Correction and changes for 2025

Added to general rules 1-1-25

Trial field needs to be marked with corner markers.

Trial host will provide starter pistol to be used by all contestants.

Changed in general rules:

from

* For all Police Dog titles, the decoy must wear a full bite suit.

To now read:

* For all Protection titles (P) and Police Dog titles (PD), the decoy must wear a full bite suit.

Also add to each (P) title rule:

* For all Protection titles, the decoy must wear a full bite suit.

Changed in general rules:

1. Handlers must present themselves in an orderly manner concerning dress and conduct. The judge or trial chairman will be responsible for enforcement.

Handlers shall dress appropriately for showing their dogs. The following attire will not be allowed: ratty or ragged clothing, flip flops, open toed shoes, or high heels while showing a dog. The judge may require a handler to change their attire to represent WDA in an appropriate manner or be disqualified from showing.

Changed on all PS titles to now read:

Note: If the dumbbell comes to rest less than 8 feet away from the far side of either the A-frame or High jump, the judge/steward will call for a rethrow. If the handler has not thrown the dumbbell to a safe distance after 3 attempts, the exercise will be stopped and scored a zero.

Copied from General rules to all protection titles:

**All Protection titles**: The decoy is expected to attack in a very adversarial and direct manner using verbal and physical threats. This includes escapes and re-attacks. Once the dog has engaged the decoy, the decoy will challenge the dog with an attack style form of driving with verbal and physical threats and/or contact where required.

Corrected and updated score sheet, please be sure you have the 2025 score sheets when holding a trail.

Correction and changes for 2024

**PD3** several changes to how this title is written please read the new rule.

**PD2**

**A.   Leash and leash option:** All Obedience phase exercises are performed off leash, with the exception of the Long Down exercise. All other exercise are performed off leash. The leash is to be held in the left hand when healing for the obedience portions. The leash/tab may be held in either hand during protection portions. Whenever a leash is removed, the handler must put it away or hang the leash over their shoulder or around their waist with the clasp positioned on the right side of the handler’s body.

**Correct to:**

**Leash and leash option:** All Obedience phase exercises are performed off leash, with the exception of the Long Down exercise. The leash is to be held in the left hand when healing to and from long down. The leash/tab may be held in either hand during protection portions where leash/tab are allowed. Whenever a leash/tab is removed, the handler must put it away or hang the leash over their shoulder or around their waist with the clasp positioned on the right side of the handler’s body.

First exercise:

**Exercise Instructions.** Defense of handler exercise begins with the handler/dog team reporting off-leash to a starting position determined by the Judge. Once arriving, the handler will halt with the dog in basic position.

**Correct to:**

**Exercise Instructions.** Defense of handler exercise begins with the handler/dog team reporting on-leash to a starting position determined by the Judge. Once arriving, the handler will halt with the dog in basic position. The exercise starts when the handler acknowledges the Judge and performs a formal check-in (introduces him or herself by giving their name, the dog’s name, and the reason they are there and must declare the dog’s gripping location) then removes the leash. The Judge directs the helper to come out from behind the blind and directly approach the dog.

**General rules**

1. A WDA Trial Secretary should be a very organized person. It helps if they know a little about trialing. It is best if they are not showing a dog in the same trial. If they are going to trial the limit is two dogs. A second person can step in and handle the paperwork if needed. Trial secretaries should be able to answer general questions pertaining to trials and tend to the judge as needed.
2. Decoys need the work the same spot in each routing for all dogs at the same trial.
3. When using multiple decoys and one of the decoys is trialing in a class, he/she should not work the other dogs in the class he/she is trialing in.
4. Decoy will bring the same threat level to the dogs at all title levels.
5. . Dogs may heel on the right side of handler if trained to this side. Leash would be held in right hand. All titles past the FO would require the about turns to be performed as right about-turns. All other requirements for heeling sill apply.

P1, PD1 and general rules:

Removed: A harness may be used in place of one collar. Pinch collars must be worn with an additional collar attached except

PA title has been discontinued.

PS1-PS3 and PSOB1-PSOB3 clarification for dumbbell throws:

Once reaching the designated area a minimum of 8 feet in front of hurdle, the handler acknowledges the Judge and then throws or pitches the object a minimum of 8 feet over the hurdle on the other side.

Once reaching the designated area a minimum of 8 feet in front of A-frame, the handler acknowledges the Judge and then throws or pitches the object a minimum of 8 feet over the A-frame on the other side.

**Clarification already done:**

**All titles**

1. Dog must leave the field under control.

This is written in our critiques but is not being enforced. I will move it to the bottom of each title, so contestants understand this is still part of the judging.

 Added it this way to the obedience portion of each title.

"The handler may praise the dog while waiting for the Judge’s instructions. Attach leash now if one has not been used. The handler and dog team should demonstrate heeling and control when reporting for the long down (honor) or exiting the field."

This way to the protection portion of each title.

"Attach leash now if dog is not leashed. The handler and dog team should demonstrate heeling and control when exiting the field."

**General rules:**

The long down area should be mid field on the opposite side of the field from the agility jumps. For FO if no jumps are on the field long down area should be mid field on either side of the field. Dogs should be facing the middle of the field when in the down.

Added to general rules 6-1-2023:

The helper is expected to attack in a very adversarial and direct manner using verbal and physical threats. This includes escapes and re-attacks. Once the dog has engaged the helper, the helper will challenge the dog with an attack style form of driving with verbal and physical threats and/or contact where required.

**PD1**

 Removed, when the handler is to remove the leash (if the handler is exercising this option)

**Judge’s Instructions**. The Judge indicates where to start, when to start, when to restart after each halt, when to leave the markers and when the exercise is complete.

1. **Exercise Instructions.** The handler and dog (on leash) report to the correct area as specified by the Judge. Handler removes the leash and puts it away if the exercise is going to be performed off leash.

**Also, on the PD1 protection this is just a clarification to everyone because we have seen it being done the wrong why.**

First exercise Friendly Greeting:

The exercise begins with the handler and dog reporting to a location designated by the Judge. The handler reports with his/her dog on leash, demonstrating proper heeling.

No where does this say you can also have your tab on?

Third exercise Jump out attack:

The handler removes the leash with the option of using a tab. If the handler elects to use a tab, it is attached at this time.

**Honor Title only offered at regional and championship trials:**

Dogs that receive a score of 90 or higher may qualify for an honors title if all the following criteria are met:

1. All trial decoys that work the dog in the protection phase are Level III Honors decoys.
2. The dog has not worked with any of the trial decoys during any training or trials within the last six months.
3. The dog does not belong wholly or in part, to a decoy, or any member of decoy's household, training group working or competing at a given trial.

If qualified, a "Certificate of Achievement" will be issued, and a gold “HONOR” seal will be placed by the score. The title will be listed with an (H) following the normal title lettering on the results page and web site.

1. Honor seal will be given at the trial, but the title is unofficial until results of the trial have been approved by WDA board and posted to trial results page on our web site. If honor criteria were not met honors will not be awarded.

Commands

1. The dog’s name may be used once immediately before any verbal command. The dog’s name given immediately before a command will not be considered as an additional command, but a dog that responds to its name without waiting for the verbal command will be scored as having anticipated the command.
2. Commands can be multiple words, but the words must run together without any pause between them. If a pause is used, then any word after the first word will be considered and extra command and a point loss will be applied.
3. Voice commands in all phases are to be given **clearly and audibly.**
4. Handlers may use their own language.

