



THE UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA
IGP Working Dog Trial Rulebook

Version 4.0
Effective 1.2025



United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USCA)

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USCA Working Dog
Trial Rulebook
IGP/USP

The following information / regulations are for use at all USCA Events effective 1/2025) the original content is taken from the current WUSV and FCI RuleBooks for IGP rules and regulations with approved variances for USCA Events.

Approved by Nathaniel Roque, USCA Director of Judges, USCA Judges Committee



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Introduction and purpose of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America

The United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USCA) is a full member organization of the WUSV and promotes maintaining the working heritage of the German Shepherd Dog through the use of Working Dog Trials, Breed Surveys and Shows. Its mission is to preserve the German Shepherd Dog, in part through shows, breed surveys and working dog trials.

For more than forty (40) years USCA has been the largest German Shepherd Dog and all breed working dog sport organization in the United States. USCA continues to support and provide recognized and organized clubs, events, education (Judges Programs, Helper, and Track Layer Programs) to its membership and affiliated clubs. USCA hosts club, regional and national championship events for the all working dogs in IGP /RH as well specific shows and championships for the German Shepherd Dog. These events include the USCA GSD National Championship, the USCA Sieger Show, The USCA Working Dog Championship (all breed event). All club, regional level trials and the USCA Working Dog Championship are open to all breeds of dog for entry. Titles, Show Ratings and Breed Surveys awarded at USCA Events are world recognized by the WUSV and its partners.

USCA supports the efforts of the WUSV in its mission to preserve the German Shepherd Dog as a working breed and recognizes the value of working dog trials, shows and breed surveys for both breed temperament testing for breed ability as well as for organized dog sport competition for all breeds of working dogs.

USCA participates yearly in the selection of selecting and sending teams to compete at various world championships to include the WUSV World Championship and the WUSV Universal Sieger Championship for the United States.

USCA supports the humane care, treatment, and training of all dogs. It is the responsibility of all dog owners, trainers, or handlers of a dog to understand the capabilities of the dog and to adjust training and expectations of training and performance to what the dog is capable of attaining and exhibiting in its performance. Any dog that exhibits unnatural stress, pressure or avoidance in its work or performance or has not been properly cared for, handled or trained in accordance with accepted humane standards is to be avoided and may be evaluated as faulty or disqualified from any participation in USCA events. The evaluation of dogs showing negative temperament traits such as stress, pressure, avoidance will be evaluated as faulty in USCA events. At all times it is our responsibility as owners, trainers, and handlers to provide for the proper humane care and training of our dogs.

USCA supports the use of all commonly used and approved methods of canine training used in a humane manner. At all USCA events only the use of motivational training methods / objects are allowed at the event (on the grounds of the event). The use of any other training methods is prohibited (compulsion, correction devices) and will result in disqualification from the event for unsportsmanlike conduct.



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General information / abbreviations / terms

USCA – United Schutzhund Clubs of America

WUSV – World Union of German Shepherd Dog Clubs

IGP - International Utility Dog trial regulations (International Gebrauchshund Prufung- International Working Test)

USP – United States Prufung (USCA Approved Working Titles to include Stick Contact)

SV – German Shepherd Dog Club of Germany (Schaferhund Verien)

USCA Executive Board (EB) Elected officers of the organization. To include president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, director of judges, national breed warden, EB members at large (4), regional directors.

USCA General Board - consists of all EB and delegates from each full member USCA Club.

USCA Judges Committee – responsible for overseeing judges, sportsmanship, trials, and any disciplinary actions associated with USCA Events (unsportsmanlike behavior, aggressive dogs, etc.).

USCA National Events Committee – responsible for setting and maintaining the standards for championship events.

USCA Helper Committee – responsible for training and classification of teaching and trial helpers.

USCA Tracklayers Committee – responsible for tracklayer education and classification of championship and teaching tracklayers.

Host Club – USCA Full member Club holding a USCA Authorized Event.

Trial Personal – judge, trial secretary, helper/s (USCA Classified), track layer/s, group (4), additional field personal to use blank gun, set up and break down field equipment.

Competitors – Handler / Dog teams entered into the event. All Competitors must be members of USCA or USCA recognized organization.

Judges – all judges for USCA events must be licensed by WUSV member organizations.

Commands – all commands used for an exercise may be in any language but must remain the same command for the same behavior in all phases of the trial. Commands should be given in a spoken manner, overtly loud / yelling commands may be considered to be faulty. Hand signals are faulty except for the send out and blind search exercises. Any other movements made by the handler may be considered faulty as handler help. Most commands are a single word; multiple word commands are faulty with the exception of the blind search commands and call out of the blind as explained in the protection section.



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Rulebook – USCA Events will be held using the most current USCA Rulebook available. All USCA rules follow the intent of the WUSV (FCI IGP Trial rules) with some approved variances for dog sport in the United States. Any USCA Variance does not alter the fundamental description or evaluation of any exercise or title as accepted by the WUSV (FCI IGP Rules). Variances are approved by the USCA Judges Committee, USCA EB and GBM. Some variances are due to animal laws, liability, or practical application in the United States.

This version of the USCA Rulebook has been updated, edited and/or additional information added for clarification from any previous USCA Rulebook.

Approved; Nathaniel Roque, USCA Director of Judges 7/1/2025 version 4.0

General Information for Events (Trials)

Events (trials, shows, breed surveys) are held for several purposes;

1. To help determine the breed worthiness of the dog. These events test or evaluate the desired or accepted genetic traits desired in our working dogs.
2. Award titles to recognize the dog's abilities or accomplishments for specific purposes
3. Help contribute to maintaining the overall health, fitness, and work ethic of the dog.

The United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USCA) promotes dog events in the forms of trials, shows, breed surveys at both the club, regional and national championship levels.

Working Dog Trials will be conducted under the most current version of this rulebook. All trials and competitions, competitors and dogs are subject to exhibiting proper sportsmanship. Failure to meet these requirements will result in disqualification, additional possible sanctions against the handler / members, dog, host club or anyone involved with the incident.

Trial Field and Equipment guidelines. All trial fields must be large enough to allow all required exercises to be properly completed. The minimum size trial field for club trials for IGP obedience and protection is 100' by 200' and must be all usable area. All club trial fields must be approved by the Regional Director when affiliating a new USCA Club. All championship trial fields must meet the standards set by the National Events Committee and approved by the EB and/or GB. At all levels of trials, the obedience field must be set up with a 1 meter hurdle, 160 cm scaling wall, 3 dumbbells on a stand and a blind available for the IGP 3 long down handler. The hurdle and wall are recommended to be placed side by side so that the dumbbell throws are always going the direction of the send out but on smaller club fields the hurdle and scaling wall may be placed back-to-back (inline) to help maintain the widest working area of the trial field. The trial field must be properly marked as referenced in this rulebook to include:

For obedience the field must be marked for long down position, basic start position, flat retrieve position and a 4 by 4 meter square starting 8 meters from the flat retrieve line, For the hurdle and wall a line must be marked at 4 meters away from the hurdle / wall (minimum distance to the hurdle /wall) for the handler , handlers may position further back behind the line, and a rectangle 2 meters by 4 meters must be marked on the other side of the hurdle / wall starting at 6 meters from the hurdle /wall. The dumbbell must land within the marked areas with a single throw. For protection the field must be set up with all 6 blinds in a staggered pattern, marked for the handlers call out line at the find blind (#6), an arc for the dogs position for escape, helpers position for the escape, recommended to mark 20 paces for the maximum point where the dog must have caught and be gripping the helpers sleeve in the Escape Exercise (diagram in rule book). Additional field markings may be used for the back transport, attack out of back transport and the end of field position in line with the number 1 blind for the IGP 3 attack on dog out of motion (long bite).



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The layout and direction of work may be determined by the host club, but at any time the judge may request to make changes due to safety concerns or to maintain a fair sportsmanlike trial. The dumbbell throw must be in the direction of the send out for the flat retrieve and hurdle and scaling wall retrieves (unless hurdle and scaling wall are set up inline / back-to-back) in which case at least one (1) of the retrieves must be in the direction of the send out.

Competitors. All participants must meet the same working /performance standards or requirements of the trial exercises (adjustments may be made to allow handlers with disabilities or limitations (ADA) to be able to participate.) as long as it does not change the fundamental performance requirements of the exercise. The same handler must handle the same dog for all phases of a trial. A handler must at all times carry a leash and be able to safely bring the dog under control if needed. Training Vests/Jackets are not allowed in USCA Trials. Training Vest/jackets are clothing with oversized pockets to allow the carrying of training aids.

Events. (trials, shows and breed surveys) are by nature a public event and unless other specific circumstances are involved and authorized by USCA these events shall remain open to all USCA members in good standing and the general public. All USCA events may at any time be supervised - monitored by a representative of USCA selected by the Director of Judges or Judges Committee.

Events / Trials may only be held on the authorized days and times approved by USCA for the event. Authorizations to approve an event (to include the host, time, date, judge, location) are submitted through USCA and must receive approval from the Regional Director and Director of Judges, additional approval is required for championship events to include approval from the national Events Committee, Judges Committee, and the USCA EB. All events must be posted on the USCA website or magazine, a flier and entry information must be sent to the region for club trials at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the event and the information for championships to all members by website and/or magazine.

A trial must have a minimum of four (4) different dogs entered with a minimum of two (2) different handlers. At least one (1) of the dogs must be entered for a working title of IGP/USP 1-2-3, RH 1-2 or FH.

A club trial may only schedule a maximum of thirty-six (36) phases / points per calendar day per judge (exception is the AD). This requirement does not apply to championships. A phase / point is defined as any one (1) of the following; tracking = 1 phase /point, obedience = 1 phase / point, protection = 1 phase / point. Examples are an IGP/USP 1-2-3 consists of tracking, obedience, protection = 3 phases / points, a BH consists of obedience and the temperament test = 2 points, an FH is equal to 3 phases /points, TR-OB titles are equal to 1 phase / point. Additional information can be found in other sections of this rulebook. All dogs must be able to be identified by tattoo or microchip to enter a trial. All dogs must have passed a BH prior to entering a trial for any level title, except USCA AD.

A title can only be awarded to a dog that has successfully passed all phases in the level of title that it is entered. The minimum age that a dog may enter for a specific title is listed with the additional information for the title in this rulebook. A dog may only progress to a higher-level title if it has successfully passed the previous level title. All working titles (IGP/ USP/ FH) must be done in order with the exception of the TR and OB. Dogs may only enter one (1) working title per trial (3 phases) with the exception of the AD which can be completed at the same trial as long as it is done on a different calendar day. A working title is one of the following IGP/ USP or FH. A dog may enter for GPR, STP, TR and OB in the same trial but may not exceed 3 phases / points per trial.



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Phases / Points per day per trial

(Maximum 36 per judge for club trials, this does not apply to championships)

TR/FPR or OB/ UPR	1 phase per level
GPR 1-2-3	2 phases
IGP / USP 1-2-3	3 phases
BH	2 phases (with or without written test)
FH 1	1 phase
FH2-3	3 phases
IGP FH	3 phases per day (requires 2 tracks, 2 days)
STP 1-2-3	1 phase
RH	3 phases

USCA does not award or allow “protection” only titles.

All IGP, FH, RH and StP titles or awards earned at USCA events are recognized at all WUSV member organizations and partners organizations in all countries worldwide. Currently USP Titles are only recognized by USCA. USP titles may be earned in order (secession) by alternating with IGP titles. Example a dog with a IGP 1 may enter to earn a USP 2, IGP2 may enter for USP 3. But this is not reciprocal a dog may not advance in IGP with only USP titles (USP1 may not enter for IGP2 etc.).

Trial Season in USCA is year-round providing the weather conditions allow for a safe trial environment. Trials may only be held on Fridays, Saturday, or Sundays (in special circumstances Mondays may be approved). Fridays or Mondays may only be approved if Saturday or Sunday are full (36 phases) or for specific approved reasons that will be listed in the authorization and approved, examples are weather concerns, judges’ availability, a dog attempting to earn its BH and IGP/USP/GPR 1 or FH at the same trial in which case the BH could be completed on Friday and the IGP/USP/GPR/FH completed on Saturday. A Friday trial may only be connected with the Saturday trial (Friday- Saturday, Friday-Saturday-Sunday).

Trial Secretary

The Trial Secretary is responsible for organization of the event, maintaining contact with the judge, ensures that there is adequate tracking, obedience and protection equipment and area to hold the trial as well as a USCA Classified Helper with current membership in good standing, members for a group in obedience and a gun person. The secretary is responsible for all trial paperwork, ensure that all dogs have scorebooks and handlers are members of USCA or an organization recognized by USCA. The secretary must be able to help maintain an orderly event and be available to the judge for assistance.

The trial secretary is responsible to submit all trial paperwork with fees within five (5) working days after the completion of the trial. There are two (2) fee structures for USCA events one (1) is a fee for USCA members and the other is an additional fee for non USCA members. The amounts are determined by the USCA EB and GB. The host club may also charge an additional trial entry fee of any amount that they determine.

A Trial Secretary must be a member of USCA and may not show / enter a dog in the event. The trial secretary must contact the judge a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the event to inform the judge of entries, location, schedule etc.

Trial Judges for USCA Events

Judges that are authorized to judge at USCA Events are USCA Licensed Judges or any licensed judges from a WUSV member organization. Judges must be approved by USCA (Regional Director, Director of



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Judges and / or Judges Committee and EB for championships). Judges for club level events are selected by the host club, USCA Clubs may use the same USCA judge up to two (2) times in a row without a different judge in between, but must use a different approved judge for the (3rd) third trial before using the same judge. Judges for USCA National Events are recommended for the event by the USCA Judges Committee and then approved by the USCA EB. USCA has the right to not approve any licensed judge for its events for any reason.

An event may use one (1) judge to judge all phases / levels of the event as long as it does not exceed the maximum number of phases / points per day for a judge or multiple judges may be used for any event with one (1) judge judging each phase. In the situation of multiple judges being used if a “Head Judge” has not been assigned then the “protection judge” is the supervising judge in the event that a specific decision must be made.

Trial judges are not permitted to judge dogs that are owned by him / her or are in his possession, or dogs whose owners reside with them (spouse / partner). Trial judges are not allowed to judge at the same club more than one (1) time per calendar year and another different judge must have been used by the club before inviting the same judge back (in special circumstances this may be waived by approval from the Director of Judges).

There is a USCA variance for championships that allows a person of the same household to enter a championship being judged by a spouse or member of their household.

A trial judge is not permitted to handle a dog in a trial in which he is judging.

The trial judge is not permitted to disturb or influence the work of the dog through his behavior while evaluating (judging) the performance. The trial judge is responsible for compliance and correct adherence to the current trial rules. The judge is authorized to terminate the trial for failure of compliance of the rules and / or his instructions. In such cases, the judge must provide a written report to the Judges Committee of USCA, which will be reviewed and if required presented to the USCA EB for sanctions.

The trial judge is authorized to terminate a performance or disqualify a handler in the event of unsportsmanlike behavior, carrying of motivational articles, non-compliance with the rules, non-compliance with animal rights guidelines, and anything against the local laws. A disqualification or termination must be recorded in the scorebook and on the trial paperwork. In the event of a disqualification all acquired points will not be recognized or recorded and the overall rating will be “M” insufficient. The Judge must notify the Director or Assistant Director of Judges of any unsportsmanlike behavior.

The judge’s decision is final and incontestable. Any form of criticism concerning the decision, can lead to dismissal from the event (trial) for sportsman like behavior and may eventually lead to disciplinary measures.

In justified cases, not based on a judge’s evaluation / score or individual rating of a dog’s performance but by the behavior of a judge in clear violation of the rules of conduct or unsportsmanlike behavior a notarized complaint may be submitted against the judge within 8 days of the occurrence to the USCA Judges Committee. Video evidence may only be used to determine the judges’ behavior or adherence to the rules not the overall evaluation or score of the dogs’ performance. This complaint must be made in writing, whereby the plaintiff and at least one witness signs it and submits it via the trial secretary of the hosting club or USCA. Filing a complaint does not



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automatically lead to a dismissal of the judge's decision. The decision concerning a complaint is determined as outlined in the USCA Judges Program/USCA BOI or the EB.

Helpers for USCA Trials

All helpers in a USCA trial must have current USCA membership and a current Helper Classification and Helper Book. The helper must be properly classified for the level of trial that they are performing the protection work. The helper must have all proper approved equipment, protection pants and jacket, padded stick and a trial sleeve with a bite bar and sleeve cover in good condition, any additional equipment is the helper's decision such as shoes/cleats, braces, gloves etc. At all times the trial helper is "working" for the judge and must follow the judge's instructions. All helper work should be performed equally to all dogs and in accordance with the USCA Helper Program. Additional information regarding the individual requirements and performance of each exercise is available in the USCA Helper program that is available on the USCA website.

Track layers for USCA Trials

USCA offers a Track Layers Education program and issues record books. Track Layer Seminars are available through USCA Teaching track layers and can be scheduled with an authorization as an official USCA Event.

Track layers for USCA club events "do not have to be USCA members" but it is highly recommended that they are USCA members and have experience. Track layers for championship events "should be USCA members and should be participating in the USCA Tracklayers Program with a Tracklayers Book to record their work. Track layer information is recorded on the trial paperwork. Track layers must be available to walk the track as it is worked by the dog.

General Requirements to enter a USCA Trial

The person entering must be a USCA Member or hold a valid current membership from an organization recognized by USCA to enter a USCA Club level trial /event. There may be an additional entry fee payable to USCA for non USCA members entering a USCA Trial. To enter the USCA GSD National Championship the dog must be USCA registered and must be handled by a USCA Member in good standing as well as meeting the additional entry requirements of regional championship participation or member of a world team as well as an overall score of at least 270 pts or a total score of 250 pts with a protection score of 85 pts pronounced (a). If the dog is imported in the same calendar year as the event it must make its qualifying score no later than August 1 of that year in a USCA event. To enter the USCA Working Dog Championship all entries must be USCA members and German Shepherd Dogs must be USCA registered. To enter a USCA Regional Championship all entries must be USCA Members.

On the day of the event / trial the dog must have met the required minimum age. No exceptions are allowed. All dogs must have passed a BH, the minimum age for a BH is fifteen (15) months old.

The same handler must show / handle the same dog in all phases of the trial.

Handlers with disabilities may enter and show in USCA Trials under the ADA act adjustments may be made to the handling of the dog for the exercises as long as the adjustments / changes do not change the fundamental description or performance of the exercise or change the evaluation of the dog compared to other entries in the trial.

The handler must at all times have a leash during the trial. It must be carried in a way that when not in use is over the shoulder opposite the dog, around the waist or in a pocket and at all times the clip away from the dog. The handler must be able use the leash if needed to control the dog or if instructed by the judge to leash the dog.



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Collars – the single row, large link (fur saver, links must be 1.5” or larger) type collar loose fitting on the dog must be worn throughout the trial. The BH allows the use of flat leather or fabric collars or chest harness.

Muzzle – muzzles are not allowed at USCA events, all dogs must be able to be shown without a muzzle.

Training vests or jackets are not allowed to be used during a trial. This includes clothing that resembles training attire meant to influence the dog.

The start of the trial is determined as either draw for competitor placement, turning in of scorebooks or the start of the first dog in any phase of the trial. Before the start of the trial during approved practice, commonly used corrective devices may be used in a commonly accepted humane manner unless specifically directed by the host club or organization that they are not allowed. Abuse of corrective training methods or aids may lead to disqualification (DQ) or unsportsmanlike charges and sanctions. Motivational training methods (aids) may also be used during practice and for warmup at USCA events.

After the start of the trial, throughout the trial until the end of the trial (which is recognized as either the awards ceremony or the return of scorebooks to the handlers). No corrective training devices or aids (electric, pinch, choke, heeling sticks etc.) may be used on or within the sight of the trial venue. The trial venue is considered to be all trial fields (including the obedience, protection, and tracking fields), parking competitor parking area or any area within the spectator’s sight of the venue. Motivational training methods and aids may be used during the trial while not on the trial fields (parking areas, prior to stepping onto the trial field to report in to the judge). All motivational training aids must be discarded before entering the trial field. The judge has the right to determine if a handler is wearing an item that may signal or change the behavior of the dog and have the handler remove it prior to competing (training vests or the like). During tracking motivational methods of training (practice track) may only be used in the designated parking area for tracking. If a competitor is allowed to drive closer to their track that is not considered to be the designated parking area. No starter tracks / practice tracks are allowed on the official tracking fields. Starter / practice tracks may be done in the parking area for tracking or on a different field with the host clubs’ permission. This is to ensure all competitors have equal opportunity at tracking.

Title	Prerequisite	Minimum Age
BH	N/A	15 months
IGP / USP / GPR 1	BH	18 months
IGP / USP / GPR 2	IGP /USP / GPR 1	19 months
IGP / USP / GPR 3	IGP / USP / GPR 2	20 months
FH- 1	BH	15 months
FH 2	FH 1	18 months
FH 3	FH 2	19 months
IGP FH	FH or FH 2	20 months
TR / FPR 1-2-3	BH	15 months
OB . UPR 1-2-3	BH	15 months
STP 1-2-3	BH	15 months
USCA - AD	Does not require BH	16 months

USCA does not offer protection only titles.

United States Prufung (USP) titles are a USCA specific title, USCA only title. These titles are evaluated under the same IGP rules except phase “C” (Protection) there are “stick contact” (hits) in all levels as described under exercises.



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In addition to the titles listed above USCA also offers WUSV / SV / IRO accepted RH Titles. RH rules are available in a separate rule book and have some different requirements (vests, muzzle etc.). RH titles may only be awarded by USCA Judges designated as “RH Judges” (refer to current USCA Judges list on the USCA website. Look for links to the current RH Rules on the USCA website.

The GPR 1-2-3 consists of the obedience and protection phase of IGP. The GPR are performed and evaluated under the same corresponding rules for IGP.

The exercises for TR / FPR (tracking only) 1-2-3 and OB / UPR (obedience 1-2-3 are performed and evaluated under the same corresponding rules for IGP tracking or obedience.

OB and TR titles may be done in any order; they do not have to be completed in sequence 1-2-3. TR and OB titles may be combined and done with the same dog at a trial. A dog may not exceed 3 phases / points in any single trial and may only enter for one (1) working title per trial (IGP, FH).

All dogs entered into a USCA trial must be presented in good health and physical condition, it is the judges' decision to prevent entry or DQ any dog not meeting these requirements.

Females in Season (heat) may participate in an event / trial but they must be shown separately from the other handlers and dogs. Every effort should be used to keep them separate for other entries. In phase “A” tracking they will draw and track with all other dogs entered in the trial. But in phase “B” and “C” (obedience and protection) they will be shown after all other entries have completed the trial. Females in season should not be allowed to practice on the trial field immediately before the trial. They may be allowed practice time at the end of the trial after all other competitors have finished and before they show in “B” and “C.”

Females who are visibly pregnant or who are nursing or have puppies with them, may not be trialed specifically from the 19th day after the first day of the breeding. This is valid until they complete the 12 weeks after the day of birth. Entry between the 8th and 12th week may be possible with the decision of the judge for the trial based on the dog's overall health and appearance.

Sick or dog suspected of contagious diseases or that have been drugged in order for them to compete or dogs using, showing with braces, injury or bandages may not compete.

Social Compatibility

All dogs at any time during the event (before, during or after its performance) that show overly aggressive or dangerous behavior as determined by the judge or by a USCA official and reported to the judge or any dog that attacks a person or another dog will be disqualified. All points will be withdrawn and the dog will be disqualified (DQ). The reason will be noted in the scorebook and on the trial paperwork. A report will also be submitted to the Director of Judges to determine if the DQ should be referred to the USCA Judges Committee and sanctioned under the USCA Dog Aggression Policy and suspended or otherwise sanctioned. Any dog that has been DQ for aggression or out of control in a dangerous manner must repeat the BH before being allowed to enter another trial at any level. Any dog DQ for aggression must have the entry in the scorebook and on the trial paperwork DQ for Aggression and must repeat BH test.

Liability

The owner and/or handler is responsible for any damage, personal injury caused by their dog. Therefore, they must have liability insurance or be financially able to cover all expenses.



