



# JOINT NEWFOUNDLAND WATER TEST REGULATIONS

The tests have been agreed by the Newfoundland Club, The Northern Newfoundland Club and the Southern Newfoundland Club. Only passes accepted by all of the three Clubs will be recognised by each Club for progression and Certificates of Merit and Diplomas.

*Following the last test of 2022 there will be a period of evaluation and consultation before the regulations are revised ready for the first test in 2023. Should any safety or operational issues become apparent prior to the start of the next evaluation period, then the Working Section Sub Committees can introduce amendments by mutual consent.*

Each club's administration may have slight variations any differences will be noted in their addendum to these regulations; however the tests themselves will be carried out in the same manner.

These regulations replace all previous versions and are the only standard against which all tests will be judged.

Copies of these regulations can be obtained from the copyright holders, i.e. the Working Sub-Committees of each Club, details of which can be found in Club membership books and in their addendum.

The authorisation to copy for private use will not be unreasonably withheld if a request, in writing, is made to the Working Sub Committees.

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# 1 Administration of the Tests

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## 1.1 Administration differences between the clubs

The regulations of all 3 clubs are identical. Any additional information pertinent to individual clubs can be found in the individual addendum

## 1.2 Introduction

The Newfoundland has a well deserved reputation, established over many years, as a saviour of people from the sea. The present day owner increasingly wants to see whether their dog is still as capable in the water. This set of exercises, which will test the dog at 5 levels, has been devised in order to provide a safe and consistent method of proving the dog's capabilities in a non-competitive environment. The tests have been designed to encourage the dog and handler to work together as a team.

The tests, are extensions to training and not an end in themselves. They are based on the building block principle. Skills learnt by handler and dog for the lower levels are repeated and refined or modified in higher level tests. Two examples of this building block approach are:-

- (1) Approaching a boat correctly not climbing or trying to enter the boat is necessary for Section A Exercise 1 but is also used in all subsequent sections;
- (2) Retrieving a handler using the dogs name in section A is gradually built on up to section E where the dog retrieves one of two strangers as directed

It must be understood that it is necessary to master the lower levels first in order to proceed to the higher levels. If a problem arises with a certain exercise or part of it then there will be a firm foundation to fall back on; if training is carried out inconsistently then a problem cannot be dealt with systematically. Thus dogs must pass each lower section before being permitted to attempt the next highest section, i.e. passing A & B before entering for C. It must be borne in mind that the exercises actually test the handler and dog partnership, not just the capabilities of the dog.

On a test day there will be two Judges and it is their desire to maintain consistency between themselves and the regulations and for all the dogs to pass. Handlers may ask them questions during the test if they are unsure whether they are permitted to do something or not. Judges may volunteer some advice to help handlers and their dogs during the first three test levels (A, B & C) but not in higher levels.

The Judges will be using a scoring system for marking each performance. These marks are purely for their use and will not be divulged to entrants. The published results will only show whether the required standard was reached. The dog and handler must reach the required standard in each exercise otherwise they will fail the test as a whole. A dog can fail through accumulating too many marks, performing a failure action or running out of time. At the conclusion of each test the Judges will inform handlers whether they and their dog have passed or failed and probably make some verbal comments. There will also be written comments to collect from the score steward, together with a certificate of competence for a pass.

These tests are non-competitive. However, if a competitive trial, with dogs and handlers being placed in order of competence, is being arranged then these regulations may be the basis for those trials.

A test day is for entrants to have FUN with their dogs and delight in their joint achievements and those of fellow Newfoundland owners. Even at a test remember never to become so serious that the fun goes out of working for either you or your Newfoundland.

Dogs must be at least 6 months old on the day of the test to enter Section A, 9 months of age to enter Section B, 18 months for Section C & 24 months for Sections D & E. (Owners are encouraged to start training their dog when it is capable of performing all elements without undue strain.

A dog can only be entered for one Section, which it has not passed, per water test event. Notwithstanding this, provided a dog passes Section A, for the first time and circumstances allow, it may be permitted to enter Section B on the day of the test, age permitting.

Owners/handlers are responsible for the control of their dogs, and cleaning up after them, at all times. Exercising of dogs within the designated test area is not allowed. All dogs within 25 metres of the test area must be kept on a lead irrespective of local requirements.

Except for a dog under test, other dogs may only enter the water at a designated 'warm up' area (if available), at any time during the tests. Any entrant in breach of this regulation will be liable to disqualification. During an exercise spectators are requested to remain quiet so that the handler can concentrate and give commands at the appropriate time.

Food, toys, and/or dog treats of any kind will not be permitted, during any exercise as a reward during the test. Before the test commences other than using the dogs own article in section A, the dogs own articles must be removed from the test area.

### **1.3 Responsibilities of the Working Section Sub-Committee**

- a) With the working groups select suitable dates and venues for water tests.
- b) Select potential Judges from the approved list and arrange for them to be officially invited to adjudicate; replies will be kept on file.
- c) Liaise with the working groups to appoint a proficient Test Manager, who is then responsible for ensuring the site is suitable for the tests to be held, and for obtaining permission to use the site from its owner(s).
- d) Ensure that their appointed officials (Test Manager and Judges) are aware that safety is always the prime consideration and that they have a duty to call off a test if the conditions are, or become, unsuitable. It is irrelevant if one or more of the three officials (Judges & Test Manager) think they should carry on, if just one official is concerned that it is dangerous then the Section will be cancelled, halted or postponed. This likelihood of cancellation should be included in the schedule so that entrants are fully aware of such a possibility.
- e) The Working Sub-Committee reserves the right to refuse any entries.
- f) Should any of the Judges or test officials be prevented from fulfilling their engagements, the Working Sub-Committee reserves the right to appoint another in their place. Entrants may withdraw from the tests, but no fees will be refunded.
- g) Acknowledgement of test entries are not automatic and only given when a SAE is enclosed with entry form or request made via email.
- h) Every effort will be made to test all entrants on the day of the event, if however, due to lack of entrants or circumstances beyond the Working Sub-Committee control and this is not possible, any untested entrants can have their entry fees refunded.

### **1.4 Responsibilities of the Test Manager**

- a) Ensure that the location of the test is adequate for the tests to be held. Although the Test Manager will lay out the site it is the Judges who will decide if it is suitable.
- b) Check that suitable access can be provided, especially for emergency services.
- c) If appropriate, contact the local Police (and Coastguard for sea tests) and advise them of the event just in case there are reports of drowning people or other types of incident. Ensure that a local veterinary surgery has been asked, and has agreed in writing, to act as emergency cover for the event. Publicise the telephone number and locations of emergency facilities (vet, hospital, etc).
- d) Oversee the production of the schedule, checking that the address to which completed entry forms are to be sent is correct. The schedule will include the requirement to attend the Judges' briefing and that handlers who miss the briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

- e) If there are to be limited entries, allocate places on a 'first come, first served' basis, but with unqualified dogs taking priority; as soon as possible after the closing date for entries inform applicants if they are entered or on the reserve list.
- f) If insufficient entries are received by the closing date for entries, the Test Manager has authority to cancel some of the test levels or the entire event, advising the Judges, Stewards and Entrants accordingly.
- g) Oversee the production of a running order of dogs for use on the day, together with blank score sheets, comment forms and certificates.
- h) Arrange sufficient stewards and helmsmen
  - All Sections require the following:-
  - In the boat 1 helmsman and 2 boat stewards
  - On land – 1 steward for the left side of the test area and 1 for the right side of the test area
  - In addition to this:-
    - Section C requires 1 additional steward as a stranger for C2
    - Section D requires 1 additional steward as a stranger for D1; D2 and also D4
    - Section E requires 1 additional steward as a stranger for E1 and E4 with an extra stranger for E3 + the second boat with 1 helmsman and 2 boat stewards
  - When using a separate safety boat this should have 1 helmsman and 2 boat stewards, this safety boat can then be used as the second boat Section E4.
  - Depending on the event circumstances the Test Manager can appoint a Chief Steward to deal with this. Test Manager (or Chief Steward if appointed) along with the Judges are responsible for allocating stewards for each section.
- i) Preferably the day before the tests check the site for any last minute problems and then take any steps as necessary.
- j) If the Test Manager is unable to meet their commitment for any reason they must inform the Secretary of the Working Sub-Committee as soon as practicable, followed by written confirmation.
- k) Ensure that all the equipment is in place and ready for use for the start of judging. Check the test site, checking for any overnight changes that could pose problems for the test.
- l) Brief the Judges as to the peculiarities of the venue. Brief the land stewards. Suitably qualified persons should be appointed as Helmsmen; it is their sole responsibility to control the boat during exercises and they must not be expected to perform any other role except in an emergency. (Helmsmen must hold RYA level 2 for powerboats certificate.)
- m) Ensure the smooth running of the tests.
- n) Ensure that no smoking takes place within the test area.
- o) It is the Test Manager's responsibility to deal with any members of the Media. Their requests should only be acceded to if they do not effect the smooth running of the tests - safety and the dogs always come first.
- p) Unless a separate Referee has been appointed, act as Referee.
- q) Appoint a safety officer to ensure the welfare of both humans and dogs within the venue area
- r) Complete all paperwork and provide a legibly written report, to the relevant committee on the conduct of the tests, including constructive criticisms where appropriate, within 14 days of the test. It should include a balance sheet showing income and expenses including the relevant entry monies collected. Within 14 days send details of the passes/failures to the respective record keeper in accordance with the requirements included in the Test Manager's pack.