Correction and changes for 2023

**Rule Changes:**

1. Down and honor all titles. Remove the option to stand on your leash.

**Long Down (or Honoring) Exercise.** The exercise starts after the handler reaches the designated area. After acknowledging the Judge, the handler with a single voice or signal command (not both) commands the dog to down. The handler remains beside the dog holding the leash, ~~or may drop the leash by the dog and stand on the end~~; the leash must remain loose and not restrain the dog. The dog must remain in its assigned position while the other dog/ handler team performs their routines. After the other dog/handler team completes the Down with Recall Exercise, the handler acknowledges the Judge, on the Judge’s orders, the handler with a single voice or signal command (not both) commands the dog to sit. The handler acknowledges the Judge and waits for Judge’s orders to report for the next exercise.

1. PD2 first exercise (changed to just Defense of handler)

**Defense of handler.** The primary purpose is to clearly demonstrate the dog will respond to the handler’s command to defend against a helper’s attack.

1. **Judge’s Instructions.** The Judge will direct the handler where and when to start the exercise. The Judge will also direct the helper when to come out from the hidden position, when the helper is to perform the attack, when the helper is to cease the attack, and when the exercise is complete.
2. **Exercise Instructions.** Defense of handler exercise begins with the handler/dog team reporting off-leash to a starting position determined by the Judge. Once arriving, the handler will halt with the dog in basic position. The exercise starts when the handler acknowledges the Judge and preforms a formal check-in. The Judge directs the helper to come out from behind the blind and directly approach the dog. The handler and helper will then engage in verbal conflict. The helper will walk to a point approximately 1-2 yards from the dog becoming even more verbally argumentative, but with no overt physical gestures. The helper will pace back and forth one complete time in front of the team while the handler orders the helper to stop and turn to face his dog. The helper will continue to walk away with the handler ordering him a second time, "to stop or my dog will be sent." When directed by the Judge, the helper will turn, yell, and threaten the dog with a stick making an aggressive direct approach at the dog and handler. The handler will then command the dog to engage the helper while remaining in place. The helper will present an arm for the dog to grip but the dog may grip in other locations (the grip location will have previously been declared by the handler on the entry form and check-in). Once the dog engages the helper, the helper will challenge the dog with two stick hits and resistance while driving the dog in a direction such that the judge can assess the grip quality. The Judge will direct the helper when to cease the attack. Once the attack by the helper ceases, the dog should release the grip. A command to release the grip is permitted. After releasing the grip, the dog may perform any of the following disengagement behaviors; a hold and bark, a down or sit guard, or may be recalled to basic position where the handler has remained at the exercise start line. Once the dog has released the grip, the handler will acknowledge the Judge who, if the dog is guarding the helper, will direct the handler to approach the dog, step into heel position, give asingle verbal command for the dog to end the guarding behavior and assume basic position. The handler will then tell the helper to step away from the dog three to four paces and acknowledge the Judge for completion of the exercise. If the dog has been recalled to basic position the exercises is complete when the handler acknowledges the judge. The handler will then heel the dog to the designated area to start the next exercise.
3. **Scoring the Defense of Handler.** This exercise will be evaluated on the dog’s willingness to engage a threatening helper. The Judge will evaluate the handler’s ability to control and command the dog along with the dog’s commitment to engage the helper. The dog’s grip, intensity during engagement, responsiveness to the release command and the ability of the handler to reclaim the dog are important. Dogs demonstrating proper control and strong commitment to engaging the helper will receive the highest points.
4. Non-qualifying scores**:** The following must be given a zero score on this exercise:
5. The dog moves from the sit position prior to the helper making one pass in front of the dog and alerts or engages on its own;
6. The dog grips the helper due to poor handling or lack of control before helper attacks;
7. The dog will not leave the handler’s side;
8. The dog runs or shows much fear from the helper’s threats;
9. The dog can’t be reclaimed after release of the helper; or
10. The handler uses excessive physical force on the dog to make it sit or to regain control.
11. Major or Minor Imperfections**: I**mperfections may be major or minor depending on the extent of the following:
12. The dog is slow to respond to either the engagement, out or recall to basic position;
13. The dog doesn’t display commitment and courage to engage the helper;
14. The dog should display more commitment and willingness to engage the helper;
15. The dog could respond faster to commands;
16. The dog moves slightly when helper is passing back and forth in front of the dog; or
17. The dog slightly anticipates the command.

**Rule corrections:**

1. PD1-PD3 (add highlight words)

The handler positioning the dog into a down position approximately three to four paces from the helper; the required distance can be obtained by heeling the dog to the proper distance or instructing the helper to move to the necessary location. After the helper is in the correct location for performing a disarm exercise, the handler commands the helper to (put the gun down/drop the gun) and put his/her arms up. The handler then leaves the dog, goes to the helper to do a search for any other weapons. The handler puts the helper’s hands down to simulate hand cuffing. The handler returns to the dog, commands it to sit, attaches the leash, then instructs the helper to move out to the Judge. The gun must be retrieved by handler on return to dog or during the transport to judge.

PD3 Courage Test throwing of the object changed to approx. ten paces instead of the seven paces. To many decoys are waiting late to get turned and present the triceps properly.

2. PS Titles for dumbbells: (add note)

 Note: If the dumbbell comes to rest less than 6 feet away from the far side of either the A-frame or High jump, the judge/steward will call for a rethrow. If the handler has not thrown the dumbbell to a safe distance after 3 attempts, the exercise will be stopped and scored a zero.

3. All dumbbell exercise in every title PS1-PS3 and P3. (Add highlighted words)

 The handler should heel the dog to within 2 paces of the location of the object and place the dog in a sit. The handler leaves the dog in the sit position, a stay command is allowed before leaving the dog (minimum two steps), obtains an approved object, returns to the dog and heels to the designated area for performing the flat retrieve exercise.

Once reaching the designated area, the handler acknowledges the Judge and then throws or pitches the object a minimum of 10 paces away from the dog. The handler is allowed to move one foot when throwing. The dog remains in the sit position until the handler gives the command to retrieve.

4. PS1 Courage (add 30 paces away)

1. **Exercise Instructions.** The Judge signals for the helper to run in a straight line away making verbal and physical threats while running away. When the helper has gone about 50 paces, the judge will direct the handler to send the dog after him and handler must remain at the spot from where dog was sent. The Judge signals for the helper to turn and run toward the dog when the dog is about 30 paces away. The helper will run towards the dog in a very adversarial manner which includes charging directly at the dog using verbal and physical threats. When the helper is approximately five yards from the dog the helper shall present the sleeve with a direct frontal threat using both verbal and stick threats. The dog must immediately grip firmly. When the dog has gripped, the helper drives the dog towards the judge such that the grip is clearly visible. Upon the Judge’s signal the helper will cease resisting and places the back of the dog towards the handler. The dog must release the grip and continue guarding. The command to “let go” by the handler is permitted. The handler remains in a stationary position until signaled by the Judge to approach the dog for performing a disarm exercise.

5. All protection titles rules (add highlighted words)

The leash/tab is/are to be held in the left hand when heeling for the obedience portions. The leash/tab may be held in either hand during protection portions.