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Written Test (“BH” test required for first time handlers at all levels)

All first-time handlers must pass a written test provided by USCA; this test will be periodically changed and is based on basic general knowledge and safety required of a handler to enter a trial. This test is often referred to as the “BH Written test” but is also required for a new handler entering and handling a titled dog in a trial for the first time. Examples are: a first-time handler entering their dog that they have trained for the BH, a new handler entering for the first time with a previously titled dog. The written test is only required one time for a new handler.

Vaccinations – all dogs must be properly vaccinated as required by local laws. The hosting club has the right to request proof of vaccination with entry.

Pulling a dog for injury / sickness – a dog may be pulled from continuing to compete in a trial due to an injury or sickness. The handler may make the request to pull the dog from further competition to the trial secretary or the judge. The judge has the final decision and may request a veterinarian excuse to validate the injury or sickness. The certificate must be presented to the judge within four (4) days after the trial. The judge has the right to ask the handler to present the dog for evaluation by the judge regardless of if a veterinarian excuse is provided. If the request is granted and/or the veterinarian certification is presented the entry into the scorebook will be “Terminated due to injury / illness” if no certification is presented or the judge does not agree to the handlers request an entry into the scorebook will be “Insufficient due to termination” and may also be considered unsportsmanlike behavior.

Awards

Titles may be repeated on the same dog as many times as wanted. In club level events for the purpose of awards a dog that is repeating a title shall be placed behind the dog earning its title for the first time in that level (IGP / USP 1-2-3 etc.) Overall High in Trial is awarded to the highest scoring dog regardless of if it is the dogs first time earning the title or a “repeater.” In the event of a tie score the dog with the highest protection score is selected, if the protection scores are the same the dog with the highest obedience score is selected, if the obedience score is the same the highest tracking score is used. In the very unusual situation that all scores are the same but if this happens the dog earning its title for the first time is selected. If still a tie the youngest dog in age is selected.

At club level events the host club may select what if any awards they want to provide.

At championships this is decided by USCA (Head Judge of the event or Director of Judges and Judges Committee).

Working Titles and awards USCA only

USCA has specific programs to award members and dogs for their accomplishments earned as USCA members at USCA Events. These are the IGP 3 Club, Sports Medals bronze, Silver, Gold and Masters, Working Title, Youth Handler. Please check with USCA for additional information.

Scorebooks

Each dog “should” have only one (1) scorebook issued to it. The scorebook must be a USCA or an accepted by USCA scorebook from a WUSV member organization or a recognized partner of USCA. Scorebooks are issued to the dog not the member and should follow the dog if ownership is changed.

Identity and Temperament Check

All dogs entered into a USCA trial must pass an identity check. This may be a tattoo or a microchip. The Identity check may be performed by the judge or under the judge’s supervision by their designated person (trial secretary, host member, handler) But at all times the judge must be evaluating the dog’s behavior during the identity check for overall temperament and social compatibility. At any time, the judge has the right to further test the dog’s temperament by touching, using the scanner etc.



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The Temperament check

The Temperament check should not be a systematic evaluation it is conducted throughout the duration of the trial. If a dog fails the temperament test it must be noted in the scorebook and trial paperwork. The judge is also required to notify the DOJ of the incident. It should not always follow the exact same pattern or routine so as not to allow a dog to be trained for the temperament test. The test is an evaluation of the dogs' natural temperament not the trained behavior. The test should consist of interaction with people and surroundings without any obedience commands in order to access the dogs' natural behavior. The test may include other distractions such as cars, bikes, other dogs. At any time during the trial the judge may request to touch the dog if he/she determines the need to do so to further test the dogs' temperament. It is always up to the judge to determine how the test is performed. The basic evaluation should be done in an "everyday setting." The dog should not be challenged. The overall temperament test is not only at the start of the trial but continues throughout the trial and a dog may be disqualified (DQ) at any time for failure of the temperament test. Gunshots are part of the temperament test during the trial and may be repeated at the judges' decision. The BH does not have gunshots and therefore should not be paired with an IGP entry on the field at the same time.

Results of the temperament test:

Positive = passed – examples are dog is self-confident, calm, secure and attentive, impartial, and attentive to its handler.

Borderline = requires additional attention and may be allowed to continue and passed based on overall behavior during the trial. The dog is unsteady, but not aggressive and remains balanced throughout the trial. The dog may be slightly agitated but is able to become calmer throughout the test or trial.

Fail = may not participate in the trial. Dogs that are insecure, frightened, overtly stressed, avoid/move away from people, nervous, aggressive, fear biter.

Any dog that fails a temperament test must have that recorded in its scorebook.

Gun Surenness – Gun Shy = a dog that reacts negativity to the gun shot during a trial. The dog that runs, shows fear, stress, tries to leave, is unable to follow commands after the gun shot. It is important that if the reaction to the gun shot is not a loss of overall control or the dog breaks / leaves the long down that the judge determines if this is training fault or the natural temperament of the dog. This will determine if the dog is allowed to continue or be disqualified (DQ) temperament /gun shy.

TSB – protection Phase “C”

USCA will continue to evaluate the TSB, although at this time it is not recognized under FCI rules. The TSB evaluation should describe the temperament characteristics of the dog under stress during the protection work. The TSB does not necessarily reflect the dog's overall points score. The TSB is important regarding the breeding traits of the dog.

A TSB rating is entered into the scorebook and trial paperwork if the dog has completed at least one fighting (gripping) exercise (has at least attempted the escape exercise).

The TSB evaluates the "Drive," Self Confidence and "Stress tolerance" of the dog.

TSB = pronounced (a) is given to a dog that displays a strong willingness to work, clear instinctive behavior goal orientated determination, self-confident, ability to withstand stress

TSB = sufficient (vh) is given to a dog that is slightly restricted in its willingness to work, hesitation to engage, lesser self-confidence and/ or lower ability to handle stress

TSB = insufficient (ng) is a dog that is unwilling to work (engage) lacks instinctive behavior, self-confidence, and insufficient stress tolerance (does not engage or leaves)

Commands

Commands may be given in any language but must be consistent to using the same command for the same behavior (example of a common mistake of an incorrect command for a behavior is the pickup of a



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dog to “sit” by using the heel command (fuss). All exercises must begin with a command with the exception of defense exercises in the protection phase where the dog reacts to the helpers’ threat without command.

When recalling the dog, the dog’s name may be used instead of a recall command but using both name and command is a fault / double command. The exception to this is in protection where the blind search may be executed by using a send command the dogs’ name and a recall command (example search – dogs’ name – recall for each blind) or for the call out of the blind the command “heir fuss / come heel” as examples may be used as long as they are used together without pause between words (as a single word). The start of all exercises must be after the judges’ signal, failure to follow this and start the exercise on your own may result in faults and deductions.

Discipline / Disqualification / Termination

The Trial Secretary is responsible to organize the trial; the judge has final decision.

The judge is authorized to terminate / stop or suspend the trial if the order and safety of the event is compromised in any way. Violations by the handler/s or organizing host club that are against the rules, regulations or unsportsmanlike conduct will lead to disqualification or termination. Video recordings for evidential purposes are not permitted. The provisions of the disciplinary regulations of USCA are enforced.

Disqualification

All points awarded up to that point of disqualification (DQ) will be deleted. No points or ratings will be entered into the scorebook. There will not be an evaluation. It is not permitted to show the dog in any other phases it has not completed. In the scorebook the reason for the disqualification has to be written by the judge.

Addition information on Disqualification (DQ) is at back of rulebook

Common Reasons for Disqualification (DQ)	
Dog picks up and will not release or eats an article at tracking	Disqualification for disobedience
Dog chases game, refuses to track	
Dog leaves the working field and/or does not return after three (3) commands from the handler (at the judges’ discretion based on liability or danger)	
Dog is not under control of the handler. Examples: dog will not return to handler; dog is out of control and handler is not able to control the dog with 3 or less commands in any phase,	
Dog grips / bites the helper anywhere except on the protection sleeve.	
Dog bites any human or dog at the event to include the handler, judge, spectators	
Dog is overly aggressive towards humans or other dogs	
Dog is not neutral during the temperament check (unstable, aggressive)	
Handler displays unsportsmanlike behavior, does not follow the judge’s direction. Does not follow the trial rules. Holds the dog by collar (except Long Bite)	Disqualification for unsportsmanlike behavior
Handler commits fraud, animal cruelty or abuse	



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Termination

With a termination, all points awarded up to the point of termination are awarded, to include the points of the phases that have been completed. The total of points reached up to the point of termination are entered in the scorebook. If the dog is terminated in phase C, phase C is to be evaluated with 0 points, the points reached in sections A and B are retained and recorded. Additional termination information is available in USCA Variances and trial information section.

Common reasons for termination
Dog will not start track after 3 commands or stops tracking
Dog leaves the track by more than 10 meters (handler leaves the track)
Dog does not complete the track in the given time limit
Dog leaves the helper, will not engage
Dog fails a protection defense exercise
Dog does not find the helper after 3 attempts / commands to direct the dog to the find blind

Evaluation

The evaluation of the performance is noted with ratings (qualification) and points. The rating (qualification) and the corresponding points must reflect the quality of the respective exercise.

Point table

Highest points	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Insufficient
5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0 – 0
10	10.0	9.5 - 9.0	8.5 - 8.0	7.5 - 7.0	6.5 – 0
15	15.0 - 14.5	14.0 - 13.5	13.0 - 12.0	11.5 - 10.5	10.0 – 0
20	20.0 - 19.5	19.0 – 18.0	17.5 – 16.0	15.5 – 14.0	13.5 – 0
30	30.0 – 29.0	28.5 – 27.0	26.5 - 24.0	23.5 – 21.0	20.5 – 0
35	35.0 – 33.0	32.5 – 31.5	31.5 - 28.0	27.5 – 24.5	24.0 – 0
60	60.0 – 58.0	57.5 – 54.0	53.5 – 48.0	47.5 – 42.0	41.5 – 0
70	70.0 – 66.5	66.0 – 63.0	62.5 – 56.0	55.5 – 49.0	48.5 – 0
80	80.0 – 76.0	75.5 - 72.0	71.5 – 64.0	63.5 – 56.0	55.5 – 0
100	100 – 96.0	95.5 – 90.0	89.5 – 80.0	79.5 – 70.0	69.5 – 0
200	200-192	191 -180	179 - 160	159 - 140	139 - 0
300	300 -286	285 -270	269 -240	239 -210	209 -0

Calculation of percentage

Evaluation	Awarded percentage	Deduction
Excellent	= at least 96 %	or up to minus 4 %
Very Good	= 90 to 95 %	or minus 5 to 10 %
Good	= 80 to 89 %	or minus 11 to 20 %
Satisfactory	= 70 to 79 %	or minus 21 to 30 %
Insufficient	= 69 % or below	or minus 31 to 100 %



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Individual tests

During the evaluation of a particular phase only full points are to be awarded. However, with individual exercises, partial half points may / can be used by the judge for evaluation. For final results if points are awarded with partial levels, then they can be either rounded up or down based on the judges' overall evaluation in the rating category.

A passing score is a minimum of 70% of the maximum possible score.

Basic requirements for the dog's behavior / performance in all levels of the trial

Expressive behavior/self-confidence

Particular attention is to be paid to expressive behavior by the dog during the judging and by awarding the respective score. The dogs must show that they want to do the required exercise for the handler and not show that they are being pressured to do it. Close observation of the entire dog such as facial expression, ear and tail position, tense muscles, unnatural movement, excessive breathing rate, excessive salivation, or hectic behavior, etc., contribute to the evaluation. Negative reactions after the delivery of verbal commands leads to deductions.

Free, happy, motivated work

The dog should show motivated work. A strong willingness to work and to show a performance / execution of the work is top priority.

Concentration/attention

The dog must be concentrated / attentive to the handler during the entire routine without showing an extremely abnormal body or head posture (unnatural or robotic movement).

Harmony of the team

The presentation should show strong harmony in its work between the dog and handler. The dog must be able to follow the handler in a normal manner.

Technical correctness/position

In addition to natural expressive behavior and a harmonious performance, attention must be paid to the technically correct execution of the exercise. The exercises should be performed clearly and according to their description.

Acceptance of commands and execution of an exercise

The dog should always accept the commands immediately and perform the exercises without stress or delay.

Basic assessment in the execution of trial exercises

When assessing an exercise, a distinction must be made between the primary and the secondary components. The primary part of an exercise is determined in all phases by the name of the respective exercise.

This is to ensure that the primary part of an exercise is reflected stronger in the assessment than mistakes in the secondary parts of an exercise.

The dog's response to the verbal command

The dog should perform the exercise freely, open behavior at the handler's verbal command. Any behaviors showing stress or fear is faulty and will devalue the exercise.

Additional verbal commands

1st additional command (2nd command total) = 1.5 pt deduction, 2nd additional command (3rd total command) = 2.5 pt deduction. If a dog does not perform an exercise after the 2nd additional verbal



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command (3rd total), the exercise is to be awarded 0 points, “M”.

If the dog performs the exercise incorrectly (e.g. standing/lying in the sitting exercise, sitting/standing in the down exercise, etc.), the exercise will be devalued at 50%.

If a dog performs the exercise before the verbal command, the exercise is to be evaluated with minus 2 points.

Execution of the basic position

The basic position is the sitting position of the dog on the left side of the handler. Each exercise begins and ends with a basic position. The basic position may only be assumed once before each exercise from the forward movement. In the basic position the dog must sit straight, attentive to the handler, with its shoulder blade at knee height to the left of the handler. In the basic position, the handler is not allowed to stand with his legs spread and both arms must be relaxed against the body.

Development /Build-up of an exercise

From the basic position the development is carried out in the exercises "Sit in motion", "Down with recall", "Stand exercise" and "Send out with down". It must be at least 10, but no more than 15 steps before the verbal command is given to perform the exercise.

Picking up / calling the dog

In all the exercises where the dog is picked up, the handler can approach the dog from the front or by going around the dog from behind. When calling the dog, the dog's name may be used instead of the verbal command for approach. The dog's name in conjunction with the verbal command for approach is considered a double command. The dog must approach happy, free, with purpose, fast and directly, it must sit close and straight in front of the handler. At the verbal command for the basic position the dog must move directly to the end basic position. This can be done by the dog walking around the handler at the rear or with a “flip finish” moving to the basic position. If the handler needs an additional verbal command for the dog to go into the final basic position, the exercise is 1.5 points. If two additional verbal commands are required for this, a deduction of 2.5 points. If, after the second additional verbal command, the dog does not take the basic position, the entire exercise is to be rated as "Insufficient".

Praise

The dog may briefly be freed up and praised after each exercise. During the short praise and freeing up (maximum of about 5 seconds), the dog may leave the basic position. After this praise/freeing up, the dog must be back into the basic position and after showing at least about 3 seconds, the next exercise may start.

Report in for Obedience

At the beginning of the obedience exercise, both handlers and their dogs must present themselves to the judge. This is done with the dog on leash for the BH and IGP/USP 1, off leash for all other levels. The handlers will report to the judge their name, the name of the dog and the title they are reporting in for.

Start and ending of an exercise

The judge gives the instruction for the start of an exercise. Failure of the handler to wait for the judge's signal to start an exercise is faulty and will incur a deduction. Handlers that intentionally start / execute exercises without the judge's signal to start will be faulted more severely with a deduction (loss) of up to all points for the exercise (0 pts “M”). All other portions of the exercise like turns, stops changes in tempo etc. are performed without instructions of the judge. If the handler forgets an exercise, the judge will ask the handler to perform the forgotten exercise. There is no point devaluation for this. Forgotten partial exercises will devalue the exercise.



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BH / New Handler Written Test

(required for all first handlers entering a USCA trial)

All dog owners must provide evidence that they have successfully passed the written examination. Dogs of all breeds and sizes are accepted. The minimum age of the dog to enter a USCA trial is 15 months.

Dogs that do not earn the required 42 points or more (70%) of the points available in Part “A” (Obedience) are not allowed to continue to be evaluated in Part “B” (Traffic Portion). The Part “A” obedience phase is passed if the dog earns 42 or more points out of the available 60 points (70%). The part “B” (traffic safety) is a temperament evaluation of the BH and is a pass/fail examination. It is the judges’ decision how the part “B” portion of the test is performed and evaluated. Passing the part “B” is done if all exercises were considered sufficient by the judge. Points are not announced the BH is a Pass or Fail examination. At the request of the hosting club, the BH may be placed in order of overall performance for an award ceremony. The results of the BH examination must be entered in the official trial paperwork and the scorebook regardless of the outcome of the examination (pass or fail).

Description of the BH (companion dog test) with traffic safety

The most important part of the evaluation of the BH is the dog’s temperament, bond with the handler and ability to perform the “fundamental exercise as described.” There is no gun sureness test in the BH.

Obedience BH - Part A (see diagrams for BH correct patterns)

Start of the obedience phase

At the beginning of the obedience phase, both handlers and their dog must present themselves to the judge. This is done with the dogs on leash. The handlers will report to the judge his/her name, the name of the dog and the title they are reporting in for. After the judge’s instruction, one handler / dog team will be instructed to go to Long Down position and the other will be instructed to go to the start position for “Heeling on Leash.”

Heeling on Leash, 30 points

Execution of the exercise: On signal from the judge, the handler starts the exercise. Moving in a straight, calm, and attentive basic position, the dog follows the handler attentively, freely, openly, straight / parallel to the handler, reacting quickly and attentively to the voice command for "Heel". The shoulder blade of the dog must always remain in position in line with the handler’s knee / hip on the handler's left side and when the handler stops the dog must sit independently, quickly, and straight without verbal command. At the beginning of the exercise the handler / dog team walks straight ahead with his dog for about 45 -50 paces without stopping. They execute a left about turn and after another 10 to 15 normal steps the handler shows the running pace and the slow pace (both about 10 - 15 steps each) with the verbal command for "Heel". The transition from the running pace to the slow pace and back to the normal pace must be carried out without intermediate steps and must be done with a verbal command for heeling for each speed change. After the last 10-15 normal steps the team comes to a stop / halt. After a 3 second pause the handler / dog team go into a group of at least 4 moving people. In the group the handler and the dog must go around one person on the left and one person on the right (in any order) and stop once in the group at or near a person. On instruction of the judge the handler / dog team return to the starting point and assume the basic position. This is also the starting point for the next exercise. The handler removes the leash prior to starting the next exercise “Sit” (this may be done after leaving the group before obtaining the “basic” position or at the “basic” position).



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Evaluation criteria for Heeling:

Running forging ahead, lateral deviation not remaining parallel to the handler, staying / lagging behind, slow, or hesitant reaction, sitting, requiring additional handler help with verbal commands, body movements, faults in the start position, inattention, lack of enthusiasm/motivation as well as stressed / depressed behavior and lack of confidence of the dog lead to a faulty evaluation.

Sit exercise 10 points

From the basic position and on a verbal command for heeling, the handler / dog team walk in a straight line at a normal pace for about 10-15 steps after which time the handler gives the verbal command for the dog to sit. The handler may pause (remain) with the dog until it has taken the position for 3 seconds and then walk in the same normal pace away from the dog or the handler may walk without a pause and execute the sit “in motion” with the dog taking the sit position from motion. The handler proceeds straight ahead in the same normal pace / gait for about another 15 steps away from the dog, stops, turns to the dog and the handler may return to the dog on the judge's command.

Evaluation criteria for the sit:

Faults include: Slow sitting, stress behavior, restless and inattentive sitting will be penalized accordingly in addition to other faulty behavior. If the dog stands or lies down, the exercise will be penalized with an additional 50% of the total exercise points. For a dog that does not respond to the 2nd additional verbal command (3 commands total), the exercise is to be marked as “insufficient” (M, 0 pts). In this case the dog may be picked up and the rest of the examination may be continued.

Down with Recall 10 points

From the basic start position and on the verbal command to heeling, the handler / dog team walks in a straight line at a normal pace/gait for about 10 -15 steps at which time the handler gives the verbal command for down. The handler may pause (remain) with the dog until it has taken the down position for 3 seconds and then walk in the same normal pace away from the dog or the handler may walk without a pause and execute the down “in motion” with the dog taking the down position from motion. The handler proceeds straight ahead at the same normal pace/ gait for about another 30 paces, stops, turns to the dog and on signal from the judge calls the dog to him/her. The dog must come fast, freely, motivated in a straight line and sit in front of the handler and is then after a 3 second pause given the command to take the basic position. The dog may either go around the handler or using a “flip” go directly into the basic position. At the end of the exercise, the dog is put on the leash and led to the exercise "down under distraction" or to the report-out.

Evaluation criteria for the Down with Recall:

Faults include: Slow laying down, restless and/or inattentive behavior while in the down, a slow recall, assistance from the handler such as standing with legs apart, in addition to other faults lead to corresponding fault / devaluation. If the dog sits or stands, the exercise is decreased by an additional 50% of the total exercise.

For a dog that does not respond to the 2nd additional verbal command (3 total commands), the exercise is to be marked as “insufficient” (M , 0 pts). In this case the dog may be picked up and the rest of the examination may be continued.

Down Under Distraction: 10 pt.

In the basic position the handler takes the dog off leash, put the leash over the shoulder, or put it out of sight and gives, on the instruction of the judge, the verbal command for down. The dog needs to perform a direct down without stress. After the dog has assumed the down position, the handler moves away for about 10 meters, stops, and stands side wards of the dog. During the exercise the dog has remain calmly in the down position without any influence from the handler while the other



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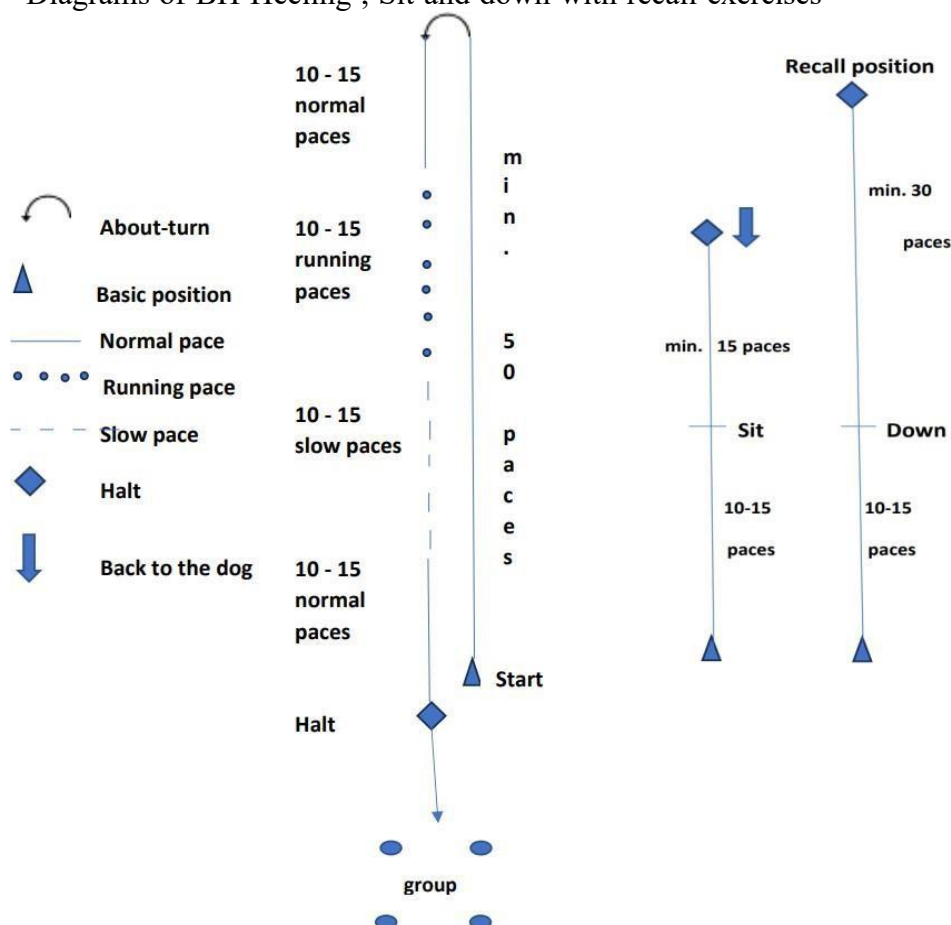
dog works. After the other team has completed the "down with recall" exercise, the handler goes to his dog at the judge's instruction and stands next to him. When instructed again by the judge, the handler takes the dog into the final basic position with the command for "sit".

