**2023 NOTC MTG – ATTACHMENT 7a**



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL LTD

**Rules and Guidelines for the conduct of**

**Track and Search Dog Trials**

(Effective from 1st January 2019)

**Approved by the**

**Australian National Kennel Council Ltd 2008**

Amended

2010

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2018

**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the**

**Australian National Kennel Council Ltd**

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

Dogs ACT

PO Box 815

DICKSON ACT 2602

Phone: (02) 6241 4404 Fax: (02) 6241 1129

Email: [admin@dogsact.org.au](mailto:admin@dogsact.org.au)

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Dogs West

602 Warton Road

SOUTHERN RIVER WA 6110

Phone: (08) 9455 1188 Fax: (08) 9455 1190

Email: [k9@dogswest.com](mailto:k9@dogswest.com)

**QUEENSLAND**

Dogs Queensland

PO Box 1136

MT OMMANEY QLD 4074

Phone: (07) 3252 2661 Fax: (07) 3252 3864

Email: [info@dogsqueensland.org.au](mailto:info@dogsqueensland.org.au)

**NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Dogs NT

PO Box 37521

WINNELLIE NT 0821

Phone: (08) 8984 3570 Fax: (08) 8984 3409

Email: [naca1@bigpond.com](mailto:naca1@bigpond.com)

**NEW SOUTH WALES**

Dogs NSW

PO Box 632

ST MARYS NSW 1790

Phone: (02) 9834 3022

Email: [info@dogsnsw.org.au](mailto:info@dogsnsw.org.au)

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Dogs SA

PO Box 844

PROSPECT EAST SA 5082

Phone: (08) 8349 4797 Fax: (08) 8262 5751

Email: [info@dogssa.com.au](mailto:info@dogssa.com.au)

**TASMANIA**

Dogs Tasmania

PO Box 116

GLENORCHY TAS 7010

Phone: (03) 6272 9443 Fax: (03) 6273 0844

Email: admin@tasdogs.com

**VICTORIA**

Dogs Victoria

Locked Bag K9

CRANBOURNE VIC 3977

Phone: (03) 9788 2500 Fax: (03) 9788 2599

Email: [office@dogsvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@dogsvictoria.org.au)

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SUMMARY 18**RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF TRACK AND SEARCH DOG TRIALS**

# INTRODUCTION

The track & search dog tests should be a test of credibility, verifying the dog’s ability to recognize and follow human scent while adapting to changing scenting conditions.

The tests should be as close as possible to a life-like situation, where a dog is used to find a missing person and therefore the test should be as realistic as possible while demonstrating the dog’s willingness and enthusiasm to follow a specific scent.

All track & search tests are to be conducted in urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas.

The tests require the dog to work on varied surfaces including gravel, sand, paved surfaces, roads and grass. Tracks should be as natural as possible, bearing in mind that lost children are drawn to playgrounds, while adults are drawn to buildings to seek help.

Tracks may cross small streams or shallow bodies of water, roads (but not including major roads) and may be laid in contaminated areas which may include houses, bridges, shelters, stairs and ramps, parking areas or similar structures. Light vehicle & pedestrian traffic including other dogs walking on lead should not be avoided.

Where referred to in the rules the words, Canine Control, shall mean the Controlling Body in each State or Territory of Australia.

Interpretation of these rules should not be necessary, however, should there be a need for individuals to seek clarification; application must be made by the Canine Control to the appropriate Committee of the ANKC, whose decision shall be binding.

# DECISIONS

Decisions of the Committee of the Affiliate conducting a trial shall be subject to appeal to the Canine Control in the State or Territory in which the trial is conducted.

The Rules of the Canine Control shall apply to all Track & Search Trials and to any Affiliate conducting the track & search trials and, in the event of inconsistency; the rules of the Canine Control shall prevail.

Anyone taking part in a trial who openly impugns the actions or decisions of the Judge shall render themselves liable to be debarred from further participation in the trial and may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with at the discretion of the Canine Control.

# REMOVAL OF DOG

The Judge must order the removal and disqualification from all trial competition on the day any dog that attacks, and must lodge a report with the Canine Control.

The Judge may order the removal from competition of any dog which does not obey its handler or is not under effective control or, any handler who interferes wilfully with another competitor or a competitor’s dog or whose behaviour is objectionable and must exclude from competition any dog which the Judge considers unfit to compete.

# WITHDRAWAL OF DOG

A dog may be withdrawn before or during judging with the consent of the Judge and must not take any further part in the Track & Search Dog Trial.

# DISQUALIFICATION

No rating given. The dog is disqualified from all trial competition on the day and the Judge must provide a written report to the Canine Control within fourteen (14) days.

# ELIGIBILITY

A dog must be a minimum of six (6) months of age to enter in a Track and Search Trial.

Whilst there is no formal obedience assessment, it is understood that because of the possibility of other animals, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, the handler must be confident that they have complete control over the dog.

# TITLES

To qualify for the title of Track and Search Dog (TSD), Track and Search Dog Excellent (TSDX), Track and Search Dog Champion (TS Ch) and Track and Search Grand Champion (TS Grand Ch) a dog must pass each of the following tests once:

Track & Search Dog (TSD) Test 1 (known person)

Test 2 (unknown person)

Test 3 (unknown person)

Track & Search Dog Excellent (TSDX) Test 4 (unknown person)

Urban Track Test 5 (unknown person)

Urban Night Track Test 6 (unknown person)

Track & Search Dog Champion (TS Ch)

Urban Track Test 7 (unknown person)

Urban Night Track Test 8 (unknown person)

Track & Search Grand Champion (TS Grand Ch)

Urban Track Test 9 (unknown person)

Urban Night Track Test 10 (unknown person)