6. Equipment, remove "AKC A-frame".

**2.** **Height.** The height at the apex should not exceed 60 inches; a range of 49 to 60 is acceptable. The apex for the 6’8” panel is set 49”-50” vertically above ground, while the 8’ panel is set at 52”-60” vertically above ground.

**3. Panels.** The panels may each measure approximately 6’8” or 8’ in length and 30” to 60” in width. They may be constructed from wood or a wood like substance attached to a metal or wooden framework rigid enough to withstand the impact of large dogs jumping part way up on to the panels. The panels are connected along one end by hinges. An insert must cover any gap between the two panels at the apex. A chain or other brace is attached approximately halfway up on the inside of each panel to secure the proper angle to the panels when set up for use.

**4. Slats.** Slats are approximately 3/8” to 1” thick and ¾ – 1½” wide and cut to extend the width of the panels. The slats are attached 12” apart with a 2” tolerance. Slats must be rounded or beveled so as to not be sharp. Slats can cover the complete side or just the top half. Any standard Schutzhund ~~or AKC~~ A-Frame is allowed.

7. In all 2’s and 3’s (remove highlighted words)

**a.    Judge’s Instructions:** The Judge indicates to the handler where to start, when to remove the leash, when to start, when to restart after each halt and when the exercise is complete.

protection:

8. Add a formal checkout on titles. (only at the end of protection)

P1 has formal checkout.

All other protection titles add this note under Disarm and Transport:

**Formal checkout required when presenting weapon.** The handler should report his or her name and the dog’s name and announce the completion of the Protection (title name) routine.

9. PD3 Directed Search Find & Bite and Defense of Handler added highlighted words:

The handler will know where the helper is, and the dog must be sent to that place last. The handler must search the other places in the order specified by the Judge. Dog must search 3 places before being sent to the find blind. The handler will move down the middle of the field while directing his/her dog's search. After the dog reaches the first hiding place and searches, the handler calls the dog back and direct the dog to the next hiding place. The handler does this for all three empty hiding places, then sends the dog to the place containing the helper. The handler is allowed to use the dog’s name and a recall command after each search. When the dog is sent to the hiding place containing the helper, as the dog approaches the helper will flee.

The dog should immediately grip the helper and stop or slow down the escape. The dog must grip helper within 30 paces or judge will halt the exercise. A verbal command to instruct the dog to engage is allowed. The helper will drive and challenge the dog on the grip. The Judge will instruct the helper when to stop challenging the dog and when the helper becomes still, the dog should release the grip and perform its disengagement response. A command to release the grip is permitted. The handler will acknowledge the Judge, approach the dog and give a single verbal command to bring the dog back into the basic position.

10. PD3 Courage added highlight word:

1. **Exercise Instructions**. The handler heels the dog off leash to a designated area; the handler acknowledges the Judge and the Judge then signals for the helper to come out. When the handler sees, the helper come out, the handler gives a verbal warning to the helper to stop the attack or the dog shall be sent. Once the helper turns up the field and starts making a direct approach toward the handler, the handler watches for the Judge’s signal to send the dog, which has been waiting in the basic position or held by the collar and encouraged by the handler to engage the helper. The handler follows the dog down the field until reaching a distance approximately five to ten paces from the helper. The helper continues forward in a threatening manner using both physical and verbal threats.

**Note:** When the dog reaches a distance of approximately ten paces from the helper, the helper throws the object, ceases threatening the dog, turns quickly and moves in the opposite direction from the dog, presenting either a left or right triceps arm presentation

General rules

 **Added to general rules:**

1. As of 12-30-2023 WDA will not send out paper registration certificates.

2. Regional and Championship trials will only have a start line painted.?

3. This No live video streaming at WDA events statement to our general rules.

*While WDA events are open to the public, we must also respect the wishes of some participants to limit their unedited performances a potentially world-wide audience on the Internet. Therefore, livestreaming of WDA trials is strictly prohibited. Anyone found to be livestreaming an event will be asked to stop and/or required to leave the event.*

4. Decoy summary sheet link will be listed on our decoy page.

5. Honor dogs may only wear equipment allowed for obedience routines. No pinch collars, e-collars, food or toys are allowed. The dog is not trialing so extra commands and minor handler help are allowed as long as they do not disturb the trialing dog.

6. Remove the exception for police offices to do the PD3 without other titles. All handlers will start with the FO title and work up in sequence 1-3.

 Gripping titles must be earned in order. For example: A Protection 1 (P1) must be earned to trial for a P2 and P2 must be earned to trial for a P3. Likewise, a Police Dog (PD1) must be earned before trialing for a PD2 and PD2 before a PD3.

Removed highlighted words: The exception to this rule is that a full time K9 police officer may trial for a Police Dog 3 title if their dogs are active police K9s that want the titles as another form of certification.

6. Steward duties:

1. Must give verbal exercise directions unless they can clearly see the handler is looking at them.
2. Must coordinate all field directions to handlers with the judge and only start an exercise when they are sure the judge is ready
3. Must remain a respectful distance from the team working so as to not interfere or influence the performance.
4. Must know the rules for the titles they are stewarding.
5. Must call exercise starts and finishes at the proper place.
6. Must carry a clip board for safety. The performing handler(s) blank score sheet(s) are a good idea to have at the ready.
7. Should alert the judge if they see a harsh correction or safety issues happening on the field so the judge can watch closely and/or take appropriate action. The steward may not inform the judge for missed non-harsh corrections/safety issues (like a dog getting up from a long down).
8. Must check equipment for safety and exercise-appropriateness PRIOR to beginning obedience and protection phases. If the wrong equipment is discovered, it is allowed to remain only up to the point where the handler acknowledges their readiness to begin the first exercise. It must be corrected IMMEDIATELY after this acknowledgment and BEFORE starting the first exercise. The steward will inform the judge of any incorrect equipment usage. If no steward is being used (as is the preference of some judges during protection phases) this check becomes the responsibility of the judge.
9. Be sure you have someone ready to fire a blank pistol along with its usage and timing is coordinated with the judge if the class requires it.
10. Arrange for field help to change jumps if need.

Added this to the P1, P2, P3, PD1, PD2 and PD3 titles

**Lower body grips or inner arm grips are only allowed if trial host offers them. Only helpers that are WDA certified in these grips may be used. A check box on the entry form must be checked noting this requirement.**

**Lower body grips.** The handler must check the box on the entry form noting the dog is trained in lower body grips and must declare this to the judge/steward during a formal check-in. The judge/steward will confirm this with the helper as a required safety measure in case the helper was not informed. Helpers who are qualified to work lower body gripping dogs will make the necessary adjustments. P1-P3 and PD1-PD3 exercises allow lower body grips. If the handler has declared lower body grips, all grips must be on the lower body**. I**

**Inner arm grips.** The handler must indicate on the entry form that the dog is trained in inner arm grips and declare this to the judge/steward during a formal check-in. The judge/steward will confirm this with the helper as a required safety measure in case the helper was not informed. Helpers who are qualified to work inner arm gripping dogs will make the necessary adjustments. P1-P3 and PD1-PD3 exercises allow inner arm gripping for all frontal grips. The courage test will remain a triceps grip.

Added a formal check in to PD2 and PD3. Corrected the already existing formal check in for PD1, P1, P2 and P3.