Evaluation criteria for the Down under Distraction:

Faults include: errors in the basic positions, restless behavior, aids from the handler, standing up from sitting too early or leaving the down position lead to corresponding deductions.

If the dog leaves the down position by more than 3 meters before the completion of the other dog's free-heeling exercise, the exercise will be evaluated with 0 points, "M". Otherwise, the exercise can be awarded a maximum of 5 points. If the dog goes to the approaching handler for the pickup, up to 3 points are deducted.

Diagrams of BH Heeling , Sit and down with recall exercises



Traffic Safety Examination (part B)

The exercises listed below are conducted in a suitable public area outside / off the training field. The judge and the trial secretary determine where and how the traffic exercises will be conducted (parking areas, streets). The implementation of this part of the examination requires a neutral area away from the trial field. Points are not given for the individual exercises of part B. During Part B the overall impression of the dog's temperament about the dog moving in the traffic / public interaction is most important. The exercises described below are suggestions and can be modified individually to the local conditions by the judge. The judge is may repeat or vary any exercise in case of doubt in the assessment of the dog's temperament.



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The following exercises represent a minimum requirement and can be modified / changed at any time by the judge.

Encounter with a group of people

At the instructions of the judge, the dog handler, with his dog, walks toward a group of people (as if out for a walk-in public). The judge follows / watches the team at a reasonable distance. Without formal commands the dog is to follow on the dog handler's left side on a loosely hanging leash – with the shoulder at the knee height of the dog handler (loose lead informal heel). The dog must be neutral / unbothered / indifferent to the people, traffic and to the environment. During the walk the dog handler will pass people and will be stopped by a stranger. The dog has to show itself in a neutral manner (without stress / aggression etc.). The handler and the dog continue through a relaxed larger group of people (recommended more than 6 persons), in the larger group of people a person interacts with the dog handler and greets them with a hand shake and short discussion. The dog has to sit, down or stand beside the dog handler and has to remain neutral, quiet during the short conversation.

Encounter with a bicyclist

The dog is walking along a road /path with his dog handler and is passed by a bicyclist from behind who rings a bell. After passing the dog by a good distance, the cyclist turns to again pass the dog handler and dog. There will be another bell ring. The bike passing has to be done in such a way that the dog is between the dog handler and the bicyclist passing by. The dog has to see the bicyclists.

Encounter with cars

The dog handler walks past several cars or a car running or a car driving past the dog. The dog and handler interact with the car and driver when a car stops by them. The horn should be honked. The driver may roll down the window and interact with the dog and handler. The dog has to stand, sit or lie down by the handler during this interaction. The dog has to be quiet and neutral to the cars and all traffic noises. The judge may modify this as needed.

Encounter with jogger or skater

The dog handler walks along a road / path with his dog. At least one jogger / skater or more pass him without slowing down and after passing the handler and dog the jogger / skater (s) will turn and pass again on the opposite side. The dog does not have to be in correct (formal) heel position, but he must not bother (remain neutral) the passing joggers. It is permitted to have the handler place his dog in a stand, sit or down position during the encounter.

Interaction with other dogs

In the case of passing or encountering another dog and his handler, the dog is to remain neutral. The handler may give and repeat the command "Fuss/Heel" or place the dog in a stand, sit or down position.

Behavior of the tethered dog (tied out), which is left alone in the short term and behavior towards animals

At the instruction of the judge, the dog handler stops and attaches the leash to a fence, wall, or something similar. The dog handler goes out of sight. The dog may be left standing, sitting or lying. During the absence of the dog handler, a passer-by (pedestrian) passes the dog with a dog at a lateral distance of about five paces away from the test dog. The dog left alone has to be quiet and calm



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(neutral) during the absence of the handler. The dog used to walk by must be a neutral dog (no dog aggressive dogs are to be used) and will pass by the other dog/s left tied out at least one time (judges' decision).

A dog showing aggression (strong pulling on the leash, continuous barking, hackles, barring teeth) will be disqualified (DQ) for behavioral / temperament faults.

At the direction from the judge, the dog or dogs are picked up by their handlers. Note: It is up to the judge to decide whether to carry out the individual exercises with each dog at the same location, or to have all the test dogs complete only a few exercises and then to go to another location and proceed there as well away from the trial field or in a public place (if it is reasonably close as not to impact the length of the trial).



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IGP/USP

There are 3 levels of difficulty for the IGP/USP working dog evaluations 1-2-3. To pass each level a score of 70 points or greater (“B” Satisfactory) (**A** tracking work, **B** obedience teamwork, **C** protection).

General requirements for IGP/USP 1-2-3 Tracking

	IGP/USP 1	IGP /USP 2	IGP/USP 3
Leash length	5 meters	10 meters	10 meters
Track	Own track	Strange track	Strange track
Length	Min. 300 paces	Min. 400 paces	Min. 600 paces
Legs	3	3	5
Corners	2. Approximately 90°.	2. Approximately 90°.	4. Approximately 90°.
Distance between the corners	Min. 50 paces	Min. 50 paces	Min. 50 paces
Articles	3 own articles 3x 7 points	3 strange articles 3x 7 points	3 strange articles 3x 7 points
Articles size	10x2-3x0,5-1cm	10x2-3x0,5-1 cm	10x2-3x0,5-1 cm
Position of the articles	1 st on 1 st leg, 2 nd on 2 nd leg, last at the end All on judge's orders	1 st on 1 st leg, 2 nd on 2 nd leg, last at the end All on judge's orders	1 st on the 1 st leg or 2 nd leg after at least 100 paces. 2 nd on judge orders and the 3 rd at the end.
Track aging time minimum	20 minutes	30 minutes	60 minutes
Working time maximum	15 minutes	15 minutes	20 minutes



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Tracking conditions / terrain

All-natural ground such as farm or sod fields (dirt or grass) and forest ground may be used for tracking. In all examination levels, changing terrain and path crossings may also be used as available. All efforts should be made to provide reasonable similar terrain for all competitors in each level.

Laying the Tracks

Only in IGP/USP1 and FH1 is the track is laid by the handler. In all other IGP/USP / FH tracking levels the track must be laid by a stranger (person other than the handler) tracklayer.

See the USCA Tracklayer Program for additional instructions.

The start of the track (scent pad) must be marked by a start flag which is placed directly into the ground to the left of the scent pad. The tracklayer stays briefly at the beginning of the track and after that, he/she goes in natural gait with normal steps in the directed direction. The track and corners are to be laid in a normal, continuous gait. (no open or rounded corners; see diagrams).

Help by the tracklayer by using an unnatural step, scuffing, or stamping is not permitted. Articles are not to be placed within 20 paces before or after the corner and must be placed on the track. The articles must be placed on the track while walking. After laying the last article, the tracklayer must continue at least 10 paces in a forward direction.

In all levels where the track is not laid by the handler, the handler and dog are not allowed to watch the track being laid.

The order of the participants in the tracking work is determined by drawing after the tracks have been laid and in the presence of the judge or a person appointed by him/her.

Additional Information for FH 3

Only in the FH 3 may the handler ask the judge to briefly stop the tracking work if he/she feels that he/she or the dog needs a short break due to physical condition and/or weather conditions (e.g. high temperature, extremely difficult terrain). The break will count towards the total time available for the tracking work. The handler may clean the dog's head, eyes and nose and give the dog some water to drink during the break. The handler may carry some water, a wet cloth, or a wet sponge for this procedure. The water, wet cloth or sponge must be shown to the judge before the start of the track. No other motivational aids are allowed.

Articles

Articles are not to be placed within 20 paces before or after the corner and must be placed on the track. The article must be laid on the track while walking. Articles may not differ significantly in color from the terrain.

The articles must be laid between the footsteps or alternatively, if the terrain condition requires, in the footsteps.

Before laying the track, the articles must be shown by the handler (IGP/USP/FH-1) or by the tracklayer (IGP/USP 2, IGP/USP 3/FH 2-3) to the judge or tracking coordinator. Only articles that the handler /tracklayer has carried for a minimum of 30 minutes in his/her pocket to properly scent may be used.

On the track the articles must be made of different materials (e.g., leather, carpet/textiles, wood). In all championships the articles must be numbered to correspond to the track number.



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If one (1) article is not indicated and cannot be found by the tracklayer, there will be no point deduction. If there are more articles that not indicated and cannot be found by the tracklayer, the dog/handler team will be offered a new track. If the handler refuses this new track, all not indicated articles will be evaluated as not found. This rule does not apply to IGP/USP or FH1, where the handler is the tracklayer. On these tracks when an article is not indicated by the dog, no points will be awarded for these articles.

Indication of the Articles

Indicating can be done sitting, lying down, and standing; alternating the type of indication in a track is allowed. The indicating of the article can also be done by the dog picking up the article. After picking up the article the dog may stand still, sit, or retrieve the article to the handler. Picking up the article and laying down is faulty, as well as going forward with the article. If the dog retrieves the article, the handler must drop/put down the leash and must remain at the end of the leash from the moment of the start of retrieving until the moment of receiving the article. The dog must retrieve the article in a direct way and can sit or stand in front of the handler while presenting the article, the handler collects the article (with the command for an out) and restarts the dog to track from this position while standing in front/ just behind or next to his/her dog.

The articles must be indicated without any help from the handler in a direct and convincing way without stress or avoidance. Once the dog has indicated the article in the final position (standing, sitting laying down), the handler drops the tracking leash, goes directly to the dog, picks up the article and shows it to the judge. This can be done either on the left or on the right side of the dog. This may be done by the handler without the approval of the judge. The indicating must be done directly without hesitation and in the direction of the track. Slightly crooked (+/-30 degrees) laying down, sitting, or standing to the article is not faulty. While remaining in this position, it is not faulty if the dog is looking back in the direction of the handler. To be an excellent indication, the article must lie directly in front of or between the front paws. It is not necessary for the dog to fix (stare) at the article.

The dog must remain calm and without any stress or avoidance in its position until restarted on the track. Articles that are found with strong help of the handler will be evaluated as missed. After the article is shown to the judge, a re-start is made with a verbal command to track. The restart after indicating an article must be done close to the dog (upright next to or just behind the dog) without approval of the judge.



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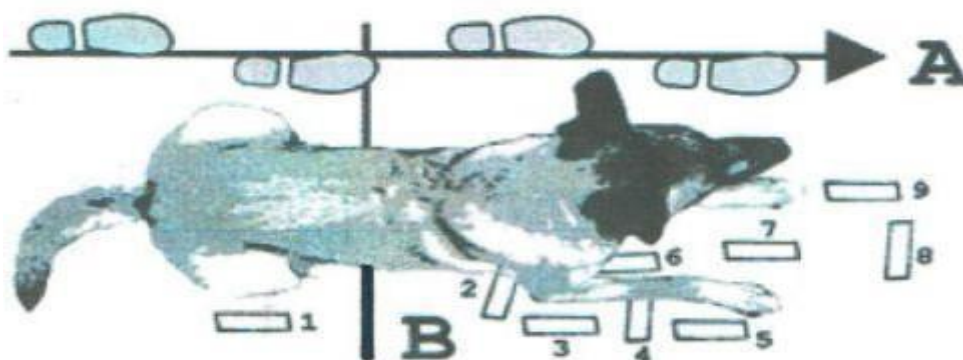
Diagram for the correct indication of articles

A= direction of track, B = body of dog.

The distance from paws to articles # 8-9 is approx. 20 cm / 7.5"

The diagram below, serves as a rough orientation. The following factors must be considered in the assessment:

- Wind conditions
- Size of the dog
- Position of indicating (sitting, lying, standing)



Points

Insufficient=Ins., Satisfactory=Sat., Good=G., Very good=VG., Excellent=Ex.

	Max.	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5	No. 6	No. 7	No. 8	No. 9
		Ins.	Sat.	3 G	4 G	VG	VG	EX.	Ex/VG	Ex/VG
IGP/USP-1	7 pts.	4	5	5,5	5,5	6,5	6,5	7	6,5	6,5
IGP/USP-2	7 pts.	4	5	5,5	5,5	6,5	6,5	7	6,5	6,5
IGP/USP-3	7 pts.	4	5	5,5	5,5	6,5	6,5	7	6,5	6,5

Tracking Line / Leash

The length of the tracking leash is 5 meters for IGP1 and 10 meters for USP 1, IGP/USP 2 and IGP/USP 3, all FH is 10 meters. A check of the length of the leash, the collar, and the tracking harness or the Böttger harness (if used) by the judge or an authorized person must take place before the start of the tracking work. Flexible leashes are not permitted. The tracking leash may be passed over the back, at the side of the dog or between the front and / or hind legs. It may be attached either directly to the loose-fitting collar or to the attachment ring of the harness (chest or Böttger harness without additional straps). When using a harness, ensure that the back strap does not extend beyond the dog's last rib (not near the genitals). The tracking leash may occasionally sag (touch the ground) during the track, but the required distance between handler and dog must not be greatly reduced. Occasional ground contact of the leash is not faulty. The handler must follow the dog while holding / staying at the end of the leash. It does not matter how he/she holds the leash - with one hand, with two hands, whether he/she changes the leash to the other hand, at what height he/she holds the



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leash, etc., as long as this does not interfere or change with the dog's work. Handler help may not be given by handling the leash, (how it is held or by changing the tension of the leash).

For small dogs, the prescribed normal loose-fitting collar may be replaced by another suitable collar.

Free Tracking

During off-leash tracking work, a distance of at least the described 5 (IGP1) or 10 meters (for all other levels) must be maintained between handler and dog.

Report in / out

When the team has been called to begin the track, the handler reports to the judge with the dog in the basic position and prepared for tracking. The handler states whether his/her dog will pick-up, retrieve or indicate the articles. During the report the dog may be on a short leash. After reporting in, the dog may be led on a short leash up to approx. 2 meters to the start of the track and then removed. Any compulsion is to be avoided before and during the entire track. At the instruction of the judge the dog is led calmly to the start of the track (a verbal command to follow to the start is permitted) and started at the scent pad with a verbal command to track.

Before 2 meters from the scent pad /start of track, the dog may sit or stand or down (approx. 2 meters away) so that the tracking line can be placed into the position desired by the handler (leash between front and/or behind legs or under).

The dog must be started at the starting flag with a command and with the handler next to or just behind the dog.

After finishing the track and while reporting out, the articles found must be shown to the judge. Playing or feeding after indicating the last article, before reporting out and receiving the score, is not permitted. The reporting out must take place in the basic position. After this, the short leash can be put on the dog.

Working the Track

The dog must be given a verbal command to start the track at the starting flag. The handler has a maximum of 3 commands to start his/her dog. If the dog does not start the track after 3 commands, the tracking must be terminated, and the result is "M" 0 points. The second and third attempts lead to a deduction in the evaluation of the first leg (which includes the scent pad). For each extra command there is a mandatory deduction of -1,5 points.

The dog must start the track with a deep nose and continue to work the entire track with a deep nose, with self-confident, high tracking intensity, consistent and even speed. It is important to see through the track that the dog is the one that leads and is making the decisions uninfluenced by the handler. The search speed is not a faulty behavior as long as the dog is tracking in a convincing and intensive manner.

While the dog is tracking, the judge must keep a distance to the dog in a way that he does not hinder or interfere with the dog in his tracking/ search work (about 10 meters away).

The start (and the restarting after finding of the articles) must be done with the handler standing upright next to or just behind the dog and with a verbal command to track. The handler must remain stationary until the entire line is rolled out. The way the handler releases the leash is not important if it does not affect the dog's work. A handler is allowed to use gloves if they choose.

A certain amount of slack in the leash is permitted. The time spent preparing the dog and the start of the track is not time-dependent, but the judge must pay attention to the behavior of the dog at the beginning of the first leg as to how intensely the dog commits to the track and takes the scent (use of the scent pad and how sure the dog is on the first leg). If the dog is caught/ tangled in the tracking



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leash, the handler may ask the judge for permission to untangle the dog. After permission by the judge, the handler stops the dog with a verbal command (down is allowed) and goes from the end of the leash to the dog. After the dog is untangled from the tracking leash, the handler must go back to the end of the leash and restart the dog with a verbal command to track; there is no point deduction. After the handler has shown the judge the last article indicated by the dog, and the judge acknowledges the last article the tracking work is finished and the evaluation /judging ends. There may be brief pause (without playing). After that, the handler must report out to the judge with the dog in the basic position.

Ending the track in all levels: After the indication of the last article, the dog does not need to be brought in the basic position before going to the judge for reporting out. The handler with his/her dog on leash does not need to show formal "heeling on leash" when going directly to the judge for reporting out. Reporting out must be done with the dog on leash and in the basic position.

Corners

The dog must work out corners confidently and convincingly. Circling at the corner is faulty and leads to point deduction. A head check without leaving the track is permitted without deduction (at least 1 foot remains on the track). After the corner, the dog must continue with the required high intensity, deep nose and at the same speed. When the dog is showing the corner, the handler must maintain the correct distance (end of line, 10 meters) to the dog. The handler may swing out off of the track once the dog has shown a commitment to the corner (body length into the corner). The handler is not allowed to leave the track (swing out) until the dog has worked out the corner confidently.

Praise

Only in IGP/USP 1, occasional short (one word) praise/encouragement on the track is allowed, but only when the handler and dog are not in a corner, not when the dog needs help to continue to work the track or shows uncertainty and not before indicating an article. Short praise at the article is permitted in all levels. This can be done either before or after picking up and showing the article to the judge, but not both. The handler is also not allowed to praise the dog while picking up the tracking leash for the restart.

Termination / Disqualification

If the dog leaves the track and is held back by the handler, the judge must instruct the handler to follow the dog. If the judge's instruction is not followed, the track must be terminated. If the end of the track is not reached within the maximum time specified for the individual levels, the track will be terminated by the judge. The performance shown until termination is evaluated. If the dog stops working the track (remains in the same place without working, raises its head, comes back to the handler etc.), the track may be terminated even if the dog is still on the track and the time available has not yet expired. If during the track wild game appears and the dog follows its hunting instinct, the handler may attempt to prevent the dog from following the wild game by giving the dog the verbal command to down. At the command of the judge, the dog handler calls his dog to him and starts him again with the voice command for "search". If the dog does not continue the track, it is terminated.

Termination

In the case of a termination, all points awarded up to then are awarded along with the points of the phases that have been completed so far. The points reached up to the point of termination are entered in the scorebook. If the dog is terminated in phase C, phase C is to be evaluated with 0 points, the points reached in sections A and B are retained.



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Common Reasons for Termination in all levels

Dog is started on the track 3 x unsuccessfully at the scent pad or after the article indication.

Dog leaves track by more than one leash length or handler disregards the judge's instruction to follow the dog. Dog is not at the end of the track in the given time.

Handler is not obeying the judge's instruction to follow the dog.

The dog can no longer be used after it has been distracted by wild animals.

Common Reasons for Disqualification in all levels

All points awarded up to the time of disqualification (DQ), including those from other phases, will be deleted. No points or scores will be entered on the scorebook. After disqualification, the team may not participate in any other phase. The reason for the disqualification must be entered in the scorebook by the judge.

Reasons for disqualification	Entry in the certificate of achievement
The dog does release the article picked up. During the free tracking, the dog leaves the track by more than 10 meters and does not return after 3 voice commands.	Disqualification due to disobedience
The dog is not neutral during the impartiality check	Disqualification due to lack of impartiality
Unsportsmanlike conduct of the handler (e.g. transport of motivational objects and/or food). Handler acts contrary to the FCI-IGP, animal welfare or morality with suspicion of attempted fraud through the use of prohibited training aids.	Disqualification for unsportsmanlike conduct

Evaluation of the Tracking Performance

A distinction must be made between primary and secondary elements. Primary elements are to be weighted more strongly in order to evaluate the essentials of the tracking work accordingly.

Primary Traits

Intensity, self-confidence, concentration, direct persuasive referring.

Secondary Traits

Distance between the handler and dog, speed of going down when indicating.

Assessment of the Track

- The assessment of each leg depends on the length, the terrain, and the weather conditions, and is based on the level in which the dog is tracking. The judge and all accompanying persons may not be in the tracking area where the team has the right to track (within 10 meters radius around the tracking team and 10 meters distance to the next track).



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- After indicating the article, the handler may approach the dog without the permission of the judge. The judge can, together with the handler, approach the dog to see the position of the indicated article. Approaching by the judge must be done without disturbing the dog. After checking the indicated article and before the restart of the dog, the judge must move away again so as not to disturb the restart.
- During the whole tracking performance, the dog may not be disturbed by either the tracklayer or the judge. For his/her evaluation, the judge must not only look at the dog and the handler, but must also consider the terrain, the weather, possible distractions, and the track age time. The judge must base his/her assessment on the totality of all influencing variables. The assessment is to be carried out considering the following criteria:

Tracking

- Motivated behavior of the dog with a deep nose, constant intensity, and consistent speed before and after the corners, as well as before and after indicating the articles.
- Training level of the dog, (hectic approach, stressed behavior, avoidance behavior are unwanted behavior).
- Harmony/ relationship between handler and dog
- Difficulties in working out the tracks:
- Tracking conditions such as: vegetation, soil, terrain changes, manure.
- Wind conditions
- Wild game
- Weather conditions: wind, heat, cold, rain, snow.
- Weather changes

The judge must assess the desire, the confidence, working temperament, the sureness or uncertainty, stress, or avoidance behavior of the dog in his/her work. If the dog is committed immediately to tracking at the start and follows the scent path with a deep nose and makes an excellent first leg, the judge will not mention in his evaluation that the dog should have taken more time to identify or take the scent.

Deductions

- If the handler gives the verbal command to start before the flag a deduction of – 1 point. In this case the dog was started without a command at the starting flag. If the dog start sniffing before the flag without a verbal command of the handler, this is not faulty
- A dog that starts searching without a command before the starting flag will not be deducted as if it is stopped at the starting flag and started with a verbal command to start tracking.
- If the dog stops tracking by falsely indicating an article and the handler does not go to the dog but gives an extra command at the end of the tracking leash “Such,” “Track,” “Find,” etc. there will be a deduction of -2 points at all IGP levels.
- If the dog stops tracking by falsely indicating an article and the handler does go to the dog and gives the tracking command next to the dog “Such,” “Track” “Find,” etc. there will be a deduction of -4 points at all IGP levels.