1. A maximum of two different tests, within a title, may be worked on the same day by the same dog, subject to the approval of the Canine Control and the availability of additional tracks.
2. Dogs must complete in order Test 1 through to Test 10
3. The dog must qualify under at least two different Judges for the TSD, TSDX, TS Ch and TS Grand Ch titles to be granted.
4. An Exhibit, which has gained sufficient awards to qualify for a Track and Search Dog Title, shall not be eligible to compete for a higher title at a track & search dog trial until such time as the owner/s have lodged an application for recognition of the title with the Canine Control in the State or Territory in which the registered owner/s reside.
5. The TSD (Track & Search Dog), TSDX (Track & Search Dog Excellent), TS Ch (Track & Search Dog Champion) and TS Grand Ch (Track & Search Dog Grand Champion) certificates may be granted on application to the Canine Control concerned.
6. After qualifying for the TS Grand Ch (Track & Search Grand Champion) certificate a dog is not eligible for further entry in track & search trials. No further qualifying certificates can be awarded once this title has been granted.
7. A Member Body will receive applications for the title of Dual Champion in connection with each dog which has gained titles of Conformation (Ch) and Track & Search Champion (TS Ch).

# EQUIPMENT

1. All track and search dog tests must be conducted with the dog in a harness suitable for tracking that does not restrict the dog’s breathing and allows the dog to move freely. For tests 1-4 the minimum length of lead should be ten (10) metres and for tests 5-10 the lead should be a minimum of five (5) metres and no longer than six (6) metres. The dog must be worked at a length of lead suitable to the terrain, environment and in accordance with local government requirements. Unless specified in the description of the test, the lead must be connected to the harness and should be held by the Handler while the dog is tracking or searching. Dropping the lead temporarily is acceptable provided that the dog remains under control.

**(ACT) All track and search dog tests must be conducted with the dog in a harness suitable for tracking that does not restrict the dog’s breathing and allows the dog to move freely. For tests 1-4 the minimum length of lead is ~~should be~~ ~~ten (10)~~ five (5) metres and the maximum length 10 (10) meters. For ~~for~~ tests 5-10 the lead should be a minimum of five (5) metres and no longer than six (6) metres. The dog must be worked at a length of lead suitable to the terrain, environment and in accordance with local government requirements. ~~Unless specified in the description of the test, the~~ The lead must be connected to the harness and should be held by the Handler while the dog is tracking or searching. Dropping the lead temporarily is acceptable provided that the dog remains under control.**

(ACT) rational: for tracks 1-4 a shorter lead length should be permitted as these tracks can also be in urban areas where a shorter lead is safer. The proposed omission of ~~Unless specified in the description of the test, the~~ is necessary if the proposed removal of off-lead searching is agreed.

1. All articles used on the track must belong to the tracklayer, be approved by the Judge or their delegate and should represent articles used in everyday life that a child or adult might carry and drop; i.e. wallet, purse, mobile phone, sunglasses, notebook, bunch of keys, soft toy or cap etc. All articles must be small enough to fit into a normal size pocket. The optional finish article, if used in place of the tracklayer must be no larger than a normal sized T-shirt or similar and should be clearly marked finish article. Articles used on the track should not have any sharp or protruding parts that may cause injury to the dog.

(ACT) All articles used on the track must ~~belong to the tracklayer,~~ be approved by the Judge or their delegate and should represent articles used in everyday life that a child or adult might carry and drop; i.e. wallet, purse, mobile phone, sunglasses, notebook, bunch of keys, soft toy or cap etc. All articles must be small enough to fit into a normal size pocket. The optional finish article, if used in place of the tracklayer must be no larger than a normal sized T-shirt or similar and should be clearly marked finish article. Articles used on the track should not have any sharp or protruding parts that may cause injury to the dog.

(ACT) Rational: it is not necessary for the articles to ‘belong’ to the tracklayer. The rule under  “tracklayer B” that they must keep the article with them for 30 minutes is sufficient.  Rules about ‘ownership’ don’t really allow for tracklayers who forget articles, bring inappropriate articles or who are called to track-lay on short notice and have to borrow articles.

1. The starting article should be a soft article of clothing that can be easily carried by the Handler. e.g. fabric hat, beanie, cloth glove etc. Test 1 will commence at a marker.

Tests 2 to 4 will commence with a starting line which shall be indicated by 2 markers approximately thirty (30) metres apart.

1. (ACT) The starting article should be a soft article of clothing that can be easily carried by the Handler. e.g. fabric hat, beanie, cloth glove etc. ~~Test 1 will commence at a marker.~~

~~Tests 2 to 4 will commence with a starting line which shall be indicated by 2 markers approximately thirty (30) metres apart.~~

(ACT) Not necessary to repeat this here as it is dealt with under the description of tracks.

**(d)** The suitability of all tracking equipment shall be left to the discretion of the Judge.

1. No markers or equipment indicating the track shall remain in place during the testing of a dog. The tracklayer for all urban tracks must be supplied with a detailed map as physical markers (flags) cannot be used.

**(ACT) No markers or equipment indicating the track shall remain in place during the testing of a dog. ~~The tracklayer for all urban tracks must be supplied with a detailed map as physical markers (flags) cannot be used.~~ The Judge must make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that the handler receives no guidance, other than from their dog, as to where the track goes.**

(ACT) Rational: it completely undermines the idea of track and search trials simulating the search for a lost person if the handler is able to discern where the track goes whether this is from markers, re-use of tracks known to the handler or guidance from the positioning of officials/ spectators.Greater emphasis of this point is needed in the rules to ensure national consistency and the onus should be on judges to ensure rules, including this one, are upheld. The proposed removal of the sentence about physical markers not being used on urban tracks is because it is inconsistent with rule ‘tracklayer (f)’ – and also unnecessary as that rule mentions providing a map when flags are not used.

1. The handler may not offer food or utilise training aids during the running of a track, however water may be offered to the dog.
2. High visibility reflective day and night vests/jackets, which comply with the current Australian Standard, must be worn by the handler and all those officiating on all urban tracks and on any other track where the judge considers it appropriate. For urban night tracks a functioning head light must be worn by the handler.

