**Rules Review – Track and Search Trials**

**INSPECTION**

An examination of all bitches should be conducted on each day of the trial.

*Change to*

An examination of all bitches should be conducted on each day of the trial, except where proof of desexing of a bitch is provided.

Rationale:

It is extra work for the affiliate to examine all bitches when many of them are desexed and therefore could not be in season. In Tasmania about one third of the entries are dogs on the Associate Register, which requires them to be desexed before registration. In addition many of the bitches on the main register have also been desexed.

**Current Rule:**

**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.

**Amend to:**

1. The Tracklayer shall be a person approved by the Judge and **whose identity must be unknown to the handler** and have not previously laid a track for that dog within the preceding four (4) months, in **a Track and Search Trial**, 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.

**Justification:** Amendment ‘identity must be unknown’ is more practicable and brings into line with Tracking Trial Rules.

Tracking and Track & Search are now separate disciplines, therefore a tracklayer should be available as unknown tracklayer in both disciplines.

**Addition to INTRODUCTION:**

It shall be the responsibility of the Affiliate to check relevant State Dog Act and Local Government Dog Acts prior to trial to ensure any permits/requirements are met.

e.g. Lead length required when walking a dog in public places. Areas where dogs are/are not permitted.

**Current Rule:**

**GENERAL SAFETY**

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.

**Amend to:**

1. Safety Vehicle and/or Steward

If, in the opinion of the affiliate, it is considered necessary for safety reasons:

1. The Tracklayer when laying urban tracks; may be followed by a vehicle or escorted by a safety steward. The vehicle may collect the Tracklayer from the end of the track and may be used to transport the Tracklayer back to the end of the track.
2. Whilst the dog is being tested on the track, the dog/handler, judge and safety stewards may be followed by a safety vehicle.

**Justification:** In some instances, it may be advisable to have a safety vehicle and/or steward.

e.g. tracklaying after dark, or in an area where there may be a lot of traffic during the test track, the vehicle following will alert traffic to unusual activity ahead.

The Affiliate would be in the best position to advise on conditions in their area.