

2025



Working Handbook

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RALLY OBEDIENCE
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Welcome Working Enthusiasts!

Welcome to the 2025 edition of the Working Handbook.

The Canadian Association of Rally Obedience (CARO) was established in 2002 to bring the sport of Rally Obedience to Canada and in 2012 a new division was created – Working. This division allows dogs and handlers to execute exercises from a variety of dog sports, including obedience, scent detection, agility and more, in a fun and unique format. Working exercises demonstrate the incredible versatility of dogs, relying on a range of natural canine instincts, precise training and partnership between dog and handler.

This handbook has been written with everyone in mind. Whether you are a participant, a trial host, a judge or one of the incredibly valuable volunteers, every effort has been made to ensure that this updated Rally Handbook includes the information that you need in an easy-to-use format.

The Working Handbook 2025 is effective as of April 1, 2025. It is a full revision containing all the new rules and new signs approved since the last edition.

Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, errors and omissions may exist. If you notice something that is incorrect, please email all the details i.e., page numbers, section numbers, etc. to boardofdirectors@canadianrallyo.ca.

CARO would like to thank all the people who have contributed so much hard work and dedication to the continued development of this wonderful sport.

Errors and omissions should be reported to handbooks@canadianrallyo.ca

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1.1. The Canadian Association of Rally Obedience (CARO)

The Canadian Association of Rally Obedience strives to be an inclusive organization that encourages participation of all dogs and handlers welcoming those with physical challenges.

We strive to foster fair play both in and out of the ring.

CARO certifies a pool of judges, maintains a registry of dogs eligible for competition and tracks all trial results and titles awarded.

1.2. CARO Code of Ethics

CARO participants will treat all dogs and handlers with respect. Participants will make positive methods an integral part of their training methods. Participants will always take into consideration the physical and psychological well-being of the dog, and practice fair play both in and out of the ring.

The practice of choking, hanging, beating, kicking and any other cruel procedures causing physical or mental harm to a dog are inconsistent with humane dog training. These methods represent a serious violation of ethical conduct and will not be tolerated. **Members found guilty of these practices will have their membership revoked and will be banned from participating in any CARO events for a period as determined by the CARO Executive.**

Members are encouraged to assist others. Professional members will refrain from criticizing other professionals in their field and will stay current with the CARO rules and regulations.

No member shall represent themselves as an official CARO spokesperson without the prior written approval of the Board of Directors.

2. Competitors Corner

2.1. Eligibility to Participate

2.1.1. Dogs

- Must be at least six months of age.
- Must be registered with CARO.
- May compete as a Veteran if 7 years of age or older.
- May be of any breed or mix of breeds.
- Female dogs in estrus (heat) may not compete at in-person trials.

Dogs that are physically challenged are welcome, providing they do not show evidence of being in pain or discomfort.

- The Judge shall excuse any dog that appears to be in pain or discomfort unless an accommodation has been pre-approved.
- A Judge's decision is final.
- Please refer to the accommodations section to learn how courses can be modified to accommodate dogs with challenges.

Dogs exhibiting signs of aggression that threaten the safety of other dogs or people shall be excused from competition at the discretion of either the Judge or the Trial Chairperson.

- Handlers may be requested to either confine the dog or remove it from the venue.
- Refusal to do so by the dog's handler may result in permanent removal of both that dog and that handler's eligibility for future events.

2.1.2. Handlers

Handlers do not have to be members to participate in CARO trials.

Handlers who are physically challenged are encouraged to compete.

Where needed, modification(s) may be made to an exercise to accommodate the challenge.

Note: Trial hosts have the right to refuse entries for any reason and may refuse entry to handlers who have violated the CARO Code of Ethics.

2.2. Exercise modifications

CARO welcomes and encourages the participation of all dogs and handlers. Should a dog or handler have a physical disability which prohibits the completion of one or more exercises, modifications can be made to the exercises to reduce or remove components that are impediments to the team's performance.

Common modifications include:

- Reducing the height of the obstacles (e.g., jumps may be reduced to a pole on the ground).
- Allowing extra time.
- Where a handler is not able to throw an object the required distance:
 - The object may be placed in an appropriate position by the steward or Judge, OR
 - The handler may tell the dog to stay and then move forward to a position where the object may be thrown successfully. The handler will then return to the dog to continue the exercise.

Judges shall make reasonable time modifications for owners or dogs with limited mobility, advanced age or for larger, slow-moving breeds of dogs.

2.2.1. Process to obtain an accommodation

Competitors must submit a request for accommodation with their entry form.

- A description of the physical challenges involved.
- A description of the exercise modifications being requested (if assistance is required, please reach out to the trial host).
- Contact information to allow the judge to contact the competitor if needed to clarify information and discussion options.

All accommodations must maintain the integrity of the exercises. Final approvals for accommodation are at the discretion of the judge.

In cases where the challenge may cause the dog to appear unsound, such as having an uneven gait, the request must be accompanied by a letter from a veterinarian which states that the dog is able to compete without discomfort. A copy of the letter **MUST** be included with each trial entry where the accommodation is being requested.

The judge is responsible for making the final decision on the dog's ability to compete on the day of the trial, taking into consideration the condition of the dog on the day and the letter from the veterinarian.

Veteran dogs (7 years of age and older) do not require an accommodation request to reduce the height of the jump. Competitors must ensure that the date of birth of the dog is included in the entry form.

- The competitor can indicate the desired jump height on the entry form.
- A request for a modification is required if a veteran dog requires an additional accommodation.

2.3. Dog equipment

2.3.1. Collars, Leashes and Harnesses

- **ONLY** a flat buckle, snap collar or a fixed harness with no embellishments such as jewels, studs or hanging attachments (such as tags) and a leash are approved equipment.
- Collars may be removed with the leash once the team has entered the ring.
- Not permitted in the ring: Muzzles, martingale collars, choke collars, prong collars, shock collars, bandanas, martingale leads, head halters, moving harnesses or any harnesses that are designed to be correctional.
- Not permitted on trial grounds: Extendable leashes, long lines, slip leashes, prong, shock, and choke collars.

2.3.2. Clothing

- Coats and sweaters that do not interfere with the dog's movement or the Judge's ability to judge the team's performance are permitted.
- Booties are not permitted in the ring.
- Belly bands are allowed in the ring only for dogs with leakage issues due to incontinence. A vet letter is required for this circumstance.

2.4. Handler provided objects

The handler is responsible for providing the objects listed below for their chosen exercises. It is recommended that the handler brings an open container for each exercise where handler-provided objects are required. Objects for the Retrieve on Flat and Retrieve over Jump may be carried in the handler's pocket out of sight.

Object must be an inactive toy or item, sized appropriately for the dog to carry, that does not easily roll or make any noise. If the object is not meant to roll (such as a dumbbell) but it does, that is permitted.