## 1.5 **Responsibilities of Referees**

Referees do not have to watch the test for which they are adjudicating. In the event of a disagreement over the interpretation of the regulations (not performance) between the Judges, the Referee will talk with them and attempt to conciliate with particular reference to the regulations. They may also talk to the stewards in an attempt to resolve the matter. The Referee can order a retake of an exercise if the matter is not resolved

in any other way. If called upon to adjudicate on any matter, then the Referee will also supply a 'not for publication' report to the sub-committee within 14 days. The Working Sub-Committee will have the ultimate decision as to whether an element/test has been carried out as per the regulations.

## 1.6 Complaints Procedure

Any complaint should be made in writing to the Working Section Sub Committee, within 14 days from the date of the test. *(Details can be found in the Addendum of the club organising the tests).*

## 1.7 Disqualifications

The dog and its owners or handler may be disqualified, have any test already passed at that event rescinded and be removed from the event if:-

- a) the dog is found to be suffering from an infectious or contagious disease;
- b) the dog, owner or handler interferes with the safety or chance of success of any other person or dog.
- c) the dog is of such temperament or so much out of control as to be a danger to itself or any other animal or person;
- d) the dog is likely to be caused suffering if it continues to take part in the tests.
- e) a bitch they have brought to the venue is in season.
- f) the owner or handler carries out any punitive correction or harsh handling at any time within the boundaries of the event. This includes throwing or pushing any dogs out of the boat.
- g) The owner or handler behaves in an abusive or intimidating manner to any other person or dog attending the event.

If a dog is disqualified for any reason a report will be provided by the Test Manager to the relevant subcommittee.

## 1.8 List of Judges

Each club will hold a list from which Judges for its events will be chosen. The list will show the highest level that the person can judge ie a Section D Judge can judge Sections A, B, C and D but not E. Persons wishing to become Judges can apply in writing with a CV showing all water experience to their Working Sub-Committee and depending on their suitability and experience they will be added to the list at Section A. Following favourable reports on their judging performance at tests, Judges can be moved up the list as their experience grows. Similarly for poor performance or other misdemeanours a Judge could be moved down the list or be removed altogether. When a Judge's position on the list is changed then they will be notified by the secretary of the working sub-committee.

Whilst each club will maintain their own list and use it to select their Judges, the lists will be combined (usually at year end). A person's position on the joint list will be the highest one they then hold on either list. Clubs will usually appoint Judges from their own list but may use the joint list if they so wish.

If a judge fails to appear **on the day** and despite all reasonable efforts to find a replacement of like or higher qualifications remains unavailable, then a judge whose qualifications are 'ONE LEVEL' below the requirements may stand in for them. The dogs that they judge and the test will go towards their total for their current level

This is a temporary **on the day** 'promotion' only, to ensure that the planned test goes ahead and may avoid entrants having wasted journeys to the event

## 1.9 Responsibilities of the Judges

Each test will have two Judges working in unison, with all decisions made jointly.



It is the responsibility of the Judges to:-

- a) Judges must ensure that they always have the most up to date set of regulations and know them thoroughly, conduct the tests in a consistent manner, they must judge according to these regulations as they are written and not how they would like the tests to be or how they train their own dogs. They must judge to these appropriate water regulations, including the prior inspection of the site, where necessary. If the Judges disagree over whether a team has done sufficient to pass, then the joint decision will be a fail. If the Judges disagree over the interpretation of the regulations the Referee will be called in.
- b) Judge fairly impartially and consistently within these regulations. They should be as helpful as possible, especially for a Section A Test. Account will be taken by Judges of prevailing wind and or water current conditions in penalising dogs that do not return to the designated shore area. Exercises must be set up so that the dog has the best chance of achieving a pass.
- c) On invitation to judge a test, a written response is required to the Working Sub-Committee. If after acceptance, a Judge is unable to meet the commitment for any reason then they must inform the Test Manager and Working Sub- Committee by phone as soon as practicable, followed by written confirmation to the Working Sub-Committee (*see addendum of the club organising the tests for details*).
- d) Check with the Test Manager who is to be the Referee.
- e) Having been briefed by the Test Manager on the peculiarities of the venue, brief the stewards as to their particular responsibilities. Judges may remind stewards that they are not to make comments on how to conduct the test direct to entrants. Stewards may bring to the Judge's attention some aspect of a completed exercise they feel might have been missed by the Judges.
- f) All handlers taking part in the test must attend the Judges' briefing at the appointed time. This is essential so that entrants are fully aware of hazards and safety requirements. Handlers who miss the briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.
- g) The judges have the right to terminate any test being taken if they consider that the continuation of the test would injure the dog or handler.
- h) Ensure that there are sufficient safety stewards, helmsman are not to act as safety stewards. See Test Manager Section h). There should be no unnecessary stewards in the test area.
- i) If special circumstances make it necessary, then the Judges can allow a dog to retake a particular element of a test. This should not be used for an attempt that had only just failed but should be used where something unexpected happens which affects the dog adversely for example a loose dog running into the test area, wildlife or other boats entering into the swimming test area etc. The Judges alone will determine what is 'unexpected' and whether the exercise can be attempted again.
- j) A dog that has taken a test and failed cannot retake that test-during the same event; however, at the discretion and agreement of both judges, it may be allowed to continue with the rest of the test as a training exercise.
- k) Allocate some time prior to the start of each test to inspect the life jacket / life jacket & harness combination. If it is deemed to be ill-fitting or unsafe in any respect, then it must be rectified before commencing the test. Full check collars will not be worn during tests.
- l) Check availability and suitability of equipment necessary for the test.
- m) Whilst there may be times when Judges should consult together in private, it is good practice to speak openly in front of stewards and even in front of entrants.
- n) Judges will provide verbal comments to handlers immediately after their test and arrange for written comments to be supplied later
- o) Judges may opt, in agreement, to complete a joint score sheet for each handler. They must also provide a legibly written report on the test and entrants, which must be forwarded to the Working Sub-Committee, within 14 days of the event. This may be published on the Club Website or in a suitable periodical. If there are comments that the Judges wish to make but do not wish to be published, these are to be clearly marked as such and on a separate sheet that will not be sent for publication. Judges can combine their reports for publication but should report separately on matters not for publication. However all reports will be checked by the Working Sub-Committee.



- p) No two inexperienced judges should judge together and senior judges may be asked to recommend which judges could move up.
- q) A judge may not judge their own dog or one handled by a partner, parent, sibling or spouse.
- r) For regulations regarding Judges entering their own dog on same day as their judging appointment see the addendum of the club organising the tests.

## **1.10 Judges' Briefing**

A briefing will be held before each section in which the particular requirements of the judges will be outlined, together with any peculiarities concerning the test site. It is not a review of how the rules will be interpreted. All handlers should be aware of what is expected of them in advance but can use the briefing as a time to clarify points. The briefing should include a reminder to handlers that by the owner signing the entry form they have declared that both the handler and the dog are fit and well enough to undertake the relevant section. All handlers must attend and cannot send a representative.

## **1.11 Responsibilities of Stewards**

- a) Ensure the safety of handlers and dogs throughout the test exercises. Watch dogs and persons in the water at all times.
- b) Steward at one test level before progressing to the next higher level.
- c) Be fully familiar with and steward in strict accordance with the water test regulations.
- d) Make Judges aware of your availability on the day, your previous experience and swimming ability.
- e) If being used as a secondary handler to call the dog or as a stranger, ensure that you know the commands/actions required for the dog to be able to complete the exercise from the handler before the start of each exercise.
- f) Be ready to bring to the Judges attention any aspect of an exercise you feel may have been missed by them, so it can be taken into consideration.
- g) Remain consistent, positive and friendly throughout the whole day.
- h) Do not advise the handler or attempt to take over their role.

## **1.12 Responsibilities of Handlers**

### **Definition:**

*A Handler maybe the owner, a friend, a steward or any other willing participant  
Each exercise will consist of at least one handler, where a second handler is used  
The two handlers may not switch places within the exercise*

- a) Handlers are responsible for the control of their dogs at all times.
- b) They should have read and understood the regulations for the test they are taking.
- c) Any exercising of dogs within the defined test area is not allowed. Any dog within 25 meters of the ring/test area must be on a lead irrespective of local requirements.
- d) They should ensure that their dog's life jacket and harness if required to supplement the life jacket is fit for purpose and fitted correctly.
- e) They should ensure that their life preserver consisting of a sleeveless jacket of buoyant (min 50nwt) or inflatable design is fit for purpose.
- f) They should be certain that both they and the dog are fit and healthy and capable of undertaking the test. It is the handler /owner's responsibility and the club cannot accept any liability.
- g) They should understand that **safety is of paramount importance** and that they should carry out the test in a safe manner for themselves, the dog, other handlers and other dogs.
- h) If a handler is also judging at the same event, please refer to the Responsibilities of the Judges (*see the addendum of the club organising the tests*).
- i) All handlers **must** attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Handlers who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

- j) It is the handler's responsibility to ensure that they instruct any stewards on the commands/actions to be used for their dogs such as exchanging the coil/rope etc.