**PD1**

**Exercise Instructions.** The exercise begins with the handler and dog reporting a location designated by the Judge. The handler reports with his/her dog on leash, demonstrating proper heeling. The Judge signals for the helper to come out from a hiding place. The helper makes a direct non-threatening approach to the handler. The handler shakes hands with the helper and introduces him or herself by giving their name, the dog’s name and the reason they are there and must declare the dog’s gripping location. The handler then instructs the helper to leave the field. The helper steps back from the handler and refuses to leave becoming unruly.

**PD2**

**Exercise Instructions.** Defense of handler exercise begins with the handler/dog team reporting off-leash to a starting position determined by the Judge. Once arriving, the handler will halt with the dog in basic position. The exercise starts when the handler acknowledges the Judge and preforms a formal check-in (introduces him or herself by giving their name, the dog’s name and the reason they are there and must declare the dog’s gripping location. The Judge directs the helper to come out from behind the blind and directly approach the dog. The handler and helper will then engage in verbal conflict. The helper will walk to a point approximately 1-2 yards from the dog becoming even more verbally argumentative, but with no overt physical gestures. The helper will pace back and forth one complete time in front of the team while the handler orders the helper to stop and turn to face his dog

**PD3**

**Instructions:** The handler will report off leash to a designated area determined by the Judge to start the exercise; once arriving, preforms a formal check-in (introduces him or herself by giving their name, the dog’s name and the reason they are there and must declare the dog’s gripping location. The handler will look for the Judge’s indication to start the exercise. The exercise starts when the handler makes his or her announcement with the dog in the basic position or down by the handler side behind a start line.

**P1**

**Exercise Instructions.** The Friendly Greeting exercise begins by the handler/dog team reporting to a designated starting position determined by the Judge. Once arriving, the handler will halt with the dog sitting in the basic position. The handler will then acknowledge the Judge to begin the exercise. The Judge will then instruct the helper to come out from behind the blind or hiding place. The helper will make a direct approach toward the handler to a point where a friendly greeting and handshake can be given; the handler will be responsible for providing a procedural greeting which includes introducing themselves, giving the dog’s name and stating the name of the title they are reporting for and must declare the dog’s gripping location. After the greeting, the helper will return to behind the blind. The handler will then acknowledge the Judge for conclusion of the exercise.

**P2**

**Exercise Instructions.** The exercise begins with the handler and dog reporting to the Judge at a location designated by the Judge. The handler reports with his/her dog on leash, demonstrating proper heeling. The Judge signals for the helper to come out from a hiding place. The helper makes a direct non-threatening approach to the handler. The handler shakes hands with the helper and introduces him or herself by giving their name, the dog’s name and the reason they are there and must declare the dog’s gripping location.

**P3**

**Exercise Instructions.** The Judge will signal for the helper to come out from a hiding place. The helper will make a direct non-threatening approach to the handler. The handler will shake hands with the helper and introduce him or herself by giving his or her name, the dog’s name and the reason they are there and must declare the dog’s gripping location. The handler will then instruct the helper to leave the field; the helper will step back from the handler and refuse to leave.

Please make note of these correction in your rule book.

2022

PS2/PSOB2 added the weight of the wooden dumbbell to be used:

(The trial host shall provide a wooden dumbbell that weighs approximately 1 lb. and is allowed to have a protective cover over the handle; the dumbbell must be approved by the Judge).

P2, P3, PS2, PS3 added the word “back” to any place we required a “back transport”

P2 transport to judge is off leash

PD2 courage transport to judge is off leash:

Removed; The handler returns to the dog, commands it to sit, attaches the leash or tab, then instructs the helper to move out to the Judge. The gun must be retrieved by handler on return to dog or during the transport to judge.

PD1 Greeting Hostel helper

Changed word to read “should”: The dog may become alert or display barking; however, the dog must maintain the basic position throughout the whole routine.

must changed to should.

PD1 and PD2

Defense of handler changed to read:

Once the helper is at the proper distance and the dog is in the down guard position, the handler instructs the helper to (put the weapon down/drop the weapon) and place his or her arms up for performing a disarm exercise.

Once again corrected formatting, spelling and wrong word usage.

Please make note of these correction in your rule book.

2021

For the FO/PA all seem good until we get to the practical’s.

1. Gate:
"the handler will then drop the leash and leave the dog "

Added:

**Note:** Handler must take at least a couple of steps after giving the sit command on both sides of the gate.

1. Vehicle:
"sit/stay position and then drops the leash, leaves the dog and opens the vehicle."

Corrected to reed.

  Once reaching the vehicle, the handler will halt and sit the dog at a distance far enough back from the vehicle to open the door without touching the dog. You must take at least one step away from the dog to open and close the door or tail gate. The handler may give a verbal sit command and a small leash encouragement to reinforce the sit/stay position and then drops the leash, leaves the dog and opens the vehicle. Next, the handler returns to the dog right side, picks up the leash and commands the dog to enter the vehicle, regardless of the type of vehicle you should be able to load your dog without moving forward or back ward when doing this.

**In the general rules for FO/PA:**

1. **Sitting and staying:** In all instances where the dog is to “sit” the handler may give the dog one verbal command to sit and at the same time may apply a slight leash encouragement. In instances where the handler is required to leave the dog, the handler may give the dog a “stay” command. ***The only exception to the above in the Family Obedience title is the sit out of motion; a stay command is not allowed!***

Changed to:

1. **Sitting, Downing, and staying:** In all instances where the dog is to “sit” the handler may give the dog one verbal command to sit and at the same time may apply a slight leash encouragement. ***The only exception to the above in the Family Obedience title is the sit out of motion; a stay command is not allowed!***

In instances where the handler is required to leave the dog, the handler may give the dog a “stay” command.

3. OB1, P1, PD1

The handler should walk close to each obstacle without interrupting their pace.

 Changed to read:

" In addition, the handler may speed up as the dog crosses each obstacle to catch up with the dog and then returns to a brisk pace"

4. Picking up of dumbbells.

The handler should heel the dog to within 2 paces of the location of the object and place the dog in a sit. The handler leaves the dog in the sit position, obtains an approved object, returns to the dog and demonstrates heeling to the designated area for performing the flat retrieve exercise

Dumbbell: OB2&3, PSOB 1&2&3, P2&3, PS 1&2&3, corrected to read:

The handler leaves the dog in the sit position (minimum two steps), obtains an approved object, returns to the dog and demonstrates heeling to the designated area for performing the flat retrieve exercise.

5. All protection disarm & transport routines read like this:

The disarm & transport exercise consists of the handler positioning the dog into a down position approximately three to four paces from the helper; the required distance can be obtained by heeling the dog to the proper distance or instructing the helper to move to the necessary location. After the helper is in the correct location for performing a disarm exercise, the handler commands the helper to place his/her arms up.  The handler then leaves the dog, goes to the helper to obtain any weapon, returns back to the dog, commands the dog to sit, and then instructs the helper to move out to the Judge. Any type of transport and checkout is acceptable (WDA, IPO, KNVP, etc.), but must be performed correctly. Same style transport must be use throughout all exercises. A transport of about fifteen paces to the Judge should be performed. After conducting the search, the handler may call the dog to the heel position three paces directly behind the helper and then start the transport.