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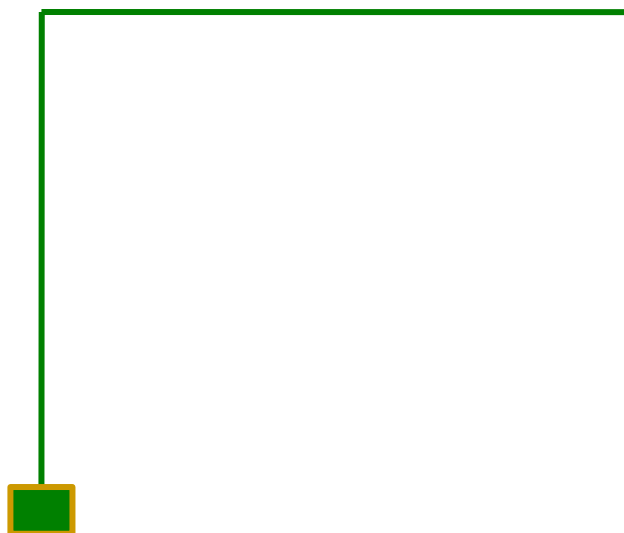
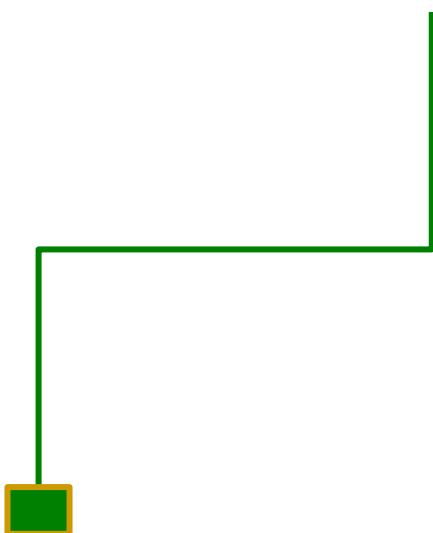
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- The handler is not allowed to help the dog at the start or restart by indicating the direction of the track. Deduction for this help is -2 points
- Wandering, urinating, or defecating, circles at the corners, continuous encouragement, leash help or verbal help in the track or at the articles are faulty and deducted accordingly.
- Urinating/defecating = - 8 points

Examples of Tracking Diagrams IGP/USP 1

The following examples of track shapes can also be used as mirror images





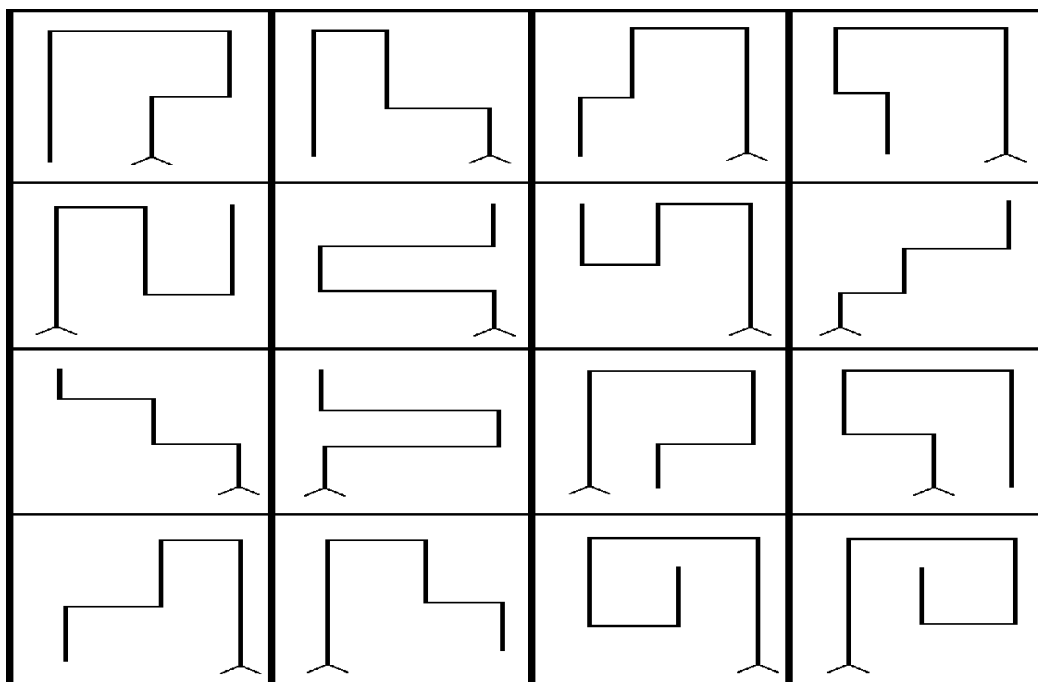
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Tracking Diagrams IGP/USP-3:

The following examples of track shapes can also be laid in mirror image.



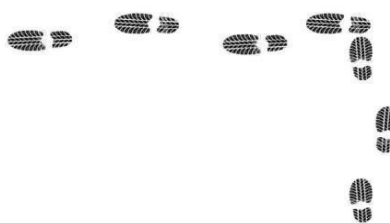
Laying the corners:

Corner to the right

Corner to the left

Winkel rechts

Winkel links



Laying the articles

The articles maybe laid between or in the footprints.





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Phase B – Obedience IGP/USP

Exercise	IGP/USP-1	IGP/USP-2	IGP/USP-3
Free heeling	15 points	15 points	15 points
Sit in motion	10 points	10 points	10 points
Down with recall	10 points Out of motion in normal gait	10 points Out of motion in normal gait	10 points Out of motion in running pace
Stand exercise		10 points Out of motion in normal gait with picking up the dog	10 points Out of motion in running pace with recall
Retrieve on flat	15 points	10 points	10 points
Retrieve / jump over the 1-meter hurdle	15 points Two jumps without retrieving	15 points Two jumps with retrieving	15 points Two jumps with retrieving
Retrieve/ climb jump over the scaling wall	15 points One (1) climb jump without retrieving Height 160 cm	10 points One (1) climb jump without retrieving Height 160 cm	10 points Climb jumps with retrieving Height 160 cm
Send out with down	10 points	10 points	10 points
Down under distraction	10 points	10 points	10 points
Total	100 points	100 points	100 points

General Information for IGP/USP Obedience

Verbal Commands

When retrieving, the dog's name may be used instead of the verbal command for the recall. The dog's name in combination with any verbal command is considered a double command.

The dog's response to the verbal command: The dog should perform the exercise freely, fast, accurate and confidently at the handler's verbal command. Behaviors of fear or stress will lead to point deductions for the exercise. Commands may be in any language. The same command must be used for the same exercise in all phases. Commands should not be given in an overly loud or harsh manner.



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Additional Commands

1st additional command (2nd total commands) is minus -1.5 pts

2nd additional command (3rd total command) is minus -2.5 pts

(If a dog does not perform an exercise after the 2nd additional verbal command (3rd total command), the exercise is to be awarded with 0 points.

If a dog starts / begins an exercise without a verbal command, the partial exercise is to be judged "unsatisfactory".

If the dog performs the exercise incorrectly (e.g. stands/lies down in the sit exercise, sits/stands in the down exercise, etc.), the exercise is deducted by 50%.

Reporting In

At the beginning of the obedience exercise, the handler and his/her dog present themselves to the judge in the basic position and tell the judge his/her name, the name of the dog and the level and phase they are showing for. This is done with the dog on leash at the IGP/USP 1 level and off lead for the IGP/USP-2 and IGP/USP 3.

Start and ending of an exercise

The dog to be presented must assume the initial basic position when the dog to be placed under distraction for the long down has also assumed the initial basic position. Judging always begins when both dogs presented have assumed the start position for their respective exercise.

The judge gives the instruction for the start of an exercise. Everything else, such as turns, stops, changes of gait, etc. are carried out without instruction. The given time intervals of approx. 3 seconds are to be observed when changing from the front to the final basic position, holding and handing over the dumbbell before the out command, praising the dog and for the beginning of a new exercise. If the handler forgets an exercise, the judge will ask the handler to show the missing exercise. No points will be deducted. Omission of partial exercises will affect the score. All exercises must begin with the judge's signal.

Basic position

The initial basic position is the dog's sitting position on the handler's left side. Each exercise begins and ends with a basic position. The initial start position may only be assumed once before each exercise from the forward movement. In the basic position the dog must sit straight, attentive to the handler, with its shoulder blade in line with the handler knee / hip on the left side of the handler. In the basic position the handler may not stand with the legs spread and both arms must be relaxed against the body (if during motion due to the dog's size or position the handler hands/arms are over the dog or on the outside of the dog this is not considered faulty as long as it is not intentional by the handler to influence the behavior of the dog. The dog may assume the basic position from the front position by the dog walking (moving) around behind the handler or alternatively going directly to the left side of the handler (flip). If the handler requires an additional command for the basic position, the partial exercise is to be deducted by minus 1,5 points. If he/she requires a second additional command, the partial exercise is to be deducted by minus 2,5 points. If the dog does not assume the basic position after the second additional verbal command, the entire exercise is to be evaluated "insufficient".

Development / Build Up of Exercise

From the basic position the development / build up is carried out in the exercises "Sit in motion", "Down with recall", "Stand out of motion" and "Send out with down". It must be at least 10, but not more than 15 steps before the command is given to perform the exercise.



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Pick Up / Recall of the dog

During the exercises in which the dog is picked up, the handler can approach the right side of the dog from the front or around from behind the dog. When picking up the dog from a down position the command sit is used, a heeling command is faulty. When calling the dog, the dog's name may be used instead of the verbal command for the recall. The dog's name in conjunction with the verbal command for the recall is considered a double command. The dog must come quickly, freely, purposefully, and directly, and sit close and straight in front of the handler. At the verbal command for the basic position the dog must go directly into the final basic position.

Praise

Praise is only permitted in the basic position after each exercise. If this is also the new starting position for the next exercise, the time interval of approx. 3 seconds must be observed.

Exception for IGP 1 (BH): The dog may briefly be loosened up and praised after each exercise. During this time (maximum about 5 seconds), the dog may leave the basic position. Afterwards, the dog must be taken into the basic position and after about 3 seconds, the next exercise starts with approval of the judge (signal).

Time (3 sec. pause)

In the following situations, a time interval (pause) of approx. 3 seconds must be shown (it is not up to the judge to signal, the handler must execute on their own after the 3 sec pause):

- Praise – start of a new exercise
- Sit in front –3 sec- command to the basic position (heel)
- Sit in front – 3 sec -taking the dumbbell
- After taking the dumbbell -3 sec– command to the basic position (heel)
- End of an exercise -3 sec– praise
- Basic position – 3 sec -verbal command

Mistake in Dogs Position

In all technical exercises (sit, down, stand), apart from further misconduct, the overall exercise is devalued by 50% in case of a position error.

Retrieve/s

The handler is allowed to move 1 foot when throwing the dumbbell. After throwing the dumbbell if a foot was moved it must be moved back to a neutral standing position, feet in line not a splayed stance (same as for recall), a pause of about 3 seconds must be observed before releasing the dog to retrieve (bring). For left-handed handlers, it is allowed, after notifying the judge, to give the dog the command "sit" in order to be able to move a step sideways to safely throw the dumbbell without hitting the dog. If the left-handed handler steps away from the dog to throw the dumbbell, the handler must step (move) back up to the dog to continue the exercise after a pause of about 3 seconds.

If the dog does not out (release) the dumbbell to the handler after the third verbal command it will be disqualified for disobedience (all points are taken and not recorded, DQ disobedience).

For the retrieving exercises, only 1 set of dumbbells provided by the host for the trial are allowed. All entries must work with the same dumbbells.



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The following provisions apply to the nature of the dumbbells:

The bar must be made of wood.

The weight must be correct

The distance from the bar to the ground must be at least 4 cm.

	IGP/USP-1	IGP/USP-2	IGP/USP-3
On the flat	650 grams	1000 grams	2000 grams
Hurdle	Without retrieving USP 1 retrieve	650 grams	650 grams
Scaling wall	Without retrieving	Without retrieving / USP 2 retrieve	650 grams

Hurdle

The hurdle has the following dimensions: For all levels: Height 100cm, width 150cm.
Practice jumps are not permitted during the examination.

Scaling Wall

The scaling wall consists of two climbing walls connected at the top, 150 cm wide and 191 cm high. At the bottom, these two walls are to be placed so far apart that the vertical height is 160 cm. The entire surface of the inclined wall must be covered with a non-slip surface. On the upper half of each wall there are 3 climbing rails 1500/24/48 mm. All dogs in a trial must climb-jump the same obstacle. Practice climbing / jumps are not permitted during the trial.

Before the start of the trial, the judge must check that the prescribed equipment is available and that it complies with the IGP/USP trial regulations.

During the judging of each exercise, the dog's behavior must be carefully observed, starting with the basic position and ending with the end of the exercise.

Primary and Secondary Evaluation of the Exercises

In order to be able to evaluate the performance, some exercises are divided into parts, which are then to be evaluated separately. The evaluation shall also distinguish between the primary part and the secondary part of an exercise. The primary part of an exercise should be weighted higher value in order to properly evaluate the “fundamentals” (core) of the exercise.

(Additional information can be found under the exercise descriptions).



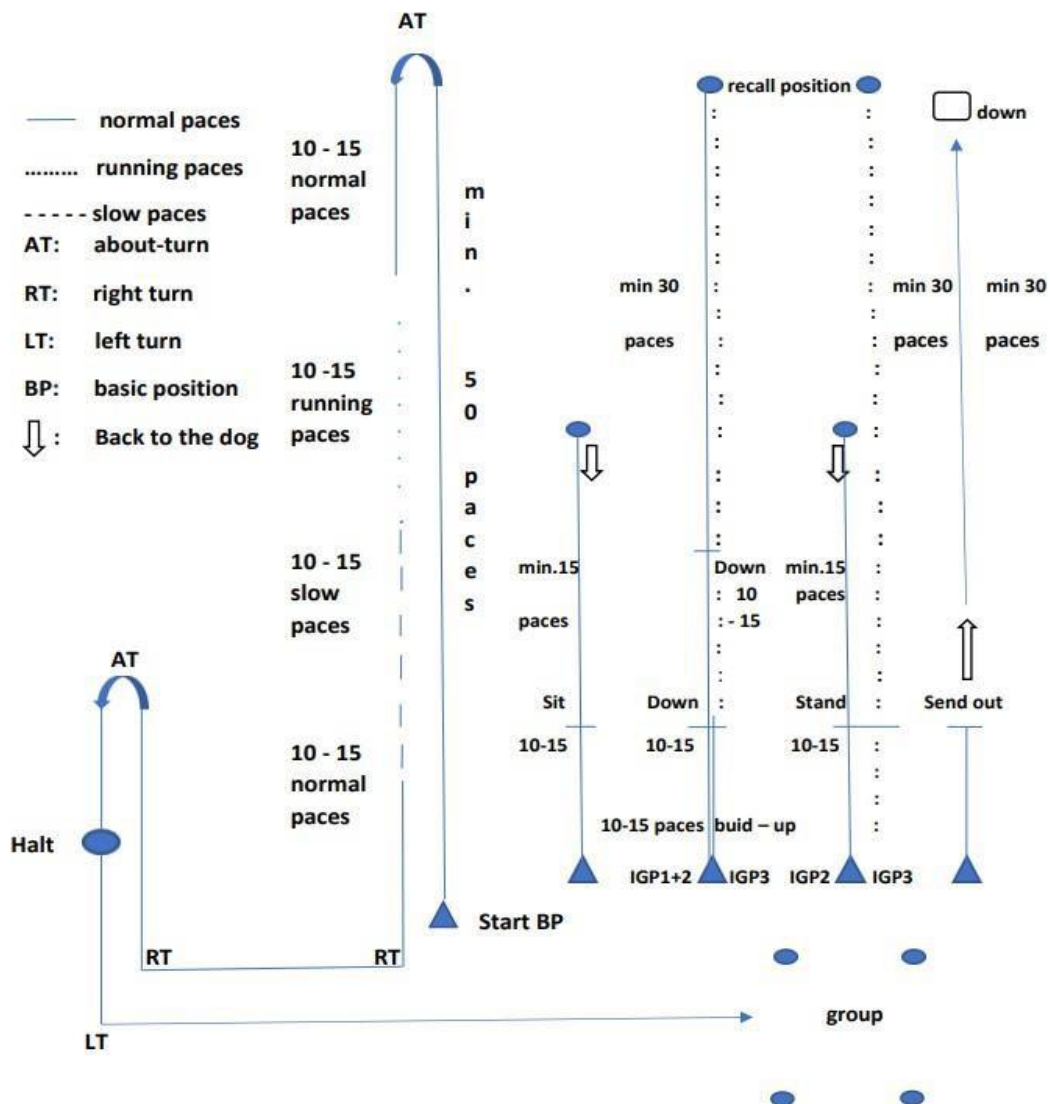
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Diagrams of the IGP/USP obedience exercises:



Exercise descriptions

Free Heeling

The handler for the heeling must be in the basic position at the same time as when the second handler assumes the basic position for the exercise "Down under distraction".

The dog must follow the handler attentively, freely /happy and with concentration from the basic start position with a single command to "Heel" and should always remain on the handler's left side with the shoulder blade at a line with the handler's knee / hip. The heeling is done according to the heeling pattern diagram. On the first straight line of heeling after approx. 10-15 steps, two-gun shots (22 / 6 mm caliber) are fired at a time interval of 5 seconds (2-3 steps between each shot). The person firing the gun should be on the sideline of the obedience field. This is done to check "gun sureness" (nerves, temperament). The team must show an about turn to the left. During the about turn the dog may go around behind the handler to the right or remain at the handler's left knee (flip). The running pace and the slow pace must be clearly different from the normal pace. The change of pace is performed without intermediate steps and must have a heel command at each change of pace. After the second about turn, a stop / halt is to be shown. The dog must sit



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immediately without a sit command. The team must then with a command to heel show a left turn into the group and must show a figure eight (left /right in either order) and stop at least once in the group near a person. The judge may ask for this group figure eight to be repeated if there is any concern regarding the dogs impartially to the group. At the instruction of the judge, the handler/ dog team leaves the group and takes up the final basic position. Praising the dog after leaving the group is only permitted in the final basic position. The free heeling is also to be shown when moving between the exercises.

Evaluation criteria

Primary evaluation

Correct position of the dog to the handler, positive expression of the dog (motivated, free, attentive, concentrated to the handler).

Secondary evaluation:

Basic positions.

Faults

Forging, not parallel to the handler (crab walking), lagging, slow or hesitant sits, additional verbal commands, physical handler help, mistakes in the basic position, inattention, lack of enthusiasm/motivation as well the dog's behavior being stressed / depressed, showing lack of confidence, nervousness, hectic ness, and abnormal activity lead to point losses. The dog must be indifferent to the gunshots. If the dog is gun-shy, he will be disqualified and all the points already acquired will be removed. If the response of the dog is not clear, the judge can check the gun sureness of the dog separately with additional gun shots.

1st part: Initial basic position, build-up, execution of the "sit". 50% of the points

2nd part: Moving away from the dog and return by the handler, final basic position. 50% of the points

Sit in Motion

From the basic position on instruction of the judge the handler must begin the "sit" exercise.

After a build-up of a minimum of 10 to a maximum of 15 paces in normal heeling, the dog must sit immediately and straight upon the verbal command without the handler changing his gait, looking back or other handler help. The dog must accept the command without stress or fear behavior and remain calm and attentive to the handler.

The handler moves away 15 paces in the same normal pace and turns directly toward his/her dog.

On the judge's instruction, the handler returns in a normal gait to his/her dog and goes directly into the basic position. Afterwards the handler is allowed to briefly praise his/her dog.

Alternate way to complete the exercise for IGP 1: After the build-up, the handler may show a 3 sec pause/stop and give a verbal command for "sit" before moving away from the dog

Evaluation Criteria

Primary evaluation:

In this exercise the primary items evaluated are the direct and fast execution of the "sit," the way the dog reacts to the command and the dog's attention to the dog handler.

Secondary evaluation:

Are the basic positions at the start and end of the exercise.

Faults:

Slow sitting, showing stress, fear and unsure reactions on receiving the verbal command or restless and inattentive sitting receive point deductions in addition to other errors. If the dog stands or lies down, the exercise is additionally reduced by 50% of the total points.



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Down with Recall

1st part: Initial basic position, build up, execution of “down” command, 50% of the points.

2nd part: Leaving the dog, recall, final basic position, 50% of the points.

On instruction of the judge, the handler must begin the “down with recall” exercise starting from a basic position. This basic position can be the final basic position of the previous “sit exercise.” The development / build-up of a minimum of 10 to a maximum of 15 paces is carried out at a normal pace. On the verbal command for down, the dog must immediately down, straight in the correct direction without the handler changing his/her motion or looking back. The handler walks at least 30 paces and turns directly toward the dog. The dog must remain calm and attentive to the handler. On the instruction of the judge, the handler calls the dog. The dog must come immediately with attention and willingness to the handler and sit close in front of him/her. After 3 seconds the dog handler commands the dog to go to the basic position. Afterwards the handler is allowed to briefly praise the dog.

Alternate way to complete the exercise for IGP 1: After the build-up, the dog handler may show a 3 sec pause/stop and give the verbal command for the down before he/she walks away from the dog.

Additional information for the IGP/USP 3

After the first 10-15 paces in normal gait, the team proceed with another 10-15 paces in running gait before the verbal command for down is given. After the verbal command the handler runs at least another 30 paces and turns directly toward the dog.

Evaluation Criteria

Primary evaluation

The direct execution of the “down” and the way the dog takes and carry out the command.

Secondary evaluation

The basic positions at the start and end of the exercise.

Faults

Slow downing, moving while in the down position, showing stress, fear reactions on receiving the command, and restless or inattentive behavior of the dog to the handler lead to corresponding deductions in addition to other errors. If the dog is sitting or standing, the exercise is mandatorily evaluated with – 50% of the total points.

For a dog that does not come on the second extra command, the exercise is to be evaluated “Insufficient” with 0 Points. In this case, the dog may be picked up and continue to the next exercise.

Stand out of Motion IGP/USP 2 (walking)

1st part: Beginning basic position, build-up, execution of stand command, 50% of the points
2nd part: Leaving the dog, return of the handler, final basic position, 50% of the points.

After a build-up of 10 to 15 normal paces and upon the verbal command, the dog must immediately stand straight in the direction of the handler without the handler changing his/her gait or looking back. The dog must remain calm and with attention to the handler while the handler moves away in normal gait about 15 paces and then turns directly to face the dog. On the judge's instruction, the handler returns to the dog, stands on the right side of the dog and commands the dog with a verbal command into the basic position.



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Stand Out of Motion IGP/USP 3 (running with recall)

1st part: Beginning basic position, build-up, execution of stand command, 50% of the points.

2nd part: Leaving the dog, recall of the dog, front position, final basic position. 50% of the points. After a build-up of 10 to 15 running paces the dog must immediately upon the verbal command stand straight in the direction of the handler without the handler changing his/her gait or looking back. The handler runs at least 30 paces and turns directly to face his/her dog. The dog must remain calm and attentive to the handler until the verbal command to recall to the handler. At the instruction of the judge, the handler recalls the dog with a verbal command “here” or the “dog's name”. The dog must be fast, joyful, purposeful, come directly, and sit close and straight in front of the handler. The dog must go directly to the final basic position upon the verbal command to heel.

Evaluation Criteria

Primary evaluation:

Stopping and standing immediately upon the verbal command, calm behavior without any signs of stress or lack of self-confidence, and attention to the handler. The dog must also show fast and purposeful execution of the recall and a straight sit in front of the handler.

Secondary evaluation:

The execution of the initial and final basic positions.

Faults

Restless or inattentive standing, and in IGP/USP 3, a lack of a fast and purposeful coming on recall and handler help such as a splayed leg stance, lead to corresponding point deductions along with other mistakes.

If the dog sits or downs, the exercise will be evaluated “insufficient” with a mandatory deduction of 50% of the whole exercise. For a dog that does not come on the second extra command, the exercise is to be evaluated “insufficient” with 0 points. In this case, the dog may be picked up and continue to the next exercise.

Retrieve on the flat for all levels:

(IGP/USP 1 dumbbell weight 650 grams, IGP/USP 2 weight 1000 gm, IGP/USP 3 weight

A 4-meter by 4-meter square must be marked on the ground starting 8 meters from the basic position. With the dog sitting in a straight basic position the handler throws the dumbbell within this square.

If the dumbbell lands outside the square, it is placed in the middle of the square by an assistant, who then moves behind the handler's position before the command to retrieve may be given.

If the handler's foot moves while the handler throws the dumbbell no points are lost if it does not affect the dog. If the leg is moved during the throw, a 3 second pause must be shown after returning to basic position.

The verbal command “retrieve”/ “bring” may only be given when the dumbbell has stopped moving or after the assistant is behind the handler.

On the verbal command for retrieving or bringing, the dog must run directly to the dumbbell, pick it up immediately, turn directly and return directly to the handler and present the dumbbell directly in the sit in front position. The aim is to show motivated and determined running towards the dumbbell and motivated returns. During the presentation of the dumbbell and also during the retrieving portion, the dumbbell must be held firmly and calmly until the handler commands the dog to release the dumbbell after about a 3 second pause in front. The dog needs to sit directly in front of the handler in a way the handler can easily take the dumbbell from the dog. Touching or bumping the handler is faulty. The dog must present the dumbbell to the handler. After outing the



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dumbbell and an approx. 3 second pause, the dog is commanded into the final basic position. After outting the dumbbell, the dumbbell is held in the handler's right hand with the arm straight down at handler's side. After another 3 second pause, the handler gives the verbal command for the dog to go into the final basic position. This may be accomplished by the dog either going around the handler or directly from the front to the left side of the handler into the basic position. The handler must then place the dumbbell back on the stand. During this part, the dog must heel with the handler as described for "heeling." For left-handed people, after permission from the judge to give the dog a "sit" command the handler may take one step to the right, throw the dumbbell, and then step back to the dog to continue the exercise.

Primary evaluation:

in this exercise are: execution of the retrieve, motivated running to the dumbbell and then back to the dog handler with the same speed going out and returning, sitting close in front of the handler, and presenting the dumbbell, and the way the dog receives and responds to the out command.

Secondary evaluation:

are the executions of the start and final basic positions.