## 2 Multi – Test Awards

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### 2.1 Multi-Test Pass Awards

Multi-test pass awards are issued jointly by all three Clubs to Club members and to Newfoundland dogs only, these consist of two types:-

- a) A **Certificate of Merit** will be awarded to dogs that have passed five separate times at 3 or more different venues and involving at least four different Judges. This certificate is awarded in recognition of the dedication of the owner and the consistency of the dog in being able to perform at the pass level over a number of months and in differing circumstances. the Merits apply to, see the addendum of the club making the award)
- b) A Diploma will be awarded to dogs who pass at Section E three separate times at three different venues and involving at least four different Judges. This diploma is awarded in recognition of the dedication of the owner and the skill and training of the dog in being able to perform consistently at the highest level.
- c) Diplomas and Certificates of Merit will be awarded by the Clubs. Tests that have also been passed using recognised passes obtained at the two other Clubs associated with these tests will also count towards the multi certificate awards.

A dog will only qualify once for the Diploma and Certificates of Merit at any one Section, even though they may perform the requirements again with a new owner.

To give due recognition to the attainment, any Diplomas and Certificates of Merit will be announced at the Club's Annual General Meeting. Multi-test pass awards will not be awarded as of right. It will be the responsibility of the owner to apply to the Club's record keeper and the applicant will be informed of the arrangements for presentation.

## 3 Water Test

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### 3.1 Explanatory Notes

For sake of simplicity, the male gender has been used throughout this document, but should be read to include the female.

- a) It is the responsibility of the owner(s) to ensure that any dog entered for any test level is FIT AND HEALTHY. The Club cannot accept any liability.
- b) Judges have the discretion, within the spirit of the regulations, to make adaptations to the test site due to the weather on the day of the test. Judges can change the test area during each exercise or between entrants if conditions dictate. This does not include any element of any section of the test; each test must be carried out exactly as per the regulations.
- c) It is recommended that for the lower sections, two handlers are used, one as the Primary Handler the person who sends the dog and a Secondary Handler to whom the dog is expected to go to or 'retrieve'. (These roles may be switched). In the event of only one handler coming down to the test area a steward may be used as the handler but cannot be deemed responsible for the failure of any element. The roles of the handlers cannot be switched once the exercise has been started.
- d) Within the test site there will be two areas:-
  - 1. One is the shore or shore area; generally this will be dry land but depending on the location the Judges may direct that a certain distance into the water will count as shore. This is likely to occur

where the shore slopes gently into the water and it would not be possible to bring the boat to dry land but it would be possible to bring it to the edge of the designated shore area. This is normally defined as the area up to where the water first reaches the handlers knee. All distance measurements for each test should be taken from this knee depth from the shore. Handlers are permitted total freedom of movement in the shore area.

2. The second is the water test area. This is the rest of the test area in which the boat will float safely. Handlers have limited access rights to the water test area.
- e) The tests will be judged by two appointed persons working in unison. It will be necessary, particularly in the higher level tests, for the Judges to place themselves in advantageous positions so that between them they will be able to see the performance of all the elements of the test. This position of advantage will be determined by the Judges depending on the test environment and may be in a boat. If the Judge(s) decides to be in the test boat then they will be in addition to the normal complement and not perform any dual role.
  - f) Some Newfoundlands instinctively take the wrist when they want to guide a human in a particular way. This instinct also shows itself when the dog is being sent out to a person in the water; they will attempt to take hold of the person's hand or lower arm to tow them back to the shore. In any test or trial as long as a safe tow is performed there will be no differentiation by Judges according to the method of towing, i.e. no extra marks for a hand tow and no loss of marks for a held tow. The handler must inform any person being used in a retrieve that this will happen.
  - g) In exercises where the dog is performing a retrieve, if the dog lets go to adjust its grip then it will not be penalised for dropping the article.
  - h) The handler may always give unlimited audible/visual instructions and encouragement. This can include the use of whistles although it must be borne in mind that a whistle may also be used by a Judge or someone unconnected with the tests.
  - i) Handlers may enter the water with their dogs at the beginning of all exercises starting from the shore until they reach Waist Depth. Once the dog is 1 metre in front of them they must then return to the shore, even though they might not have reached waist depth. Once they are back over the shore line, they cannot re-enter the water test area without penalty. Any subsequent influence on the dog arising from the close proximity of the owner will be deemed physical redirection and will be penalised.
  - j) If the handler intentionally exceeds waist depth in Section D & E it will be an automatic fail. In Sections A, B & C judge to inform handler they need to release the dog at waist depth, if the verbal warning is not heeded & the handler goes beyond waist depth 1 point will be lost.
  - k) Physical redirection is any use of force, however slight, to control the dog. Thus a handler can walk their dog so far into the water and send them on their way - it is touching or intimidation after this that will be penalised. Intimidation is influence over the actions of the dog which arises purely from the close proximity of the handler and not from verbal or visual commands.
  - l) Dogs in Sections D and E will fail if they receive any physical redirection. However, for those exercises starting from the shore, entrants can ask the Judges to start the exercise again and so re-enter the water with their dog to get them started. This can only be requested once and is therefore a 're-send attempt' it will entail an immediate 5 points, any previous points to be disregarded, therefore few points can be lost whilst doing this re-send attempt to still obtain a pass. Explanatory Notes 3.1 (j) applies to this re-send. The timing of the exercise will continue whilst the second attempt is being requested and made; the exercise will not be set up again and not re-started from scratch.
  - m) Attempting to enter the boat or climbing is always penalised. However, a Judge can decide that an innocent touching of the boat whilst turning or reaching up to get a rope is not an attempt to climb or enter the boat and thus the dog will not be automatically failed.
  - n) The handler shall return to the shore after any redirection and may not swim alongside the dog (with the exception of exercises B5 & C4). The handler may also move, within the shore area, to collect the dog without penalty.
  - o) **Double Handling** – will result in failure. This is deemed to be as follows:-
    - The element is started by one handler and a second handler takes over working the dog within the same exercise, this includes the second handler stepping in to help take an article/rope from the dog when it returns to the shore at the end of an exercise.

- p) No dog can be entered into a test unless it has successfully completed all the preceding tests at previous events recognised by any of the three Clubs and only one section (excluding section A with progression to section B for the first time) may be entered on any day.
- q) Physical contact with dogs in C1, D2 & E4  
 Allowed Interaction on leaving boat -  
 Handler allowed to set dog up on tube prior to start of exercise. i.e. Front legs on tube, no part of dog should be touching the water. No physical contact with dog once exercise begins, as instructed by the judge.

### 3.2 **Environmental Equipment and requirements**

- a) The test site must have sufficient shore space and water to carry out the tests. The shore should ideally slope gently into the water without any sudden changes in depth and dogs should be at swimming depth within 3 to 5 metres from the shore, if possible. The Test Manager should take all reasonable precautions to ensure that the site is suitable for the exercises to be undertaken. Natural obstructions are acceptable but, as with dangerous currents or the effects of cross winds, should be brought to the notice of all handlers by the Judges as they commence their test. Buckets or large bowls are not permitted for section B, element 4 underwater retrieve, however a soft sided paddling pool may be used provided the dog can trawl the article out of it.
- b) An area of the shore between 10 to 15 metres needs to be roped or coned off to separate the test area from the spectators/waiting area.
- c) Within the shore area markers need to be set to show the permitted meterage for exercises within the various Sections i.e.; 20 metres for Sections A and B; 15 metres for C; 10 metres for D & E.  
 Points are to be lost/accumulated if dogs do not return to approved area, but allowances can be made at the judges discretion if conditions are poor.  
 Points lost/accumulated will be: 1 point for all levels.
- d) Distance markers will be needed in the water to show 6, 15, 20, 25 and 30 metres from the shore. All measurements out into the water are to be taken from where an average dog starts swimming. Markers should only be set if there are tests being conducted at that distance. They must be safe, not tied together, yet conspicuous enough to be seen from the shore. They should be placed to the sides of the test area so as not to distract the entrants.
- e) Life preservers consisting of a sleeveless jacket of buoyant or inflatable design must be worn by **everyone** (judges, stewards and handlers) inside the test area, without exception.
- f) All dogs must wear a suitable life jacket and harness if required to supplement the life jacket that are strong enough to enable a dog to be lifted into a boat in an emergency. This life jacket / life jacket & harness combination should have a handle or suitable area for a person to hold on to for a safe tow to shore.
- g) Judges will look at the following points when carrying out their inspections:  
 The ability of the dogs water life jacket / life jacket & harness combination :-
  - 1. It must be strong enough to allow the dog to be pulled into the boat without breaking.
  - 2. Strapped securely to prevent the life jacket / life jacket & harness combination overriding the dog or coming loose when swimming.
  - 3. No loose straps
 As long as a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination fulfils these principles, then it will be acceptable.
- h) Muzzles, head collars & full slip collars are not allowed to be used while under test.
- i) The equipment to be used in the tests sourced by hosting group:
  - 1. Distance markers will be needed in the water to show 6, 15, 20 and 30 metres from the shore
  - 2. 2 hanks of standard rope.
  - 3. Life buoy (including 'Torpedo' type) /life-jacket/buoyancy aid or boat cushion.  
 For Section D3, identical or very similar pairs of items Life buoy / buoyancy aid or boat cushion will be required.