(ACT) ~~High visibility reflective day and night vests/jackets, which comply with the current Australian Standard, must be worn by the handler and all those officiating on all urban tracks and on any other track where the judge considers it appropriate. For urban night tracks a functioning head light must be worn by the handler.~~

(ACT) rational: the rules about high-viz clothing should all be in one spot (under safety). See proposed changes under safety.

1. The Judge may refuse to judge any handler who does not comply with safety requirements.

(ACT) ~~The Judge may refuse to judge any handler who does not comply with safety requirements.~~

(ACT) Rational: this rule should be moved to ‘safety’ and should be changed to ‘may disqualify’ – see changes under safety

# EXHIBITS

1. Bitches in oestrum or showing a coloured discharge of any sort shall not be permitted to compete in trials, nor remain within the precincts of a trial. An examination of all bitches to be conducted on each day of the trial. A member of the Affiliate conducting the trial may do this examination.

**(ACT) Bitches in oestrum or showing a coloured discharge of any sort shall not be permitted to compete in trials, nor remain within the precincts of a trial unless all of the following are complied with:**

**·       The affiliate, if they decide to allow bitches in season to compete, must include this in the advertisement for the trial.**

**·       The handler must alert the trial manager that the bitch has come into season as early as possible and before the trial commences.**

**·       Tracks for any bitch in season must be run at the end of the trail after all dogs have finished competing (tracks used by a bitch in season cannot be re-used by a male dog in the trial).**

**·      The bitch must not be brought into the vicinity (including to the designated area) of the trial until all male dogs have finished competing.**

**An examination of ~~all~~ bitches ~~to~~ may be conducted on each day of the trial. A member of the Affiliate conducting the trial may do this examination.**

(ACT) Rational: The tracking season is very short and a bitch coming into season means they may miss a significant part of it. Suggest this rule be changed to allow bitches in season to compete but only in very controlled circumstances which will not prejudice dogs, and at the discretion of the Club running the trial.  (ie Clubs who do not want to do this can choose not to allow). The issue is particularly acute for small jurisdictions who don’t run many trials each year.

Examination of bitches should be at the discretion of the affiliate.

1. A dog must wear high visibility safety equipment and may wear protective clothing in a trial.

(ACT) ~~A dog must wear high visibility safety equipment and may wear protective clothing in a trial.~~

(ACT) rational: the rules about high-viz clothing should all be in one spot (under safety). See proposed changes under safety.

1. The order of judging must be decided prior to commencement of the trial.

**(ACT) The order of judging must be decided prior to commencement of the trial. However, the order of judging can be modified during the trial if there is a change of circumstances which necessitates a change in running order to maintain the smooth running of the trial.**

(ACT) Rational: *sometimes it is necessary to change the order, particularly in small trials where most handlers are also stewarding or tracklaying. Eg if a dog fails at the start and puts timing out – next handler might be stewarding or tracklaying so to avoid delay a different track may be run next.*

# INSPECTION

An examination of all bitches is to be conducted on each day of the trial. A member of the Affiliate conducting the trial may do this examination.

# (ACT) ~~INSPECTION~~

~~An examination of all bitches is to be conducted on each day of the trial. A member of the Affiliate conducting the trial may do this examination.~~

(ACT) Not necessary as this is already stated above under exhibits.

# JUDGES

1. Judges must be licensed with the Canine Control in their respective State or Territory to Judge Track and Search Dog Trials.
2. The maximum number of Track and Search dogs to be judged on one day will be governed by a point system as follows:

TSD test 2 points

TSDX test 3 points

TS Champion test 3 points

TS Grand Champion test 3 points

A combination of TSD, TTSDX, TS Champion and TS Grand Champion tracks must not exceed 27 points for any judge on one day. Judges may specify on their contracts how many points they are willing to judge,

(ACT) A combination of TSD, ~~T~~TSDX, TS Champion and TS Grand Champion tracks must not exceed 27 points for any judge on one day. Judges may specify on their contracts how many points they are willing to judge~~,~~.

(ACT) typos

1. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, the Judge may, in rare cases and at their own discretion, re-judge a dog on another track.
2. A dog which commences a track and fails at the start shall be deemed to have trialed.
3. The Judge must sign a qualifying certificate for each qualifying dog, denoting the type of track passed.
4. A signed copy of the Judge’s Report is to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Canine Control concerned within 7 days of the trial.
5. Judges should bear in mind when placing articles that pedestrians and other animals may pick up the articles or that the wind direction can cause them to move position.

(ACT) Judges should be mindful that in urban environments articles may be moved or removed. ~~bear in mind when placing articles that pedestrians and other animals may pick up the articles or that the wind direction can cause them to move position.~~

(ACT) rational: the comment about ‘wind direction’ causing articles to move does not really make sense – and calling pedestrians ‘other animals’ is probably offensive! A more generic comment will suffice.

1. Judges should position themselves on the track so that they properly evaluate the dog’s performance and to ensure that the dog is given adequate time and distance to work out scenting problems particularly around heavily contaminated areas and buildings. Judges should be familiar with scenting conditions in areas which consist of more than just vegetation. Buildings, other structures and various surfaces can affect the scent.

(ACT) Judges should position themselves on the track so that they can properly evaluate the dog’s performance and to ensure that the dog is given adequate time and distance to work out scenting problems particularly around heavily contaminated areas and buildings. Judges should be familiar with scenting conditions in areas which consist of more than just vegetation. Buildings, other structures and various surfaces can affect the scent.

(ACT) typo

(ACT) The Judge must at all times be within hearing distance of the Handler.

(ACT) this rule should be moved here from ‘general’

(ACT) It is desirable that the Judge be involved in the setting out of the track.

(ACT) this rule should be moved here from ‘general’

# TRACKLAYER

* 1. The Tracklayer shall be a person approved by the Judge and unknown to the handler and have not previously laid a track for that dog within the preceding four (4) months, in competition, except in the case of TSD test 1 where a known person shall be any person known to the dog and nominated by the handler. It shall be the responsibility of the Affiliate conducting the trial to make a genuine effort to ensure that only unknown tracklayers are used.
  2. Before starting the track, the Tracklayer must show the Judge or their delegate all the articles to be used. These articles are to be with the Tracklayer for at least 30 minutes prior to laying the Track so that his scent may be imparted to them.