Faults

If the dog shows slow behavior, any form of stress, is unmotivated or not purposeful on the way out and/or return, has a faulty pick-up, drops the dumbbell, plays with or mouths the dumbbell, the handler has a splayed leg stance, there are mistakes in the presentation, errors in the sit in front and/or in the basic positions (for example, restless behavior) as well as any dog handler help, there will be point deductions. If the dumbbell is not in the designated area and the dog breaks position to retrieve while the "field assistant" is repositioning the dumbbell all points are taken, "M" 0 pts.

Basic position in front of the hurdle and scaling wall

The distance of the basic position of the handler in front of the hurdle and scaling wall must be marked at about 4 meters. This is the minimum distance for the basic position for these exercises. The handler is allowed to take his/her basic position behind this line.

IGP/USP-1: Two jumps without retrieve over a hurdle

The handler takes the basic position on or behind the mark in front of the hurdle.

On instruction of the judge the handler starts the exercise. After the command to sit and stay, the handler goes to the other side of the hurdle and stands about 5 meters from the hurdle in the basic position. On the judge's instructions, the handler calls his/her dog with the commands for "jump" and the recall. The dog must show a powerful free jump over the hurdle to its handler and sit straight and close in front of the handler.

After a verbal command, the dog must go quickly into the basic position. Hereafter the exercise must be repeated in the same way from the opposite direction. The handler is not allowed to change basic position; the return jump is done from the basic position that ended the first jump.

Evaluation criteria

Primary evaluation:

the powerful free jumps with confidence over the hurdle and sit in front of the handler. **Secondary:** mistakes in the start basic position and mistakes in finishing to the final basic position.

Secondary/Extra evaluation

If the dog touches the jump, up to 1 point is deducted. If the dog steps on the hurdle, up to 2 points are deducted per jump.

Knocking over the hurdle, minus 5 points and the hurdle is replace for the second jump.



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Faults

faults in the basic position, hesitant and powerless jump, faults in the handler's lead as well as faults in finishing and handler's aids lead to devaluation.

Retrieve over a hurdle: IGP/USP 2 and IGP/USP 3,

A rectangle 2 meters wide and 4 meters long must be marked on the ground starting 6 meters beyond the hurdle. On instruction of the judge the exercise starts. From a straight basic position, the handler throws the dumbbell within this rectangle. If the dumbbell does not land in the rectangle, an assistant (field steward), on instruction of the judge, will hold the dumbbell vertically upwards so the dog can see it and place it in the middle of the rectangle. The assistant then moves away from the dog's work area (imaginary line behind the hurdle) to behind the handler.

The dog should sit freely and quietly next to its handler. On the verbal command for jumping, the dog must perform a free jump. During the jump the verbal command for retrieving must be given. The dog must go quickly and directly to the dumbbell, pick it up immediately and return with a free jump over the hurdle and return directly to the handler. The dog presents the dumbbell by sitting in a straight front position to its handler. The dog must sit close in front of the handler so that the handler can easily take the dumbbell from the dog. Bumping the handler, even slightly, is faulty. The dog must carry out the entire exercise without any sign of stress and in a motivated way, showing powerful free jumps without touching the hurdle.

During the presentation in front of the handler and during the retrieving process, the dumbbell must be held firmly and calmly. The dog must, for the period of 3 seconds, present the dumbbell sitting close in front to the handler until the dog handler gives the command to release the dumbbell. After outing the dumbbell and an approx. 3 second pause, the dog is to be given a verbal command to take the final basic position either by going around the handler or directly from the front to the left side of the handler. The dumbbell is to be held in the handler's right hand with the arm straight down at handler's side.

The dog handler must then place the dumbbell back on the stand. The dog accompanies the handler in correct free heeling position to the dumbbell stand.

Evaluation criteria

Primary evaluation:

Are powerful free jumps and correct execution of the retrieve.

Secondary evaluation:

Are the execution of the initial and final basic positions.

Guidelines for evaluation

A partial evaluation of the exercise is only possible if at least one of the jumps outward jump – return jump and the part "retrieving" have been completed. If one jump is not shown, the exercise is to be devaluated with 5 points.

Faults include

If the dog shows a slow, stressed, unmotivated, not purposeful jump out and/or back, a faulty pick-up, drops the dumbbell, plays with, or mouths the dumbbell, the handler has splayed leg stance, or there are mistakes in the presentation, front and in the basic positions (for example, restless behavior) as well as any handler help, there will be point deductions.

- If the dog touches the jump, up to 1 point is deducted per jump.
 - If the dog steps on the jump, up to 2 points are deducted per jump.
- A partial score is possible only if at least one jump and the "retrieve" portion are completed from the three parts (going- out jump - return jump - retrieve) of the exercise.



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- If the dog does not jump one direction, either out or back and the dumbbell is retrieved, 5 points are taken (there may be additional mistakes in the performance of the exercise).
- If the dog jumps perfectly out and back but does not retrieve the dumbbell, 0 points.
- If the dog knocks over the hurdle during the jump, there is a deduction of 4 points. If the dog manages to return with the dumbbell over a hurdle that has been thrown over, it earns 1 point. If the return jump cannot be shown due to a knocked over hurdle, the exercise receives 0 points.
- If the dog breaks and attempts the retrieve while the field assistant is placing the dumbbell all points are taken "M" 0 pts.

Climb-jump over the scaling wall: For the IGP/USP 1 and 2

The handler takes the start position in front of the scaling wall. On instruction of the judge and after the command to sit and stay, the handler moves to the other side and stands at a distance of at least 4 m from the scaling wall. On the judge's command he/she calls his/her dog with the verbal command for a climb and come. The dog must come to the handler with a powerful climb and sit straight in front. After approx. 3 seconds the dog is taken into the basic position with a verbal command.

Evaluation criteria

Primary evaluation:

Powerful climb over the scaling wall and straight sit in front of the handler.

Secondary evaluation:

Mistakes in the initial and final basic position

Faults

faults in the basic position, hesitant and powerless climbing, faults in the handler's lead, as well as faults in finishing and handler help lead to point deductions. If the dog does not jump/climb over the wall all points are taken, 0 pts, "M".

Retrieve over the scaling wall: IGP/USP 3

A rectangle 2 meters wide and 4 meters long must be marked on the ground beginning 6 meters from the scaling wall. On instruction of the judge the handler starts the exercise. From a straight basic position, the handler throws the dumbbell within this rectangle. If the dumbbell does not land in the rectangle, an assistant (field steward), on instruction of the judge, lays out the dumbbell in the middle of the rectangle and moves away from the dog's work area (imaginary line behind the scaling wall). The dog should sit freely and quietly next to its handler. After a pause of 3 seconds the handler gives the dog a verbal command to climb-jump and while climbing a verbal command to retrieve. The dog must carry out the entire exercise in a motivated way without stress and show powerful smooth climbing jumps.

After retrieving and the return climb-jump. The dog needs to sit directly in front of the handler in a way the handler can easily take the dumbbell from the dog.

During the retrieve and presentation of the dumbbell to the handler, the dumbbell must be held firmly and calmly for a period of 3 seconds until the dog handler gives the command to release the dumbbell. After another 3 second pause, the handler gives the command for the dog to go into the final basic position. The dog may go around behind the handler or directly from the front to the left



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side of the handler into the basic position.

The handler then places the dumbbell back on the stand. The dog accompanies the handler in correct free heeling position to the dumbbell stand. At the dumbbell stand the dog is allowed to stand or sit while the handler is taking or placing the dumbbell.

Evaluation criteria

Primary evaluation:

The powerful climb-jumps with confidence and correct retrieving of the dumbbell and the sit in front of the handler.

Secondary evaluation:

mistakes in the initial basic position, mistakes in front position, and mistakes in finishing to the final basic position. Handler help leads to further deductions.

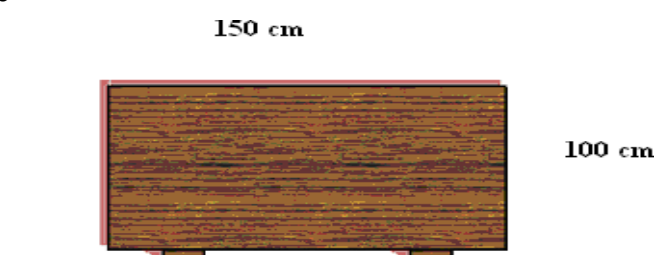
Faults

Unmotivated and unfocused behavior of the dog, mistakes in picking up the dumbbell, dropping the dumbbell, the dog plays with or mouths the dumbbell, the handler stands with legs straddled, mistakes in the sit in front and in the basic positions (e.g. restless behavior), and handler help leads to a deduction in the valuation accordingly. To receive a partial score, the dog must retrieve and show at least one climb. A powerful climb must be shown. If the dog breaks to retrieve while the Field Assistant is placing the dumbbell all points are taken 0 pts "M".

A partial evaluation of the exercise is only possible if at least one of the climb-jumps (outward climb-jump – return climb-jump - retrieve) and the part "retrieving" have been completed. If one of the climb-jumps is not shown, the exercise is to be devaluated with 5 points.

DIAGRAMS FOR RETRIEVING EXERCISES

Hurdle



Scaling wall

The scaling wall consists of 2 sides joined at the top and must be 150 cm wide and 191cm high. At the bottom both sides stand apart so that there is a peak height of 160cm.

The entire area of the scaling wall must be covered with anti-skid material. At the upper part of the sides 3 cleats 24/48mm must be fixed.

All dogs must climb/jump the same obstacle.



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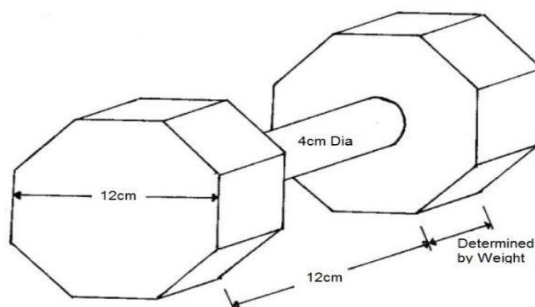


Dumbbells used for retrieve exercises

	IGP/USP 1	IGP/USP 2	IGP/USP 3
On the flat	650 gr	1.000 gr	2.000 gr
Jump	only two jumps	650 gr	650 gr
Scaling wall	only one climb/jump	only one (1) climb/jump	650 gr

Dimensions of the Dumbbells

For the retrieve exercises only, dumbbells are allowed. The dumbbells provided by the hosting club/organizer must be used by all participants. Handler's own dumbbells are not permitted except in IBGH-2 and IBGH-3. The sketch of the Dumbbell above is merely a sample. It is important that the weights are correct and that the bars are made of wood and that the bars are at least 4 cm from the ground.





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Send out with down

1st part: Basic position, build-up, execution of the send out portion, 50% of the points.

2nd part: After instruction from the judge, downing, final basic position, 50% of the points.

From a basic position and on the instruction of the judge, the handler starts the exercise. After a verbal command for heeling, the team starts in a normal gait and in a straight line for about 10 -15 paces. After this 10 – 15 paces the handler gives a verbal command for going out. On the single command for going out while raising the arm, the handler stands still and sends his/her dog out. Then the dog must take a run in a straight path in the shown direction for a minimum of 20 meters. At the instruction of the judge, the handler gives the command for the dog to down, which must be executed immediately. The handler is allowed to hold the arm up in the direction of the exercise until the dog has downed.

If the dog does not go down on the first command, the handler must independently give a second command within three seconds, this is the same for the third command.

At the direction of the judge, the handler goes to his dog and stands right next to him. At the instruction of the judge, the handler gives the command for the dog to sit. The dog must sit quickly, straight and clam in the basic position.

Evaluation criteria

Primary evaluation:

The way out (direct, straight, and fast running ahead) and the direct reaction and execution of the verbal command to go down.

Secondary evaluation:

mistakes in the build-up, restless while down and mistakes in the pickup and final basic position.

Faults

Handler help leads to further deductions.

If the dog does not go the minimum distance or cannot be stopped with 3 commands, the exercise receives 0 points

Dog stops on first command but does not down, downs immediately on second command -1.5 points.

Dog stops on first command but does not down, downs immediately on third command -2.5 points.

Dog stops on first command but does not down on third command. -3.5 points.

Dog does not stop on first command, stops and downs immediately on second command -2.5 points.

Dog doesn't stop on 1st or 2nd command, stops and down immediately on 3rd command -3.5 points.

Dog cannot be stopped with 3 commands. 0 point.

Dog downs directly on the first command, but after the judge's instructions to go pick- up the dog, the dog breaks, if the dog can be stopped by a maximum of 50% of the distance to the dog handler. up to -5 points.

Additional mistakes are also deducted.

If the dog returns to the handler for more than 50% of the distance, the exercise is valuated with 0 points. **Faults** in the build-up, slow or unsure going forward, delayed stopping, slow down, restless down as well as mistakes in the pick-up, and basic position lead to additional deductions.



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Down Under Distraction

During the performance of the obedience exercises of the other dog, the down exercise is shown under distraction. The dog is placed on a position assigned by the judge from the basic position with the command to down. The handler then must leave the dog and take the position on the instructions of the judge according to the examination level:

In IGP/USP 1, the handler is at least 10 meters away in sight of the dog, positioned sideways to the dog. **In IGP/USP 2**, the handler is at least 20 meters away in sight of the dog but with the handler's back turned towards the dog. **In IGP/USP 3** the handler is at least 30 meters away out of sight.

The dog must lie quietly and calmly without influence by the handler while the other dog is working. In the set up for the down and after the pick-up, the dog must heel in the described way.

Evaluation criteria

Primary evaluation

Quiet and calm behavior without moving (crawling, etc.) and no help from the handler. Premature standing/sitting up or crawling is faulty/incorrect.

Secondary evaluation

Are mistakes in the basic positions.

Faults

When leaving the down position by more than three (3) meters, the following rules apply to allow a partial deduction of -50% plus other mistakes. If the dog leaves the down position but stays or sits on the place there will be a deduction of -50%.

Partial points are possible if the dog doing the motion exercises has completed the third exercise.

IGPUSP 1: Partial points are possible if the other dog has completed the third exercise.

IGP/USP 2: Partial points are possible if the other dog has completed the fourth exercise.

IGP/USP 3: Partial points are possible if the other dog has completed the fifth exercise.

If the dog goes to the handler when approached for the pick-up, up to 3 points are deducted. If the dog leaves the down position but remains in the range of three meters (IGP/USP 1 two meters) when sitting or standing, there is a deduction of up to -50%.



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Phase C - Protection - (IGP / USP 1-3)

General Information

Field markings

The following field markings must be clearly visible to the handler, the judge, and the helper:

- Position of the dog handler for the call out from guarding in the blind.
- Position for the helper to start the escape and the distance (20 paces) by which the dog must be engaged. (See diagram)
- Arc marking where to position the dog during the setup for escape. (See sketch on page 54)
- Marking for the dog handler for the exercise “Attack on the dog out of motion”. (FCI-IGP2+3)

Blinds

For all trials all 6 blinds (3 blinds on each side) must be set up for protection even if there are no IGP / USP 3 dogs. The blinds are set up in a staggered pattern on each side of the field (see diagram).

Basic requirements

Evaluation of the (TSB) instinctive behavior, self-confidence, ability to cope with stress, grip performance and obedience is done over the entire protection phase. The dog must be self-confident and show a confident / dominate behavior in its interaction with the helper during the entire protection routine. In all protection exercises, the dog is allowed to only grip the trial protection sleeve. Biting any other unprotected parts of the helper's body must lead to immediate disqualification (DQ, aggression). In all phases of the protection exercises the dog must remain powerful, self-confident, dominate not influenced by the helpers “presence – pressure. The dog must show a full, energetic / firm, and consistent grip. In the stick threat -pressure (**USP has stick threat and stick contact / hits**) portions of the defense exercises the dog is threatened by the helper using a padded stick. The threat of stick contact is shown by the helper during the “drive.” In IGP there is no contact between the stick and the dog. In USP there are specific defense exercises where “stick contact – hits are administered to the dog on the shoulders and withers using a padded soft stick.” In all defense exercises the helper must pressure the dog during a “drive.”

Evaluation criteria

The following are important evaluation criteria:

- Reaction of the dog to the attack by the helper
- Self-confidence, a calm and firm grip
- Guarding phase and interaction with the helper in a self-confident and dominant behavior.
- Obedient, the dog must be under the control of the handler during the entire protection service.



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Additional evaluation criteria:

Deduction of one category	<ul style="list-style-type: none">slightly inattentive guarding and/or slight bothering in the guarding phase
Deduction of two categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Very inattentive guarding and/or substantial bothering in the guarding phase
Deduction of three categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the dog does not guard the helper, but remains with the helper
Insufficient	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The dog leaves the helper to go to the dog handler during approach
Termination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the dog does not withstand the pressure from the helper and comes off the sleeve and backs upthe dog leaves the helper before the judge's instruction for the dog handler to approach or the dog handler gives a command for the dog to stay with the helper

Outing (release the protection sleeve) evaluation and additional verbal commands

If the dog does not release (out) after the first allowed command when the helper has stopped. The handler will receive the instruction from the judge for up to 2 more commands to be given.

Slow to out	1 Extra command with immediate out	1 Extra command with slow out	2 Extra commands, immediate out upon second command	2 Extra commands, with slow out upon second command	No out after second extra command
0.5 – 3.0	3.0	3.5 – 6.0	6.0	6.5 – 9.0	Disqualification

If the dog does not out after two additional verbal commands, the dog will be disqualified.

Attack from back transport IGP/USP 3

1st additional command -3.5 satisfactory "B"

2nd additional command -5 insufficient" M"

If the dog leaves the helper in a guarding exercise before the judge has given the handler a signal to approach, the protection will be terminated, "Term" failure to engage.

If the dog leaves the helper after the judge has given the signal to the handler to approach, the exercise will be rated "insufficient" and continue.



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Primary and secondary elements of the exercises:

In the Evaluation, a distinction is made between primary and secondary elements of the individual exercises, significant errors in the secondary part can lead to the entire exercise being evaluated as insufficient or a disqualification being pronounced. Additional information and descriptions follow with the individual exercises.

Examination levels IGP/USP -1 to 3 (exercises and point allocation)

Exercises	IGP/USP 1	IGP/USP 2	IGP/USP 3
Search for the helper	5	5	10
Hold and Bark	15	15	15
Prevention of attempted escape	20	15	10
Defense against an attack from the guarding phase	30	20	15
Back Transport	-	5	5
Attack on the dog out of the back transport	-	-	15
Attack on the dog out of motion	30	20	15
Defense against an attack from the guarding phase	-	20	15
Total score	100	100	100

Report in protection all levels

The dog and handler report in for IGP/USP1 level with a leashed dog in the basic position in front of the judge and then proceeds to the midline of the field between blinds 5 -6.

For IGP/USP 2-3, the dog and handler report in by taking basic position mid field between the start blind for the search level (IGP/USP2 in line with blind 3, IGP/USP 3 in line with blind 1) facing down field. The handler then signals the judge by raising an arm. At the judges signal the handler may “pivot” towards the 1st blind in the dog’s search. The dog must be in basic position (sitting) before the search is started.



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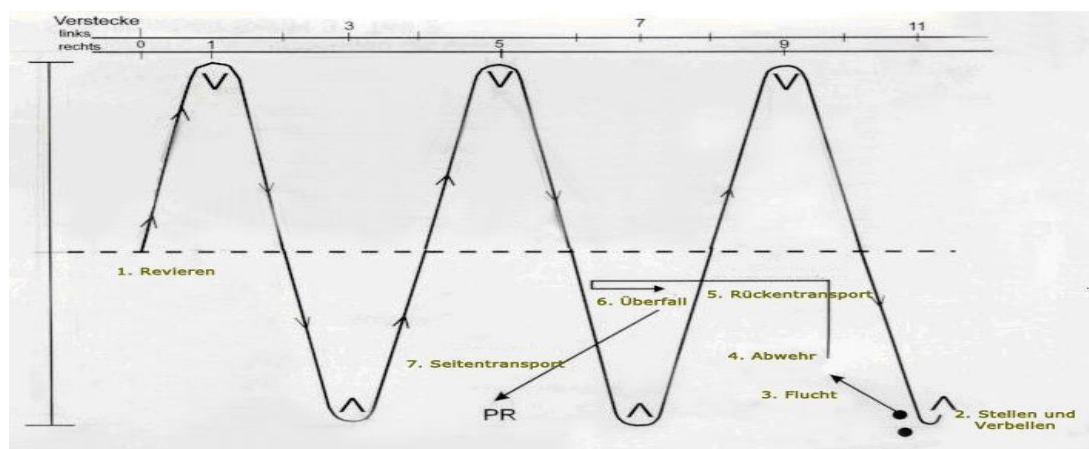


Exercise descriptions

Search for the helper

The start must take place in the basic position facing downfield to the judge. After acknowledging the judge, a new basic position is taken in the direction of the first blind.

IGP-/USP 1, 2 Blinds	IGP/USP 2, 4 Blinds	IGP/USP 3, 6 Blinds
The dog heels on leash to the starting position on the center line even with blind 5. The handler assumes a basic position there and removes the leash. The handler raises an arm showing his/her willingness to start the exercise. After the judge's signal the dog is sent to blind 5 and then with a verbal command to blind 6.	The dog heels off leash to the starting position on the center line even with blind 3. The handler assumes a basic position there. The handler raises an arm showing his/her willingness to start the exercise. After the judge's signal the dog is sent to start the search exercise.	The dog heels off leash to the starting position on the center line even with blind 1. The handler assumes a basic position there. The handler raises an arm showing his/her willingness to start the exercise. After the judge's signal the dog is sent to start the search exercise.



With a verbal command and a hand signal with the right or left arm to direct the dog, the dog is sent to search the blinds. The dog must run fast and directly at the blinds and then go around them closely and attentively. After going around the blind, the handler calls the dog's name and "heir". On this command, the dog must come in the most direct way towards the handler, then the handler gives a verbal command "reviere"/ "search" and at the same time points to the next blind to be searched. The dog's name and a verbal command for "heir" are to be given in conjunction. The handler moves with a normal pace on the imaginary center line as the dog proceeds down field searching the blinds. The handler must remain on the mid line and maintain a consistent pace. When the dog has reached the helper's blind, no further commands or hand signals are permitted, and the handler must stop as soon as the dog enters blind 6 and remain standing on the midline until he /she receives an instruction from the judge to approach the blind for calling out or picking up the dog.



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Evaluation criteria

Primary elements: Determined, concentrated and attentive search for the helper, obedience of the dog.

Secondary elements

Direct approach of the dog to the handler. Tight circling of blinds.

Faults include: If the dog is not calm in the basic position at the beginning of the exercise, if the dog is barking or vocal during the blind search, if the dog receives additional commands or hand signals, if the handler leaves the imaginary center line during search, the handler does not move at a normal pace, the dog circles the blind(s) wide, the dog is acting independently and not on the handler's commands, if blinds are not circled or not attentively circled, or the dog is difficult to control, these faults are deducted accordingly.

The dog must approach the blinds and the handler directly and purposefully.

If the handler has his/ her dog come into the basic position during the blind search (the dog stops the search and comes to basic position), the exercise is given 0 (zero) points. The routine may be continued if the dog can be sent again. If the dog comes back to the basic position a second time, protection must be terminated. If the dog does not find the helper on the first command, the handler has two additional commands to try to get the dog into blind 6. If the dog does not find the helper on the 3rd command, then the protection phase is terminated.

Hold and Bark (10 points for hold and 5 points for barking)

The dog must confront the helper confidently, actively, attentively, and dominant with persistent barking. The duration for barking is approx. 20 seconds before the judge signals the handler to approach. The exercise ends as follows:

IGP/USP 1	IGP/USP 2	IGP/USP 3
The judge instructs the handler when to go to the marked position 5 paces away from the helper. On the judge's instructions, the handler calls his/her dog into the basic position or, alternatively, goes to his/her dog, gives the command "sit," then puts the leash on and heels to the marked position and takes a basic position. Alternatively, the dog may be kept off leash when heeling to the marked position.	The judge instructs the handler when to go to the marked position 5 paces away from the helper. On the judge's instructions, the handler calls the dog into the basic position with the command "here/heel."	The judge instructs the handler when to go to the marked position 5 paces away from the helper. On the judge's instructions, the handler calls the dog into the basic position with the command "here/heel."