4. Piece of heavy, knotted/plaited sinking rope.
  5. Coil of standard rope with 6-10 loops of 45-75cm length and tied so as not to unravel.  
Cable ties are not to be used to secure coil
  6. 3m of standard rope made from the same size and type as the coil.
  7. 20m (min.) of standard rope.
  8. Boat(s) with a standard tow rope and an appropriate anchor  
For Sections D/E the boat needs to be able to accommodate at least 5 persons and a large dog.
- j) Standard tow rope for the tests will be made from between. 15 and 25 mm diameter floating rope, heat-sealed where necessary, with nothing on the end other than a plain back-splice, whipping or taped with a suitable strong water proof adhesive tape that will not come loose during the test.
- k) Display the telephone number and location of a local veterinary surgeon who has been asked, to act as emergency cover for the event, and local hospital etc.
- l) A list giving the running order of entrants and dogs taking part in the tests, which can also be used as a results board.
- m) Equipment for the Judges:
1. A waterproof set of Regulations.
  2. Scoring sheets.
  3. Clipboards/pencils/pens.
  4. Whistles/stopwatch.
  5. Table & chair(s).
  6. Shelter/umbrella.
- n) First aid for humans and dogs
- o) See the Addendum of the club organising the tests for the following:-
- Disabled Dogs
  - Non Newfoundlands
  - Junior Handling
  - Junior Handling certificates
  - Veteran Certificates
  - Multi-pass awards

### **3.3 Brief list of the tests**

**The tests have the following elements:**

#### Section A

- Element 1 Swim out 15 metres to boat
- Element 2 Swim out 15 metres to handler/stranger
- Element 3 Retrieve familiar article from 6 metres

#### Section B

- Element 1 Tow boat back 20 metres
- Element 2 Tow handler or stranger from 20 metres
- Element 3 Retrieve provided article from 6 metres
- Element 4 Retrieve of article from 20 centimetres under water
- Element 5 Controlled swim

#### Section C

- Element 1 Jump from boat and tow from 25 metres to shore
- Element 2 Tow a stranger from 25 metres
- Element 3 Retrieve article from 15 metres
- Element 4 Controlled swim

#### Section D

- Element 1 Take coil of rope out to a boat at 25 metres and tow it back to shore
- Element 2 Rescue a stranger fallen from a boat at 25 metres
- Element 3 Directed retrieve of one of two articles from 15 metres
- Element 4 Search for hidden stranger behind a boat at 25 metres and tow to shore

#### Section E

- Element 1 Take out life buoy/jacket to stranger who is 30 metres out
- Element 2 Search for hidden rope at 30 metres and tow boat to shore.
- Element 3 Directed tow of one of two persons from 25 metres.
- Element 4 Jump and take a rope to a stranger in another boat who is 25 metres out.

Handlers may use many different ways and techniques to train their dogs to complete the tests but, together with the Stewards and Judges, they are expected to carry out each element of each test in the spirit within which they have been written.

The tests and elements have been written in detail on exactly how they are to be carried out.

## 4 Section A – Minimum Age 6 months

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### 4.1 Swim out 15 metres to boat

### Exercise A1

#### Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and swim 15 metres out to a boat and then return to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog will remain on shore with the Primary Handler until instructed to begin.
- b) A Secondary Handler will be in the front of a boat, with a steward and helmsman 15 metres from the shore.
- c) The dog's attention can be attracted by calling/splashing or tossing the tow rope into the water.
- d) Upon command from the Primary Handler, the dog will swim the full distance directly to the boat
- e) The dog when within touching distance of the handler in the boat, turns and swims back to the shore being followed closely by the boat. Other permissible options available for dogs older than 8 months are :-
  - 1) The dog takes the tow rope in his mouth and tows the boat to shore
  - 2) The handler may hold the dog's rump and allow the dog to tow the boat to the shore.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog is back on shore.

#### Notes:

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination (ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f).
2. A Primary and a Secondary handler are required for this exercise. In the event of only one handler coming down to the test area a steward may be used as the secondary handler. The roles of the handlers cannot be switched once the exercise has been started.
3. All occupants must remain completely in the boat (no sitting astride the boat)
4. The tow rope if used will not be attached to the boat, but will be held (firmly) by the handler.
5. The end of the rope if used can be given directly to the dog or it can pick it up from the water.
6. The handler in the boat may have the dog's own article, which can be given to the dog to return to shore with or it, can be tied to the end of the tow rope to enable the dog to tow the boat back to shore.
7. When attracting the dog's attention, both handlers **are** individually and independently permitted to use the dog's name.

#### Point Scoring

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Not swimming directly to the boat.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

#### Failure:

1. Exceeding the 3 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 10 points in this element.
3. Climbing/Attempting to enter the boat. {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect m}}
4. Double handling. {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect o}}.

#### Disqualification:

1. If the handlers shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.



## **4.2 Swim out 15 metres to a Person**

## **Exercise A2**

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and swim 15 metres out to a person and then return to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog will remain on shore with the Primary Handler until instructed to begin.
- b) The Secondary Handler will swim out 15 metres from the shore, turn and face the shore and wait.
- c) On being given the indication from the Judge, they will attract the dog's attention by calling and/or splashing in the water.
- d) Upon command from the Primary Handler, the dog will swim directly to the person, and when within touching distance of them, turn and swim back to the shore either towing or being followed by them.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and person are in shallow water near the shore.

### **Point Scoring**

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Not swimming directly to the person.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination (ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f)). This must have a handle or an area suitable to provide a safe handhold when towing.
2. A Primary and a Secondary Handler are required for this exercise. In the event of only one handler coming down to the test area a steward may be used as the secondary handler. The roles of the handlers cannot be switched once the exercise has been started.
3. The Secondary Handler may have the dogs own article, which may be given to the dog to return to shore with.
4. To affect a safe pick-up when approaching the person the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side of the person for them to take hold or turn safely behind the person.
5. When attracting the dog's attention, both handlers **are** individually and independently permitted to use the dog's name.

### **Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 3 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 10 points in this element.
3. Attempting to climb on the person.
4. Double handling. (ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect o)).

### **Disqualification:**

1. If the Handlers shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

## **4.3 Retrieve familiar article from 6 metres**

## **Exercise A3**

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the Handlers commands and to retrieve a familiar thrown article to the handler.

- a) The dog will remain on shore with the Primary Handler until instructed to begin.
- b) In full view of the dog, the steward will throw the article out 6 metres into the water test area.
- c) The Judge will immediately give the indication to begin, once the article hits the water at the correct distance.
- d) On the judge's instruction, the dog will be sent to retrieve the article from the water and return it to the shore.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and the article are back on shore, and the article has been released by the dog.

### **Point Scoring**

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Not swimming directly to the article.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Dropping article before getting it back to the shore .
- Having the article re-thrown.
- Not readily giving the article to the handler when instructed.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination {ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f}).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test, must leave the test area, unless they are purely holding the dog until the exercise begins and do not interfere with the exercise in any way.
3. The article will be selected or provided by the handler from a hank of rope, a life buoy/life jacket/buoyancy aid, or other piece of equipment or floatation toy approved by the Judges prior to commencing the test.
4. When attracting the dog's attention, the handler is permitted to use the dog's name.

### **Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 3 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 10 points in this element.

### **Disqualification:**

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

**5.1 Tow boat back 20 metres****Exercise B1****Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and swim 20 metres out to a boat and then tow it to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog will remain on shore with the Primary Handler until instructed to begin.
- b) The boat will be positioned 20 metres from the shore, with the Secondary Handler at the front of the boat.
- c) The dog's attention can be attracted by calling/splashing or tossing the tow rope into the water.
- d) Upon command from the Primary Handler, the dog will swim directly to the boat, take the tow rope in his mouth and tow the boat to the shore.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the boat is touched by the handler and the boat occupants could step ashore safely in less than knee depth water.

**Point Scoring****One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Not swimming directly to the boat.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not taking the rope when offered.
- Each time the rope is dropped.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the boat within reach of the handler.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

**Three points will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Using a rump tow.

**Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination (ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f)).
2. A Primary and a Secondary handler are required for this exercise. In the event of only one handler coming down to the test area a steward may be used as the secondary handler. The roles of the handlers cannot be switched once the exercise has been started.
3. All occupants must remain completely in the boat (no sitting astride the boat)
4. The tow rope will not be attached to the boat, but will be held (firmly) by the handler.
5. The end of the rope can be given directly to the dog or it can pick it up from the water.
6. No other article other than the tow rope can be used to attract the dog.
7. The handler may only hold one end of the rope; the rope cannot be held either side of the dog's mouth, or both ends.
8. It is permissible for the rump to be held and thus for the dog to tow the boat indirectly, although this will incur 3 points
9. When attracting the dog's attention, both handlers **are** individually and independently permitted to use the dog's name.

**Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 7 points in this element.
3. Climbing/Attempting to enter the boat. (ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect m)}
4. Handler fails to offer the rope to the dog.
5. Double handling. (ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect o)}.

**Disqualification:**

1. If the handlers shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

## 5.2 Tow Person from 20 metres

## Exercise B2

### Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and swim 20 metres out to a person and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog will remain on shore with the Primary Handler until instructed to begin.
- b) Secondary Handler will swim out 20 metres from the shore, turn, face the shore and wait.
- c) On being given the indication from the Judge the Secondary Handler will attract the dog's attention by calling and/or splashing in the water.
- d) Upon command from the Primary Handler, the dog will swim directly to the Secondary Handler, affect a safe pick-up and tow him back to the shore.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and person are in shallow water near the shore.
- f) The handler will be expected to help the Secondary Handler out of water.

