes the 2nd exercise ***(partial points for each level are in the rule book, this has always been in the USCA Rulebook)***

If the dog comes to meet the handler when picking up, it is up to -3 points for the exercise.

IGP / FH (international working dog test, tracking dog test)

- Distance between the corners/angles is a min. 50 steps.

IGP Tracking

- In the IGP-3, the 2nd item may be placed on judges instruction. So there can be 2 objects on one leg !!!!!!!!!!! ***(for USCA refer to the Tracking program and our rulebook and USCA Judges will try to keep articles on the 1st -3rd and at the end for IGP3 unless there are unusual areas where the tracks are located)***

Tracking dog titles additional information

- IFH 1 (previously FH) has been created as an entry level FH (master tracking title). Age is only 120 minutes, the cross tracks laid by a different tracklayer are now done 30 minutes before the start of the track so at 90 minutes after the track is laid. There is no longer any change of terrain required.
- IFH 1 is now required to enter for IFH 2. ***(already in USCA rules)***
- According to the FCI rules, the IGP FH specifies the prerequisites are IFH 2 or only a BH / VT. The SV/VDH GHS Commission decided that the prerequisite requirement for the IGP-FH is the IFH-2. ***(this is the same for USCA trials and in rule book)***
- The cross track must not be within 40 steps before and after a corner / angle, and not on the first or last leg. ***(same as USCA has always done)***

- Article not within 20 steps before or after the angle (***same as USCA has always done***)
- If an item that is not indicated cannot be found, no points are deducted. (***in USCA Rulebook***). If several articles are missing, a new track is offered. If the handler does not accept a new track then all articles not found are considered to be overrun/missed. (***same as previously in USCA Rulebook***)
- The objects should be placed between the steps or alternatively in the steps (***same as in USCA Rulebook and refer to USCA Tracking program for additional information***)
- When indicating articles, the objects must be directly in front of or between the front paws.

Start of track (Approach / search behavior)

- There are three attempts (commands allowed - ***same***) ***to start*** the dog at all levels. The 2nd and 3rd attempts lead to a corresponding deduction from the first leg.
- A new approach to the scent pad is only allowed in levels IFH-1/2 and IGP-FH. The handler is allowed to leave the start and restart as long as the handler had not stepped onto the track. A mandatory deduction of 4 points is required for this. (***same as in previous USCA Rulebook***)
- When reporting in to the judge and up to approx. 2 meters before the scent pad, the handler may have the dog on a short lead with the tracking line connected and dragging behind the dog for inspection and, if used, a harness must be on the dog before reporting in. (***same as previously in USCA Rulebook***)
- At the start the handler must be with the dog (alongside the dog, it is faulty if the dog is in front of the handler as they approach the scent pad (***same as previously in USCA Rulebook***)).

- Praise - Occasionally allowed as the dog is working out the track at IGP 1 & 2 levels but not as help e.g. it cannot be used at corners. ***It is only for motivation when the dog is not in trouble.*** It is not allowed in IGP-3, IFH-1, IFH-2 and IGP-FH.
- Praise is allowed once on the articles. Either before or after the handler picks up the article. Praise is definitely not allowed while picking up the article or the leash. ***(same as in the past in USCA)***
- The judge and tracklayer need to remain at least 10 meters away from the dog so not to disturb the area if the dog loses the track. ***Only in special conditions where the judge cannot see the dog should they be closer.*** According to the FCI, the judge may approach the dog at the indication. But should move away before the dog starts tracking again.

Obedience B

- There are two basic requirements in the overall evaluation of obedience. These are defined as: the Expressive behavior (confidence, free / motivated work, concentration / attention, team harmony) and the Technical correctness (position, acceptance and execution of the commands given by the handler). Any behavior performed by the dog from fear or stress devalues the exercise and is faulty. ***(same as it has been in USCA)***
- Initial basic positions are only allowed once in the start position of the exercise.
- If the handler takes a new basic position (e.g. if the dog has not just sat down at the first permitted initial basic position) it will be evaluated as follows:

If this happens before the judges' approval / signal to start the exercise, that exercise is scored at a maximum of good (G). ***(USCA Judges will evaluate this with good judgement at club levels, determine if it is intentional or nerves by the handler and make decision, must be addressed in the critique).***

- If the handler assumes a new basic position after the judge has signaled the handler to start the exercise, the exercise was is not rated. 0 points for the exercise 'M" (**USCA Judges at club events will again determine if it is intentional and use with this deduction with discretion at clubs but always critique)**)
- If the dog starts the exercise without any audible command, the partial exercise is at its highest to be rated as high "M" insufficient.