- Retrieve on Flat: 1 retrieve object.
- Retrieve over Jump: 1 retrieve object.
- Designated Retrieve: 2 to 4 different retrieve objects (depending on level).
Different is defined as being of a different shape or totally different colour encompassing the entire object.
- Scent Discrimination: 3 to 5 identical objects of any material (depending on level).
Identical is defined as being the same size, shape and colour.
Each object should be identified with a unique number or other mark of the same colour. It is recommended that handlers bring additional identical objects in case replacements are required.

2.5. Trial Organization

2.5.1. Working Levels

Working includes three levels. All levels include the same exercises performed at increasing degrees of difficulty.		
Rookie (R)	Elite (T)	Expert (X)

- Working exercises are judged and passes earned on an individual exercise basis.
- Once a team has earned the required 3 passes under a minimum of two different judges for an exercise, they are qualified to move up to the next level for that exercise.
- If the prerequisite is obtained at the same trial as the higher-level exercises, then the successes at the higher level will be credited.

2.5.2. For Exhibition Only (FEO)

Teams may enter trials for practice purposes. This is referred to as 'For Exhibition Only' or FEO. Handlers may designate a run FEO before or during the run. FEO exercises cannot be combined with exercises to be counted towards titles in a round. Once an exercise is declared FEO, the entire round will be considered FEO including exercises that have achieved a Pass.

The following conditions apply:

- FEO runs are not eligible for qualifying scores or placements.
- Runs do not count towards a title at any level.
- Time limits on runs are identical to those for regular runs unless exceptions are made by the Host.
- Dogs may enter any level FEO.
- Rewards are allowed at any time at all levels.
- Dog must enter and exit the ring on leash.
- FEO runs and fees shall be at the discretion of the Trial Host.
- Hosts may determine any other rules for their FEO runs.

At the Judge's discretion, a score sheet may be filled out for an FEO run, to provide feedback to the handler.

2.6. Trials

2.6.1. Trial Types

CARO trials may be conducted in-person or virtually. National virtual trials are hosted by CARO. In-person trials are hosted by individuals and organizations across the country.

2.6.2. Trial Format

- Trial hosts are free to select which levels and how many rounds of each to offer at a trial.
- Hosts may offer one level (Rookie, Elite or Expert) per round or allow competitors to complete exercises of various levels in the same round.
- Hosts may offer up to 5 exercises per round depending on space.
- Competitors may enter between 1 and the maximum number of the exercises offered in the round.
- The competitor may mix levels in the same round if the Trial Host has set up the rounds for more than one level at a time and the dog has earned the prerequisite for the levels chosen.

2.6.3. Trial procedure

- A trial official may provide an initial briefing reviewing how the trial will be run on that day and/or logistical information about the location (e.g., where the washrooms are).
- The judge will provide a short briefing before each round to highlight any key points, review their priorities in judging and provide some tips on how to best negotiate the exercises.
- The judge will indicate the judge's selections for specific exercises.
- The judge will caution the spectators that outside interference or prompting will result in a "Not Yet" (NY) for the team in the ring.
- Dogs are not required to be measured on the day of trial prior to judging. However, Judges have the option of measuring any dog prior to their performance if the dog appears to be entered at an incorrect height.

2.6.4. Walkthrough

- Following the Judges briefing, competitors shall be provided with a 2-minute walkthrough (without the dog) to orient themselves with the layout and ask the Judge questions.
- The number of competitors allowed to walk through at the same time is determined in advance by the trial host in collaboration with the Judge.
- Competitors should address all questions to the presiding judge.

2.6.5. Exercise objects drop-off

- The handler will give all the objects required for their chosen exercise(s) to the ring steward or Judge just prior to entering the ring.
- Objects for each exercise should be in separate baskets.
- The ring steward or Judge will place the baskets in the designated location(s).

2.6.6. Judging Process

- The judge will invite teams into the ring following the running order provided by the trial host.
- The Judge shall visually check the dog's collar when the team enters the ring. A dog entering the ring wearing an improper or improperly fitted collar shall be excused and the handler shall be given the option of returning to compete at the end of the running order with a proper or properly fitted collar.
- The overall behavior of the dog and handler is judged from the moment that they enter the ring until they leave.
- Participants may interact with the Judges in between exercises. Once an exercise has begun the Judge will remain silent until they indicate either 'Pass', Retry (when applicable), or a 'Not Yet' for that exercise when it happens.

2.6.7. Timing

Timing will start at the beginning of the first exercise and will end when the judge indicates that the last exercise has been completed or when the maximum time has been reached.

The time allotted for number of exercises attempted is as shown in the table below. The handler must leave the ring when time is called

# Exercises	Time Allotted
5	7 minutes
4	6 minutes
3	5 minutes
2	4 minutes
1	3 minutes

2.6.8. Completing a round

- The handler chooses the order in which they will complete the selected exercises.
- The handler may choose not to complete an exercise and move on to the next one. This decision must be communicated to the Judge.
- This will result in a 'Not Yet' for the exercise not completed.
- Timing will continue (unless this is the last exercise).
- To pass an exercise a dog must successfully complete all the principal features of the exercise.

2.6.9. Scoring

- Scoring in the Working level is a 'Pass' or a 'Not Yet'.
- Judge's decisions are final and cannot be amended once the Trial Record is completed. Competitors may not request that a judge watch a video to reassess a result.
- Competitors should check their score sheets when they receive them and advise the Judge or the Trial Secretary of any recording errors. These errors must be corrected prior to the end of the trial.
- Once the online records have been updated, competitors should compare these results to their score sheets.
- Competitors have 3 months from the date of the trial to report any discrepancy between what is on their score sheet and the online record by emailing dataentry@canadianrallyo.ca.

2.6.10. Trial etiquette

Like every other sport, CARO Working comes with its own etiquette practices which facilitate a friendly and respectful trial atmosphere. Below are some recommendations that will help new competitors prepare for attending in-person trials. In addition to the items listed below, be sure to read through all the information from the trial host for anything that is specific to their event.

- Remember that trials cannot happen without volunteers. Please consider taking a turn to help.
- Be kind and courteous to all.
- Be sure to check in when you arrive so that the ring stewards know that you are there.
- Be sure that permission is obtained before recording anyone.
- Be sure to thank your trial host, judges and volunteers!

On trial grounds

- Always keep a distance between dogs.
- Ask before touching another person's dog.
- Pick up after your dog and leave your crating area tidy at the end of the trial.

Near the Ring

- Keep an eye on the running order and be nearby when it is your turn to be called.
- Avoid distracting behaviour such as playing with squeaky toys or using clickers close to the rings.
- Keep the areas near the entrance, exit and running order lists clear unless you need to use them.
- Don't distract teams who are about to head into the ring.
- Do not communicate with teams in the ring. It will result in the disqualification of the team competing.
- Share warm up space and prioritize use by those next in the ring.
- Be mindful of what you say. Keep all comments positive.

- Remember, many participants will have someone recording them and those recording devices will pick up your comments.