### Point Scoring

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Not swimming directly to the person.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not affecting a safe tow.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the person to shallow water.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

### Notes:

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination {ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f)}. This must have a handle or an area suitable to provide a safe handhold when towing.
2. The part of the person is played by either the Secondary Handler or a steward.
3. The roles of the handler/person cannot be switched once the exercise has been started.
4. No other articles or pieces of clothing (hats, loose gloves etc.) are to be used to attract the dog.
5. To affect a safe pick-up when approaching the person the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side of the person for him to take hold or turn safely behind the person.
6. When attracting the dog's attention, both handler/person **are** individually and independently permitted to use the dog's name.

### Failure:

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 7 points in this element.
3. Attempting to climb on the person being rescued.
4. Double handling. {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect o)}.

### Disqualification:

1. If the handlers shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

## **5.3 Retrieve provided article from 6 metres**

## **Exercise B3**

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and to return an unfamiliar article to its handler.

- a) The dog will remain on shore with the Primary Handler until instructed to begin.
- b) In full view of the dog, the steward will throw the article out 6 metres into the water test area.
- c) The Judge will immediately give the indication to begin, once the article hits the water at the correct distance.
- d) The dog will be sent to retrieve the article from the water and return it to the shore.
- e) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and the article are back on shore, and the article has been given by the dog to the handler

### **Point Scoring**

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not swimming directly to the article.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Dropping article before getting it back to the shore within the test area.
- Having the article re-thrown.
- Not readily giving the article to the handler when instructed.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination (ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f)).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any Secondary Handler that has been used in other exercises of the test, must leave the test area, unless they are purely holding the dog until the exercise begins and do not interfere with the exercise in any way.
3. The article will be selected by the Judges on the day from a hank of rope, a life ring/buoy, a life jacket/buoyancy aid or a boat cushion and it will be the same for each dog.
4. When attracting the dog's attention, the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

### **Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 7 points in this element.
3. Not retrieving the article.

### **Disqualification:**

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

## **5.4 Retrieve a submerged article**

## **Exercise B4**

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and retrieve an article completely submerged under water.

- a) In full view of the dog, the Primary Handler will drop or throw the article in the water and allow it to sink.
- b) When the article has completely submerged, the Judge will immediately give the indication to begin.
- c) The dog will be commanded to find the article and retrieve it out of the water.
- d) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the article is seen by the judge to be completely out of the water.

### **Point Scoring**

The exercise will be deemed a fail if the article is thrown more than 4 times or the 2 minute time allowance for the exercise runs out.

### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination {ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f}).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any Secondary Handler that has been used in other exercises of the test, must leave the test area, unless they are purely holding the dog until the exercise begins and do not interfere with the exercise in any way.
3. The underwater test article will be a piece of heavy, knotted/plaited sinking rope and will be the same for each dog.
4. The dog is permitted to 'trawl' the article completely out of the water.
5. The article can be re-thrown 3 times by the handler
6. The handler's hands can only be in the water to retrieve the article for re-dropping or re-throwing.
7. When attracting the dog's attention, the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name
8. A judge may decide that a soft-sided paddling pool (which allows dogs to 'trawl' the article) can be used when conditions at a venue are deemed unsuitable in an event all dogs will use this option.

### **Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 2 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the article is thrown more than 4 times
3. Handlers attempts to force the dogs head under water, however slightly.

### **Disqualification:**

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

## 5.5 Controlled swim

## Exercise B5

### Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and swim safely with the handler without interfering with them.

- a) On the judges instruction the dog, off lead, and handler will leave the shore together and swim-straight out a distance not exceeding 20 meters from the shore.
- b) The dog will swim at the side of the handler close enough to be controlled (within 2m) but not too close so as to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer.
- c) On reaching the required distance an indication by one of the Judges (by whistle, or shout, etc.), will deem the exercise complete.
- d) The dog will swim independently throughout the exercise; it will not tow or be towed by the handler during the exercise.

### Point Scoring

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not being close enough to the swimmer.
- Being too close to the swimmer, so as to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer.
- Physically redirecting the dog.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Circling the handler whilst the handler is swimming.

### Notes:

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination (ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f)).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any Secondary Handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. When entering the water together the handler may hold the harness/dog only until the dog is swimming.
4. If for any reason the handler **stops** swimming then the dog is permitted to circle the handler as many times as necessary without penalty, but should not be more than 2m (approximately) from the handler's head.
5. The dog (but not the handler) is permitted to carry a small article, e.g. a glove, whilst swimming.
6. The Judges will indicate a target to aim for so that they can see that the dog and handler are swimming in the right direction, but there will be no buoys or boats close to the test area that would act as an attraction or a danger for the dog.
7. The safety boat will be ready on standby at the side of the test area, in case it is needed.
8. It is the handler's responsibility to swim with their dog; it cannot be assumed that a steward will automatically be substituted to take on this role without prior arrangement.
9. Once the exercise has been completed, it is the handler's decision as to how they return to the shore area. They can be towed back by their dog or swim back with their dog.
10. No articles or pieces of clothing are to be used to attract the dog attention or entice them to keep swimming.
11. Distances will be measured from when the handler and dog start to swim.
12. When attracting the dog's attention, the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

### Failure:

1. Exceeding the 5 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 7 points in this element.
3. Attempting to climb on the handler.
4. Handler swimming on their back with the dog following them.
5. Dog swimming off and the handler chasing it.
6. Handler swimming off and the dog chasing them.
7. Wearing fins or swimming aids, other than webbed gloves.

### Disqualification:

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.



## 6 Section C – Minimum age 18 months

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### 6.1 Jump from boat and tow 25 metres to shore

### Exercise C1

#### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and jump from a boat then tow it 25 metres to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog and Primary Handler, in a controlled manner, will enter the boat containing a steward, the Helmsman and a Judge.
- b) The boat will then be taken 25 metres from the shore.
- c) When given the signal to begin, the dog shall enter the water take the boat's tow rope in its mouth and tow the boat directly back to the shore.
- d) The instruction to the dog can be supplemented by splashing or tossing the tow rope into the water.
- e) The handler must remain in the boat until the test is completed.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog and boat are within reach of the Secondary Handler and the boat occupants could step ashore safely in less than knee depth water.

#### **Point Scoring**

##### **One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Not entering the boat safely at the shore.
- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water when commanded by the handler.
- Hesitation in taking the rope when commanded.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the boat within reach of the secondary handler.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

##### **Three points will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Each time the rope is dropped.

#### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination (ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f)).
2. A Primary and a Secondary handler are required for this exercise. In the event of only one handler coming down to the test area a steward may be used as the secondary handler. The roles of the handlers cannot be switched once the exercise has been started (ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect o)).
3. All occupants must remain completely in the boat (no sitting astride the boat)
4. The tow rope will not be attached to the boat but will be held (firmly) by the handler, one end of the rope must remain free.
5. The end of the rope can be given directly to the dog or it can pick it up from the water.
6. When attracting the dog's attention, both handlers **are** individually and independently permitted to use the dog's name.

#### **Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 8 points in this element.
3. Climbing/Attempting to re-enter the boat. (ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect m))
4. Not exiting the boat in the first 60 seconds of the element.
5. Physical contact (ref: page 12 chpt 3.1 sect q)) with the dog leaving the boat.
6. Not towing the boat by holding the rope voluntarily in its mouth.
7. Handler holding both ends of the rope.
8. Handler holding the rope in a loop, however loosely or on either side of the dogs mouth.
9. Returning to the shore without the boat.

#### **Disqualification:**

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.
2. Pushing or throwing a dog will result in disqualification.

## **6.2 Tow stranger from 25 metres**

## **EXERCISE C2**

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and swim 25 metres out to a stranger and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog will remain on shore, under control, at the side of the Handler, until instructed to begin.
- b) A stranger to the dog, will swim out 25 metres from the shore, turn, face the shore and wait.
- c) On being given the indication from the Judge, they will attract the dog's attention by calling and splashing in the water.
- d) They will continue to attract the dog's attention until the dog is within touching distance.
- e) Upon command from the handler, the dog will swim directly to the stranger, affect a safe pick-up and tow him back to the shore.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and stranger are in shallow water near the shore.
- g) The handler will be expected to help the stranger out of water.

### **Point Scoring**

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Not swimming directly to the person.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not affecting a safe tow.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the stranger to shallow water.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination (ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f)). This must have a handle or an area suitable to provide a safe handhold when towing.
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test, must leave the test area,
3. The stranger role will be played by a competent steward; the steward will be a stranger to the dog, i.e. not from its normal training group.
4. To affect a safe pick-up when approaching the stranger the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side of the person for him to take hold or turn safely behind the person.
5. When attracting the dog's attention the handlers **is** permitted to use the dog's name but the stranger is not permitted to use the dog's name, pet names, other words such as biscuit, treats, toys etc.
6. The stranger should however encourage the dog by changing their call from here dog, to over here, this way, what have I got, good dog etc, so as not to call the dog in a continuous monotone.

### **Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 8 points in this element.
3. Attempting to climb on the stranger.

### **Disqualification:**

If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

## **6.3 Retrieve dropped Article from 15 metres**

## **Exercise C3**

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands and to return an unfamiliar article to its handler from a distance.