Evaluation criteria

Primary evaluation

Confident holding and continuous persistent powerful / strong barking at the helper.

Secondary evaluation:

Call out direct and straight coming into the final basic position.

Faults include

Bothering/touching the helper, weakness or limitations in confidence/dominance, and lack of persistent barking and focus while holding the helper until the command for "here heel" is given. During the exercise, the dog must not be distracted by the judge or by the handler.



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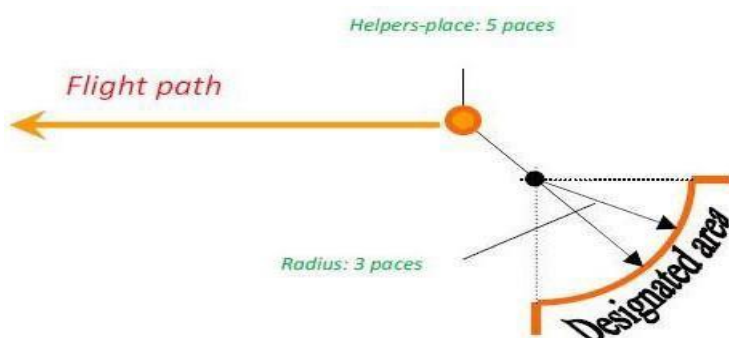
Additional evaluation criteria

Weak, inconsistent, not dominant, non-energetic unfocused barking Dog does not bark, but actively guards the helper	Satisfactory to Insufficient Insufficient
Bothering the helper by pushing, bumping, etc. The dog bites the sleeve and only releases after approach and a command	Rated accordingly and as low as Insufficient Insufficient – 14 Points
If the dog leaves the helper before the handler leaves the center line after the judge's instructions. If the dog does not go back into the blind or leaves the helper again	The dog can be sent in again one time. If the dog remains with the helper, phase C can be continued. Insufficient -14 points. Termination
If the dog leaves the helper during the handler's approach, or if the dog comes out of the blind before the command	Rated as Insufficient Rated as Insufficient
If the dog is biting the sleeve in the blind and does not release on its own, the handler is instructed to go to the callout position. The handler is allowed to call the dog with a command to “out” and a “here/heel” command, which must be said as one word.	If the dog comes out to basic position- Insufficient -14 If the dog does not release or come to basic with one command - Disqualification

Prevention of an attempted escape of the helper

Commands for the escape and out.

On the judge's instructions, the handler asks the helper to step out of the blind. The helper goes at a normal pace to the starting point for the escape. The handler heels his/her dog to the marked position for the escape.





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IGP/USP 1

The dog is either heeled on leash or off leash to the designated starting position for the escape. The dog must be under control, attentive and concentrated, as well as in the correct position at the knee of the handler. In the basic position, if the exercise is shown on leash, the leash is removed and then the dog is given the command to down. At the command the dog must lie down directly and quickly and must be calm, confident, and attentive to the helper. The distance between the helper and the dog is 5 paces. The handler returns to the blind and remains there with a view of the dog and the judge. The judge signals the helper to escape and the handler commands the dog to “go.”

IGP/USP 2-3

The dog must be heeled to the designated starting position for the escape and must take a basic position there. The dog must be under control, attentive and concentrated, as well as in the correct position at the knee of the handler. At the command the dog must lie down directly and quickly and must be calm, confident, and attentive to the helper. The distance between the helper and dog is 5 paces. The handler goes back to the blind and remains there with a view on the dog and judge. The judge signals the helper to escape, and the handler commands the dog to “go.”

Attempted escape (IGP/USP 1-3)

At the judge's instruction, the helper attempts to escape. At the same time the handler gives a command (“go”) for the dog to prevent the escape. The dog must without hesitation try to prevent the attempted escape with high determination, attempting to slow or control the helper with an explosive and powerful attack. From the lockup of the helper to the out, the transitional phase is about 1 sec. After a transitional phase, the dog must out (let go). The handler may give a command to out within an appropriate time (about 3 seconds). The subsequent guarding phase before the defense is approximately 5 seconds.

Evaluation criteria (IGP/USP all levels)

Primary evaluation:

Fast, powerful, without hesitation confident prevention of escape, full firm grip, correct out and a self-assured dominant guarding.

Secondary evaluation:

Free heeling to and taking the down position.

Faults

Not correct heeling, not under control, no confident/resolute prevention of the escape, bad grip, failure in the guarding phase, bothering the helper.

Additional evaluation criteria

If the dog lies down over the line (not beyond the elbows), the dog may remain in the down position with a deduction. If the dog is over the line by more than the elbows the judge will have the handler reposition it by standing behind the line and calling the dog “heir/heel, come/heel” then downing the dog behind the line with a “insufficient” 5-point deduction. If the dog leaves the down position before the helper begins the escape and bites the sleeve, the dog is disqualified. If the dog does not bite, the handler may step to the line for the down position and call the dog to him/her with a single command and bring it back to the down position and then return to the blind. If the dog then remains in the down position, the work may be continued, and the exercise is “insufficient M” and given 0 points. If the dog leaves the position again, it is disqualified for disobedience.

The dog does not react with a firm, fast, energetic, and powerful grip and engagement and/or effective prevention of the escape. If the dog does not remain quiet, calm and/or full on the grip until



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the release, not attentive, not dominant or bumping during guarding of the helper; these all result in point deductions.

If no command to start the preventing of the escape is given, the exercise is rated one category lower.

If the dog remains in the down position, or if the helper is not caught within 20 paces, protection must be terminated.

Defense of an attack from the guarding phase (IGP/USP 1 – 3)

After approx. 5 seconds, the helper attacks the dog. The dog must defend itself without the influence of the handler with an explosive and powerful strike and a firm and calm grip. The dog is to be pressured in the drive with stick threats by the helper (**USP 1-3 has 2 stick hits with the threat**). Particular attention must be paid to the dog's self-assurance, power, and a full, calm grip. At the signal of the judge, the helper stops the drive and pressure. After the helper has locked up (stopped), the transition phase must be shown for approximately 1 sec after the helper has stopped. After the transition phase, the dog must release (out). The handler can give a command for the out in an appropriate time (1-3 seconds) on his/her own, additional commands to out will be directed by the judge.

During and after the release (out) the helper must stand still. After the out, the dog must guard the helper with focus, attention, confidence, and high dominance.

Evaluation criteria

Primary evaluation:

Powerful and confident reaction to the attack of the helper, full, firm, and calm grip and self-confidence of the dog, direct separation, powerful and confident guarding.

Secondary evaluation:

Final basic position

Faults

The dog does not react with firm, fast, energetic, and powerful engagement, and/or effective prevention of the attack. The dog is not quiet, calm and/or full on the grip until the release. The dog bumps or is not attentive and dominant during guarding of the helper; these are deducted accordingly.

End of the exercise in all levels

The handler follows the judge's instructions to directly approach the dog in a normal pace; the handler stands next to his/her dog and commands the dog into the basic position with a command for "sit." The padded stick is not taken from the helper.

Back Transport IGP/USP 2

Commands for the transport: "Heel" or "Transport."

The exercise begins with the end of the exercise "defense against an attack from the guarding phase". The transport is carried out over a distance of 30 paces. A corner is not mandatory. The judge determines the course of the transport. The handler asks the helper to step back 8 paces and turn around. The handler instructs the helper with the command to "transport" and follows him/her with his/her dog, which is intensively attentive to the helper, at a distance of about 8 paces. This distance must be maintained during the entire back transport. On the signal from the judge, the helper stops and stands still. The handler goes to the helper with his/her dog who is attentive to the helper, stands beside the helper (side transport position) and takes the padded stick. The dog must sit in the basic position between the handler and helper. Then a side transport to the judge is shown



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over a distance of about 20 paces. A command for the transport is allowed. The dog must be between the helper and the handler. The dog must be attentive to the helper. However, the dog is not allowed to press, bump or grip the helper. At the end of the transport, the handler takes a basic position with his dog in front of the judge, hands over the padded stick to the judge and announces the first part of protection is completed.

If the dog bites the sleeve while the helper is stepping back, the handler may bring the dog under control with a 1-time command “out”/ “heel” to assume the basic position. If the dog obeys, the entire exercise is assessed as “insufficient” with minus 3 points and the exercise can be continued. If the dog does not obey the command, protection must be terminated, and the dog is to be disqualified.

If the dog leaves the position between the helper and handler during the side transport the transport must stop and the handler has 2 commands to get the dog back to position between the handler and helper so the transport may continue. The deduction for the first additional command is -1,5 points and for the second -2,5 points. If the dog does not obey, the protection work must be terminated and the dog is to be disqualified.

If the dog bites the sleeve during the side transport to the Judge, the handler has a one-time only chance to get the dog back under control and in the correct position with the command “out / “heir / heel” and the entire exercise is to be “insufficient” and the protection can be continued. If the dog does not obey (out and take position), the protection must be terminated and the dog is to be disqualified.

Back transport IGP/USP 3.

Commands for the Transport: “Heel” or “transport.”

The exercise begins with the end of the exercise "defense against an attack from the guarding phase". The transport is carried out over a distance of 30 paces. A corner is not mandatory. The judge determines the course of the transport. The handler asks the helper to step back 8 paces and turn around. The helper is then asked to go ahead (transport or move out) and the handler follows the helper with his dog, who pays close attention to the helper, at a distance of about 8 paces. This distance must be maintained during the entire back transport. The back transport ends with the beginning of the exercise “Attack on the dog from the back transport”.

Evaluation criteria

Primary evaluation:

Keeping the correct position heeling with the handler and paying attention to the helper.

Secondary evaluation

Assume and maintain the basic position.

Faults

Among other things, the following are incorrect:

Avoidance, unfree/stressed behavior, lack of attention to the helper, forging forward or lagging behind, additional handle help, incorrect basic position, incorrect distance to the helper.

Additional information:

If the dog bites the protective arm while the helper is stepping back, the handler may bring the dog into the basic position with the verbal commands "Out" and "Here-Heel". If the dog obeys, the entire exercise is to be evaluated with "insufficient" and minus 3 points. The exercise back transport



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may be continued. If the dog does not obey the handler, it will be disqualified for disobedience. If the dog leaves the handler during the back transport and can be called back on a one-time verbal command, the exercise will be rated "insufficient" and 0 points and the transport can be continued. If the dog bites the protective arm, the dog must be disqualified.

Attack on the dog from the back transport. IGP/USP 3

During the back transport, at the instruction of the judge, the helper turns and attacks the dog. Without intervention by the handler (no commands by the handler to send dog to attack) and without hesitation, the dog must engage the helper with a confident, powerful attack with a full firm and calm grip. After the grip the dog is to be pressured by being driven and threatened by the helper. Particular attention must be paid to the dog's self-assurance, powerful and a full, calm grip. At the signal from the judge, the helper stops the drive and pressure. After the helper has locked up, the transition phase must be shown for approximately 1 second. After the transition phase the dog must release (out). The handler can independently give a command for the out in an appropriate time (approx. 5 sec). During and after the release the helper must stand still and focused on the dog (see USCA helper Program). After the out the dog must guard the helper with confident, powerful, attentive, and with high dominance. On the judge's signal the handler goes to the helper with his dog who must remain attentive to the helper, with a verbal command for "sit" the dog stops barking and takes basic position next to the handler. Then the handler and the free heeling dog go take the side transport position (dog between the handler and helper) and stand beside the helper as the handler takes the padded stick. The dog must sit in the basic position. Then, a side transport to the judge is shown over a distance of about 20 paces. A command for the start of side transport is allowed. The dog must stay between the helper and the handler. The dog must be attentive to the helper. However, he/she is not allowed to press, bump or grip the helper. If the dog leaves the position between the helper and handler the transport must stop and the handler has 2 commands to get the dog back to position between the handler and helper so the transport may continue. The deduction for the first additional command is -3,5 points and for the second -5 points. If the dog does not obey, the protection must be terminated and the dog must be disqualified. If the dog bites the sleeve during the side transport to the judge, the handler has one chance to get the dog back under control and in the correct position with the command "out" / "here heel" and the entire exercise is "insufficient" and the protection can continue. If the dog does not obey, the protection must be terminated and the dog is to be disqualified. At the end of the transport, the handler takes a basic position with his dog in front of the judge, hands over the padded stick to the judge and announces that the first part of protection is completed.

Evaluation criteria:

Primary evaluation:

Confident reaction to the helper's attack. Full, firm, and calm grip. Self-confidence and resistance in the pressure phase. Direct, in one move, releasing. Powerful and confident guarding.

Secondary evaluation:

Whether the dog is guarding in the center or slightly more to the left or right of the helper. The position of the dog during the side transport and assuming the final basic position.

Faults include

The dog does not react with a firm, fast, energetic, and powerful engagement, and/or effective prevention of the attack. Not quiet, calm and/or full on the grip until the release, not attentive, not dominant or bumping during guarding of the helper will deduct the exercise accordingly.

If the dog leaves the helper before the judge has given the command to approach, the protection is terminated. If the dog leaves the helper after the judge has given the order to approach, the exercise is scored as "insufficient."



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Extra evaluation

If the dog cannot hold the grip but is immediately regripping, the exercise must be extra devaluated with minus 5 points.

Attack on the dog out of motion

In all levels, the helper yells and threatens the dog. In the levels IGP/USP 1 -2 before the grip. In level IGP/USP 3, the threatening sounds are given when the helper starts to run towards the handler and the dog and right before the attack of the dog.

IGP/USP 1 Attack on Dog Out of Motion (completion of Protection, phase C)

Following the exercise "Defense of an attack from the guarding phase", the helper moves away at a normal walking pace from the dog sitting in the basic position for approx. 20 meters. The dog sitting calmly and attentively to the helper can be held by the collar. The dog may not be stimulated by the handler. At the signal from the judge the helper attacks the dog frontally with yelling and making strong threatening motions. On the judge's signal, the handler immediately releases his dog with the command to go. The dog must without hesitation attack the helper with high dominance and determination, driving into/through the helper. After the grip the dog is pressured by driving and threats with the padded stick by the helper.

Particular attention must be paid to the dog's self- assurance, power, and a full, calm grip. The handler is not allowed to leave his/her place. At the order of the judge the helper stops the drive and pressure and places the back of the dog towards the handler. After the helper has locked up, the transition phase must be shown for approximately 1 second after the helper has stopped. After the transition phase the dog must release. The handler can independently give a command to out in an appropriate time (1 – 3 seconds). Additional commands to out will be instructed by the judge. During and after the out, the helper must stand still. After the out the dog must guard the helper with attention, confidence, and high dominance. On the judge's instructions the handler goes to his/her dog, gives a verbal command for the dog to go into the basic position and the handler may put the dog on leash. The padded stick is taken from the helper. The handler may disarm the helper in any way he/she wants as long as the dog and handler remain together during the disarming. Then a new basic position is taken next to the helper for the side transport, either with the dog on leash or off leash, and the transport to the judge takes place over a distance of about 20 paces. A command for heeling or transport is allowed. The dog must remain between helper and the handler. The dog must be attentive to the helper during the transport. The dog is not allowed to press, jump or grip the helper. If the dog leaves the position between the helper and handler the transport must stop and the handler has 2 commands to get the dog back into position between the handler and helper so the transport may continue. The deduction for the first additional command is -3,5 points and for the second -5 points. If the dog does not obey, the protection work must be terminated and the dog is to be disqualified. If the dog bites the sleeve, the handler may give only one command "out/ here /heel." If the dog obeys, the total exercise is awarded "insufficient" and the protection phase can be resumed. If the dog does not obey, the protection phase must be terminated and the dog is to be disqualified. At the end of the transport, the handler takes a basic position in front of the judge, hands the padded stick to the judge and reports that protection is complete. At instruction of the judge, the handler goes with his dog on leash, under control, to the position for the critique.

If the dog leaves the helper before the Judge has given the command to approach, the protection is terminated (0 Points for phase C) If the dog leaves the helper after the Judge has given the order to approach, the exercise is scored as "insufficient."



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Evaluation

Primary evaluation:

Self-confident reaction on the attack of the helper, a full, solid, and calm grip. Self-assured and correctness in the pressure phase, correct out, self-assured and dominant guarding.

Secondary evaluation

Correct taking the basic position etc.

Faults

Slow reaction on the attack, bad grip, not self-assured and incorrect in the guarding phase, slow outing, bothering the helper, not correct attention during the transport phase, helps of the handler.

Extra evaluation: If the dog cannot hold the grip but is immediately regripping, the exercise must be extra devaluated with minus 5 points.

IGP/USP-2, Attack on Dog Out of Motion

After the "Back transport " exercise, on instruction from the judge, the handler/dog team moves away from the helper to a distance of about 30 meters. The judge will signal the handler/dog team when to stop and turn to face the helper. The dog, sitting calmly and attentively to the helper, can be held on the collar. The dog may not be stimulated by the handler. At the order of the judge, the helper attacks the dog frontally with yelling and making strong threatening motions. On the judge's instruction, the handler immediately releases his/her dog with the command to go. The dog must without hesitation attack the helper with high dominance and determination. After the grip the dog is to be pressured by driving and threats with the padded stick by the helper. Particular attention must be paid to the dog's self-assurance, power, and a full, calm grip. The handler is not allowed to leave his place. At the order of the judge, the helper stops the drive and pressure and places the back of the dog towards the handler. After the helper has stopped and locked up, the transition phase must be shown for approximately 1 second. After the transition phase the dog must release. The handler can independently give a command for outing after 1-3 seconds. Additional commands to out will be instructed by the judge. During and after the release the helper must stand still. After the out the dog must guard the helper with attention, confidence, and high dominance for approximately 5 seconds.

IGP/USP 3

The handler, after the side transport at the end of the exercise "Attack on the dog from the back transport" and on instruction of the judge, takes his/her free heeling dog to the marked place on the center line even with the first blind. The heeling dog must show stress-free and intense attention to the handler and be straight at the left the knee of the handler. After reaching the position for the attack out of motion the handler stops and turns around. With the command to sit, the dog is brought into the basic position. The straight, quiet, and attentive to the helper sitting dog can be held by the collar, but may not be stimulated by the handler. At the order of the judge the helper with a padded stick comes out of a blind and runs to the center line. After reaching the center line the helper turns up field and runs towards the handler and the dog and attacks, without interrupting his running pace, while yelling and making strong threatening motions. As soon as the helper is about 50 meters from the handler and the dog, on the judge's instructions, the handler immediately releases his dog with the command to go. The dog must without hesitation engage the helper with high dominance and determination. After the grip the dog is to be pressured by driving and threats with the padded stick by the helper. Particular attention must be paid to the dog's self-assurance, power, and a full, calm grip. The handler is not allowed to leave his position. At the signal from the judge, the helper stops the drive and pressure and places the back of the dog towards the handler. After the helper has stopped and locked up, the transition phase must be shown for approximately 1



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second. After the transition phase the dog must release. The handler can give independently a command for the out in an appropriate time (1-3 seconds). Additional out commands will be directed by the judge. During and after the release the helper must stand still. After outing the dog must guard the helper with attention, confidence and high dominance and high dominance for approximately 5 seconds.

Evaluation criteria

Primary evaluation:

Confident reaction to the helper's attack. Full, firm, and calm grip. Resistance in the pressure phase. Direct releasing. Dominant and confident guarding.

Secondary evaluation: The position of the dog in the free-heeling to the marked position. The position of the dog at the helper in the guarding phase.

Faults include

If the dog is not reacting with a firm, fast, energetic, and powerful engagement, and/or effective prevention of the attack. Not quiet, calm and/or full grip until the release, not attentive, dominant guarding the helper, this will be deducted accordingly. If the dog leaves the helper protection is terminated.

Additional evaluation criteria

If the dog cannot hold the grip but is immediately regripping, the exercise must be extra devaluated with minus 5 points.

Defense of attack from guarding phase (completion of "C" Protection)

IGP/USP 2 -3

Commands: out, sit and transport:

After the exercise "defense against an attack out of motion", the helper undertakes on the judge's instruction an attack on the dog. The dog must defend itself without the influence of the handler by an explosive and powerful strike. The dog is to be pressured in the drive with stick threats by the helper (**USP 3 there are 2 stick hits with stick threat and pressure**). Particular attention must be paid to the dog's self-assurance, power, and a full, calm grip. At the order of the judge, the helper stops the drive and pressure. After the helper has stopped and locked up, the transition phase must be shown for approximately 1 second. After the transition phase, the dog must release. The handler can independently give a command for the out in appropriately 1-3 seconds. Additional out commands will be instructed by the judge. During and after the release the helper must stand still. After the out the dog must guard the helper with attention, confidence, and high dominance.

On the judge's instructions, the handler goes to his/her dog, and returns the dog into the basic position with the command to sit. The padded stick is taken from the helper. The handler may disarm the helper any way the handler wants as long as the dog and handler remain together during the disarming.

A new basic position is then taken by the handler and dog next to the helper. The side transport to the judge over a distance of about 20 paces with the dog off leash must be shown. A command for heeling or transport is allowed. The dog must stay between the helper and the handler. The dog must be attentive to the helper during transport. The dog is not allowed to press, jump or grip the helper. If the dog leaves the position between the helper and handler the transport must stop and the handler has 2 commands to get the dog back into position between the handler and helper so the transport may continue. The deduction for the first additional command is -3,5 points and for the second -5 points. If the dog does not obey, the protection must be terminated and the dog must be disqualified. If the dog bites the sleeve, the handler may give a one additional command "out/ here /heel." If the dog obeys, the total exercise is awarded "insufficient" and the protection phase can be



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resumed. If the dog does not obey, the protection must be terminated and the dog must be disqualified. At the end of the transport, the handler takes a basic position in front of the judge, hands the padded stick to the judge and reports that protection is completed. The handler must free heel 5 paces away from the judge before taking a basic position and putting the dog on the leash. At the instruction of the judge the handler goes with his dog on leash and under control to the position for the critique.

Evaluation criteria

Primary evaluation:

Confident reaction to the helper's attack. Full, firm, and calm grip. Self-confident resistance in the pressure phase. Direct releasing. Dominant and confident guarding.

Secondary evaluation:

Taking the basic position. The free heeling to the starting point for attack out of motion.

Faults

The position at the helper at the guarding phase. The position of the dog during the side transport and assuming the final basic position.

If the dog is not reacting with firm, fast, energetic, and powerful engagement, and/or effective prevention of the attack. Not quiet, calm and/or full on the grip until the release, bumping, not attentive, dominant during guarding of the helper, this must be deducted accordingly. If the dog leaves the helper before the judge has given the handler the command to approach, protection is terminated (0 points for phase C). If the dog leaves the helper after the judge has given the order to approach, the exercise is scored as “insufficient.”

Additional evaluation criteria: If the dog cannot hold the grip but is immediately regripping, the exercise must be extra devaluated with minus 5 points.

Helper regulations – See USCA Helper Program for most current information

In all USCA Trials Helpers must have a helper classification in the USCA helper program

The helper in phase “C” is the assistant to the judge in phase “C”

The guidelines and regulations of the trial rules regarding the helper work and the instruction of the judge must be followed. For the helper’s personal protection requirements are the helper, trial day or competitions, must wear protective clothing, (protection pants, protection jacket, sleeve, cup, and if necessary, gloves).

The helper’s shoes must be weather-proof and suitable for the ground conditions, secure stance and ensure good traction.

The following points should be noted:

1. Prior to the trial work in phase “C,” the helper receives instructions from the judge. He must perform the work in accordance to the judge’s instructions.
2. The helper must follow the instructions of the handler during disarming of the helper in accordance with the trial rules.
3. In the case of a club trial, it is allowed to work with one helper. A one-time change of the helper is allowed if the helper himself is also a participant in the club trial.
4. For trials on a national level, such as competitions, qualification trials, championships, etc., 2 helpers are generally to be used for IGP/USP 3.
5. All trials can be attended by a helper who lives in the same household as one of the handlers.



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Guidelines for the helper work- see [USCA Helper Program for complete information](#)

When the dog is subjected to the threat of a stick, the dog is threatened with a soft padded stick by the helper without being touched or hit **except in USP 1-3 where 2 stick hits are given for the Defense after the escape and in USP 3 the final defense exercise**. The threat must be carried out vigorously by the helper.