Example:

In the exercise "Stand out of the running step" the dog stands before command.

Evaluation: The first part of the exercise (development and down) has a value of 5 points. In this case a deduction of 2 points plus further errors. Then the recall is evaluated as a separate 5 points with any deductions taken.

- Flat retrieve. Only a maximum of three (3) attempts to throw the dumbbell for each retrieve exercise. The Dumbbell should be thrown about 10 meters. According to the FCI, less than 8m and more than 15m should be rated as handler help. In the situation of a short or a long throw the handler may ask for a re-throw and it would be allowed after consultation with judge. If the handler does not ask for re-throw it is evaluated as handler help and will be faulty.

If the Dumbbell is thrown at an angle in the "flat retrieve" there is no re-throw any longer allowed.

- Retrieve over the one (1) meter hurdle. If the dog knocks over the hurdle: On the way out minus 5 points. The exercise is repeated and scored evaluated from the Dumbbell pickup to the finish (**same as previously in USCA rules**). If the hurdle is knocked over on the return, there is no repetition. Deduction another -5 points plus additional errors.

There is no longer any information in the rules how to proceed if the Dumbbell is too

close to the hurdles when thrown by the handler. Until further notice, the SV /VDH decided that if the handler asks the judge for a re-throw the judge may allow a re-throw of the Dumbbell again.

- IGP 1 scaling wall and recall. If the dog leaves the basic position before the jump and before the handler passes the wall the dog may be brought back twice to the same basic position. If the dog leaves again (3rd time) , the evaluation is 0 “M”. If the dog goes around the climbing wall 0 points “M”. If the dog goes before command and does not sit in front it is -5 points “M”.
- IGP 2-3 retrieve over the hurdle and scaling wall. In the rules there is no longer any information on how to proceed if the DB is thrown to the side of the hurdle or wall (angle, crooked). Until further notice, the SV/ VDH decided that after consulting with the judge, the judge may allow a re-throw of the dumbbell again (maximum of 3 throws).(same as in USCA rulebook)
- Send Out with down. This exercise consists of two basic requirements, both of which must be met in order to receive at least a partial evaluation of points and rating.

1. The dog must be able to be sent ahead, must go out.

2. the dog must be able to be stopped.

The dog must go out at least 50% of the required distance, with 3 or less commands, the dog must stop before the end of the field, the dog must not return to the handler or there is no evaluation 0 point “M”.

- Long Down under distraction. The rules do not describe whether the dog still has to be in the down position during the send out exercise ahead of the other dog.

Until clarification with the FCI, the Commission decided: Before the send out , the dog is picked up from the down position. ***(same as has always been done)***

Protection C

- The basic requirements for the protection phase: Drive predisposition, self-confidence, and resilience. Grip behavior and control, obedience.

"The dog must give the impression that in the fight it is self-confident at all times and looking to the helper. "

From this point of view the judge must make the evaluations, points and rating.

- Guard phase. According to the FCI decision 16.01.2019 (accepted by the SV/VDH), the guarding phase should have a value of 30%. This means that the entire exercise can be satisfactorily pushed to the bottom if the dog only stays on the helper without guarding.

(same evaluation criteria as used in USCA in the past)

- Side transport. According to FCI 16.01.2019 (accepted by the SV/VDH), the value of the side transport is set at 2 points.
- Transition phase / out. The transition phase has been defined as after the helper has stood still until the out, the transition phase is approx. 1 second to show. Give the "OUT" command within about 3 – 4 seconds after the transition phase. That means a time of 4 -5 seconds after the helper has stopped, (transition phase and allowed time to give the out command). This is very long. It is therefore important to ensure that the out is not prematurely given or the handler is not very late (slow to out command) ***(this has been discussed with all USCA Judges regarding proper evaluation)***
- The following clarification of the side transport regarding if the dog regrips and how to handle the out. "If the dog grips again (only side transport), another voice command out is allowed 1 time only to get the dog under control. " The reference in the side transport phase is hereby made. The FCI Commission has specified this passage (SV/VDH accepted). If the dog bites during the side transport, only one command is allowed to

out (separate). **It was also discussed if the dog grips in the side transport and is out of position from between the handler and helper that "out- hier- fuss" is allowed as the 1 command only allowed 1 time)**