- a) The dog will remain on shore, under control, at the side of the Primary Handler, until instructed to begin.
- b) A boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore.
- c) In full view of the dog, the steward will be kneeling in the boat and holding the article above his head and then on the Judge's signal drop it from over head height into the water as they pass so that the dog will have to swim 15 metres to the article.
- d) The Judge will immediately give the indication to begin, while the boat leaves the test area.
- e) The dog will be sent to retrieve the article from the water and return it to the shore.
- f) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and the handler with the article are back on shore, and the article has been given by the dog to the handler willingly.

### **Point Scoring**

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- The dog being physically redirected.
- Not swimming directly to the article.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Dropping the article before getting it back to the shore within the test area.
- Not readily giving the article to the handler when instructed.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.
- Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination {ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f}).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any Secondary Handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. The article will be selected by the Judge on the day from a hank of rope, a life ring/buoy, a life jacket/buoyancy aid or a boat cushion and it will be the same for each dog.
4. In selecting the article the Judge will take into account their suitability with regards to the weather conditions.
5. When attracting the dog's attention, the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

### **Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the element
2. If the team accumulates 8 points in this element.
3. If excessive tugging or force is used before the dog releases the article.

### **Disqualification:**

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.



## 6.4 Controlled swim

## Exercise C4

### Purpose

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and swim safely with the handler without interfering with them.

- a) During this exercise the dog and handler will be required to swim together for a distance not exceeding 45 metres and perform a minimum of two turns so that they are swimming parallel to the shore for at least 15 metres.
- b) The route to be taken will be one of the following shapes:-
  - (1) 'n' shaped with a swim out of at least 15 m, turn to swim at least 15 m parallel to the shore and then a further turn and swim back at least 15 m to the shore.
  - (2) a **triangle** with a swim out of at least 15 m, turn to swim at least 15 m parallel to the shore and then a further oblique turn and swim back at least 15 m to the entry point on the shore; or
  - (3) an **inverted 'L'** with a swim out of at least 15 m, turn to swim at least 7.5 m parallel to the shore, then an about turn over the same route to return to the shore at the entry point.
- c) The choice of route will be decided by the Judges depending on the environment and weather conditions on the day of the test and will be the same for each dog.
- d) The Judges may vary distances according to venue or conditions but without reducing the overall distance.
- e) On the judges instruction the dog, off lead, and handler will leave the shore together and swim out following the route previously detailed by the Judges.
- f) The dog will swim at the side of the handler close enough to be verbally/visually controlled (within 2m) but not too close so as to interfere with the stroke of the swimmer.
- g) The dog will swim independently throughout the exercise; it will not tow or be towed by the handler during the exercise.
- h) The points at which to make turns will be clearly indicated audibly and/or visually by the Judges, e.g. whistle or shout etc.

### Point Scoring

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not being close enough to the swimmer.
- Being too close, so as to interfere with the stroke of the handler.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

**Two points will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Circling the handler whilst swimming (excluding any circling when the handler and dog are turning to swim in a different direction which is part of the exercise and therefore not penalised)

### Notes:

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination (ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f)).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any Secondary Handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. When entering the water together the handler may hold the harness/dog only until the dog is swimming.
4. If for any reason the handler **stops** swimming then the dog is permitted to circle the handler, but should not at any time be more than 2 m (approximately) from the handler's head.
5. The Judges will indicate a target to aim for so that they can see that the dog and handler are swimming on line, but there will be no buoys / boats close in to the test area that would act as an attraction or a danger for the dog.
6. For the turns to swim parallel to the shore and the return to shore the Judges will arrange in advance how they will signal to each other and the entrant - whistles may be reinforced with a visual signal.

7. A Judge will be in a boat (which can also act as the safety boat) at a safe distance from the dog and handler to give a better perspective to the actual swim
8. It is the handler's responsibility to swim with their dog; it cannot be assumed that a steward will automatically be substituted to take on this role without prior arrangement.
9. No articles or pieces of clothing are to be used to attract the dog attention or entice them to keep swimming.
10. Distances will be measured from when the dog and handler start swimming.
11. When attracting the dog's attention, the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

**Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 5 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 8 points in this element.
3. Attempting to climb on the handler.
4. Handler swimming on their back with the dog following them.
5. Dog swimming off and the handler chasing it.
6. Handler swimming off and the dog chasing them.
7. Wearing fins or swimming aids, other than webbed gloves.
8. Physically redirecting the dog.

**Disqualification:**

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

## 7 Section D – Minimum Age 24 months

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### 7.1 Take a coiled rope to a boat and tow it back to shore **Exercise D1**

#### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and take a coil of rope to someone in a boat then tow it back safely to the shore.

- a) The boat with a Judge, a Helmsman and a steward not known to the dog, will be positioned 25 metres from the shore.
- b) The Helmsman will be solely concerned with the safety and position of the boat and will not be concerned with handling the dog.
- c) The dog will remain on shore, under control, at the side of the handler, until instructed to begin.
- d) When instructed, the handler will command the dog to swim out directly to the boat.
- e) The handler will give the rope to the dog or throw the rope just in front of the dog, so the dog will swim with the coil of rope in its mouth.
- f) The steward will be calling out to the dog to come to the boat; the steward is allowed to encourage the dog by calling and tapping the boat only, no splashing is allowed; they will continue to call the dog until the dog is within touching distance.
- g) On reaching the boat the steward will attempt to take the coil of rope without endangering himself or the dog.
- h) Once he is holding the coil of rope, the steward will give the 'release' command, as notified to him by the handler before commencing the exercise, and will continue to do so until the dog voluntarily releases the coil of rope.
- i) The steward will not forcibly remove the coil of rope or continue to hold the coil of rope if it becomes unsafe to do so.
- j) The steward must not show the tow rope to the dog until the coil of rope is inside the boat.
- k) The steward will then offer a tow rope to the dog.
- l) The dog will then take this rope in its mouth and use it to tow the boat back to the shore.
- m) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the boat is touched by the handler and the boat occupants can step ashore safely in less than knee depth water.

#### **Point Scoring**

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not swimming directly to the boat.
- Dropping the coil of rope during the swim out.
- Not releasing the coil of rope to the steward on command.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the boat within reach of the handler.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

**Three points will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Each time the rope is dropped during the tow back

**Five points will be marked:**

- Immediately a re-send attempt is started {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect l}).

#### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination {ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f}).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. All occupants must remain completely in the boat (no sitting astride the boat)



4. The tow rope will not be attached to the boat but will be held (firmly) at one end by the steward, one end of the rope must remain free, he cannot hold it in a loop however loosely, and neither can he hold it either side of the dog's mouth.
5. The dog can turn after coming within reach of the steward or may completely circle the boat.
6. The handler will instruct the steward on the commands/actions to be used for releasing the coil/rope. The steward is only permitted to give the dog a release command; he is not permitted to command the dog in any other way. Any further commands must be given by the handler on shore.
7. When attracting the dog's attention the handlers **is** permitted to use the dog's name but the stranger is **not** permitted to use the dog's name, pet names, other words such as biscuit, treats, toys etc.
8. The stranger should however encourage the dog by changing their call from here dog, to over here, this way, what have I got, good dog etc, so as not to call the dog in a continuous monotone.
9. The coil of rope can be given to the dog before it enters the water or thrown no more than 3 metres so that it is slightly in front of the dog as it leaves the shore up to waist height of the handler.
10. The Handler is permitted to request one re-send - {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect l}).
11. The handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

**Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 8 points in this element.
3. Climbing/Attempting to enter the boat. {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect m}}
4. Physical redirection (with the exception of a requested re-send).
5. Not towing the boat by holding the rope voluntarily in its mouth.
6. Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

**Disqualification:**

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

## **7.2 Rescue a stranger fallen from a boat at 25 metres**

## **Exercise D2**

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and jump from a boat and tow a stranger back to the boat without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The dog will enter the boat and be taken 25 metres from the shore with the handler, two stewards one of which is a stranger to the dog, the Helmsman and a Judge.
- b) The handler will ensure that the dog is under control while in the boat and does not impede the stewards.
- c) The Helmsman will continue to hold the boat in position (preferably anchored) with the Bow of the boat pointing towards shore and NOT allow the boat to drift.
- d) When given the signal to begin the steward who is a stranger to the dog will fall noisily overboard and position himself 5 metres from the boat, where he will be vertical in the water, facing/looking at the boat, calm and silent.
- e) The Judge will as soon as possible give the command to release the dog, as soon as it is safe to do so.
- f) The dog will enter the water, swim to the stranger and affect a safe tow.
- g) The dog will tow him to a position close enough to the boat so the handler and steward can pull the stranger to the side of the boat. The Handler must touch the drowning stranger before the stranger can let go of the dog.
- h) The handler should be involved in ensuring the stranger is safely alongside the boat and should not be solely dealing with the dog during this time.
- i) The dog will be required to swim to the opposite side of the boat to the stranger.
- j) The dog will present itself sideways along the side of the boat opposite to the stranger & will be held via the harness for 3 seconds by both the handler & a steward
- k) Once judges indicates test is over, the dog is to be returned to shore by one of the following methods
  - With the handlers permission tow the stranger back.
  - Swim back with rope
  - Handler to swim back with dog
- l) Handler must inform and receive permission from the judges at the start of the exercise which method they will use.

### **Point Scoring**

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Not entering the boat safely at the shore.
- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water when commanded.
- Not swimming directly to the stranger.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not affecting a safe tow.
- Not swimming directly back to the boat.
- Not bringing the stranger to the position indicated by the handler
- Handler not assisting with re-boarding of stranger.
- Not swimming calmly while waiting for the stranger to be taken aboard.

### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination {ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f}).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area. A steward will call the dog to shore if using option 2.
3. All occupants must remain completely in the boat (no sitting astride the boat)
4. The stranger role will be played by a competent steward; the steward will be a stranger to the dog, i.e. not from its normal training group.

5. To affect a safe pick-up when approaching the stranger the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side of the person for him to take hold or turn safely behind the person.
6. The dog is permitted to swim around the boat as many times as is necessary without incurring any points.
7. The judges must advise the stewards which of the options is going to be used when returning to shore.
8. When attracting the dog's attention the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

**Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 8 points in this element
3. Not exiting the boat in the first 45 seconds of the element.
4. Physical contact {ref: page 12 chpt 3.1 sect q)} with the dog leaving the boat.
5. Attempting to climb on the stranger.
6. Attempting to re-enter the boat. Physical redirection.
7. No articles (coil of rope, toy, tow rope etc.) are to be used to assist in controlling the dog, whilst the stranger is being pulled to the side of the boat. The handler must control the dog by using visual/audible commands only. {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect h)}.

**Disqualification:**

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

## 7.3 Directed retrieve of one of two articles

## Exercise D3

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and to return a specific article to its handler from a distance.

- a) The dog will remain on shore, under control at the side of the handler, until instructed to begin.
- b) The Judge will inform the handler which article the dog has to retrieve (left or right).
- c) A boat will proceed on a course parallel to the shore.
- d) In full view of the dog, the stewards will hold the articles above their heads and then on the Judge's signals quietly place the articles in the water as it passes so that they are between 6 and 7 metres apart and the dog will have to swim 15 metres to them.
- e) Once the second article is in the water the Judge will give the indication to begin, while the boat leaves the test area.
- f) The dog, from its position midway between the two articles, will be sent to retrieve the selected article from the water and return it to the handler on the shore.
- g) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and the handler with the article are back on shore.
- h) The stewards in the boat will then retrieve the other article.

### **Point Scoring**

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not swimming directly to the correct article.
- Not turning when instructed.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Dropping the article before getting it back to the shore within the test area.
- Not giving the article to the handler when instructed.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

**Five points will be marked:**

- Immediately a re-send attempt is started {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect I}).

### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination {ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f}).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. The Judges on the day will select two hanks of rope, or two life rings/buoys, or two life jackets/ buoyancy aids or two boat cushions (which should be identical or very similar pairs).
4. When making their selection, the Judges will take into account the suitability of the articles having regard to all the circumstances.
5. If the articles drift too close together the judges should re-set the exercise.
6. The actual item to be retrieved will be selected randomly for each dog.
7. The handler will know which article (Left or Right) is to be retrieved as the boat is getting into position and before the articles are placed.
8. The handler is not permitted to launch or physically direct the dog into the water by moving with the dog in the direction of the selected article.
9. When attracting the dog's attention the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.
10. The handler is permitted to request one re-send - {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect I}).

### **Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 8 points in this element

3. Touching, holding or retrieving the wrong article even whilst holding the correct one.
4. Physical redirection (with the exception of a requested re-send).
5. If excessive tugging or force is used before the dog releases the article.
6. Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

**Disqualification:**

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

## **7.4 Search for hidden stranger and tow to shore**

## **Exercise D4**

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands and search round a boat to find a stranger and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) Out of the view of the dog, the boat will be positioned at a buoy at 25 metres from the shore with a steward who is a stranger to the dog in the water holding the boat in such a position that he cannot be seen by the dog on the shore.
- b) All occupants of the boat must make themselves as inconspicuous as possible so as not to attract the dog's attention in any way, but still be able to see the dog.
- c) The dog will remain on shore under control, at the side of the handler, until instructed to begin.
- d) When instructed, the stranger who will be half way along the side of the boat will begin to shout and splash in the water, and will continue to do so until the dog comes into sight when they will stop splashing but call the dog until it comes within touching distance.
- e) The handler will command the dog to swim out to the boat.
- f) On reaching the boat, the dog will swim around the boat to find the stranger and affect a safe pick-up and tow.
- g) Avoiding the boat, the dog will then return with the stranger back to the shore.
- h) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the dog and stranger are in shallow water near the shore. The handler is expected to help the stranger out of the water.

### **Point Scoring**

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not swimming directly to the boat.
- Not circling close to the boat when instructed.
- Not affecting a safe tow.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the stranger to shallow water.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

**Five points will be marked:**

- Immediately a re-send attempt is started {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect I}).

### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination {ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f}). This must have a handle or an area suitable to provide a safe handhold when towing.
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. The Steward and Helmsman will ensure there are no ropes hanging over the side of the boat that may act as a distraction.
4. 'Out of the view of the dog' is at the choice of the handler and could just be facing away from the water, or taking the dog away from the area while the exercise is set up.
5. When attracting the dog's attention the handler is permitted to use the dog's name.
6. The Handler is permitted to request one re-send - {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect I}).
7. The stranger is **not** permitted to use the dog's name, pet names, other words such as biscuit, treats, toys etc.
8. The stranger should however encourage the dog by changing their call from here dog, to over here, this way, what have I got, good dog etc. so as not to call the dog in a continuous monotone.
9. To effect a safe pick-up when approaching the stranger, the dog may turn either close enough in front or to the side for him to take hold, or turn safely behind them him.

### **Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 8 points in this element
3. Attempting to climb on the stranger.
4. Climbing/Attempting to enter the boat. {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect m}}
5. Physical redirection. (With the exception of a requested re-send).
6. Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

**Disqualification:**

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.



## 8 Section E – Minimum Age 24 months

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### 8.1 Take out article to stranger

### Exercise E1

#### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and take an article to a stranger in the water then tow him back safely to the shore.

- a) The dog will remain on shore under control, at the side of the handler until instructed to begin.
- b) The steward who is a stranger to the dog will enter the water from a boat 30 metres from the shore so that he is facing the shore.
- c) When instructed, the stranger will provide a minimal splash only, and will continue to do so until the article is within touching distance.
- d) The handler will command the dog to swim out to the stranger holding the article with its mouth.
- e) On reaching the stranger it will swim close enough for him to take and keep hold of the article.
- f) The dog will then use the article to bring him back to the shore.
- g) The stranger will hold both the article and the dog. (If the dog releases the article the stranger must also release the dog)
- h) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog and stranger are in shallow water near the shore. The handler is expected to help the stranger out of the water.

#### **Point Scoring**

##### **One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences**

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not swimming directly to the stranger.
- Not turning when instructed;
- Not keeping hold of the article;
- Not swimming directly back to the shore;
- Not bringing the stranger to shallow water
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

##### **Five points will be marked:**

- Immediately a re-send attempt is started {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect I}).

#### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination {ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f}). This must have a handle or an area suitable to provide a safe handhold when towing.
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. The Judge on the day will select either a) or b) to be the article for the day and it will be the same for each dog.
  - a) A life ring/buoy (including "Torpedo" type)
  - b) a life jacket/buoyancy aid
4. When making his selection the Judge will take into account their suitability having regard to the weather conditions.
5. The selected article can be given to the dog before it enters the water or thrown no more than 3 metres so that it is slightly in front of the dog as it leaves the shore.
6. The Handler is permitted to request one re-send - {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect I}).
7. To affect a safe pick-up the dog should preferably turn behind the stranger but it may turn in front or to the side; however it must be a close turn as the article must be presented within arms reach of the stranger so that it can easily be taken hold of.

8. The stranger will hold both the article and the dog, in such a way as to not tip the dog or hinder the dog in returning to the shore
9. When attracting the dog's attention the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

**Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the exercise.
2. If the team accumulates 8 points in this element
3. Attempting to climb on the water steward.
4. Physical redirection. (With the exception of a requested re-send).
5. Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

**Disqualification:**

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

## **8.2 Search for hidden rope and tow boat to shore**

## **Exercise E2**

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and search round a boat to find a rope and then use it to tow the boat back to the shore.

- a) Out of sight of the dog, the boat will be positioned 30 metres from the shore with a steward and/or helmsman holding the boat in position.
- b) All occupants of the boat must make themselves as inconspicuous as possible so as not to attract the dog's attention in any way, but still be able to see the dog.
- c) The dog will remain on shore under control, at the side of the handler, until instructed to begin.
- d) When instructed, the handler will command the dog to swim out to the boat.
- e) On reaching the boat, the dog will swim around the boat to find the rope that will be hanging loosely with the end in the water. If due to the weather conditions the boat drifts and the rope comes into sight of the dog the exercise will continue.
- f) The dog will take up the rope and use it to tow the boat back to the shore.
- g) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is completed when the boat is within reach of the handler.

### **Point Scoring**

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water.
- Not swimming directly to the boat.
- Not circling close to the boat when instructed.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Dropping the rope on the swim back.
- Not bringing the boat to shallow water.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

**Five points will be marked:**

- Immediately a re-send attempt is started {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect l}).

### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination {ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f}).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. The rope will be held (firmly) by a steward at one end, it will not be attached to the boat, and one end will be left loosely hanging over the side with at least the end in the water.
4. At the start of the exercise the rope may not be over the side facing the shore.
5. The Steward and Helmsman should ensure that there is only one rope hanging over the side; all extraneous ropes must be removed or moved out of the way.
6. 'Out of the view of the dog' is at the choice of the handler and could just be facing away from the water, or taking the dog away from the test area while the exercise is set up.
7. The Handler is permitted to request one re-send - {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect l}).
8. When attracting the dog's attention the handler is permitted to use the dog's name.