3. CARO Working titles

A CARO Working title is earned by achieving the required passes as described in the table below.

Titles in bold are those for which CARO provides a title ribbon to eligible members.

3.1. Base Titles

Base Titles		
Passes for each exercise must be earned under a minimum of two different judges.		
Title	Acronym	Requirements
Working Rookie I	CWRI	3 Rookie passes in any 5 exercises
Working Rookie II	CWRII	3 Rookie passes in all 10 exercises
Working Elite I	CWTI	3 Elite passes in any 5 exercises
Working Elite II	CWTII	3 Elite passes in all 10 exercises
Working Expert I	CWXI	3 Expert passes in any 5 exercises
Working Champion	CWCh	3 Expert passes in all 10 exercises

3.2. Championship Titles

Championship Titles		
Once three Expert passes have been earned in an exercise, subsequent passes in that exercise do not have to be earned under different judges.		
Title	Acronym	Requirements
Working Bronze	CWB	6 Expert passes in any 5 exercises
Working Bronze Honours	CWBH	6 Expert passes in all 10 exercises
Working Silver	CWS	9 Expert passes in any 5 exercises
Working Silver Honours	CWSH	9 Expert passes in all 10 exercises
Working Gold	CWG	12 Expert passes in any 5 exercises
Working Honours Champion	CWHCh	12 Expert passes in all 10 exercises

3.3. CARO Lifetime Achievement Award - CLAA

Presented by CARO upon completion of both the CARO Rally Grand Masters Champion and the CARO Working Honours Champion titles.

4. Working Guidelines

Guidelines described in this section are for actions or situations which are not expressly described in the individual Exercises. Not completing any of the items in the Pass Requirements of each Exercise will result in a 'Not Yet'.

4.1. General Items

This section describes actions or situations which are not expressly described in the individual sign requirements. The pass requirements are stated with each exercise and not completing any of these will result in a "Not Yet" for that exercise.

Situations resulting in 'Not Yet' for the entire round
If, in the judge's interpretation, outside interference has assisted the team.
Handlers who allow their dogs to enter or exit without a leash.

4.2. The Handler

4.2.1. Cues and Encouragement

- The dog should be responsive to their handler and work in a happy manner.
- Unless otherwise stated in the individual exercise instructions repeated cues and encouragement are allowed.
- A cue may be verbal, a physical signal or both unless prohibited by a specific exercise.

Actions resulting in 'Not Yet' for an exercise
If a dog is not responding to the cues of the handler, it is at the judge's discretion to call Retry or 'Not Yet'.

4.2.2. Food, Toys, and Physical Praise

- Upon entering the ring, the handler may reward the dog until the team engages with their first exercise.
- In all levels, upon completion of the **final attempt** of any exercise, the handler may choose to give the dog food, briefly play with a toy, or pet the dog as a reward.
- Food or toys must be kept fully concealed in the handler's pocket until after the dog has completed the exercise. Treat bags and training aprons are not allowed in the ring.
- The toy or any unused food must be returned to the pocket before the team moves to the next exercise.
- For exercises which include a retrieve, the handler may choose to briefly play with the retrieved item once the exercise is completed. The item must be returned to the container (or pocket if applicable) before leaving the exercise.
- Food must be delivered directly to the dog and not tossed on the floor. There is no penalty for food that is dropped on the floor however the handler must pick it up immediately. Should the dog reach the food first, there is no penalty.

Actions resulting in a 'Not Yet' for the exercise
<p>If a mid-exercise touch occurs the team will receive a 'Not Yet' and the handler will be instructed to proceed with either a repeat attempt if applicable, or to move on to the next exercise. A touch between attempts will result in a 'Not Yet' and the team will be instructed to move on to the next exercise.</p> <p>If the handler puts their hand into a pocket before the dog has completed the exercise, the team will receive a 'Not Yet' and the handler will be instructed to proceed with either a repeat attempt if applicable, or to move on to the next exercise.</p> <p>Handler putting their hand in a pocket between attempts will result in a 'Not Yet' and the team will be instructed to move on to the next exercise.</p>
Actions resulting in a 'Not Yet' for the round
<p>Handler wears training apron or treat bag in the ring.</p>

4.2.3. Corrections

Handlers should always use a positive voice and body language when interacting with their dogs. Physical and/or harsh or extreme verbal corrections are not allowed anywhere within the boundaries of the trial.

Actions resulting in a 'Not Yet' for all exercises in a round
<p>If a cue or signal affects the attitude of the dog or offends the sensibilities of the Judge, the handler will be warned immediately. The handler may continue the round.</p> <p>If the judge interprets that the handler's use of the leash is intended as a correction it will be treated as a physical correction and the above point may apply.</p>
Actions resulting in an excusal from a trial
<p>Physical and/or harsh or extreme verbal corrections on the trial grounds observed by any trial official.</p> <p>A second incident in the ring will result in the team being excused from the trial.</p>
Special
<p>Any handler who has been excused from a trial on two separate occasions shall be prohibited from competing in CARO events for a period to be determined by the Executive.</p>

4.2.4. Training in the ring

- Once the judge has indicated a Pass or 'Not Yet' for an attempt, the team must move on or retry as appropriate. If the team does not immediately move on or retry, the judge may consider this training in the ring.
- Familiarization with the dog box is allowed by walking with them to or through the box but the handler may not practice sending them to it.

Actions resulting in a 'Not Yet'
If, in the opinion of the judge, the handler is training in the ring, the team will be required to move on from that exercise with a 'Not Yet'. No repeat attempt will be allowed.
Touching the dog to put it into a position (Sit, Down, Stand), will result in a 'Not Yet' for the exercise. No repeat attempt will be allowed.

4.3. The Dog

The dog should be responsive to their handler and work in a happy manner. Barking is not penalized.

Actions resulting in a 'Not Yet' or retry for current exercise only
Dog not engaging in the performance despite multiple cues from the handler.
Actions resulting in a 'Not Yet' for current and remaining exercises in a round.
Dog not under the control of the handler. The run is ended. Dog eliminates in the ring. The run is ended.
Actions resulting in a 'Not Yet' for all exercises in a round.
Dog leaves the ring.

4.4. In the Ring

The following sections contain rules which apply to the performance of the exercises and are in addition to the specific pass requirements described with the individual exercise.

4.4.1. Repeating an Exercise

- A team may repeat an exercise once in the Rookie and Elite levels if they do so before moving to the next exercise.
- For exercises where the judge has selected an obstacle, sequence or object, the same selection will apply to the repeat.
- The judge will indicate to the handler if the first attempt of the exercise does not meet the pass criteria.
- The instruction to retry will be given at the point at which the 'Not Yet' has been incurred. If the handler chooses to use the repeat, they must then begin the second attempt immediately or move on.
- To initiate the repeat of the exercise both the dog and the handler must move away from the exercise station and re-approach it as if they were starting for the first time.