Chang to: We have split this to two paragraphs because a disarm is mandatory in all exercises and needs to be performed before the transport.

The disarm & transport exercise consists of:

The handler positioning the dog into a down position approximately three to four paces from the helper; the required distance can be obtained by heeling the dog to the proper distance or instructing the helper to move to the necessary location. After the helper is in the correct location for performing a disarm exercise, the handler commands the helper to place his/her arms up.  The handler then leaves the dog, goes to the helper to obtain any weapon, returns back to the dog, commands the dog to sit, and then instructs the helper to move out to the Judge.

 Any type of transport and checkout is acceptable (WDA, IPO, KNVP, etc.), but must be performed correctly. Same style transport must be use throughout all exercises. A transport of about fifteen paces to the Judge should be performed. Also after conducting the search, the handler may call the dog to the heel position three paces directly behind the helper and then start the transport.

6. PS2 concretion for WDA style transport to judge:

Currently reads.
The handler then returns to his or her dog, picks up the leash or tab, commands the dog to sit and, if a tab was used, the leash would be attached after the sit.

changed to.
The handler then returns to his or her dog, commands the dog to sit and attaches the leash.

7. PS1-PS3, PSOB1-PSOB3

Added what to do with the dumbbell after the A-fame.

The handler should heel the dog to within 2 paces of the location of where the object was obtained and place the dog in a sit. The handler leaves the dog in the sit position (minimum two steps), returns object to original place, returns to the dog heels a few steps to face the judge halts and acknowledges the Judge for concluding the exercise.

8. **All titles:**

Long down Honoring.

on the Judge’s, orders the handler verbally commands the dog to sit.

changed to.

Judge’s orders, the handler with a single voice or signal command (not both) commands the dog to sit.

9. P3

Added on agility.

 or the handler may down the dog accepting a ½ point deduction for less difficulty

**added to general rules:**

\*     Train vest are allowed to be worn by handler, but no aprons, bait bags etc...

Judge’s orders, the handler with a single voice or signal command (not both) commands the dog to sit.

Once again correct spelling and wrong word usage 😉

2020

Corrections to General rules:

\*     The Protection Alert, Protection 1 titles allow for the use of two collars during the protection routines; collars can be a flat collar, fur saver on dead ring, choke collar on dead ring or a pinch collar on dead ring. A harness may be used in place of one collar.  Pinch collars must be worn with an additional collar attached except when used with a harness.

\*     Only one collar, a flat collar or retracting collar on dead ring must be used for all FO, PA, OB1-OB3, OBPS1-OBPS3, P1-P3, PS1-PS3 obedience titles.  Pinch collars or electric collars are not allowed.

\*     Only one collar is allowed during all advanced protection titles P2-P3, PS1-PS3.  Pinch or electric collars are not allowed.

\*     All PD classes:

* 1. PD1 One collar is allowed on the dog for the OB phase. Single collars include the following: flat, choke chain, fur saver or similar types of slip collars, all used on a dead ring. The protection phase allows for the use of two collars; one collar can be a flat collar, fur savor on dead ring, choke collar on dead ring, or a pinch collar on dead ring. A harness may be used in place of one collar.
	2. PD2 & PD3 Only one collar, a flat collar or retracting collar on dead ring must be used for all phases. Pinch collars or electric collars are not allowed.
* All PD titles for police officers an e-collar is allowed to be worn, transmitter will be given to steward or judge at the start of exercise.
1. E-collars will be allowed ONLY on certified and active duty police K9s being handled by their assigned law enforcement handler. Since police certification already requires proof of skills exceeding those of the Family Obedience (FO) title, active duty police K9 teams will now also be allowed to compete in all Police Dog levels without first needing to pass an FO.

For the P2:  make attaching the leash or picking up the tab **optional** instead of mandatory:

Now reads:

Upon the Judge’s instructions, the handler approaches the dog, commands the dog into the basic position, tells the helper to step back, reattaches the leash (if one has not been used) or picks up the tab (if already attached to the dog) and acknowledges the Judge. The team then reports to the specified location for conducting the courage test.

Change to:

Upon the Judge’s instructions, the handler approaches the dog, commands the dog into the basic position, tells the helper to step back, may reattach the leash (if one has not been used), may pick up the tab (if already attached to the dog) or just stand there and acknowledges the Judge. The team then reports to the specified location for conducting the courage test.

I have also made spelling corrections and deletions listed below;

Search for “savor” and replace with “saver” Corrected in rules P1, P3, PA, PD1

Page numbers are from the old pdf file and may not match now.

Page 116 Remove “sleeve” from introduction paragraph Removed for P1

Pg 60, 93, 106, 136, 154, 191, 209, 230, 248 two gunshots (6-9 mm) general rules has .22 (6mm) Corrected rules to say .22 cal. OB2, OB3, PSOB2, PSOB3, P2, P3, PD2, PD3

Pg 148 remove the helper drives (in the case of a sleeve presentation) Removed form P2

Pg 78, 90, 103, 171, 188, 206, 227, 242, delete paragraph P, Pg 263 paragraph O. This was a duplicate paragraph and removed from PD1, PD2, PD3, PS1, PS2, PS3, PSOB1, PSOB2, PSOB3

Correct the “eight to ten square feet” part in the heeling around markers section of heeling “The markers shall be rubber cones or similar objects placed on the corners of a rectangle approximately eight to ten square feet” this was correct to read: The markers shall be rubber cones or similar objects placed on the corners of a square approximately eight to ten feet apart.

Pg 162 par. C change “sleeve” to “jacket” Corrected this to say jacket it P1, P2, P3

Please make note of these correction in your rule book 5-1-2019.

**General rules:**

For a dog to receive honors at a trial the trial decoy may not have worked the dog more than two times within a year nor within 60 days of the trial.

 With the exception of restrained praise between exercises, any intentional touching or physical manipulation of your dog while on the trial field will result in the loss of all points for that exercise. If the touching or manipulation is significant you will be disqualified from the remainder of the trial.

Before the dog makes contact the firing of the gun should be forward in direction of the approaching dog. During the drive the decoy should try to fire at the top and bottom of the arm swing to avoid firing too close to the dog’s ears. While firing at any point in the arc of the arm swing is not faulty, it should be done approximately the same way for all dogs. The gun must be a starter pistol with a muzzle plug using blanks no larger than .22 cal. A functional pistol may NEVER be used even if loaded with blanks. (This will also be added to PD2 rules)

Outs. Only 3 out commands are allowed per gripping exercise (escape with reattack would be two separate grips so would allow 3 commands each). If handlers do not run the name and command immediately together, the name may also count as a separate command.

FO & PA While performing the obedience, during the transition from heeling and long down field portions to the practical’s, a handler may change from a shorter leash to a longer one (6-foot or less).