(ACT) Before starting the track, the Tracklayer must show the Judge or their delegate all the articles to be used. These articles are to be with the Tracklayer for at least 30 minutes prior to laying the Track so that ~~his~~ their scent may be imparted to them.

(ACT) rational: tidy up from last rule change to remove gendered pronouns

* 1. The Tracklayer must place the articles on the track at the places nominated by the Judge, one article to be at the commencement of each track in addition to the others required.
  2. All articles must be placed on the track but not on a turn or less than thirty (30) metres before or after a turn.
  3. The Tracklayer will walk at a normal pace and must not scratch the ground or stop unnecessarily while laying the track.
  4. The Tracklayer must follow the track, which has been marked out earlier, collecting all markers as specified in the type of track and by the Judge. Where markers are not utilised, a detailed map showing clear indicators will be provided to the Tracklayer.
  5. Upon completion of laying the track the Tracklayer need not remain at the end of the track, however the Tracklayer must be in place at the end of the track when the handler and dog complete the track

OR

The Tracklayer must place the clearly marked finish article in the position indicated by a marker on the map so it cannot be seen by the handler as they approach the finish. After placing the finish article the Tracklayer removes the marker and continues on for a minimum of thirty (30) metres past the finish before leaving on the walking out route.

# 

# GENERAL

1. There is no time limit, provided the dog is working.
2. To qualify the dog must track & search to complete at least 50% of the principle components of the track, including the numbers of turns in each test and the car section where applicable.
3. A dog that is working too fast, on instructions from the Judge, must be gently restrained by the handler but any leading or guiding of the dog constitutes grounds for calling the dog off and marking it failed. Failure to obey the Judge’s instruction for restraint will render the dog liable to disqualification.
4. The Judge at all times must be within hearing distance of the Handler.

(ACT) ~~The Judge at all times must be within hearing distance of the Handler.~~

(ACT) This rule should be moved to ‘judges’

1. The test is completed when the Tracklayer or location of finish article is found, or in the event of failure, when the handler is redirected to the correct track.
2. The handler must not be given any guidance by the Judge or any other person.
3. If a dog is not working it must not be marked “Pass” even though it may have found the Tracklayer or finish article location.
4. It is desirable that the Judge be involved in the setting out of the track.

(ACT) ~~It is desirable that the Judge be involved in the setting out of the track.~~

(ACT): Rational: this rule should be moved to judges

1. The minimum distance between any parallel legs of the same track must be one hundred (100) metres. Any other tracks that are closer than 100 metres must have different tracklayers.
2. Tests 5-10 may cross one (1) separate track, a maximum of two times. A different tracklayer must be used for each of the two (2) tracks.
3. A track may be reused for testing a second dog, provided the minimum time lapse between tracks is 3 hours. The time lapse commences from the time the Tracklayer is sent out.
4. At the handler’s option, the dog may be given the scent during the track. Except for extenuating circumstances the Judge will penalise such instances accordingly and the dog that is constantly given the scent must fail.
5. Handlers may speak to their dogs during the track. The Judge may penalise if they consider such talk excessive.
6. Reprimands either physical or verbal will not be tolerated. Reprimands will be severely penalised up to and including disqualification. Disqualification shall be reported to the Canine Control within fourteen (14) days.

(ACT) Reprimands either physical or verbal will not be tolerated. Reprimands will be severely penalised up to and including disqualification. ~~Disqualification shall be reported to the Canine Control within fourteen (14) days.~~

(ACT) It is not necessary to re-state the rule about reporting DQ to the Canine Control here – that is dealt with at the front of the rules already.

1. Spectators will not be permitted to approach closer than forty (40) metres to the Judge when the dog is working.
2. **Thirty (30) day suspension**.

Dogs, which have failed on two consecutive occasions, may be subject to a thirty (30) day suspension from competing at a track and search dog trial. This thirty (30) day suspension will only take effect if the Affiliate conducting the track and search dog trial has to ballot for the tests available. Affiliates which do not have to ballot for available tests, must not invoke the thirty (30) day rule under any circumstances. Suspensions will not be carried over a calendar year. It is the responsibility of the Handler to advise the Affiliate of two consecutive fails. Failure to do so will result in a report to the Member Body.

1. Acute corners should not be used on any of the tracks.
2. Although not preferred, multiple diversion tracks may be laid by the same tracklayer.

(ACT) ~~Although not preferred, multiple diversion tracks may be laid by the same tracklayer.~~

(ACT) As the only tracks that have diversions tracks (T2 &3) only have one diversion track each this rule does not make any sense.

1. Within the track and search discipline there are both diversion and cross tracks.
   1. Diversion Track: The dog must ignore the diversion scent and must work to the main tracklayer’s scent. Diversion from this main scent by more than ten (10) metres must result in a fail.
   2. Cross Track: The dog may check any cross track; however any downgrading is at the judge’s discretion.
2. The dog must be under the Handler’s control at all times during the working of the track.

(ACT): ~~The dog must be under the Handler’s control at all times during the working of the track.~~

(ACT) Rational this should be moved to safety

1. Track & search dog trials may be conducted on the same day as tracking trials.
2. For all tests the distance from the start to the finish, measured in a straight line, should be no less than 50% of the stated length of the track.

# GENERAL SAFETY

It is imperative that a brief description of the Tracklayer be given to the handler prior to the commencement of the track. These details should include:

* Adult/Child (age)
* Name of lost person
* Physical characteristics i.e. gender, hair colour, build
* Clothing/footwear

Safety of the Tracklayer is paramount, therefore the following points must be observed at all times.