Actions resulting in a 'Not Yet'
Failure to re-approach an exercise on a retry

4.4.2. Moving between Exercises

- When moving between exercises the dog must remain under the control of the handler through one of the following two options:
 1. The dog moves with the handler between exercises, remaining engaged and ideally within arm's length, or,
 2. The handler may leave the dog in a stay, move to the next exercise, and then call their dog to them.
- Incidental interaction with equipment when moving between exercises will not be penalized. The judge or steward will reset the equipment.
- Physical praise is allowed as the team moves between exercises.

4.4.3. Movement in the handler box or at the handler line

- Handlers are allowed to move within the handler box during exercises.
- When the line is used, the handler must stay within the same area that would be allowed if a handler box was present.

Actions resulting in a 'Not Yet' for the exercise
Handler steps out of the handler box while performing the exercise unless permitted when retrieving or replacing an object.
When using a handler line, the handler has moved in such a way that it would place them outside of a handler box if a box were present.

4.4.4. Starting and Finishing Exercises

Most of the exercises begin with the dog in heel position and end with the dog either in front position or by returning to heel position with a finish. The following definitions and relevant requirements apply to all references to heel position, front position, and the finish in the exercise descriptions.

Heel Position - When the dog begins an exercise in heel position:

- The dog may be on either the left or the right side.
- The shoulder of the dog is in line with the handler's side.
- The dog should be in a straight-line, parallel with the direction in which the team is working.
- When sitting in heel position the dog must be within 45 degrees of the handler.
- If a handler box is utilized, it is not necessary for the dog to be in the handler box, but the front paws of the dog must be behind the front of the handler box.
- If a handler line is used, the dog must be behind the line.



Front Position - The team's ideal front position is defined as follows:

- The dog is sitting facing the handler, close enough that the handler could easily reach down and touch the dog.
- When sitting in front position the dog must be within 45 degrees of a straight position in front of the handler.



Finish Position

- The dog moves from front position to heel position by either going around the handler or directly to heel position.
- When sitting in heel position the dog must be within 45 degrees of the handler.

4.4.5. Jumps

Jumps have a height depending upon the shoulder height of the dog.

Dog shoulder height	Jump Height
under 12 inches	4 inches
12 inches to under 16 inches	8 inches
16 inches to under 20 inches	12 inches
20 inches and over	14 inches
Special: Veteran dogs over 7 years of age may jump any height requested.	

4.4.6. Retrieves

This section pertains to all exercises that include a retrieve component.

Exercise	Acronym	Exercise #
Retrieve on Flat	ROF	W2
Designated Retrieve	DR	W5
Retrieve Over Jump	ROJ	W9
Scent Discrimination	SD	W10

- The dog is expected to bring the object to the handler and release it to hand.
- If the dog drops the object but picks it up without a cue from the handler, it's allowed.
- If the handler's throw doesn't meet distance requirement, or becomes inaccessible, the judge or steward will get it and return it to the handler. The dog must hold the stay while the item is being returned. This does not constitute a repeat of the exercise.

Actions resulting in a 'Retry' or 'Not Yet' for the exercise
Handler cues the dog to pick up a dropped object

4.4.7. The path of the dog

Dogs are expected to follow the path of travel designated by exercise instructions.

- In exercises where the dog is being sent away from the handler toward the dog box, the dog may pause on their way but must not move back toward the handler.

Actions resulting in a 'Retry' or 'Not Yet' for the attempt
Dog engages with the equipment (jump/pylons) of an exercise other than the one being attempted.
Dog displaces equipment such as a pylon or jump.
Dog has travelled significantly off the designated path of travel for the current exercise.
Dog starts to move back toward the handler during an exercise where the dog is being sent away from the handler toward the dog box.
Any behaviour unrequested by the exercise. This includes, but is not limited to such behaviors as, spinning on go-out and any position not requested during signals.

5. Exercises

Note on exercise illustrations –

For the purposes of exercise graphics, handler boxes have been used throughout except for the 15ft line in the Directed Jumping. Trial hosts may choose to use either boxes or line as indicated.

Illustrations are approximate and may not be to scale.

General notes –

The pass requirements for each exercise are noted at the end of each exercise and must be completed.

Please review the general requirements for each exercise. These include details that are important for the proper performance and specify conditions related to any handler-provided objects.

5.1. Drop On Recall

DOR/W1

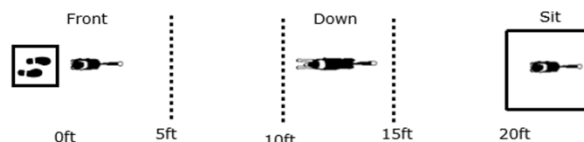
Diagrams of the setup are included with the level descriptions below

The exercise begins when the handler steps into the dog box.



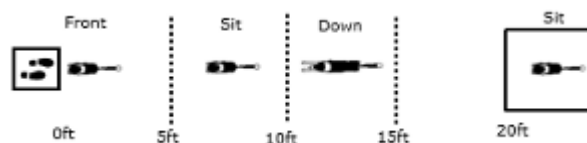
Rookie

- The handler cues the dog to sit in heel position,
- Cues the dog to stay, proceeds to the handler box and turns to face the dog,
- Calls the dog and then cues the following sequence:
 1. Down between the 10-foot and 15-foot lines,
 2. Call to sit in front position.



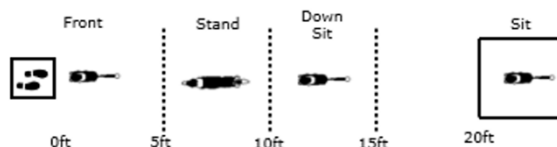
Elite

- The handler cues the dog to sit in heel position,
- Cues the dog to stay, proceeds to the handler box and turns to face the dog,
- Calls the dog and then cues the following sequence:
 1. Down between the 10-foot and 15-foot lines,
 2. Come forward,
 3. Sit between the 5-foot and 10 ft lines,
 4. Call to sit in front position.



Expert

- The handler cues the dog to sit in heel position,
- Cues the dog to stay, proceeds to the handler box and turns to face the dog,
- Calls the dog and then cues the following sequence:
 1. Down between the 10-foot and 15-foot lines,
 2. Sit from the down position,
 3. Come forward,
 4. Stand between the 5-foot and 10-foot lines,
 5. Call to sit in front position,
 6. Finish and sit in heel position.



The exercise ends when the dog sits in front position for Rookie & Elite and in heel position for Expert

Pass requirements

- ✓ The dog sits in heel position until cued,
- ✓ Moves directly towards the handler until cued to perform another behaviour,
- ✓ Has front paws within the designated zone when assuming a position (lines are not part of the designated zone),
- ✓ Comes to sit in front position,
- ✓ Expert only – Finishes on cue.