- Position of helper the judge may move the helper or marks if needed due to the size of the field.
- For the exercise "Attack on the dog out of motion (long bite)", the handler in levels 1 + 2 is difficult to implement in confined spaces (small trial fields), because the end point of the previous exercise is difficult to predict. The performance judge is given leeway to move the helper as needed. **(same as in USCA rulebook)**
- Using the leash with IGP-1 level. During Protection, the handler may choose to do different exercises on the leash or not. The dog handler can decide this for each exercise for secondary obedience but changing once the exercise has started is not permitted.

For example, if the handler chooses to call out the dog from the Hold and bark position and the dog does not come the handler may not then use the leash (the handler must make the decision to use the leash and heel out or call out but cannot change once started).

- Checking in for protection The FCI version of the rules is very misleading here. The handler should check in with the judge in the basic position. The next sentence says: check in is when the handler stands in the basic position for the blind search facing the judge and raises their hand. According to FCI commissions, the handler goes directly to the basic position for the blind search (no longer checks in with judge with handshake). This is the accepted way to check in at a USCA trial. The check in to start protection will be when the handler is on the field ready to start the Search and is facing down field

and raises a hand to get the judges acknowledgement. Then the handler turn / pivots towards the first blind to search.

- Sign out at end of protection. After checking out at the end of the last transport in stages IGP2 + IGP3, the Dog in free heeling goes about 5 steps away and is leashed in the basic position. After that controlled obedience (heeling) to the area for the critique is required. There are no clearly defined requirements for all levels of protection for the evaluation of the dog in the event of poor or lack of control after the leash is placed on the dog, a dog pulling or barking , not calm as the helper leaves etc. Until clarification, the last exercise should be left as it has been evaluated until a decision is determined. It should be borne in mind that this phase of obedience after the end of protection and to the area for critique is not about precision obedience , but only that the dog should show in a controlled manner.
- Dog leaves the helper during the guard phase before the judge's instructions to the handler to approach. The TSB will be “ng” if it leaves the helper early depending on how early before the handler calls the dog , the exercise is inadequate “M”. When calling out of the blind, the dog name can be used in addition to the "Hier" The dog name and command are to be given in connection (name and hier). Or the command hier fuss as always as one word but not name hier fuss.
- Hold and barking. The dog leaves the helper before the judge's instructions to handler to approach, the dog can be sent in again. M rating - 14 pts. **(same)**
- If the helper cannot be found again or if the dog leaves the helper again, the protection is terminated. TSB ng **(same)**
- If the dog takes a bite and does not let go, the judge instruction for handler to come in is given to the recall position. According to the rules, the command “out’ and the hier fuss

is allowed 1 time for the dog to come to the handler. With the IGP-1, the dog can be picked up either in free heel, on leash or recall. So as an example in this case the handler can approach his dog in the pickup IGP1, and put it in the basic position with the command "Out" and "Sit". After that the dog will be heeled to the call out position in free heel sequence or on leash. If the dog comes or can be picked up in level 1, the exercise is M with - 14

➤ In IGP 1, the dog can be picked up from the Hold and bark by the handler in three ways **(same)**

1. Call out – hier fuss

2. In free heeling (after approaching the dog may be put in the basic position before the start of the heeling)

3. Pick up in and put on leash and heeled out of the blind

➤ Prevention of attempted escape by the helper. In the IGP-1, the dog can be taken to the down position on leash, then in the basic position the leash removed and then down (if the handler starts the reposition they can not then change and use the leash or remove the leash until completed). **(same as it has been)**

If the dog runs to the helper before the start of the helpers escape, he will be disqualified if he bites. **(same as it has been)**. If the dog does not bite, he can be recalled back to the down position up with one verbal command –hier fuss. The escape exercise is then to be rated with 0 points "M". The protection phase will continue. **(same as in it has been)**