* 1. The Tracklayer when laying urban tracks; will be followed by a vehicle or escorted by a safety steward. The vehicle may collect the Tracklayer from the end of the track and also may be used to transport the Tracklayer back to the end of the track.
  2. Whoever accompanies the Tracklayer must carry a hand-held communication device such as a two-way radio or mobile phone.
  3. If a child is the Tracklayer, they should be no younger than ten (10) years of age and must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult walking alongside who is approved by the parent/guardian of the child. A communication device such as a two-way radio or mobile phone must be carried by the accompanying adult.
  4. Where a child is used in any capacity in a track & search dog trial, this must be in accordance with Federal, State and Territory Legislative requirements.
  5. Where the track ends outside a dwelling/building, the occupant and immediate neighbours must be advised prior to the event that a sanctioned event will be conducted and that a Tracklayer will be waiting outside their premises during the time the track is being worked.
  6. A “safety steward” must position themselves in the vicinity of the handler while working urban tracks or any other track as required by the Judge. Their responsibility is to alert the Handler of any impending hazards such as vehicles, cyclists, stray dogs, pedestrians so that if required, evasive action can be taken. The dog may be stopped to allow traffic/pedestrians etc. to pass by calling the dog to heel or shortening the lead to have complete control.
  7. Additional safety stewards may be employed on any track at the judge’s discretion.
  8. When crossing streets, handlers must be able to gather their lead off the road so that any oncoming traffic will not cross the lead thus impeding the dog.
  9. The Tracklayer must be able to make contact with the judge via a communication device such as two-way radio or mobile phone at all times while the track is being worked. The safety of the Tracklayer will take precedence over the working of the track. If at any time the Tracklayer’s safety is compromised, the track must be aborted.
  10. When working the night/evening tracks, high visibility clothing and head light must be worn by the handler. The dog should have reflective tape sewn onto the harness or alternatively have some type of LED light attached to the harness.
  11. It is not necessary and in most cases not desirable for the Tracklayer to remain at the end of the track, but must be in place before the track is worked unless a finish article is used.

(ACT) (l) the handler should be advised at the commencement of the track whether there is a tracklayer or a finish article at the end of the track. If there is a tracklayer a brief description of the tracklayer should be provided.

(ACT) rational: this should be moved here instead of under ‘safety’ (see also proposed changes under safety)

# ~~GENERAL SAFETY~~

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* ~~Adult/Child (age)~~
* ~~Name of lost person~~
* ~~Physical characteristics i.e. gender, hair colour, build~~
* ~~Clothing/footwear~~

~~Safety of the Tracklayer is paramount, therefore the following points must be observed at all times.~~

* 1. ~~The Tracklayer when laying urban tracks; will be followed by a vehicle or escorted by a safety steward. The vehicle may collect the Tracklayer from the end of the track and also may be used to transport the Tracklayer back to the end of the track.~~
  2. ~~Whoever accompanies the Tracklayer must carry a hand-held communication device such as a two-way radio or mobile phone.~~
  3. ~~If a child is the Tracklayer, they should be no younger than ten (10) years of age and must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult walking alongside who is approved by the parent/guardian of the child. A communication device such as a two-way radio or mobile phone must be carried by the accompanying adult.~~
  4. ~~Where a child is used in any capacity in a track & search dog trial, this must be in accordance with Federal, State and Territory Legislative requirements.~~
  5. ~~Where the track ends outside a dwelling/building, the occupant and immediate neighbours must be advised prior to the event that a sanctioned event will be conducted and that a Tracklayer will be waiting outside their premises during the time the track is being worked.~~
  6. ~~A “safety steward” must position themselves in the vicinity of the handler while working urban tracks or any other track as required by the Judge. Their responsibility is to alert the Handler of any impending hazards such as vehicles, cyclists, stray dogs, pedestrians so that if required, evasive action can be taken. The dog may be stopped to allow traffic/pedestrians etc. to pass by calling the dog to heel or shortening the lead to have complete control.~~
  7. ~~Additional safety stewards may be employed on any track at the judge’s discretion.~~
  8. ~~When crossing streets, handlers must be able to gather their lead off the road so that any oncoming traffic will not cross the lead thus impeding the dog.~~
  9. ~~The Tracklayer must be able to make contact with the judge via a communication device such as two-way radio or mobile phone at all times while the track is being worked. The safety of the Tracklayer will take precedence over the working of the track. If at any time the Tracklayer’s safety is compromised, the track must be aborted.~~
  10. ~~When working the night/evening tracks, high visibility clothing and head light must be worn by the handler. The dog should have reflective tape sewn onto the harness or alternatively have some type of LED light attached to the harness.~~
  11. ~~It is not necessary and in most cases not desirable for the Tracklayer to remain at the end of the track, but must be in place before the track is worked unless a finish article is used.~~

(ACT) proposed new safety section:

# SAFETY

The safety of competitors, tracklayers, officials, other persons and dogs at a trial is of paramount concern.  As track and search tests are conducted in urban environments where there are likely to be hazards including moving vehicles and uneven surfaces all reasonable steps to protect safety must be taken.

A competitor who does not comply with safety requirements may be disqualified.  Before commencing judging a test the judge must check that the dog and handler have on the necessary equipment.  A judge may abort or suspend a track at any time if they consider it necessary to do so for safety.

**(a)** The Tracklayer when laying urban tracks; will be followed by a vehicle or escorted by a safety steward. It is not necessary and in most cases not desirable for the Tracklayer to remain at the end of the track, but they must be in place before the track is worked unless a finish article is used.

**(b)** Officials involved in running a trial (including judges and safety stewards) as well as tracklayers must be able to communicate with each other during the trial (eg via mobile phone or radio).

**(c)** At leastone safety steward must walk near the handler while working urban tracks or any other track as required by the Judge.  The safety steward is to alert the Handler to any impending hazards such as vehicles, cyclists, stray dogs, pedestrians so that if required, evasive action can be taken (the safety steward may not guide the hander as to where the track is).  The safety steward may direct the handler to temporarily stop and/or to bring their dog to heel to avoid a hazard.  A handler who has been directed to stop for safety may re-scent their dog without penalty.