5.2. Retrieve on Flat

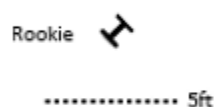
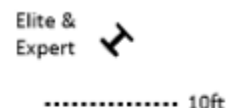
The competitor must provide the object to be retrieved, and it may not be the same one as used for Designated Retrieve or the Scent Detection exercises.

The exercise begins when the handler steps into the handler box.



Rookie & Elite

- The handler cues the dog to sit in heel position,
- Throws the object the minimum required distance of 5' for Rookie and 10' for Elite,
- Cues the dog to retrieve the object after it has stopped moving,
- Cues the dog to sit in front position holding the object,
- The dog remains sitting in front position while releasing the object to hand.



Expert

- The handler cues the dog to sit in heel position,
- Throws the object the required minimum distance of 10',
- After the object has stopped moving, cues the dog to down in heel position,
- Cues the dog to retrieve the object,
- Cues the dog to sit in front position holding the object.
- The dog remains sitting in front position while releasing the object to hand
- The handler cues the dog to finish and sit in heel position.
- The exercise ends for Rookie & Elite when the handler has the object.
- The exercise ends for Expert when the dog has finished and is sitting in heel position.



Pass requirements

- ✓ The dog sits in heel position until cued,
- ✓ Maintains sitting in heel position while the handler throws the object and it has stopped moving,
- ✓ Expert only – downs in heel position on cue,
- ✓ Retrieves the object on cue,
- ✓ Returns to the handler to sit in front position,
- ✓ Remains sitting in front position while releasing the object to hand,
- ✓ Expert only – finishes on cue.



5.3. Barrel Racing

BR/W3

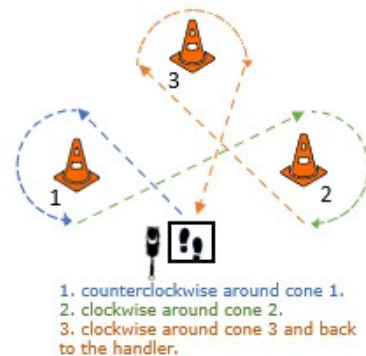
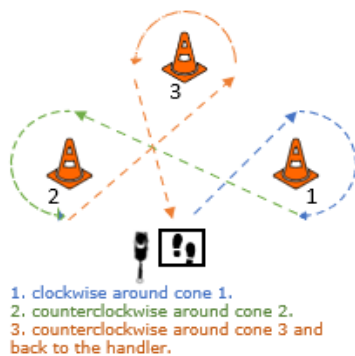


The layout for each exercise level is shown immediately below with the options for the path of the dog shown below the exercise details.

The exercise begins when the handler steps into the handler box.

Rookie	Elite	Expert

- The handler cues the dog to sit in heel position,
- Sends the dog through one of the two possible patterns as depicted below,
- The dog **may not** be directed to go behind the handler box, nor be called back to the handler.
- Calls the dog to sit in front position.
- Expert only – Cues the dog to finish.
- The exercise ends when the dog sits in front position for Rookie & Elite and is sitting in heel position for Expert.



Pass requirements

- ✓ The dog sits in heel position until cued,
- ✓ Circles the cones in the correct order and path as illustrated above and does not significantly leave the path of travel,
- ✓ Returns to the handler to sit in front position,
- ✓ Expert only – finishes on cue.



5.4. Directed Jumping

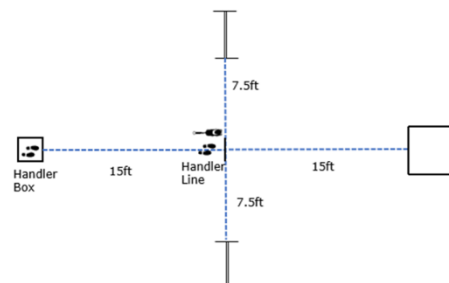
DJ/W4

The exercise begins when the handler engages with the exercise station either to start the exercise or to familiarize the dog with the dog box.



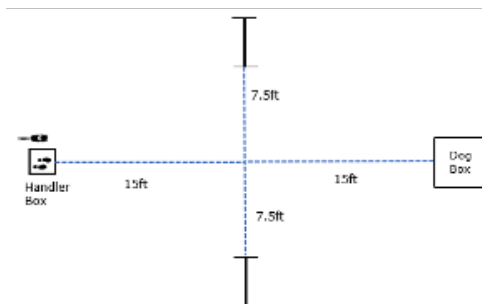
Rookie

- The team starts the exercise at the handler line between the two jumps.
- The dog sits in heel position until cued.
- The handler sends the dog directly to the dog box.
- The dog enters the box and stays within the box as the handler moves to the handler box (the dog is not required to hold a position only to remain in the box).
- The handler cues the dog to take the designated jump.
- The handler may turn as the dog comes to sit in front position.
- The dog comes to sit in front position and the exercise is ended.



Elite

- The team starts the exercise at the handler box,
- The dog sits in heel position until cued,
- The handler sends the dog directly to the dog box,
- Cues the dog to hold a sit, stand, or down,
- Cues the dog to take the designated jump,
- The handler may turn as the dog comes to sit in front position,
- The dog comes to sit in front position and the exercise is ended.



Expert

- The team starts the exercise at the handler box,
- The dog sits in heel position until cued,
- The handler sends the dog directly to the dog box,
- Cues the dog to hold a sit, stand, or down,
- Cues the dog to take the designated jump,
- The handler may turn as the dog comes to sit in front position,
- The handler cues the dog to finish,
- Handler and dog return to face the jumps and repeat the exercise with the second designated jump,
- The handler may turn as the dog comes to sit in front position.
- The handler cues the dog to finish and the exercise is ended.

Pass requirements

- ✓ The dog sits in heel position until cued,
- ✓ Moves **directly** to the dog box on cue without spinning or taking any steps back toward the handler and enters the box headfirst,
- ✓ Remains in the dog box (Rookie) or, maintains the position in the dog box requested by the handler (Elite & Expert) until cued to jump,
- ✓ Jumps the correct jump(s) as designated by the judge,
- ✓ Returns to the handler to sit in front position,
- ✓ Expert only – finishes on cue.



5.5. Designated Retrieve (DR)

DR/W5

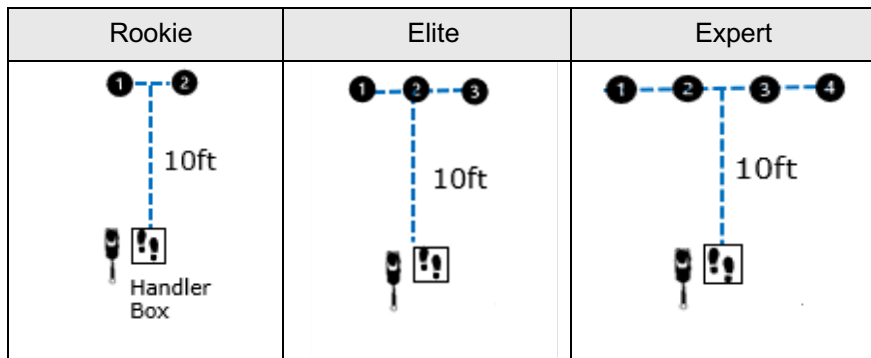
Competitor must provide up to 4 different objects depending on the level, and an open container (basket) to present these to the judge.