➤ Back transport. The distance is 8 paces **(same)** The helper is asked to move away or step back and the helper moves 8 paces from the dog/handler and stops until instructed by the handler to transport / move. In the IGP-2 there is no more attack out of back

transport. **(same as it has been)**. At the end of the back transport, (on the judges signal), the helper stops and the dog handler continues and comes up to the side of the helper to do the side transport, stops next to helper in basic position (dog sitting) and takes the soft stick from him. When standing still, the dog has to assume the basic position independently no sit command. Then there is a side transport over approx. 20 steps to the judge. **(same as it has been)**

Commands used for the transport: From the final basic position of the previous exercise, the helper is asked by the handler to step back from the dog and turn around (**helper now goes 8 paces away and stops**). In that position the handler then commands the start of the transport. **(same)**. If the dog breaks the back transport (runs and bites) while performing the back transport, a disqualification takes place. **(same)**. If the dog runs to the helper without biting, the helper and handler stop on the judges command and the handler has the 1 time command to call the dog back with a hier fuss. If he does not come back on the single command it is a Disqualification. **(same)**. If the dog forges too far and closes the distance to the helper during the back transport, the handler has two additional audible commands to get the dog back into position (free heeling next to the dog handler). If this does not happen with 2 additional audible signals (total of 3 commands), disqualification will also take place (due to disobedience). **(same)**

- Attack on the dog out of motion. The helper begins to run towards the dog and threats.

The verbal threats sounds must be clearly heard, yelled.

- IGP-1. For the Attack On The Dog Out Of Motion, the dog is led about 30 meters (judge will signal distance) in free heeling or on a leash, the helper remains in the position on the field at the point where the previous exercise ended, unless the judge instructs the helper to move more center field.. **(same as before)** After the pressure phase and out

the handler approaching the helper and then the handler disarming and side transport can be done on or off leash. **(same)**

- IGP-2 Attack On Dog Out Of Motion. The procedure is the same as in the IGP-1, only the dog must be off leash and free heel to the watch position and the distance is about 40 meters from the helper. The helper also remains in the position on the field where the previous exercise ended unless instructed by the judge to move. **(same)**
- IGP-3. Attack On Dog Out of motion remains the same as in IPO. The helper goes back into the blind and is called out by the judge , running to the center of the field and then turns continuing to run and threaten the dog. No change

Additional Frequently Asked Questions (from the SV):

General

- A minimum of 4 different dog and at least 2 handlers per examination day is required.

(So no trial can be done if 4 dogs and at least 2 handlers cannot check in for USCA)

- Are combinations of the "individual phases like the TR and OB allowed"?

The combinations are possible. ***There are different levels such as for FPr. 3 and UPr. 1 allowed. So a handler can do a TR1 and OB1 or any level in same trial.***

- Are collars with snap hooks allowed? These are not permitted. ***(same) only large link collars USCA has determined in our rules the link must be at least 1.5"***

BH / VT

- In which hand should the leash be held during the exercise "On Leash Heeling? Only in the left hand. **(same)**

Tracking A

- Indicating the article. Whether a dog indicates by pointing out or retrieving ***makes no difference in evaluation***. The dog may also turn his head to the handler while indicating the article as long as the body remains correct.
- Can a handler have his dog freely off leash complete one track at the IGP-FH, and on the leash in the second track? That is permissible.
- Can a search harness also be put on a free-searching dog? Yes. (Information FCI dated 01/18/20)
- Does the dog have to be placed in the search direction at the scent pad? No. Only placed or taken to the flag and the handler must be with the dog ***(as previously described the dog must be along side the handler or no more than the body in front of the handler)***.

Obedience B

- How often can the throwing of the dumbbell be repeated? 2 times. ***(for a total of 3 throws) (same)***

Protection C

- What should be done if the dog bites during the side transport? The dog is to be brought back into position with a single command "out" or "out hier fuss if also out of position. ***(same)*** Assessment: Exercise goes to the highest M (plus additional mistakes)
- How to proceed if the dog does the "attack out of back transport " exercise does not stay on the sleeve, misses and reattacks or slips off? The exercise is devalued with 5 points plus additional errors. If there is a helper error, it must be repeated. ***The dog must reengage or DQ***

- How to proceed if the dog does the “attack from out of motion movement”(long bite) exercises. Dog does not hold on or misses the grip but re engages? The exercise is devalued at all levels (IGP1-2-3) by 5 points plus additional errors. If a helper mistake the exercise must be repeated.