**(d)** When crossing a road the handler must work the dog on a short lead and must gather the remainder of the lead up so that it does not drag on the road. Failing to comply may result in downgrading or disqualification.

**(e)** The handler, Judge and stewards must wear high visibility vests or jackets on all tracks.  In addition, on night tracks the dog must wear a harness or vest that includes reflective material or a LED light, the lead must incorporate reflective material and the handler must wear a functioning headlamp.

(f) the dog must be under the control of the handler at all times during the working of the track.

(ACT) Rational: The current safety section is confusing and is not all about safety. The proposed replacement strengthens the safety requirements, simplifies the drafting and removes irrelevant material.

Safety of all involved in the trial – not only the tracklayer – must be the priority. New first para highlights this and outlines key risks. New second para makes clear judge can disqualify a person who does not comply with safety requirements (current rule is only ‘refuse to judge’) and can also abort or suspend a track if necessary for safety. Rules (a) and (b) have been made simpler and clearer by combining related points in the same paragraphs and omitting unnecessary detail (like which car can be used to pick up tracklayer).

New rule ( c) makes clearer the role and authority of the safety steward. The proposed rule also allows a hander to re-scent their dog without penalty if they have been stopped by the safety steward. Don’t want any unintentional dis-incentive for safety steward to stop hander if there is a danger – or doubt that they have authority to do so.

Proposed new rule (d) strengthens the rule about picking up a lead when crossing a road as this is a significant safety risk. The rule also gives judges clear authority to penalise failing to do so.

Proposed new rule ( e) put all the high-vis clothing requirements in one spot – under safety.

ACT recommends removing the rules about children, or at least current rule (c). Having rules about children may encourage organisers to use children in events when they don’t properly understand the complexity of State and Territory laws in this regard.

ACT also recommends removing the part about the description of tracklayer as this is not really a ‘safety’ rule and should be moved to ‘general’ or ‘tracklayer’ and in any case should be replaced with  ‘the handler should be advised at the commencement of the track whether there is a tracklayer or a finish article at the end of the track.  If there is a tracklayer a brief description of the tracklayer should be provided”.

The rule about advising occupants of dwellings has been removed – this is not always practicable (eg commercial or apartment buildings) and should be a matter of good trial management not the subject of rules, in the same way that any access to private land must be by permission is a matter of trial management not rules.

# GRADINGS

The following evaluation will be given for:

**Pass Fail**

Pass A dog that fails will be marked “Fail:

Good

Very Good

Excellent

1. The dog should indicate the articles by either sitting, standing, downing, picking up, or at least pausing (i.e. stationary) to the satisfaction of the judge.
2. A dog must be marked “fail” if it does not find or indicate the required number of articles.
3. A dog that does not indicate an article on any test will receive a downgrading in their result.
4. If an article, including the finish article, has been moved/removed from its designated position on the track then no downgrading should be applied. The grading of the dog’s performance will be at the judge’s discretion.

# NOTES FOR AFFILIATES

At Track and Search Trials an area should be allotted where competitors and their dogs must remain until called by an official. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

(ACT) At Track and Search Trials an area or areas should be allotted where competitors and their dogs must remain until called by an official. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

(ACT) At some trials it may be desirable to have competitors wait in different areas (eg where there is more than one judge and each is judging in an area some distance apart).

# TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD)

## Test 1

The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

(ACT) The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar. Suitable areas include suburban areas, city parks, light industrial areas, new housing developments, university or school campuses and sporting complexes or similar locations (but not forests or a paddock).

(ACT) The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”.  However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

At least 25% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Track will have 3 to 5 changes of direction.

The start marker will remain.

At least thirty (30) metres before the start marker, the Tracklayer will place one (1) of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the start marker, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness.

The dog must then track and search for and locate the lost person or the location of the finish article.

**(ACT): ~~The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness.~~**

**~~The dog must then track and search for and locate the lost person or the location of the finish article.~~**

(ACT) Rational: Whether a dog is allowed off-lead in an urban area is a matter of local government rules.  Even if a handler has trained off lead starts (few if any do) they may get to a trial and find they are not allowed to start that way because the area being used is on-lead only.  Not reasonable for trial organisers to have to find off-lead dog areas for tracks 1-4 on the off chance someone might want to do an off-lead start.  Also increases risk to dog and others having a dog off lead. All of the text can be omitted because other parts of the rulebook deal with the dog being in harness and lead.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track will be one (1) hour and the maximum two (2) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be 2 articles placed on the track.

A minimum of one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

The Tracklayer or location of the finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

**TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD)**

## Test 2

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

(ACT) The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar. Suitable areas include suburban areas, city parks, light industrial areas, new housing developments, university or school campuses and sporting complexes or similar locations (but not forests or a paddock).

(ACT) The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”.  However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

At least 25% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Track will have 3 to 5 changes of direction.

The main Tracklayer shall follow a track accompanied by the diversion Tracklayer. The diversion Tracklayer will accompany the main Tracklayer for not less than thirty (30) metres from the start and leave no closer than thirty (30) metres from the first change of direction while the main Tracklayer continues on the tracks.

The start marker will be removed by the main Tracklayer. The starting line markers will remain.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting line and open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

(ACT) The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog to approximately thirty (30) meters from the starting line; open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking. The judge shall not provide any guidance as to where between the flags the tracklayer walked.

(ACT) Rational: the idea of the two flag start is that the dog has to search for the start of the track. Some judges place the article on the track line which undermines this. The additional text is to improve consistency in judging.