For the purpose of this exercise, different is defined as either different shape or 100% different color. See Section 2.4.

All objects are placed 3 feet apart from each other with the same orientation, on a line 10 feet from the handler as indicated in the diagrams below.

The object to retrieve will have been designated by the Judge.

The exercise begins when the handler steps into the handler box.



Objects all oriented in the same direction



- The handler cues the dog to sit in heel position.
- The Steward or Judge will place the objects as required.
- The handler cues the dog to retrieve the designated object.
- The handler may give cues and encouragement until the dog reaches the line of the objects.
- The handler may not give cues or encouragement of any kind while the dog is at the objects.
- Cues and encouragement may be given after the dog has picked up an object, left the object line and is returning to the handler.
- If the dog drops the object but picks it up without a handler's cue, it's allowed.
- The handler cues the dog to sit in front position holding the object.
- The dog remains sitting in front position and releases the object to hand.
- Expert Only – the handler cues the dog to finish.



Cues and encouragement are limited.

The exercise ends for Rookie & Elite when the handler has the object, and for Expert when the dog has finished and is sitting in heel position.

Pass requirements

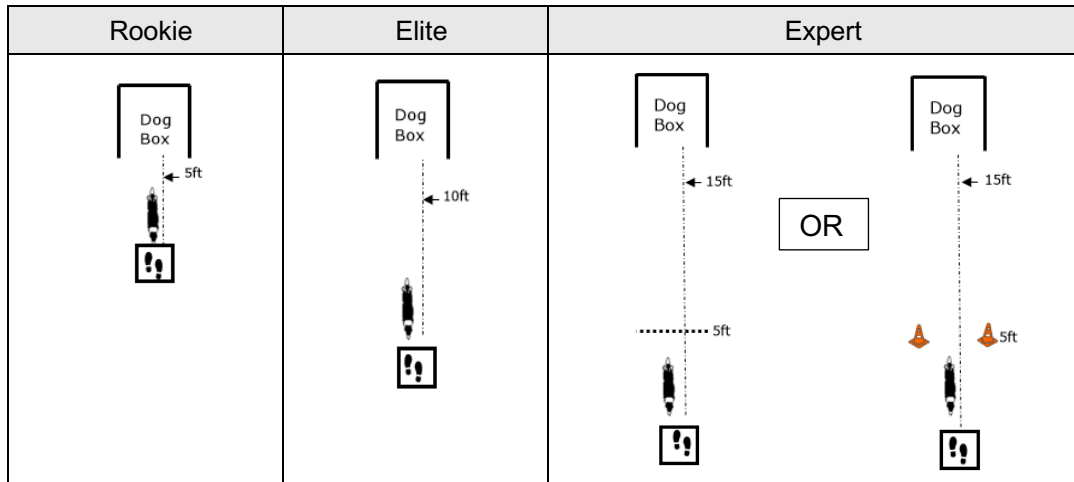
- ✓ The dog sits in heel position until cued,
- ✓ Retrieves the correct object,
- ✓ Sits in front position,
- ✓ Remains sitting in front position and the dog releases the object to hand,
- ✓ Expert only – finishes on cue.



5.6. Back Away

BA/W6

The exercise begins when the handler steps into the handler box or familiarizes the dog with the dog box.



Rookie & Elite

- The handler stands in the handler box with the dog facing them, either sitting or standing, in front position.
- The handler cues the dog to back up to the dog box until the front paws of the dog are behind the front plane of the box.

Expert

- The handler stands in the handler box with the dog facing them, either sitting or standing, in front position.
- The handler cues the dog to back up until their front paws have passed the 5' line,
- The handler cues the dog to perform either a sit, down, spin left or spin right.
- The handler cues the dog to continue to back up to the dog box until the front paws of the dog are behind the front plane of the box.

The exercise ends when the front paws of the dog are behind the front plane of the dog box.

Note: The dog may end with their back feet outside of the back of the box.

Pass requirements

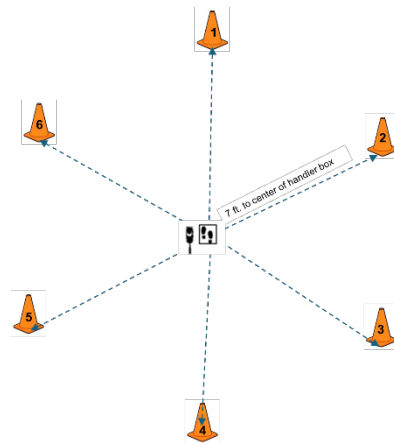
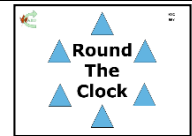
- ✓ The dog sits or stands in front of the handler box facing the handler,
- ✓ When cued by the handler, moves backwards to the dog box without taking any steps back toward the handler or offering any behavior unrequested by the exercise,
- ✓ Expert only – performs the requested behaviour after the 5ft line,
- ✓ Fully enters the dog box with front paws behind the front plane of the dog box.



5.7. Round the Clock

RTC/W7

The exercise begins when the handler steps into the handler box.



Cones are positioned 7ft from the centre of the handler box.

The handler box may be positioned in any direction.

- The handler cues the dog to sit in heel position.
- The handler cues the dog to circle the cones designated by the judge.
- Dogs may circle a cone in either a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction,
- No cone should be circled more than once.
- After circling each required cone, the dog returns to within an arm's length of the handler.

Rookie	Elite	Expert
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handler may start facing any of the cones. • Dog circles 3 designated cones in any order, • The dog comes to sit in front position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handler may start facing any of the cones. • Dog circles 4 designated cones in any order, • The dog comes to sit in front position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog circles all 6 cones in numerical order starting with cone #1, • The dog comes to sit in front position. • The handler cues the dog to finish.

The exercise ends when the dog sits in front position for Rookie & Elite and when the dog has finished and is sitting in heel position for Expert.

Pass requirements

- ✓ The dog sits in heel position until cued,
- ✓ Circles the required cones in continuous motion as directed by the handler,
- ✓ Circles each required cone only once,
- ✓ Returns to within an arm's length of the handler after circling each cone,
- ✓ Sits in front position,
- ✓ Expert only – finishes on cue.