"Hold and bark"

The helper stands – not visible to the handler and the dog – with his protective arm slightly bent and without a "threatening" posture in the assigned hiding blind. The protective arm serves as body armor. The dog is to be observed by the helper while "Holding and barking". Additional stimuli as well as assistance of any kind are not permitted. The soft stick is held sideways downwards.

"Prevention of an attempted escape of the helper"

After the hold and bark exercise, the handler calls the helper out of the blind, who is to exit in a normal pace and places himself/herself at the designated spot as assigned by the judge (marked spot). The position of the helper must ensure that the handler can place his dog at a distance of 5 paces on the side where the helper's protection sleeve is at the helper's designated spot. The flight path must be clearly recognizable for the handler.

Under the direction of the judge, the helper escapes in a quick and assertive pace in a straight line, without running in an uncontrolled or exaggerated manner. The sleeve must remain steady and the dog should be given an optimal grip possibility. The helper may not turn to face the dog at any time, but can keep the dog in his/her field of vision. The helper must refrain from pulling the sleeve away. Once the dog has gripped, the helper continues to run in a straight direction, and while running pulls the sleeve in tight to his/her body.

The judge determines how far the helper needs to escape. Under the direction of the judge, the helper terminates the escape. When the corresponding dynamic work of the helper is carried out, it provides the judge with the optimal opportunity to evaluate the performance. Any type of helper assistance in the way of, excessive offering the sleeve before the grip, verbal agitation, or hitting the soft stick against his pants before or during the escape, limply held sleeve position, reducing the speed of the escape independent termination of the escape, etc., are not permitted.

"Defense against an attack during the guarding phase"

After the guarding phase, the helper makes an attack on the dog at the instructions of the judge. The soft stick is used in a threatening motion above the sleeve without hitting the dog in IGP **for USP 2 stick hits are given to the shoulder / withers using the soft padded stick**. At the same moment, the dog grips in a frontal and forward movement with corresponding resistance, without the sleeve being set into motion. The protection sleeve will be carried tight and in front of the body. Once the dog has gripped, he is to be placed out of motion to the side and the pressure phase begins in a straight direction. Turning at the start of this exercise is not permitted. The helper must drive all dogs in the same direction. It is important that the judge must place himself/herself in such a position so as to observe and evaluate the behavior of the dog during the attack, the pressure phase, the grip behavior, the out and the guarding phase. Driving the dog to the handler is not permitted.

The duration of the pressure phase is determined by the judge. Under the direction of the judge, the helper terminates the pressure phase. When the corresponding dynamic work of the helper is carried out, it provides the judge with the optimal opportunity to evaluate the performance. Any assistance given by the helper in the way of offering any type of helper assistance in the way of, offering the sleeve before the grip, verbal agitation, or hitting the soft stick against his pants before or during the escape, limply held sleeve position after the grip during the pressure phase, inconsistent intensity during the pressure phase and independent termination when weakness is determined in the dog etc., are not permitted.



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Back transport” (IGP/USP 2-3)

Under the direction of the handler, the helper demonstrates a back transport over a distance of approximately 30 paces at a normal pace. The judge determines the course of the transport. The helper may not any sudden moves during the transport. The soft stick and the sleeve are to be carried in such a way that it does not stimulate the dog. The soft stick especially has to be carried out of sight. The helper is to move at the same pace for every dog.

Attack on the dog out of the back transport (IGP/USP 3)”

The attack out of the back transport is performed out of motion and under the direction of the judge. The helper performs the attack by making a dynamic left and right turn and running with purpose towards the dog. The soft stick is to be held above the sleeve and swung in a threatening motion. The dog has to be intercepted with a flexible position of the protection sleeve, whereby the helper cannot come to a halt. Upon intercepting the dog, the body should – if possible – turn in order to catch the dog and flow with his body movement. Additional movement of the sleeve is to be avoided. Once the dog grips, the helper places the dog out of motion to the side and the pressure phase is conducted in a straight direction. The helper must drive all dogs in the same direction. It is important that the judge must place himself/herself in such a position so as to observe and evaluate the behavior of the dog during the attack, the pressure phase, the grip behavior, the out and the guarding phase. Driving the dog to the handler is not permitted.

The duration of the pressure phase is determined by the judge. Under the direction of the judge, the helper terminates the pressure phase. When the corresponding dynamic work of the helper is carried out, it provides the judge with the optimal opportunity to evaluate the performance. Any assistance given by the helper in the way of offering Any type of helper assistance in the way of, offering the sleeve before the grip, verbal agitation, or hitting the soft stick against his pants before or during the escape, limply held sleeve position after the grip during the pressure phase, inconsistent intensity during the pressure phase and independent termination when weakness is noticed in the dog etc., are not permitted “Attack on the dog out of motion”.

IGP/USP 1

Following the exercise "Defense against an attack from the guard phase", the helper moves at a normal pace about 20 meters away from the dog sitting in the basic position.

IGP/USP 2

The helper stops where the 1st part was finished (back transport /side transport to judge). The helper moves at a normal pace about 30 meters away from the dog sitting in the basic position.

IGP/USP 3

After the side transport and report out to the judge. The handler proceeds down field to the position marked on the field (in line with the 1st blind).The handler and dog take a basic position where the dog should remain calm. The helper leaves his assigned hiding place (6th blind) on the instruction of the judge and crosses the field to the center line and turns to the handler and dog. The helper attacks the handler and dog head-on with threatening gestures with the soft stick. The helper will yell and threaten the dog while running in the direction of the dog before the judge signals the handler to release the dog to bite. The dog must be caught by the helper “absorbing the impact to the protective arm position depending on the situation, pivoting to swing / absorb the impact. When catching the dog, a rotation of the body should be carried out – if necessary – in order to absorb the momentum of the dog. The dog must not be intentionally swung around more than the momentum of the catch. Once the dog has gripped, it must be placed sideways into the “drive” by the movement of the helper and the pressure phase begins in a straight direction. The helper should try



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to drive all dogs in the same direction but more important is the safety of the dog and “catch.” Driving in the direction of the handler is not permitted. The duration of the pressure phase is determined by the judge. The helper adjusts the pressure on the instructions of the judge.

“Termination of the defense exercise”:

Once stopping the defense exercise, the helper must stop movement. The sleeve is not to be carried at a high angle, but will be held in the same position as during the attack in the previous defense exercises. The soft stick is held out of sight at the side. No help is to be provided by the helper during the out phase. After the out, the helper is to maintain eye contact with the dog, no additional stimulation or help of any kind is not permitted. In order to maintain eye contact to the dog, the helper is allowed to turn for a dog that circles, but without any sudden movements.

Defense of an Attack from the Guarding Phase (final exercise in IGP/USP 2/3)

IGP/USP 2 -3

After the exercise "defense against an attack out of motion", the helper undertakes on the judge's instruction an attack on the dog. The dog must defend itself without the influence of the handler by an explosive and powerful strike. The dog is to be pressured in the drive with stick threats by the helper (**USP 3 there are 2 stick hits with stick threat and pressure**). Particular attention must be paid to the dog's self-assurance, power, and a full, calm grip. At the order of the judge, the helper stops the drive and pressure. After the helper has stopped and locked up, the transition phase must be shown for approximately 1 second. After the transition phase, the dog must release. The handler can independently give a command for the out in appropriately 1-3 seconds. Additional out commands will be instructed by the judge. During and after the release the helper must stand still. After the out the dog must guard the helper with attention, confidence, and high dominance.

On the judge's instructions, the handler goes to his/her dog, and returns the dog into the basic position with the command to sit. The padded stick is taken from the helper. The handler may disarm the helper any way the handler wants as long as the dog and handler remain together during the disarming.

A new basic position is then taken by the handler and dog next to the helper. The side transport to the judge over a distance of about 20 paces with the dog off leash must be shown. A command for heeling or transport is allowed. The dog must stay between the helper and the handler. The dog must be attentive to the helper during transport. The dog is not allowed to press, jump or grip the helper. If the dog leaves the position between the helper and handler the transport must stop and the handler has 2 commands to get the dog back into position between the handler and helper so the transport may continue. The deduction for the first additional command is -3,5 points and for the second -5 points. If the dog does not obey, the protection must be terminated and the dog must be disqualified. If the dog bites the sleeve, the handler may give a one additional command “out/ here /heel.” If the dog obeys, the total exercise is awarded “insufficient” and the protection phase can be resumed. If the dog does not obey, the protection must be terminated and the dog must be disqualified. At the end of the transport, the handler takes a basic position in front of the judge, hands the padded stick to the judge and reports that protection is completed. The handler must free heel 5 paces away from the judge before taking a basic position and putting the dog on the leash. At the instruction of the judge the handler goes with his dog on leash and under control to the position for the critique.



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Insecurities and failure of the dog”

A dog that does not grip during a defense exercise, or releases the grip in a pressure phase and outs, must be driven by the helper until the judge terminates the exercise. In such instances, the helper may not give any help to the dog or stop the exercise independently. Dogs that do not release, the helper may not use the soft stick in movement to get him to out. Dogs that have a tendency to leave the helper during the holding phase may not be stimulated by the helper to stay with the helper. In all or parts of any exercise the helper must present himself/herself active or neutral in accordance with the trial rules. If the dog bumps or grips during the holding phase, the helper must avoid making any defensive motions.

Additional examinations

Tracking 1 – 3 (FPr 1 – 3)

The tracking examinations in levels 1 to 3 consist only of the "A" phase of the corresponding examination levels of FCI-IGP-1 to 3. It is up to the handler, at which level his dog is presented.

A training title in the sense of the show requirements, the breeding regulations and the "Breed survey" will not be awarded.

Maximum Points	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Insufficient
100	100 – 96	95 – 90	89 – 80	79 – 70	69 - 0

The tracking examinations do not need to be performed in the order 1 to 3.

Obedience 1 – 3 (UPr 1 – 3)

The obedience examinations in levels 1 to 3 consist only of the "B" phase of the corresponding examination levels of FCI-IGP-1 to 3. It is up to the handler, at which level his dog is presented.

A training title in the sense of the show requirements, the breeding regulations and the "Breed survey" will not be awarded.

Maximum Points	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Insufficient
100	100 – 96	95 – 90	89 – 80	79 – 70	69 - 0

The Obedience examinations do not need to be performed in the order 1 to 3.

Working dog test 1 - 3 (GPr 1-3)

The GPr 1 - 3 examinations only consist of phases B and C of the corresponding examination levels of IGP 1 - 3. It is up to the handler, at which level his dog is presented. Track work is not shown during these examinations.

A training title in the sense of the show requirements, the breeding regulations and the "Breed survey" will not be awarded.

Maximum Points	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Insufficient
200	200 – 192	191 – 180	179 – 160	159 – 140	139 - 0



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1. IGP Tracking dog titles

1. General information

	FH1	FH2	FH3
Line length	10 meters	10 meters	10 meters
Track	Own track	Strange track	Strange track
Length	800 steps	1200 steps	1800 steps
Legs	5.	7.	8. One of them as a semicircle with a radius of approx. 30 meters. The entrance and (or) the exit are placed at a corner of approx. 90°.
Corners	4. approx. 90 °	6. The first 5 corners of approx. 90°. The last corner is laid as an acute corner between 30° - 60°.	7. of which 2 acute corners between 30°- 60°.
Distance between the corners	Minimum 50 steps	Minimum 50 steps	Minimum 50 steps
Articles	3 own articles 3x 7 points	4 strange articles 3x 5 points, 1x 6 points	7 strange articles 7x 3 points
Position of the articles	1. After min. 100 steps. 2. On LR instruction 3. At the end. There can be 2 on one leg.	1. After min. 100 steps 2+3 after track sketch 4. At the end. There can be 2 on one leg.	1. After min. 100 steps 2+3 according to track sketch 7 at the end. There can be 2 on one leg.
Articles size	10x2-3x0,5x-1 cm	10 x2-3x 0.5-1 cm	10 x 2-3 x 0.5-1 cm
Age	90 minutes	120 minutes	180 minutes
Working time maximum	30 minutes	30 minutes	45 minutes
Cross-track		30 minutes before working out the track	30 minutes before working out the track
Prerequisite	BH	FH 1	FH2



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IGP-FH

The IGP - FH is offered as the most difficult tracking test. In this level, one FH3 must be completed on each of 2 days. The terrain must be in different fields and the tracks must be laid by different track layers. In order to pass, at least a satisfactory result must be achieved in both tracks. For award placements, in case of equality of total points, the higher single track is valid. If these are also equal, the same placings will be awarded.

2. Trackable ground

All-natural ground such as meadow, field and forest ground can be used for tracking. In all test levels, changing terrain and path crossings are also possible in adaptation to the existing track terrain.

3. Laying the track

An FH 1 track is laid by the handler. The handler must lay the track according to the instructions of the judge or an appointed tracking coordinator.

The FH 2 and FH 3 level, the track must be laid by a stranger and it is advisable for a qualified track layer to determine the course of the track in relation to the existing terrain and to make a drawing of the track for the judge. This drawing includes terrain features (e.g. trees, wire poles, huts, etc.), the number of paces for each track and the location of any articles. The judge/tracking coordinator supervises the laying of the tracks and instructs the tracklayers. The tracks must be laid differently. Corners and articles may not be in the same place or at the same distances on every track. The beginning of the track is to be marked by a departure sign or start flag placed in the ground directly to the left of the scent pad. The tracklayer stops briefly at the beginning of the track and then walks at a natural pace with normal steps in the direction indicated. When laying the track, it must be laid at a natural gait. The corners are also to be laid in normal gait, where a continuous search work must be possible. (No track breaks, see sketch on page):

Unnatural gait, pawing or stamping by the tracklayer is not permitted anywhere on the track.

Articles may not be placed within 20 paces before or after the corners and must lie in the track. The articles must be placed on the track while walking. After placing the last article, the tracklayer must walk at least another 10 paces in a straight line.

In all levels where the track is not laid by the handler, the handler and dog are not allowed to watch the laying of the track.

In the presence of the judge or a person appointed by him/her the order of the participants in the tracking work is determined by drawing lots after the tracks/cross tracks have been laid.

Cross tracks in FH2 and FH3 levels

The cross track shall not be laid within 40 paces before or 40 paces after a corner, or across the first or last leg. It must be laid so that the track is not crossed below a 60-degree angle and may not cross a leg of the track twice. The distance from the track for the cross tracklayer before laying the cross track, is at least 10 meters. The dog is allowed to check cross tracks without any deduction if it does not leave the actual track. If the dog changes from the track to the cross track and follows this cross track more than one leash length, the track must be terminated. The judge must terminate the trackwork at the moment the handler is at a maximum of 2 paces on the cross track.



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Instruction

The handler is allowed to ask the judge to briefly interrupt the trackwork if he believes that he/she or his/her dog needs a short break due to physical condition and/or weather conditions (e.g. high heat). The pause will be counted towards the available time to work out the track. The handler is allowed to clean his/hers and/or the dogs head, eyes and nose or let the dog drink a bit of water during the break or while at an article. For this purpose, the handler can carry some water, a wet cloth, or a wet sponge. The water, cloth or sponge must be shown to the judge before the start of the track.

No other motivation tools are allowed.

Articles

Articles must not be placed within 20 paces before or 20 paces after a corner and must not differ significantly in color from the terrain. The article must be placed between the footsteps or alternatively, if the terrain requires it, in the footsteps. The article must be shown by the tracklayer to the judge or track supervisor before the track is laid. Only articles which the tracklayer has carried in his/her pocket for at least 30 minutes may be used. Within a track the articles must consist of different materials (e.g. leather, textiles, wood). In FCI-FH Championships the objects must be numbered. These numbers must correspond to the track number and must be placed in order on the track.

If an article is not indicated by the dog and cannot be found by the tracklayer, no points will be deducted. In the event that several articles are not found, the handler will be offered a substitute track. If the handler does not accept this, the articles not found are considered to have been passed over. This rule does not apply to FCI-IFH1, where the handler is the tracklayer. In these cases when an article is not indicated by the dog, no points will be awarded for these articles.

Indicating of the articles

Indicating can be done sitting, laying down or standing up, alternating on one track is permitted. Alternatively, the dog can also pick up or retrieve the article. After picking up the article the dog may remain standing, sit down, or bring the object to the handler. Picking up the articles and laying down is faulty, as is continuing to walk with the article.

If the dog retrieves the article, the handler must drop the leash and remain at his/hers place at the end of the leash from the time the dog picks up the article until the dog presents the article. The dog must retrieve the article in a direct way and can sit or stay in front of the handler while presenting the article, the handler collects the article (with the command for letting out) and restarts the dog to track from this place while standing in front/ just behind or next to his/her dog.

The articles must be indicated directly and convincingly, stress-free, and confidently, without the help of the handler. When the dog has indicated or picked up the article in a permitted position (standing, sitting, lying), the handler drops or lays down the tracking leash, goes directly to the dog, picks up the article or, if the dog picks up/retrieves it, takes it from the dog, and shows it to the judge. This may be done on the dog's left or right side. These procedures are done without judge's instruction.

The indication must be done in the direction of the track. Slightly crooked (+/-30 degrees) laying down, sitting, or standing to the object is not faulty.

It is also not faulty if the dog remains in its position and looks in the direction of the handler. For a good indication, the object must be directly in front of or between the front paws. It is not necessary for the dog to fixate (stare) at the article. The dog must remain calm and without stress or avoidance signals in its position until it is given the command to track. Articles found with strong assistance from the handler are considered to have been missed.

After the article has been shown to the judge, a restart is made with a command to track. The restart is



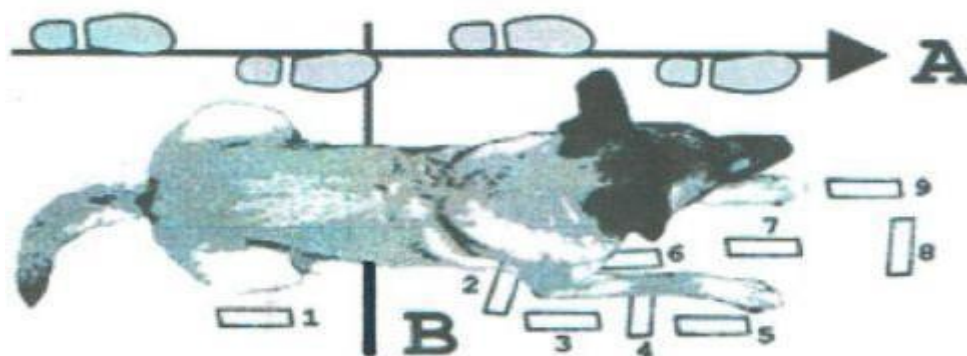
done without the judge's instruction. The handler stands directly next to or behind the dog.

Diagram for Article Placement relation to dog

Distance between the paws and the objects 8 and 9 maximum 20 cm

The sketch serves as a rough orientation. The following factors must be taken into account in the assessment:

- Wind conditions
- Size of the dog
- Position of referencing (sitting, lying, standing)



4. Allocation of points for the articles Insufficient= Ins., Sat.=satisfactory, G=good, VG=very good, Ex.=excellent

	Max.	No. 1 Ins.	No. 2 Sati.	No. 3 G	No. 4 G	No. 5 VG	No. 6 VG	No.7 Exc	No.8 Ex / V G	No.9 Ex / V G
IGP-FH 1	7 points	4	5	5,5	5,5	6,5	6,5	7	6,5	6,5

IGP-FH-2	3x5 points +1x6 points	3 4	3,5 4,5	4 5	4 5	4,5 5,5	4,5 5,5	6 (5) 6	4,5- 4,75 5,5- 5,75	4,5- 4,75 5,5- 5,75
IGP-FH-3	3 points	1	2,25	2,5	2,5	2,75	2,75	3	2,8	2,8



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Tracking leash

A check of the leash length, the collar, the tracking harness or Bötcher by the Judge or an appointed person, must be carried out before the start of the track work (at the latest, at the time of reporting in). Flexible leashes are not permitted. The tracking leash can be over the back, on the side of the dog or between the front and / or rear legs. It can either be attached directly to the loose-fitting collar or to the attachment ring of the harness (chest or Bötcher harness without additional straps). If a harness is used, make sure that the back strap must not extend beyond the last rib of the dog. The tracking leash may occasionally sag during the track, but the required distance between the handler and the dog must not be seriously shortened.

Occasionally ground contact of the leash is not faulty. The handler must follow the dog, holding the end of the leash. It does not matter how the leash is held - with one hand, with two hands, whether he/she will change his hand with the leash, at what height he/she holds the leash, etc., if this is not related to interference in the dog's work. The handler must not affect the dogs work by restrain, changing the tension of the leash or control the dog. For small dogs the prescribed normal loose-fitting collar can be replaced by another suitable collar.

Free Tracking: When tracking off leash, the distance of at least of 10 meters between the handler and the dog must be observed.

Report in/ Report out

When the team has been called, the handler reports in with the dog prepared for tracking. The leash must be extended and if a harness is used it must be on the dog. The dog will be in the basic position in front of the judge and the handler gives his/her name, the dog's name, the level and whether the dog retrieves or indicates the articles. During the report in, the dog is allowed to be on a short leash. The dog is then allowed to be on a short leash up to about 2 meters before the start. All compulsion is to be avoided before and during the entire track. At the instruction of the judge the dog is calmly led to the start of the track (a verbal command to the dog to follow his handler is permitted) and started with a verbal command of the handler to track. A short sit, stand or laying down of the dog in front of the start of the track (approx. 2 meters away) is permitted so the tracking leash can be brought into the position desired by the handler (leash between front and/or rear legs). The dog must be started at the starting flag with a verbal command to track with the handler next to or just behind the dog. After finishing the track, the found articles must be shown to the judge. Playing with or feeding the dog after indicating the last article and before reporting out and receiving the score is not permitted. Reporting out must take place in the basic position. After this, the short leash can be put on the dog.

Working the Track

The dog must be given a verbal command to track at the starting flag. The handler has a maximum of 3 commands to start his dog. If the dog does not start the track after 3 commands, the tracking must be terminated, and the result is 0 points. The second and third commands lead to a deduction in the evaluation of the first leg. For each extra command there is a mandatory deduction of 1,5 points. If the handler has the impression that the dog has not correctly taken the scent of the track, he/she is free to recall the dog and restart again. This is only possible once and only if the handler has not left the start of the track. This is subject to a mandatory deduction of -4 points.

The dog must start the track with a deep nose and then work the entire track with a deep nose, with self- confident, high tracking intensity, consistent and even speed. It is important for the whole track that the dog is the one that leads and is making the decisions. The search speed is not a faulty criterion if the dog is tracking in a convincing and intensive manner. The start (also when restarting after indicating the articles) must be done with the handler standing upright next to or just behind the dog and with a verbal command to track. The handler must remain stationary until the entire



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leash is rolled out. The way the handler lengthens (releases) the leash is not important if it does not affect the dog's work. During the track, the handler is allowed to use gloves. A certain amount of slack in the leash is permitted.

The time for preparing the dog and the start of the track is not time-dependent, but the judge must pay attention to the behavior of the dog at the beginning of the first leg as to how intensely the dog convinces itself to the track and taking the scent. If the dog is tangled in the tracking leash, the handler may ask the judge's permission to untangle the dog. After permission of the judge, the handler stops the dog with a verbal command and goes from the end of the leash to the dog. After the dog is untangled, the handler goes back to the end of the leash and restarts the dog with a verbal command to track, there is no deduction.

Corners

The dog must work out corners confidently and convincingly. Circling at the corner is faulty and lead to deduction. A head check without leaving the track is permitted without deduction. After the corner, the dog must continue with the required high intensity, deep nose and at the same speed. In the corner area the dog handler must maintain the prescribed distance to the dog. However, the handler is not allowed to leave the track until the dog has worked out the corner confidently.

Ending the track in all levels

After the indication of the last article is finished, the dog can be directly taken to the judge to report out; it does not have to be brought into the basic position. The handler with his/her dog on leash does not need to show "heeling on leash" but is free to choose the way of going directly to the judge for reporting out.

Reporting out must be done with the dog on leash and in the basic position.

Praise/ Encouragement

Brief praise is only permitted at the article in all FH levels. This can be done before or after picking up and showing the article to the judge, but not both. The handler is not allowed to praise the dog while picking up the tracking leash for the restart.