**General rules on each exercise:**

When the wrong equipment is used, the rules will be clarified to read:

1. **Knowledge of the routine is scored:** The Judge/Steward will announce the exercise to be performed and will then indicate to the handler to start the exercise.
2. Handlers are required to know all exercises and will lose points if performed incorrectly. The point loss will be proportionate to the error and circumstance. This loss can be .5 to 1.5 for minor to as much as 2 to 4 points for major.
3. Because improper use of equipment can be a safety issue or even an advantage, 1/2 of that exercise’s points will be deducted for reporting with the wrong equipment. The equipment will be corrected prior to continuing. Point deduction will be taken upon handler entering the trial field with wrong equipment.
4. **Outs.** Only 3 out commands are allowed per gripping exercise (escape with reattack would be two separate grips so would allow 3 commands each). If the dog does not release the grip on the third command, the Judge shall instruct the handler to quickly go to and control the dog. If after handles reaches dog and gives another command to out and dog will not release the helped should remove the sleeve. Handler will then take the dog off the field. The dog is excused from further participation. A 3-point deduction shall be given for any extra commands to “let go” used during the exercise. If handlers do not run the name and command immediately together, the name may also count as a separate command.

**Protection titles corrected to read:**

PA

1. Non-qualifying scores: The following must be given a zero score for this exercise:
2. The dog will not sit in the basic position to start the exercise;
3. The handler uses excessive force on the dog to get the dog into sit position;
4. The dog displays aggressive behavior toward the Judge, also if the Judge feels the dog is not under control or too aggressive, the Judge may dismiss the dog from further participation;
5. The dog shows extreme shyness or timid behavior when the helper approaches; or
6. The dog grips the helper firmly.

P1

1. Non-qualifying scores: The following must be given a zero score for this exercise:
2. The dog will not sit in the basic position to start the exercise;
3. The handler uses excessive force on the dog to get the dog into sit position;
4. The dog displays aggressive behavior toward the Judge, also if the Judge feels the dog is not under control or too aggressive, the Judge may dismiss the dog from further participation;
5. The dog shows extreme shyness or timid behavior when the helper approaches; or
6. The dog grips the helper firmly.

P2

1. Non-qualifying (Zero) scores. The following must be given a zero score on this exercise and possible excusal:
2. Dog is unruly or out of control;
3. The dog grips the helper firmly during the friendly greeting; or
4. Any rough treatment of the dog by the handler.

P3

and courage drive will be the main areas of the exercise for evaluating for full points.

1. Non-qualifying (Zero) scores: The following must be given a zero score on this exercise.
2. The dog is ruled unruly or out of control;
3. The dog will not release the grip;
4. The dog grips the helper firmly during the friendly greeting;
5. The dog will not engage the helper;
6. The dog engages the helper during the attack phase but releases the grip and will not engage again; or
7. Any rough treatment of the dog will be subject for a zero score or possible dismissal.

PD1

1. Non-qualifying (Zero) scores. The following must be given a zero score on this exercise and possible excusal:
2. Dog is unruly or out of control;
3. The dog grips the helper firmly during the friendly greeting; or
4. Any rough treatment of the dog by the handler.

All OB rules:

1. Under Zero score for Long Downs:

c. Handler uses leash to make the dog down.

All agility recall exercise will be corrected to read:

1. Non-qualifying (Zero) scores. The following must be given a zero on this exercise.
2. Dog climbs or passes incline wall before Judge instructs handler to recall;
3. Dog comes to handler without performing any agility;
4. Dog leaves the field; or
5. Dog refuses the recall after three commands.

FO & PA

 While performing an FO/PA, during the transition from the heeling and long down field portions to the practicals, can a handler change from a shorter leash to a longer one (6-foot or less)?

Rule changes 2018

**Replace P1S, P2S & P3S with new Protection Sport Titles PS1, PS2 & PS3**

**PM1 removed**

P2

1. **Friendly Greeting and Control meeting a Hostile Helper Exercise.** The primary purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the dog/handler team’s ability to perform a friendly greeting from a non-threatening helper and perform control as the helper’s demeanor changes to aggressive and unruly. The dog may become alert or display barking; however, the dog should maintain the basic position throughout the whole routine.
2. Major or Minor Imperfections. Imperfection deductions may be major or minor depending on the extent of the deviation from the ideal performance. The following imperfection deductions will be assessed:
3. Dog attempts to grip the helper during the friendly greeting;
4. Dog demonstrates too much threatening posture during the greeting;
5. Dog is restless and moves from the basic position;
6. Dog receives extra commands during any portion of the exercises;
7. Dog shows avoidance toward the helper;
8. Dog’s confidence or enthusiasm is lacking during the unruly distractions;
9. Dog is growling or hackling up during the unruly portion; or
10. Dog barks continuously during the greeting.

Reattach leash to dead ring FO class (All classes)

Corrected in general rules and on each title FO rule

**Leash:** The entire FO routine is performed on leash, with the exception of the Down with Recall Exercise. The leash is to be held in the left hand when heeling. When the leash is removed for the Down the Recall, the handler must put it away, or hang it around their shoulder or waist with the clasp positioned on the right side of the handler’s body. When re-attaching the leash any time while on trial field it is to be on a dead ring.

All other classes:

**A dog must be leashed when**:

* 1. First reporting to the judge or steward.
	2. When doing the long down honoring exercise.
	3. End of class as soon as all the exercises have been completed.
	4. Whenever a judge is critiquing the score.
	5. Whenever the judge instructs the handler to place a leash on the dog.
	6. When re-attaching the leash any time while on trial field it is to be on a dead ring.

FO’s Fix (define what is help and what is targeting)

1. **Down With Recall Exercise.** The exercise starts with the handler reporting to the starting position assigned by the Judge. The exercise starts by acknowledging the Judge with dog in the basic position. The handler and their dog will demonstrate formal heeling in a straight line for a minimum of 10 or maximum of 15 paces and then halt/sit. The handler will remove and stow the leash and give the dog a verbal command to down and leave the dog walking in a straight line a minimum of 30 paces. The handler will then turn and face the dog and upon the Judge’s instructions, the handler will recall the dog to their position. Small verbal or physical encouragements are allowed. The dog must come to a position close enough to allow the handler to attach the leash to the dead ring without the handler moving from their stationary position. Scoring of this exercise ends when the leash is attached. The handler acknowledges the Judge and waits for the Judge’s indication to report for the next phase of the exercise. The handler may gently praise the dog between each exercise. The Judge’s evaluation of the down and recall exercise ends once the handler acknowledges the Judge. The handler and dog team must demonstrate heeling when reporting for the long down or reporting to designated area for the practical obedience exercise.

**Note:** Limited short phrases or physical encouragement are allowed. Verbal examples are, “yes, good boy, come on boy, etc.” Physical examples may include tapping your thighs to encourage a recall or slight bending at the waist. Any physical movement that focuses the dog’s attention to one part of the body is not allowed. This would include motions such as moving the hands to the center of the body or toward your chest or face as is sometimes done in training.

PD3:

1. **PD3 title.** A qualifying score for the PD3 Title requires the passing of the PD3 Obedience Phase with a score of 70 points or more, passing the PD3 Protection phase with a score of 70 points or more at the same trial.

PD3 do not re position for passive bite, 5 points deductions for handle not caring dog, firing of blank gun

PD3 **Scoring the Gun Fire and Carrying of the Dog Exercise:** The Judge is evaluating the proper control of a dog and the behavior of the dog. The dog should display a neutral, quiet or non-aggressive behavior, the dog must remain in the position assigned.