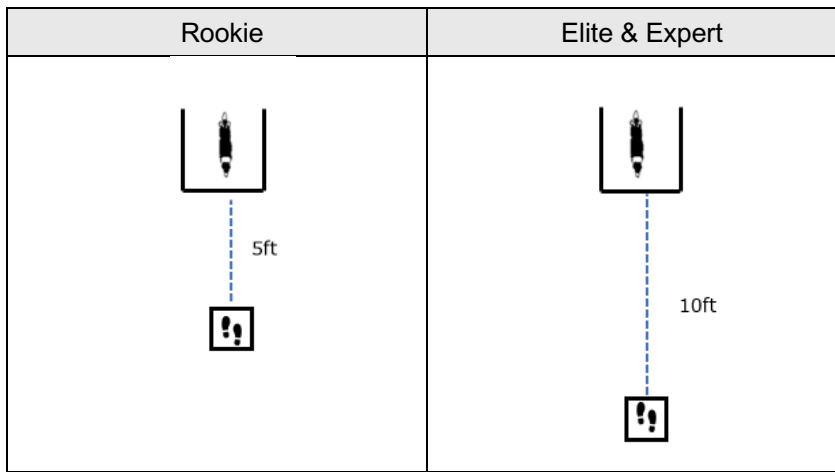
5.8. Distance Signals

DS/W8



The sequence of behaviours will be designated by the Judge from the lists shown below.

The exercise begins when the handler and dog step into the dog box.



- Once the handler enters the dog box, the handler may only use silent cues at that point.
- The dog's body may extend out the back of the box at any time during the exercise, but the front feet must remain in the box except as otherwise stipulated.
- The handler silently cues the dog to sit in heel position.
- Cues the dog to stay, walks to the handler box and turns to face the dog,
- Cues the dog to perform the designated sequence of position changes.



Physical cues only.
Cues must be silent.

Rookie	Elite	Expert
1. Stand - Down - Sit	1. Stand - Down - Sit - Stand	1. Stand - Down - Stand - Spin - Sit
2. Stand - Sit - Down	2. Stand - Down - Stand - Spin	2. Stand - Sit - Down - Stand - Spin
3. Down - Stand - Sit	3. Down - Stand - Sit - Stand	3. Down - Sit - Down - Stand - Spin
4. Down - Sit - Stand	4. Down - Sit - Stand - Spin	4. Down - Sit - Stand - Spin - Down

The exercise ends when the dog has completed the sequence and is in the box.

Note for spins – Should the dog step out of the box while completing the spin it will be allowed if either, the dog puts itself back into the box or, responds to a physical cue from the handler to return to the box. The dog must remain in the box when performing all other behaviours.

Note for position changes – The handler may cue the dog to back up in the position they are holding before cueing the next change in order to keep them in the box.

Pass requirements

- ✓ The dog stays in position(s) until cued to move,
- ✓ Correctly performs the designated sequence,
- ✓ Responds to physical cues only,
- ✓ Remains in the box while performing the sequence,
- ✓ For sequences that end in a spin the dog finishes the sequence in the box,

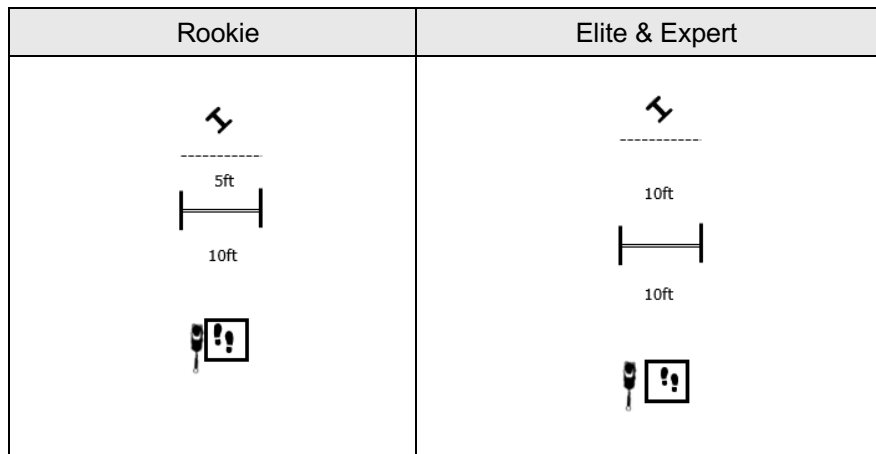


5.9. Retrieve over Jump

ROJ/W9

The competitor must provide the object to be retrieved. This object may not be used for Designated Retrieve or Scent Detection.

The exercise begins when the handler steps into the handler box.



- The handler cues the dog to sit in heel position,
- Throws the object the required minimum distance,
- Cues the dog to retrieve the object after it has stopped moving.
- The dog takes the jump, retrieves the object, and returns over the jump to the handler,
- The handler cues the dog to sit in front position holding the object,
- The dog remains sitting in front position and releases the object to hand.
- Expert only - The handler cues the dog to finish.

The exercise ends for Rookie & Elite when the handler has the object, and for Expert when the dog has finished and is sitting in heel position

Pass requirements

- ✓ The dog sits in heel position until cued,
- ✓ The handler waits to cue the retrieve until the object has stopped moving,
- ✓ When cued, the dog takes the jump and picks up the object,
- ✓ Returns over the jump carrying the object,
- ✓ Returns to the handler to sit in front position,
- ✓ Releases the object to hand,
- ✓ Expert only – finishes on cue.



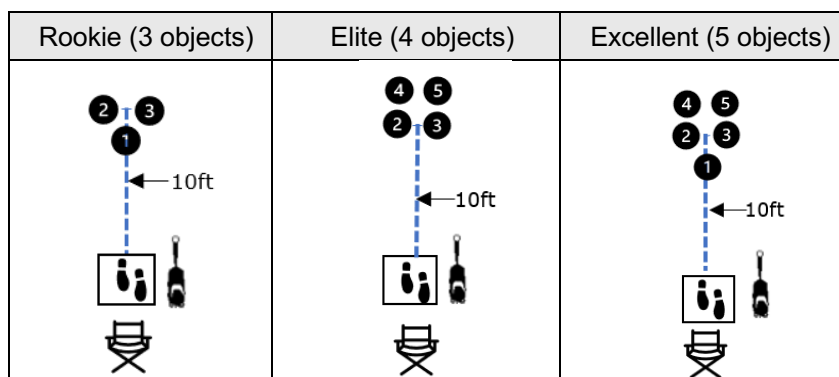
5.10. Scent Discrimination

The competitor must provide 3 to 5 identical unscented objects for this exercise as indicated in the diagrams below. See section 2.4.

Objects are about 1 foot apart from each other and must be oriented in the same direction.

The 10-foot distance runs from the edge of the handler box or line to the midline between object locations 2 and 3.

The exercise begins when the handler steps into the handler box.