### **Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 8 points in this element.
3. Climbing/Attempting to enter the boat. {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect m}).
4. Physical redirection (With the exception of a requested re-send).
5. Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

### **Disqualification:**

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.



## 8.3 Directed tow of one of two Strangers

## Exercise E3

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the handlers commands and swim to a stranger and then return with him to the shore without endangering itself or any person.

- a) The exercise will be set up out of sight of the dog.
- b) When called forward, the dog will remain on shore under control, at the side of the handler until instructed to begin.
- c) Two stewards who are strangers to the dog will have entered the water from a boat so that they are both 25 metres out, approximately 10 metres apart and both vertical in the water, facing and looking at the shore.
- d) The Judge will inform the handler which steward the dog has to tow.
- e) When instructed, the handler will command the dog from its position mid way between the two strangers to swim out to the selected stranger.
- f) The dog will swim directly to the selected stranger, effect a safe pick-up and return with the stranger back to the shore.
- g) The Judge shall indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog and stranger are in shallow water near the shore. The handler is expected to help the stranger out of the water. The other stranger will then return to the shore.

### **Point Scoring**

#### **One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences**

- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water when commanded by the owner.
- Not swimming directly to the stranger.
- Not affecting a safe pick-up.
- Not swimming directly back to the shore.
- Not bringing the stranger to shallow water.
- Not leaving the water when instructed.

#### **Five points will be marked:**

- Immediately a re-send attempt is started {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect I}).

### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination {ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f}). This must have a handle or an area suitable to provide a safe handhold when towing.
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area.
3. The stranger to be collected (Left or Right) will be randomly selected they will, therefore, not necessarily be the same for each dog.
4. The handler will be advised which of the strangers is to be collected (Left or Right) before the dog is removed from sight.
5. Both strangers will be facing the shore, they both will be either:
  - a) Silent and looking straight ahead (not simulated unconsciousness)
  - b) Noisy, (calling and splashing) if they are noisy they will continue to be noisy until the dog is within touching distance.
6. The Handler is permitted to request one re-send - {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect I}).
7. If the dog comes within arms reach of the 'wrong' stranger they will hold on and get towed back to the shore.
8. To affect a safe pick-up when approaching the stranger, although the dog may turn either close enough in front or to their side for him to take hold, it is preferable for it or turn safely behind him.
9. The handler is not permitted to launch or physically direct the dog into the water by moving with the dog in the direction of the selected stranger.

10. When attracting the dog's attention the handler **is** permitted to use the dog's name.

**Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 8 points in this element
3. Attempting to climb on either water stranger.
4. Physical redirection (With the exception of a requested re-send).
5. Coming within arms reach of the 'wrong' stranger, even if they have collected the correct stranger.
6. Handler intentionally exceeding waist depth

**Disqualification:**

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.

## **8.4 Jump and take a rope to a stranger in another boat      Exercise E4**

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to a handler's commands by jumping from a boat and taking a rope to a stranger in another boat 15 metres away.

- a) The dog will enter a boat and be taken out 25 metres from the shore with a Helmsman, a Judge the handler, and a steward.
- b) Another boat with the other Judge, a Helmsman and two stewards, the stewards will be strangers to dog, will be the same distance from the shore but at 15 metres away.
- c) To ensure the boats remain in their set positions of 15 metres apart they will be anchored, wherever possible.
- d) When given the signal to begin, the handler will command the dog; one of the strangers in the other boat will be calling out for the dog to come to the boat. The stranger is allowed to encourage the dog by calling and tapping the boat only, no splashing is allowed.
- e) The stranger will continue to call the dog until the dog is within touching distance.
- f) The dog will enter the water, be handed or take one end of the rope in its mouth and swim directly to the other boat. If there is insufficient rope to reach from boat to the other, the handler may let go of the rope enabling the dog to take the rope to other boat.
- g) As the dog gets sufficiently near to the other boat the stranger will actively attempt to get hold of the rope but without endangering himself or the dog.
- h) When the stranger has the end of the rope, he will use the advised release command to take the rope and secure it to the boat or hand it to the other stranger.
- i) The dog will be required to wait in the water or circle the boat until the rope is secure.  
the dog is held by its harness sideways along the side of the boat by 2 stewards for 3 seconds.  
Once judges indicate test is over, dog to be returned to shore by one of the following methods
  - With the handlers permission tow the stranger back.
  - Swim back with rope
  - Handler to swim back with dog
- j) Handler must inform and receive permission from the judges at the start of the exercise which method they will use.

### **Point Scoring**

**One point will be marked for each of the following occurrences:**

- Not entering the boat safely at the shore.
- Excessive anticipation or lack of control.
- Hesitation in entering the water when commanded by the handler.
- Not taking the end of rope when instructed;
- Not swimming directly to the other boat;
- Dropping the rope during the swim;
- Not taking the rope directly to the stranger.
- Not swimming calmly while waiting for the rope to be taken aboard.

### **Notes:**

1. The dog must wear a life jacket / life jacket & harness combination (ref: page 12 chpt 3.2 sect f).
2. Only one handler is required for this exercise, any secondary handler that has been used in other exercises of the test must leave the test area. A steward will call the dog to shore if using option 2.
3. All occupants must remain completely in the boat (no sitting astride the boat)
4. The stranger role will be played by a competent steward; the steward will be a stranger to the dog, i.e. not from its normal training group.
5. The handler must advise both the judges and stewards which of the options is to be used when returning to shore before the exercise starts.

6. The rope will be held/fed into the water by the handler until the dog reaches the other boat.(if the rope is not long enough to reach the other boat the handler may let go of their end allowing the dog to take the rope to the other boat)
7. The dog can be given the end of the rope before it jumps overboard or have its commands supplemented by splashing or tossing the end of rope into the water.
8. The stranger is **not** permitted to use the dog's name or command the dog in any other way other than for the release of the rope; any further commands must be given by the handler in the boat.
9. The dog is permitted to swim around the boat as many times as is necessary without incurring any points.
10. When attracting the dog's attention the handler is permitted to use the dog's name.
11. The handler must remain in the first boat until the test is complete.

**Failure:**

1. Exceeding the 4 minute limit for completing the element.
2. If the team accumulates 8 points in this element.
3. Not exiting the boat in the first 30 seconds of the element.
4. Climbing/Attempting to re-enter the boat. {ref: page 11 chpt 3.1 sect m)}
5. Not taking the rope to the boat.
6. Physical contact with the dog leaving the boat. {ref: page 12 chpt 3.1 sect q)}.
7. Physical redirection.
8. Being too far away for the stewards to hold the dog safely at the side of the boat for the 3 seconds.

**Disqualification:**

1. If the handler shows any signs of harsh treatment to the dog.



# Newfoundland Club



## Water Test Addendum – May 2025

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### Administration of Tests

#### Complaints Procedure

Complaints should be made where possible in writing and on the day to the Test Manager. Alternatively, complaints can be sent in writing within 14 days of the test to the Working Section Secretary.

#### Responsibilities of Judges

When invited to judge a test, a written response is required to the Secretary of the Working Section Committee. If after acceptance, a judge is unable to meet the commitment for any reason then they must inform the Secretary by phone as soon as practicable, followed in writing.

In general judges can only enter their dog(s) on the same day as their judging appointment if they are entering a different section than the one they have been appointed to judge.

However, with prior agreement of the Working Section Secretary and the Test Manager, a stand-In judge may be appointed to judge that test for them.

#### Responsibilities of Handlers

If a handler is also judging at the same event, they should check the running order of the sections and let the Test Manager know as soon as possible if there is a conflict between their judging responsibilities and their handling responsibilities, however judging responsibilities will take priority.

## Physically Disabled or Veteran Dogs

Dogs that have any visual or audible impairment may still be entered into all levels of the tests and the handler with the judge's permission may use additional visual or audible aids. The dog however must still complete each exercise of the test as per the regulations. Anyone who wishes to enter a deaf or blind dog, must write to the Working Section Secretary to sanction any adaptation needed to test equipment.

## Non-Newfoundlands

Members of the Newfoundland Club, Northern Newfoundland Club, Southern Newfoundland Club, Recognized Working Groups, or who are introduced by a member of one of the above, who own a dog that is not a Newfoundland or a Newfoundland cross breed, can enter their dog in the tests if there is enough time and if the Test Manager, Judges and Stewards agree. Before the test starts, the Test Manager and both Judges must all agree that the dog is suitable to do the level. While these dogs will receive a certificate on passing the test, it will not count towards a multi pass.

## Junior Handlers

- Junior handlers must be at least 9 years of age on the closing date for entry of the test, and must be a competent swimmer, and not exceeding 16 years of age.
- A junior handler and dog must work as a team and work logically through the sections. i.e. they must pass section A together, before they can proceed to section B, & so on.
- A junior handler may also handle a dog that is also entered in another test on the same day, provided that the dog does not enter more than two tests that day.
- Junior handlers may enter the same section judged by their parents providing a replacement judge has been officially appointed prior to the test day.

## Helmsmen

In addition to holding a RYA 2 qualification, the helmsmen must be a minimum of 17 years of age, and the majority of the other RYA qualified persons in that young persons working club must agree that person is capable of safely and competently fulfilling the role at a test and comply to the host Working Group's insurance requirements.