

2024 Summary of Scent Changes, Effective 6/7/2024

Below are sections of the rules that should specifically be reviewed for the complete revisions. There are other smaller additions.

Similar to the Master Team for Obedience/Rally/Games there is now a “Scent Achiever” Award offered for upper Scent levels. (Page 4)

Items the dog may wear – added “A belly band or doggy diaper may be worn. Lifting a leg or squatting as if to potty will still be cause for elimination. (Page 5)

Regarding Premiums: Videoing – added “If the search area does not allow video, a notice should be included in the trial premium.” (Page 5)

Added: If move-ups will NOT be allowed, or there will be a cut-off date for move-ups that statement must be included in the premium. If not listed, move-ups must be allowed. (Page 6)

Class Guidelines and Definitions, pages 7–11

Accessible and Inaccessible Hides – added: If, in the judge’s opinion, a hide is inaccessible for a particular dog, based on size, age, other factors the dog must communicate where the odor is coming from. It may be a change in behavior, an actual alert, or continuing to show effort in trying to get closer to the source, that the handler recognizes and calls.

Consistency – added: An exception to this is a hide that may be inaccessible to one dog but not to another in the same class.

Dog in White – Added: If there is not a dog available to run the search prior to class, the running order could be adjusted so that a trusted competitor dog is the first to run. After the first dog runs, the judge will decide if the search as designed is acceptable. If the judge feels adjustments need made, the first dog that ran will be re-run later in the class with no penalty.

Faults (page 8) added:

- Any type of handler behavior that can be viewed as intimidating and results in the dog showing signs of stress
- Handler allows the leash to drag on the ground causing disruption to items in the search area

Indication of Find – Added: Double Calls – If the handler calls “Alert” on a hide that they had already located and called, the judge should tell the exhibitor they had already found that hide. (Page 9)

Start Line – Added: **Odor may never be placed in an item marking the start or boundary lines.** (Page 11)

Time – Added: “If the last alert (correct) was made before or at the same time as the timer called “Time” that should be a pass, whether the judge has responded before time was called. (Page 11)

Dasher series of classes will not have a time warning. (Page 11)

Detective Series (Pages 13–17)

Detective 2 – Time changed to 2:30

Investigator 3 – clarified one hide may be inaccessible, Natural environment may be used for hide.

Super Sleuth 4 – One distraction required, updated challenges

Private Investigator – updated challenges

Detective Diversions – At least one food and one toy must be used as part of the required distractions. Updated challenges.

Ranger Series (Pages 19–22)

Ranger 2 – Added an additional hide. Adjusted time

Adjusted number/ type of items required

Ranger 3 – The two odors may be the same

Adjusted number of items

Minimum distance between items increased, and between different, and same odors.

Lowered maximum height of hide

Increased distance from handler area. Handler limited to a 30 – 36 sq ft area

Ranger 4 – NEW - Off Leash

Ranger 5 – NEW - Off Leash

Dasher Series of classes – NEW (Pages 23–26)

Guidelines Specific to the Ranger Series (Page 27)

Clarification on Handler Distance Line

Guidelines Specific to the Dasher Series — New (Pages 27–28)

Search Area Guidelines (Pages 28–30)

Description of Boxes, Items updated

Natural Environment – description added

Items not allowed – updated (Page 29)

Distraction Items – (page 30)

Clarified “Known” and “Unknown”

Trial Guidelines (Pages 31–33)

Scent Advocates role – Updated (Page 32)

Judge Guidelines (Pages 33–34)

Updated Alert Confirmation for Inaccessible Hides (Page 34)