Scent objects all oriented in the same direction



- The handler stands in the handler box with the dog sitting in heel position, facing away from where the objects will be placed.
- The judge selects one object to be scented.
- While the handler scents the selected object, the remaining objects are placed as illustrated above.
- The scented object is then placed by the Judge.
- The judge signals the handler to begin.
- The handler cues the dog to retrieve the object which may be completed in one of two ways:
 1. The dog turns with the handler to face the objects, sits at heel and is then cued to retrieve, or,
 2. The dog turns with the handler and the handler cues the retrieve without the dog sitting.
- The handler may give cues until the dog reaches the object but may not give cues of any kind while the dog is at the objects.
- Cues and encouragement may be given only after the dog has picked up an object and is returning to the handler.
- The handler cues the dog to front position holding the object,
- The dog remains sitting in front position and releases the object to hand.
- Expert only - The handler cues the dog to finish.



This exercise includes some direction from the Judge.

Limited cues allowed.

The exercise ends for Rookie & Elite when the handler has taken the object from the dog and for Expert when the dog has returned to heel position.

Pass requirements

- ✓ The dog sits in heel position until cued,
- ✓ Retrieves the correct object,
- ✓ Comes to sit in front position,
- ✓ Remains sitting and releases the object to hand,
- ✓ Expert only – finishes on cue.

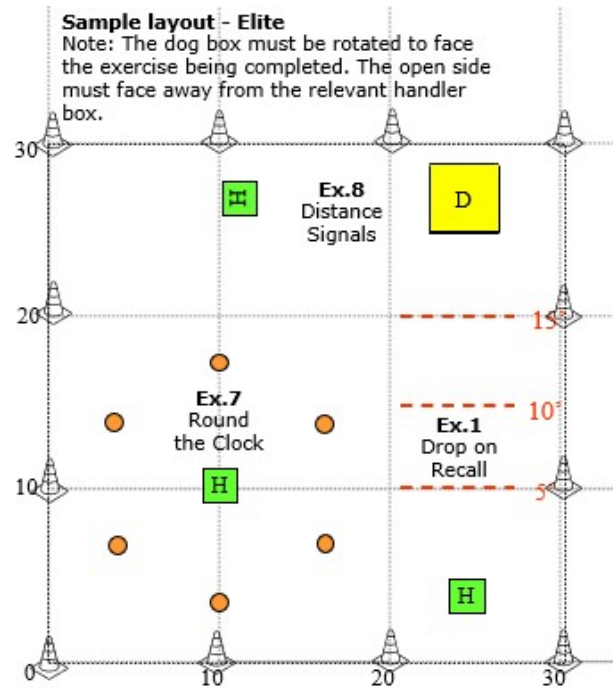
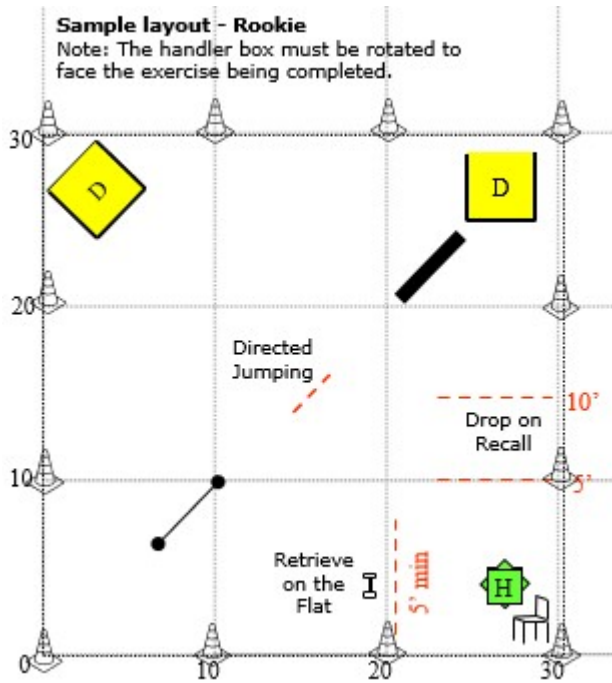


Appendix A – Pass Requirement Checklist

<p>Drop on Recall (DOR/W1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The dog sits in heel position until cued, ■ Moves directly towards the handler until cued to perform another behaviour, ■ Has front paws within the designated zone when assuming a position, (lines are not part of the designated zone). ■ Comes to sit in front position. ■ Expert only – Finishes on cue 	<p>Retrieve on the Flat (ROF/W2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The dog sits in heel position until cued, ■ Maintains sitting in heel position while the handler throws the object and it has stopped moving, ■ Expert only – downs in heel position on cue, ■ Retrieves the object on cue, ■ Returns to the handler to sit in front position, ■ Remains sitting in front position while releasing the object to hand. ■ Expert only – finishes on cue.
<p>Barrel Racing (BR/W3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The dog sits in heel position until cued, ■ Circles the cones in the correct order and path as illustrated above, ■ Returns to the handler to sit in front position. ■ Expert only – finishes on cue. 	<p>Directed Jumping (DJ/W4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The dog sits in heel position until cued, ■ Moves directly to the dog box on cue without spinning or taking any steps back toward the handler and enters the box headfirst. ■ Remains in the dog box (Rookie) or, maintains position (Elite & Expert) until cued to jump. ■ Jumps the correct jump(s) as designated by the judge, ■ Returns to the handler to sit in front position. ■ Expert only – finishes on cue.
<p>Designated Retrieve (DR/W5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The dog sits in heel position until cued, ■ Retrieves the correct object, ■ Sits in front position, ■ Remains sitting in front position and the dog releases the object to hand. ■ Expert only – finishes on cue. 	<p>Back Away (BA/W6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The dog sits or stands in front of the handler box facing the handler, ■ When cued by the handler, moves backwards to the dog box without taking any steps back toward the handler or offering any behavior unrequested by the exercise, ■ Expert only – performs the requested behaviour after the 5ft line, ■ Fully enters the dog box with front paws behind the front plane of the dog box.
<p>Round the Clock (RTC/W7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The dog sits in heel position until cued, ■ Circles the required cones in continuous motion as directed by the handler, ■ Circles each required cone only once, ■ Returns to within an arm's length of the handler after circling each cone, ■ Sits in front position, ■ Expert only – finishes on cue. 	<p>Distance Signals (DS/W8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The dog stays in position(s) until cued to move, ■ Correctly performs the designated sequence, ■ Responds to physical cues only, ■ Remains in the box while performing the sequence. ■ For sequences that end in a spin the dog finishes the sequence fully in the box.
<p>Retrieve over Jump (ROJ/W9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The dog sits in heel position until cued, ■ The handler waits to cue the retrieve until the object has stopped moving. ■ When cued, the dog takes the jump and picks up the object, ■ Returns over the jump carrying the object, ■ Returns to the handler to sit in front position, ■ Releases the object to hand. ■ Expert only – finishes on cue. 	<p>Scent Discrimination (SD/W10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The dog sits in heel position until cued, ■ Retrieves the correct object, ■ Comes to sit in front position, ■ Remains sitting and releases the object to hand. ■ Expert only – finishes on cue

Appendix B – Sample Course Maps

Virtual Trials – Ring size 30ft x 30ft



Sample Layout – Expert
10 Exercises