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

**(ACT): ~~The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~**

**(ACT) Rational: Whether a dog is allowed off-lead in an urban area is a matter of local government rules.  Even if a handler has trained off lead starts (few if any do) they may get to a trial and find they are not allowed to start that way because the area being used is on-lead only.  Not reasonable for trial organisers to have to find off-lead dog areas for tracks 1-4 on the off chance someone might want to do an off-lead start.  Also increases risk to dog and others having a dog off lead. All of the text can be omitted because other parts of the rulebook deal with the dog being in harness and lead.**

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be one (1) hour and the maximum two (2) hours from the time the track is laid. There will be 2 articles placed on the track; at least one must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

The Tracklayer or the location of the finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

**TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD)**

## Test 3

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

(ACT) The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar. Suitable areas include suburban areas, city parks, light industrial areas, new housing developments, university or school campuses and sporting complexes or similar locations (but not forests or a paddock).

(ACT) The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”.  However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

At least 25% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Track will have 3 to 5 changes of direction.

Approximately 30 minutes after the main Tracklayer has commenced the track, the first part of the track will be re-walked by a diversion Tracklayer. The diversion Tracklayer will re-walk the track for not less than thirty (30) metres from the start and leave no closer than thirty (30) metres from the first change of direction.

The start marker and all other flags indicating the direction of the track, up to the point where the diversion Tracklayer makes their turn; will be left in position by the main Tracklayer. The diversion tracklayer will remove the start marker and all other flags up to the point where the main Tracklayer has continued on. The starting line flags will remain.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate. The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting line, open the container if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

(ACT) The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog to approximately thirty (30) meters from the starting line; open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking. The judge shall not provide any guidance as to where between the flags the tracklayer walked.

(ACT) Rational: the idea of the two flag start is that the dog has to search for the start of the track. Some judges place the article on the track line which undermines this. The additional text is to improve consistency in judging.

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

**(ACT): ~~The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~**

**(ACT) Rational: Whether a dog is allowed off-lead in an urban area is a matter of local government rules.  Even if a handler has trained off lead starts (few if any do) they may get to a trial and find they are not allowed to start that way because the area being used is on-lead only.  Not reasonable for trial organisers to have to find off-lead dog areas for tracks 1-4 on the off chance someone might want to do an off-lead start.  Also increases risk to dog and others having a dog off lead. All of the text can be omitted because other parts of the rulebook deal with the dog being in harness and lead.**

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid. There will be 2 articles placed on the track; at least one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

(ACT) The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two ~~(2) hours~~ (1) hour and the maximum ~~four (4) hours~~ (2) hours from the time the track is laid. There will be 2 articles placed on the track; at least one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

**(ACT) rational: Tracks 1&2 are to be 1-2 hours old, track 3 jumps to 2-4 hours (which is the same as the 3 TSDX tracks).  Track 3 should be 1-2 hours to be consistent with the other TS level tracks.**

The Tracklayer or finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

# TRACK AND SEARCH DOG EXCELLENT (TSDX)

## Test 4

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone, roads, paved surfaces or similar.

(ACT) The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone, roads, paved surfaces or similar. Suitable areas include suburban areas, city parks, light industrial areas, new housing developments, university or school campuses and sporting complexes or similar locations (but not forests or a paddock).

(ACT) The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”.  However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

At least 50% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Track will have 4 to 6 changes of direction.

This track should start in a contaminated point such as a road-end. If the area is not subject to foot traffic, two deliberate fresh cross tracks are to be laid by unknown Tracklayers who should cross the track just prior to the dog and handler working the track.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting line, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

(ACT) The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog to approximately thirty (30) meters from the starting line; open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking. The judge shall not provide any guidance as to where between the flags the tracklayer walked.

(ACT) Rational: the idea of the two flag start is that the dog has to search for the start of the track. Some judges place the article on the track line which undermines this. The additional text is to improve consistency in judging.

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion

**(ACT): ~~The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~**

**(ACT) Rational: Whether a dog is allowed off-lead in an urban area is a matter of local government rules.  Even if a handler has trained off lead starts (few if any do) they may get to a trial and find they are not allowed to start that way because the area being used is on-lead only.  Not reasonable for trial organisers to have to find off-lead dog areas for tracks 1-4 on the off chance someone might want to do an off-lead start.  Also increases risk to dog and others having a dog off lead. All of the text can be omitted because other parts of the rulebook deal with the dog being in harness and lead.**

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid. There will be 2 articles placed on the track at least one must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

The Tracklayer or the location of the finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

# TRACK AND SEARCH DOG EXCELLENT (TSDX)

## Test 5 [Urban Day Track]

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

(ACT) The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

(ACT) The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”.  And tracks 5-10 are described as urban tracks. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

The track should be laid utilising any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid in close proximity to buildings and fences.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The track will have 4 to 6 changes of direction.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the handler e.g. a residential gateway, front door or car door. The track should not cross a main road.

Every care should be taken when working the dog in traffic and to shorten the lead if necessary, ensuring the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

The dog should work regardless of any distractions.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting point, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting point, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The Tracklayer or finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

# TRACK AND SEARCH DOG EXCELLENT (TSDX)

## Test 6 [Urban Evening/Night Track]

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

(ACT) The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

(ACT) The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”.  And tracks 5-10 are described as urban tracks. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

The track should be laid utilising any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid in close proximity to buildings and fences.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The track will have 4 to 6 changes of direction.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the handler e.g. a residential gateway, front door or car door. The track should not cross a main road.

Every care should be taken when working the dog in traffic and to shorten the lead if necessary, ensuring the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

The dog should work regardless of any distractions.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting point, open the container if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

(ACT) ~~The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~

(ACT) if the proposed change about removing off-lead searching for tracks 1-4 is accepted then this sentence is no longer needed – other parts of the rules require that the dog be on lead/ in harness at all times.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The Tracklayer or the location of the finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

## TRACK AND SEARCH CHAMPIONSHIP (TS Ch)

## Test 7 [Urban Day Track]

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

(ACT) The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

(ACT) The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”.  And tracks 5-10 are described as urban tracks. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

The track should be laid utilising any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid in close proximity to buildings and fences.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

At a point selected by the Judge the dog will halt and wait for approximately two (2) minutes. During this time the Judge will approach and speak briefly to the Handler. This pause will be between five hundred (500) and seven hundred (700) metres from the start and not within thirty (30) metres of a change of direction. The Judge will indicate to the Handler when to recommence. The Handler may re-scent the dog but this may result in a downgrading.