1. Non-qualifying (Zero) scores**.** The following must be given a zero on this exercise.
2. Dog is aggressive towards handler:
3. Dog leaves the field; or
4. The dog is ruled unruly or out of control;
5. Major and Minor Imperfections**.** Major or minor imperfection deductions may be assessed for any deviation from the ideal performance.
6. If the Handler is unable to pick up and carry dog it is mandatory 5 point deduction;
7. Dog lags, forges, crowds or is wide during heeling;
8. Dog is slow to respond to commands;
9. Dog moves, wines/barks or crawls in the basic or down position; or
10. Handler gives extra commands or helps with body signals.

**Exercise Instructions:** The team will report on leash to a location determined by the Judge with the dog fitted in a muzzle suitable for safe engagement with a helper. The Judge will conduct a muzzle safety check that requires the handler to show the Judge that it is properly fitted. The handler with the dog in the basic position or a down will then acknowledge the Judge to start the exercise. The handler will announce to anyone that may be hiding to come out and show themselves. After a short pause, the handler will aim a blank pistol down field and fire two rounds. Dog must maintain the basic position or down while the handler places the pistol on the ground and heels the dog forward ten to fifteen paces. At this point the handler picks up their dog and carries it another five to ten paces. Places the dog back on the ground, heels back to the start line ending in basic position. The handler acknowledges the Judge for conclusion of the exercise and receives instructions on where to report for the next exercise.

1. dog’s ability to perform climbing and jumping over obstacles under distraction. A passive helper will be standing 10 paces from obstacles.
2. **Judge’s Instructions.** The Judge indicates where and when to start, and when the exercise is complete.

**Exercise Instructions.** Handler must execute all 4 obstacles (incline wall, window jump, high jump, fence jump). Two shall be executed by heeling up to and jumping the dog over. The remaining two will be executed by leaving the dog behind one of them in either in a sit or down position and calling the dog over the two obstacles. Obstacles may be executed in any order handler choses. There will be a passive helper standing within 10 paces of the jumps. After completing all 4 obstacles the handler will then turn their attention to the helper. The handler must remain at the place where last obstacle was completed and order the helper put their hands up, or the dog will be sent. The helper will remain non-compliant and passive and the handler will then send the dog to apprehend the helper.

PD2 call off and detain, Removed the Detain exercise:

Next, concerns dog/handler teams that perform a **detain** exercise; The handler will send their dog as soon as the decoy starts running away and then follow the dog down the field. The dog should pursue the helper; however, once reaching the helper’s location, the dog should pull up and perform a hold and bark or guard exercise. The main thing is that the dog does not make contact with the helper. The handler is allowed to walk up to the side of the dog and command the dog back into the basic position, then, the handler acknowledges the Judge for concluding the exercise and receives instructions on where to report for the next exercise.

1. **Scoring the Call-Off or Detain Exercise**: The primary element of this exercise is the ability of the handler to send the dog and then perform an exercise where the dog does not engage the helper. Dogs that pursue enthusiastic and respond promptly to commands are very desirable for earning full points or dogs that pursue the same but perform an excellent detain exercise. Both methods can earn full points if done very correct.

P1 && PD1

**Defense of the Handler. P1**

1. Major or Minor Deductions: Imperfections may be major or minor depending on the extent of the following:
2. Handler does not stay at the end of the leash until the dog out;
3. The dog receives extra commands;
4. The dog is very slow responding to the handler’s commands;
5. The dog will not leave the handler’s side during the alert command;
6. The dog lacks intensity in the grip and fight drive while engaging the helper;

**Exercise Instructions.** The Defense of the Handler exercise will start when the Judge instructs the handler to report to a designated spot with their dog. The handler will start the exercise with the dog in the basic position. The helper will be waiting at the side of the hiding place visible to the dog and handler. On the Judge’s instructions, the handler will give the dog its alert command. Handler can encourage dog verbally without any point loss but may not use any foul language. Also, verbal communication with helper is allowed. The helper will stand still for at

**Exercise Instructions.** The Jump Out Attack exercise starts with the handler reporting to the starting position with the dog in the basic position and by acknowledging the Judge. The handler then heels their dog in a straight line to an assigned area near blind. When reaching this area, the Judge will instruct the handler where to halt. The Judge will then indicate to the handler to turn and heel the dog in a straight line to a blind where a hidden helper is waiting for a jump out attack. On the signal from the Judge, the helper will attack out of the blind and go directly at the handler. When the handler sees the attack, they will give an alert command. Handler can encourage dog verbally without any point loss but may not use any foul language. Also, verbal communication with helper is allowed. The dog must come to the end of the leash to engage the helper. The handler will stand still and hold the dog by the leash.

**Exercise Instructions.** The alert on command exercise will be done at the same location as the greeting the helper exercise. It begins with the handler with their dog in the basic position and acknowledging the Judge. The helper will then walk toward the team to a point approximately 1-2 yards away, turn 90-degrees walking 3 to 5 paces, turn 180-degees walking past the handler/dog team at the same distance they initially approached and keep walking until the judge orders the handler to give the dog the command to defend against the threat. The decoy will wait until they hear a bark or three seconds, whichever comes first and aggressively turn and challenge the team with threatening motions. The handler can encourage dog verbally but no foul language. The dog must come to the end of the leash with vigor and intensity to engage the helper. After the dog is challenged, the Judge will

OB2, OB3, P2, P3,:

The handler leaves the dog and walks or jogs to the designated area.

PA, P1, PD1, P2, and Generals rules.

1. **Leash and leash option:** All Obedience phase exercises are performed off leash, with the exception of the long down exercise. During the Protection phase, the handler has the option of performing some of the exercises off leash or using a leash or tab (The tab can be any length up to 24 inches with no knots or loops, but it may not be so long as to interfere with the dogs walking or running. Keep in mind that a tab that is too short may result in a judge assessing a tight leash penalty). See the Protection exercise instructions for specific leash and tab options. The leash is to be held in the left hand when heeling. Whenever a leash or tab is removed, the handler must put it away or hang the leash over their shoulder or around their waist with the clasp positioned on the right side of the handler’s body.

Generals Rules

Dragging of leash end on ground when heeling is a major fault.

The tab can be any length up to 24 inches with no knots or loops, but it may not be so long as to interfere with the dogs walking or running. Keep in mind that a tab that is too short may result in a judge assessing a tight leash penalty

1. All exercise start and finish in the basic position: both arms at your side and dog sitting on your left side.
2. All recalls require the handlers arm and hands to hang naturally at the side until the dog has is sitting in front or in the basic position.

What to do for hands on the dog. What to do for corrections in excessive OB and Protection

You must only use one command to initiate your dog’s behavior. This may be a verbal command or hand signal but not both. Any additional verbal or physical encouragement such as extra words, phrases or physical cues such as hand, arm or body gestures will be counted as extra commands. The only exception to this is found in the FO rules where limited verbal or physical encouragement is allowed.

With the exception of restrained praise between exercises, any touching or physical manipulation of your dog while on the trial field will result in the loss of all points for that exercise. If the touching or manipulation is significant you will be disqualified from the remainder of the trial.

What to do if dog will not let go after the handler approaches dog and routine is DQ?

 If the dog does not release the grip on the third command, the Judge shall instruct the handler to quickly go to and control the dog. If after handles reaches dog and gives another command to out and dog will not release the helped should remove the sleeve or suit. Handler will then take the dog off the field.