Termination / Disqualification

If the dog leaves the track and is held back by the handler, the judge must instruct the handler to follow the dog. If the judge's instruction is not followed, the track must be terminated. If the end of the track is not reached within the maximum allowed time the trackwork is terminated by the judge. This does not apply if the dog is on the last leg.

The performance shown until termination is evaluated. If the dog quits tracking (stays in the same place without working, lifting its head, comes back to the handler etc.), the track can be terminated even if the dog is still on the track and the available time for the working the track has not yet expired. If during the tracking work wild game appears, and the dog follows his hunting instinct, the handler may attempt to prevent the dog from following the wild game by giving the dog the verbal command to down. At the command of the judge, the dog handler calls his dog to him and starts him again with the voice command for "search". If the dog does not continue the track, it is terminated.

Termination

In the case of a termination, all points awarded up to then are awarded. The points reached up to the point of termination are entered in the scorebook.



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Reasons for termination

Dog is started on the track 3 x unsuccessfully at the scent pad or after the article indication.

Dog leaves track by more than one leash length, the handler is 2 paces on the cross track, or the handler disregards the Judge's instruction to follow the dog.

Dog is not at the end of the track within the given time.

The dog can no longer be used after it has been distracted by wild animals.

Disqualification

All points awarded up to the point of disqualification (DQ) will be deleted. No points or ratings will be entered into the scorebook. There will not be an evaluation. In the scorebook the reason for the disqualification must be written by the judge.

Reason for disqualification	Consequence
Dog picks up the article on the track and will not or cannot release it (swallowed) During the free tracking, the dog leaves the track by more than 10 meters and does not return after 3 voice commands.	Disqualification for disobedience
The dog is not neutral during the impartiality check	Disqualification due to lack of impartiality
Unsportsmanlike behavior of the handler (for example, transport of motivation objects and / or food) Actions against the FCI-IGP regulations, animal protection law or contrary to good manners Attempt of fraudulent intent by use of prohibited training aids	Disqualification for unsportsmanlike behavior Disqualification for unsportsmanlike behavior

Evaluation of the tracking performance:

A distinction must be made between primary and secondary elements. Primary elements are to be weighted more strongly in order to evaluate the essentials of the tracking work accordingly.

Primary elements: Intensity, self-confidence, concentration, direct persuasive referring.

Secondary elements: Distance between HF and dog, speed of dropping when referencing.



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Assessment

The assessment of each leg depends on the length, the terrain, and the weather conditions, and is based on the level at which the dog is tracking. The judge and all accompanying persons may not be in the tracking area where the team has the right to track (10 meters radius around the tracking team and 10 meters distance to the next track). After indicating the article, the handler may approach the dog without the permission from the judge. The judge can, together with the handler, approach the dog, to see the position of the indicated article. The judge must not disturb the dog. After checking the indicated article and before the restart of the dog, the judge must move away again so as not to disturb the restart.

During the whole tracking performance, the dog may not be disturbed by either the tracklayer or the judge. For his/her evaluation, the judge must not only look at the dog or the handler, but must also consider the terrain, the weather, possible distractions, and the time. The judge must base his/her assessment on the total of all influencing variables. The assessment is to be carried out considering the following criteria.

Tracking

- Motivated behavior of the dog with a deep nose, constant intensity, and consistent speed before and after the corners, as well as before and after indicating the articles.
- Training level of the dog, (hectic approach, stressed behavior, avoidance behavior are unwanted).
- Cooperation between handler and dog
- Handler carrying aids that are not permitted.
- Difficulties in working out the tracks:
- Tracking conditions such as: vegetation, soil, terrain changes, manure.
- Wild game
- Weather conditions: wind, heat, cold, rain, snow.
- Weather changes

The judge must assess the desire, confidence, working temperament, sureness or uncertainty, stress, or avoidance behavior of the dog in his/her work.

Deductions for all examination levels:

- If the handler gives the verbal command to start before the flag a deduction of – 1 point. In this case the dog was started without a command at the starting flag. If the dog start sniffing before the flag without a verbal command of the handler, this is not faulty
- A dog that starts searching without a command before the starting flag will not be deducted as if it is stopped at the starting flag and started with a verbal command to start tracking.
- If the dog stops tracking by falsely indicating an article and the handler does not go to the dog but gives an extra command at the end of the tracking leash “Such”, “Track,” Find,” etc. there will be a deduction of -1 points at all FCI-IFH levels.



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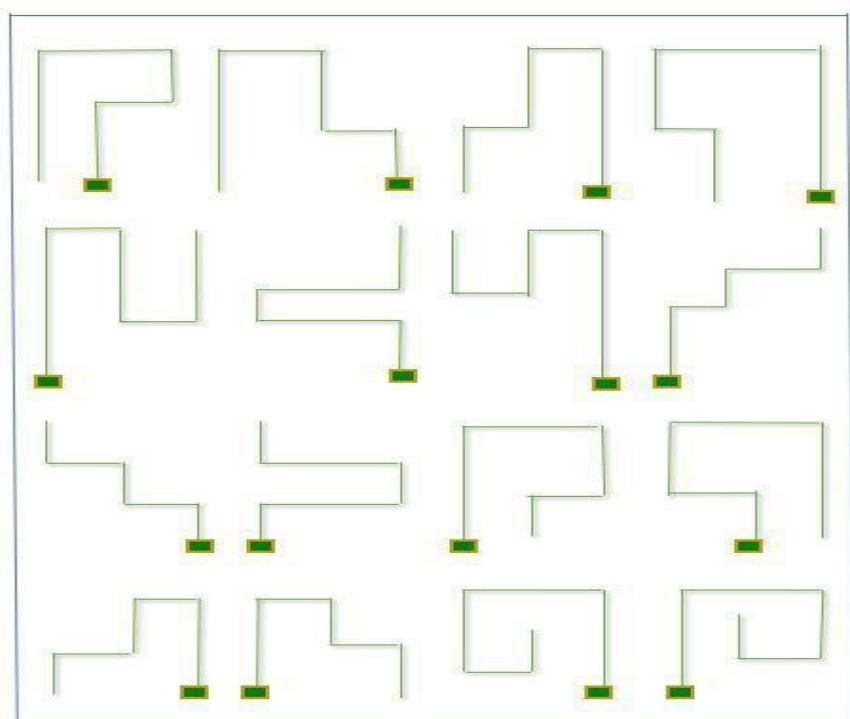
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- If the dog stops tracking by falsely indicating article and the handler does go to the dog and gives the tracking command next to the dog „Such“, Track,” “Find,” etc. there will be a deduction of -2 points at all FCI-IFH levels.
- The handler is not allowed to help the dog at the start or restart by indicating the direction of the track. Deduction for this help is -2 points
- Urinating/defecating = - 8 points

Track shapes

Examples of track shapes FH-1



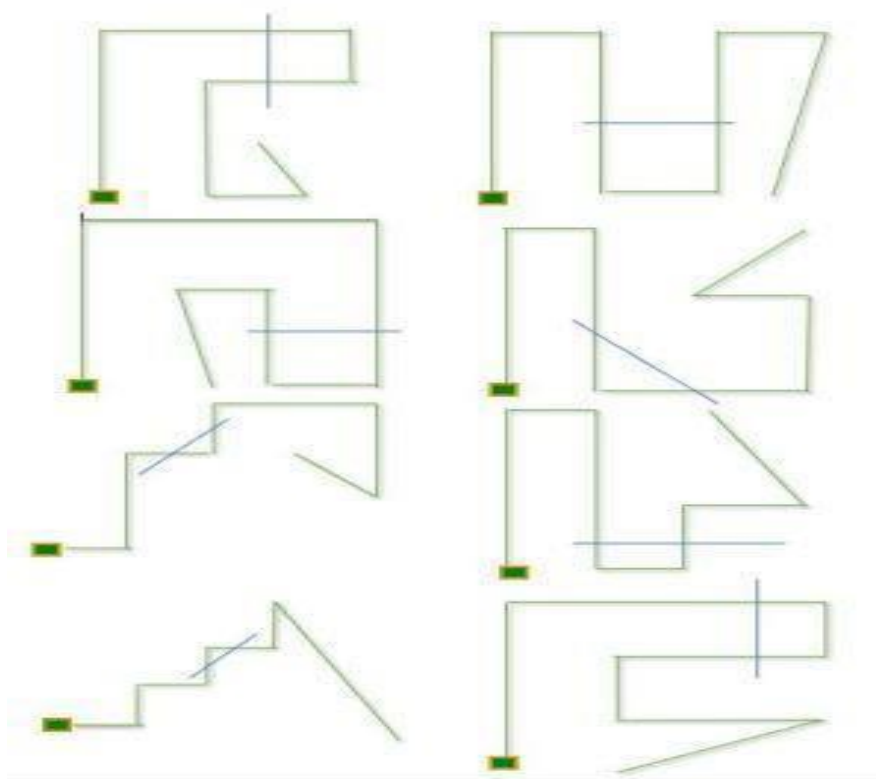


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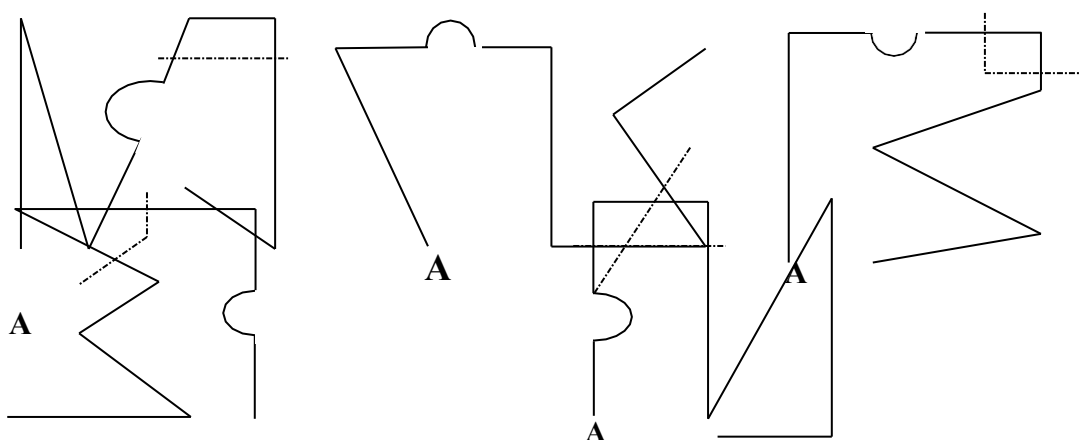
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Examples of track shapes FH-2



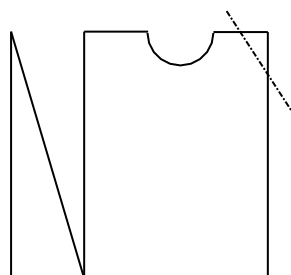
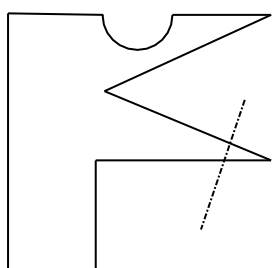
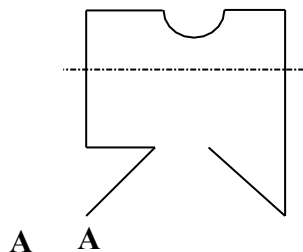
Examples of track shapes FH-3





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Laying the corners

Corner to the right

corner to the left

Winkel rechts

Winkel links



Laying the articles

(If the vegetation is too high, the objects can also be placed in the footprints).

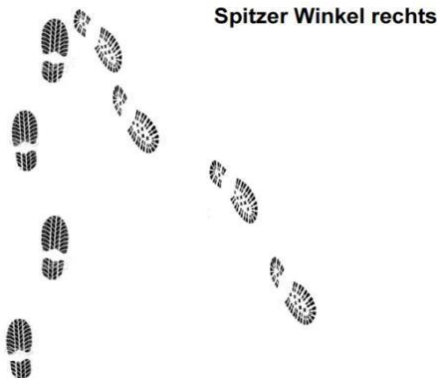




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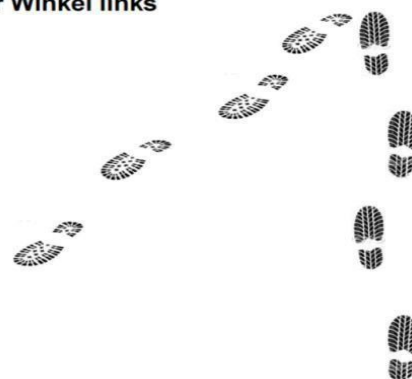
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Spitzer Winkel rechts

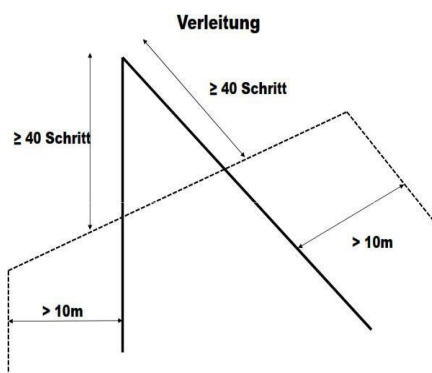
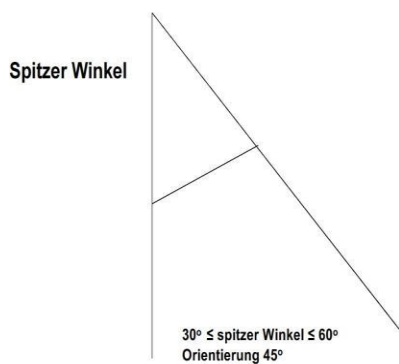
Acute corner to the right and to the left

Spitzer Winkel links



Acute corner; between 30 -60 degrees

Cross track: crossing at least 40 steps before after the corner. Walking to the crossing point, at least 10 meters from the track.





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2. Article Search 1-3 (STP)

1. Trial levels for the Article search STp

The requirements are set at different levels and reflect the individual testing levels.

Level	Indication Area	Articles	Points	Execution Time
1	20x30 meters	2 handler articles Size: 10 x 3 x 0,5 cm Material = different type 1 article left, 1 article right	20 / 20	10 minutes
2	20x40 meters	4 stranger's articles Size: 10 x 3 x 0,5 cm Material = different 2 articles left, 2 articles right	10 / 10 / 10 / 10	12 minutes
3	30x50 meters	5 stranger's articles Size: 5 x 3 x 0.5 cm Material: Different Placed at discretion of the judge	8 / 8 / 8 / 8 / 8	15 minutes

2. Rating:

The maximum number of points for Article search 1-3 (StPr 1 – 3) is 100 points. A minimum of 70 points must be achieved.

3. General Requirements:

To take this trial, the dog must be on the day of the examination a minimum of at least 15 months old and must have past successfully the BH/VT test. Females in heat must start as last. Spectators must be at a distance of at least 10 meters.

4. Type of area for the search/indication work:

Terrain: all-natural grounds (grass, ploughed field, wooded area). Tree stumps are also permitted. Avoid any opportunity for visual indication, so avoid short grass or other similar areas. The same area must be used for all participants at all levels. The borders of the area must be marked. The person placing the articles must provide the judge with an area drawing showing the approximate locations of the articles.

It is not permitted to place obstacles (branches, boxes or similar) in the search area.



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Before the articles are laid out/thrown out, the search area must be crisscrossed by persons several times, so that no "tracks" are left behind when the articles are laid or thrown out. It is permissible to demarcate the search area with marker posts or cones at the corners. The search area may not be demarcated by a fence or similar boundary.

There must be a minimum distance of 2 meters to the next boundary on each side of the search area.

5. Articles

Material: Wood, leather, artificial leather, textile. Glass or metal articles are not allowed. The articles may not differentiate in color from the terrain.

Prior to laying out/throwing out the articles, the search area must be crossed by at least 2 people several times, so that no one track is indicated. The distance between this two people must be at least 5 meters. On instruction of the judge, the persons stop crossing the area and leave the search area. Thereafter the judge or an article layer under the instruction of the judge enters the search area and places the articles by laying or throwing. The distance between the articles must be at least 15 paces. The articles may not be visible. For participants in level 1, the handler gives his/her articles to the judge before the exam, in level 2 and level 3, the organization provides the articles and gives them to the judge in time for the exam.

The handler and the dog must remain out of sight while the articles are placed.

6. Reporting in

The handler in level 1

The handler reports in, with the dog on leash, in a sportsmanlike manner to the judge, with his/her name, the dog's name, tells the judge the level of examination he/she and the dog are undertaking, and the way the dog will indicate the articles. Thereafter, the handler hands over the two articles as described for level 1.

Then the handler and his/her dog must go out of sight and remain there until called for the execution of the exam. After the judge or article layer has placed the articles in the search area, the judge will call the handler and the dog for starting the examination. In level 1 there must be one article placed on the right side and one article on the left side of the search area. There is no further waiting time to begin. The examination may begin immediately after the articles are placed.

7. The handlers in level 2 and 3

The handler reports in, with the dog on leash, in a sportsmanlike manner to the Judge, with his/her name and the dog's name and reports the Judge the level of examination he/she and the dog are undertaking and the way of indicating the dog will show.

After the article layer has placed the articles in the search area, the judge will call the handler with the dog for starting the trial. In level 2 and level 3 the articles are to be evenly divided over the right and left sides of the search area.

8. Execution of the trial in all levels

After instruction by the judge, the handler is free to choose the side of the test area as starting point for the examination. After choosing the starting side, the dog handler goes with the dog on leash to the middle of the designated side line he/she will start from and assumes the basic position. In the basic position, the dog is taken off leash. The dog handler must keep the leash with him. It can be hidden in his/her pocket or across the shoulder with the clip to the opposite side of the dog. Any form of force or punishment is to be avoided and will lead to point deduction.



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The handler starts the search work by giving the dog a verbal command and at the same time a hand signal for the direction he/she want the dog to search. The dog handler is allowed to go up the imaginary center line to the end and return on the same center line to the chosen start line as many times he/she wishes within the given time. The dog handler may only leave this imaginary center line to collect the indicated articles. If the dog retrieves the articles, the dog handler must remain on the imaginary center line. During the time given for the level the dog is examined, the dog may be sent and guided as frequently as the handler wants by hand signals to the right and left side of the imaginary center line as much as the handler wants.

9. Behavior at the articles

Articles must be convincingly indicated, picked up or retrieved by the dog. The articles may be indicated by sitting, standing, lying down or in varying styles in the same track. If the dog picks up the article, it may sit, stand, or retrieve. Laying down or moving forward with the article is faulty. If the dog has indicated an article, the dog handler gives a signal to the judge that the dog has made an indication. After approval of the judge the handler goes to the dog, and after collecting the article, shows the article to the judge by raising it to show the judge. The dog's position for indicating the articles is not evaluated the same as IGP tracking. However, the located article must be in the immediate area of the dog. The judge confirms that he/she has seen the article. Hereafter the handler must return with the dog to the center line and from there the handler must restart the dog with a verbal command for searching and a hand signal for the direction the handler wants the dog to search for the remaining article(s). Immediate area, up to 20 cm/ 8 in of the dog's front paws. If the dog is indicating the article, the handler must always approach the dog from the side and may not stand in front of the dog. Brief praising the dog after the article is indicated or presented is permitted.

After finding all articles in the given search time, the handler puts the dog on leash, goes in a normal gait to the judge and reports that the search work is completed and shows the articles to the judge. The report out must be done in the basic position. If the search time is reached and not all articles are indicated and found by the dog, the judge will give a signal to the handler to stop the search work. After this signal, the handler calls the dog, put it on leash, and goes in a normal gait to the judge to report out and show the found articles. The report out must be done in the basic position in front of the judge.

10. Evaluation criteria for all 3 levels:

The dog's tenacity (Following the instructions/ hand signals of the handler) 20 pt

The dog's intensity of work (determination and work ethic) 20 pt

Stamina (never stopping the search drive until the article is found) 10 pt

Behavior of the handler (affecting the dog positively) 10 pt

Finding the articles (convincing, confident, steady indication) 40 points



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Maximum Points	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Insufficient
100	100 – 96	95 – 90	89 – 80	79 – 70	69 - 0

To achieve the trial objective, at least 70 points (satisfactory) must be achieved.

11. Primary evaluation:

- Consistent, quiet, and fluent working without stress or anxiety,
- Quick release from the dog handler,
- Immediate response to verbal commands and hand signals,
- Persistent and purposeful working of the dog,
- Wide side impacts of the dog.

12. Secondary evaluation

Working with a “high nose.” Searching with a “high nose” (is not faulty). Slightly going out of the boundaries of the search area. (is not faulty).

13. Faults include

Indicating and touching the article	1 - 3 points deduction
Dropping the article during the retrieve	1 - 3 points deduction
Premature breaking indication position,	1 - 3 points deduction
Dog handler leaves the imaginary center line	2 - 5 points deduction
Mice catching, urinating, or defecating, etc.	4 - 8 points deduction
Wandering, work lacks intensity, focus or determination	4 - 8 points deduction
Dog refuses to give up the article	Disqualification

Articles which are indicated/ retrieved with strong dog handler help. These articles are considered not found. Articles not found are not given points.

Verbal commands to indicate, picking up or retrieve are not permitted and leads to the article being evaluated as “not found” and not given points.



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USCA – AD The endurance trial

General Information Purpose

The endurance test is intended to provide proof that the dog is capable of physical effort without subsequent considerable fatigue. The dog's structure and physical condition must be able to hold up throughout the requirements of the entire examination. The examination places increased demands on the body and internal organs, especially the heart and lungs, but also examines other properties, such as temperament and hardness. The effortless management of the performance must be seen as proof of the physical health and the presence of the required drives.

THE USCA-AD MAY BE DONE ON THE SAME DAY AS A WORKING TITLE

BH NOT REQUIRED FOR USCA AD.

Before the test starts, the identity of the dog must be verified by the judge, or someone appointed by the judge.

The result must be entered in the scorebook, or on the pedigree.

When applying for an event authorization, the organizer accepts the responsibility to carry out the endurance test during the summer months only in the early morning or late afternoon hours. The outside temperature should not exceed 22 degrees Celsius (72 F).

Admission of dogs

The minimum required age is 16 months. A maximum of 20 dogs are allowed per day with one judge. If there are more than 20 dogs, then a second judge must be used. For safety reasons, each handler is allowed to show only one dog. The dogs must be fully and well trained. Ill, weak, overheated, pregnant or nursing bitches are not allowed to start. At the beginning of the examination, the dog handler checks in with the judge. The judge must be sure the dog is in good shape. Dogs that appear to be tired or uncomfortable are to be excluded from participation. If a dog shows excessive fatigue symptoms or other impairments during the test, the judge must terminate the examination. All decisions by the judge are not contestable.

Rating

Points and ratings are not awarded, only "Passed" or "Not passed".

Terrain

The examination will be held on roads and paths of various possible surfaces. For example: asphalt, paved or unpaved streets and paths.

Performance of endurance test:

The trial is a distance of 20 kilometers in length at a rate of 12 to 15 kilometers per hour.

Running exercise

The handler takes his/ her dog to the starting position for the examination. The dog has to run (according to the traffic regulations) on the right side of the dog handler in a normal trot beside the bike. Avoid having the dog run too fast. The leash must be kept longer so that the dog has the possibility to adapt to any tempo.



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Connection devices ("Springer") are allowed. Slight pulling on the leash is not faulty, but the dog should not be constantly dragging and choking himself/herself. After the first 8 km (5 miles), a break of 15 minutes is required. During this time the judge must watch the dog for any signs of fatigue. Fatigued dogs shall be terminated from the examination.

After the break, 7 km (4.5 miles) more are to be covered, then a break of 20 minutes. During this break, the dog is given the opportunity to move freely and without constraint.

Shortly before the return to the final running portion the judge must check the dogs for fatigue or injury to their paws. Fatigued dogs or dogs whose paws are injured must be terminated.

After completion of the final running portion, a 15-minute break must be inserted. During the break, the dog must be given the opportunity to move freely and without constraint. The judge must determine whether the dog shows signs of fatigue or injury to the paws.

Judges should accompany the dogs on the bike, if possible, if not they must follow in a car. The results must be entered in the scorebook. It is necessary for the handler/dogs to be accompanied by a motor vehicle so that dogs that cannot continue, can be loaded into the motor vehicle and transported back to the start.

Dogs that show exceptional signs of fatigue or are unable to withstand the minimum speed of 12 km/h cannot pass the examination.