The track will have 5 to 7 changes of direction.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the handler e.g. a residential gateway, front door or car door. The track should not cross a main road.

Every care should be taken when working the dog in traffic and to shorten the lead if necessary, ensuring the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

The dog should work regardless of any distractions.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a, clean unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting point, open the container if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached; will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

(ACT) ~~The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~

(ACT) if the proposed change about removing off-lead searching for tracks 1-4 is accepted then this sentence is no longer needed – other parts of the rules require that the dog be on lead/ in harness at all times.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be three (3) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The Tracklayer or the location of the finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

## TRACK AND SEARCH CHAMPIONSHIP (TS Ch)

## Test 8 [Urban Evening/Night Track]

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

(ACT) The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

(ACT) The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”.  And tracks 5-10 are described as urban tracks. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

The track should be laid utilising any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid in close proximity to buildings and fences.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

At a point selected by the Judge the dog will halt and wait for approximately two (2) minutes. During this time the Judge will approach and speak briefly to the Handler. This pause will be between five hundred (500) and seven hundred (700) metres from the start and not within thirty (30) metres of a change of direction. The Judge will indicate to the Handler when to recommence. The Handler may re-scent the dog but this may result in a downgrading.

The track will have 5 to 7 changes of direction.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the handler e.g. a residential gateway, front door or car door. The track should not cross a main road.

Every care should be taken when working the dog in traffic and to shorten the lead if necessary, ensuring the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

The dog should work regardless of any distractions.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting point, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

(ACT) ~~The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~

(ACT) if the proposed change about removing off-lead searching for tracks 1-4 is accepted then this sentence is no longer needed – other parts of the rules require that the dog be on lead/ in harness at all times.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be three (3) hours and the maximum four (4) hours, from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The Tracklayer or the location of the finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

## TRACK AND SEARCH GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP (TS Grand Ch)

## Test 9 (Urban Day Track)

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1,200 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicles and pedestrian traffic.

(ACT) The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

(ACT) The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”.  And tracks 5-10 are described as urban tracks. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

The track should be laid utilizing any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid fin close proximity to buildings and fences.

(ACT) The track should be laid utilizing any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid ~~fin~~ in close proximity to buildings and fences.

(ACT) typo

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Tracklayer will commence walking the trail and at some point after the first turn the Tracklayer will be picked up and travel in a motor vehicle with the windows open, for a distance of approximately two hundred (200) metres. This portion of the track must include one turn. Following this the Tracklayer will leave the vehicle and complete the trail on foot to the designated end.

The track will have 6 to 8 changes of direction.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the Handler e.g. a residential gateway, front door or car door. The track should not cross a main road.

Every care should be taken when working the dog in traffic to shorten the lead if necessary to ensure the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

The dog should work regardless of any distractions.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting point, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

(ACT) ~~The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~

(ACT) if the proposed change about removing off-lead searching for tracks 1-4 is accepted then this sentence is no longer needed – other parts of the rules require that the dog be on lead/ in harness at all times.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be four (4) hours and the maximum five (5) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The Tracklayer or the location of the finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

## TRACK AND SEARCH GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP (TS Grand Ch)

## Test 10 (Urban Evening/Night Track)

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person walked a trail of approximately 1,200 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicles and pedestrian traffic.

(ACT) The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

(ACT) The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”.  And tracks 5-10 are described as urban tracks. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport. Also – typo “who has” was missing

The track should be laid utilizing any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid in close proximity to buildings and fences.

At least 80% of the tack must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

(ACT) At least 80% of the ~~tack~~ track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

(ACT) typo

The Tracklayer will commence walking the trail and at some point after the first turn the Tracklayer will be picked up and travel in a motor vehicle with the windows open, for a distance of approximately three hundred (300) metres. This portion of the track must include two turns. Following this the Tracklayer will leave the vehicle and complete the trail on foot to the designated end.

The track will have 6 to 8 changes of direction.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the Handler e.g. a residential gateway, front door or car door. The track should not cross a main road.

Every care should be taken when working the dog in traffic, shorten the lead if necessary ensuring the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

The dog should work regardless of any distractions.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting point, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting point, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

(ACT) ~~The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~

(ACT) if the proposed change about removing off-lead searching for tracks 1-4 is accepted then this sentence is no longer needed – other parts of the rules require that the dog be on lead/ in harness at all times.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be four (4) hours and the maximum five (5) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The Tracklayer or the location of the finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

SUMMARY

The major features of all track & search tests are summarised in the table below, which is provided for explanatory purposes only.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Test # | Day/Night | Length (metres) | % non- vegetated | Changes of direction | Additional components | Time Delay (hours) | Tracklayer |
| 1 | Day | 800 | 25% | 3 to 5 |  | 1 to 2 | Known |
| 2 | Day | 800 | 25% | 3 to 5 | Diversion 2 together | 1 to 2 | Unknown |
| 3 | Day | 800 | 25% | 3 to 5 | Diversion 1 -30 minutes after | 2 to 4 | Unknown |
| 4 | Day | 1000 | 50% | 4 to 6 | Contaminated start | 2 to 4 | Unknown |
| 5 | Day Urban | 800 | 80% | 4 to 6 |  | 2 to 4 | Unknown |
| 6 | Night Urban | 800 | 80% | 4 to 6 |  | 2 to 4 | Unknown |
| 7 | Day Urban | 1000 | 80% | 5 to 7 | 2 min. pause | 3 to 4 | Unknown |
| 8 | Night Urban | 1000 | 80% | 5 to 7 | 2 min. pause | 3 to 4 | Unknown |
| 9 | Day Urban | 1200 | 80% | 6 to 8 | Car 200m  1 turn | 4 to 5 | Unknown |
| 10 | Night Urban | 1200 | 80% | 6 to 8 | Car 300 m  2 turns | 4 to 5 | Unknown |