To remain a certified trial WDA helper/decoy, you must maintain proficiency by ONE of the following every two years:

1. Work a minimum of one WDA trial, or;
2. Attend an WDA helper/decoy seminar, or;
3. Handle a dog at an WDA trial during a protection phase, or:
4. Request to be re-certified by a member of the WDA certifying board.

 Honor helper/decoy status must also be maintained by earning a judge’s assessment score of 87 or greater at one trial every two years.

Rule changes 2017

SDA officers have reworded, reformatted and, in some cases, modified the rules in an effort to make them easier to understand and perform.

We suggest you carefully re-read all rules pertaining to titles you are planning to earn as the exercise may have changed.

2016

1 General rules new rules:

SDA will no longer offer temporary listing numbers (TNL). All dog will have to have a SDA registration number prior to earning any SDA titles.

Keep in mind that our office is closed on weekends and holidays. It can take up to a week to get a dog registered with SDA.

2

A Trial Steward is necessary for all trials. The Steward’s job is to assist the judge as needed. The steward will have no role or input on rules clarification, judging or scoring.

3

For all Police Dog titles, the decoy must wear a full bite suit.

4 Police Dog 2 rule clarification:

Alert & Defense:

**b.** **Exercise Instructions.** The Alert & Defense of handler exercise begins with the handler/dog team reporting to a starting position determined by the judge. Once arriving, the handler will halt with the dog sitting in the basic position. The exercise starts with the handler acknowledging the judge. The judge announces the exercise to be performed and instructs the helper to come out from behind the blind and directly approach the dog. The helper will walk to a point approximately 1-2 yards from the dog becoming verbally, but not physically, defiant. The helper will then walk briskly back and forth continuing his verbal defiance with the handler. After pacing back and forth one complete time, the handler will order the helper to stop and turn to face his dog. The helper will continue to walk away and the handler orders him a second time, "to stop or my dog will be sent." The handler then alerts his dog which is expected to come to the end of the leash barking and demonstrating a strong desire to engage the helper. The handler must remain at the starting location. When ordered by the judge, the helper will turn, yell and threaten the dog with a stick making an aggressive direct approach at the dog and handler. The handler will then release the dog to engage the helper. The helper will present an arm for the dog to grip, however, the dog may grip in other locations. Once the dog engages the helper, the helper will challenge the dog with two stick hits and resistance while driving the dog. The judge will instruct the helper to cease the attack. Once the attack by the helper ceases, the dog should release the grip and perform its disengagement response. A command to release the grip is permitted.  The handler will acknowledge the judge, approach the dog and give a single verbal command to bring the dog back into the basic position. The handler will then instruct the helper to step three to four paces back from the dog. The exercise ends by the handler acknowledging the judge. The handler will then heel the dog to the designated area to start the next exercise.

Call off or Detain:

**b. Exercise Instructions:** The handler will report off leash to the Handler Start cone and will look for the judge’s indication to start the exercise. The exercise starts when the handler makes their announcement with the dog in basic position or by holding the dog by the collar. The decoy then begins walking from the Decoy Start cone toward the Run cone. The handler tells the decoy to stop walking or the dog will be sent but the decoy continues walking and verbally exchanging with the handler. When the decoy has walked 15 paces from the Decoy Start cone he turns and starts **running** (not jogging) away from the handler and dog toward the Halt cone. The handler sends their dog as soon as the decoy starts running away. Once the decoy reaches the Halt cone, he will stop, turn and face the handler with arms up and remain standing still. After the dog passes the call off cone the handler must perform a call off or a detain exercise.

Field Setup: There are five cones placed on the field; a Handler Start cone, a Call Off Cone, a Run cone, a Halt cone and a Decoy Start cone. The Handler Start cone will be placed at one end of the field. The Call Off cone is set 20 paces from the Handler Start cone. The Run cone is placed 5 paces from the Call Off cone and the Halt cone is 10 paces from the Run cone. The Decoy Start cone is placed 15 paces perpendicular to the dog’s line of travel and across from the Run cone. (cones can be any item that is visible from a distance like flags, blind, chair etc. must be approved by the judge)



5 P1M and PD3 muzzle:

Muzzle Safety Check: The handler should grab the muzzle underneath and gently but firmly lift the dog straight up by the muzzle so that the dog’s feet are off the ground a couple of inches. Next, place a hand under the top strap of the muzzle with the palm of the hand facing up.  Grasp the strap and twist your hand toward you, trying to pry the muzzle off.  Do this gently but firmly taking care not to wrench the dog’s neck. The muzzle should stay securely fastened during each of these checks. If the judge does not feel the muzzle safety check was done adequately, he or the steward may do the safety check themselves.

6 General rule at the start of each title, clarification in red:

**D. Praise:** When reporting to all assigned areas, teams are required to maintain formal heeling with mild praise permissible once arriving at the start position for the next exercise.

7 PD3 muzzle routine:

**b. Exercise Instructions:** The dog and handler team will report on leash to a location determined by the judge with the dog fitted in a style of muzzle suitable for a muzzle engagement with a helper. The handler must perform a safety check in view of the judge demonstrating the muzzle is securely fastened. The handler will then remove the leash, position themselves or command the dog into basic position and acknowledge the judge for the start of the exercise.

A helper dressed in street clothing will be positioned six paces from the handler. The handler will tell the helper to come closer so they can talk. Hearing this request, the helper will become agitated and verbally defiant (no foul language) pacing left to right maintaining the same distance from the handler. 3 seconds after becoming defiant the helper will place one hand in a pocket and simultaneously make an aggressive move toward the handler. This is the handler’s cue to command the dog to engage the helper. This is no penalty for the dog reacting on its own once the helper moves aggressively towards handler. After the dog makes contact with the helper, the helper will challenge the dog for 3 – 5 seconds at which time the judge will order the helper to halt and remain still. The handler will then give the dog its disengagement command. When the dog is back in the basic position, the handler acknowledges the judge to complete the first exercise.

The judge will then instruct the helper to lie down on the ground in preparation for the next exercise. When the helper is ready, the judge will instruct the handler to start the next muzzle engagement exercise. With the dog still in basic position, the handler will instruct the helper to get up from the ground and show his hands (the helper will refuse verbally in an unruly manner), the handler will warn the helper if they don’t get up and show their hands the dog will be sent. After this warning the handler sends the dog and the dog should engage the helper using the muzzle. After 3 -5 seconds of muzzle engagement, the handler comes in to remove the dog with the leash or collar. The handler then commands the dog back into the basic position and acknowledges the judge to conclude the exercise. The helper will remain lying down until excused by the judge.

**Note to Helpers:** During the first exercise, when the dog is sent, be sure to protect yourself but upon contact give slightly to the impact then push the dog back while yelling. For the second exercise, when the dog approaches, again protect yourself but upon contact give slightly to the impact and yell. Don’t kick or grab the dog.

Muzzle Safety Check: The handler should grab the muzzle underneath and gently but firmly lift the dog straight up by the muzzle so that the dog’s feet are off the ground a couple of inches. Next, place a hand under the top strap of the muzzle with the palm of the hand facing up.  Grasp the strap and twist your hand toward you, trying to pry the muzzle off.  Do this gently but firmly taking care not to wrench the dog’s neck. The muzzle should stay securely fastened during each of these checks. If the judge does not feel the muzzle safety check was done adequately, he or the steward may do the safety check themselves.