



**SPORTING DETECTION
DOGS ASSOCIATION**

MASTER RULE BOOK

VERSION 3.0 SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

SPORTING DETECTION DOGS ASSOCIATION (SDDA)

RULE BOOK - VERSION 3.0 SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Eligibility:

- Dogs must be at least 6 months of age to attend a test or trial.
- Minors under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian in the search areas at all official events.
- All dogs must be in good health on the day of an event and should be current on all vaccinations required by law for that region.
- Any test or trial may be stopped at the discretion of the judge if at any time the judge deems the dog to be under extreme stress.
- Dogs with a pre-existing condition that may appear to be unsoundness but that does not cause undue stress or discomfort may compete with a veterinarian's note to be presented at check-in.
- Bitches in heat may attend a test or trial but handlers must notify an official before the event begins so that another competitor can be notified of the change in schedule.
- Bitches in heat will test or compete at the end of all DOT tests and at the end of any single component at a trial.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

Judges and officials have the authority to expel any handler from a test or trail who displays unsportsmanlike conduct while the event is in progress. These may include but are not limited to:

- Striking, kicking or otherwise roughly handling a dog
- Harassing or abusing any event official or competitor
- Discussing with other competitors the location of a target odour or cleared areas

Aggression:

- All persons must exercise care and control of any dog (not just competing animals) while attending a SDDA event
- A dog that bites (causes a wound) another dog or a person at an event will be expelled from that event with no refund. A notation of the incident will be made to the dog's SDDA records.
- A dog that bites (causes a wound) another dog or a person for a second time at an event will be disqualified from that event and all future competition.

Equipment in Search Areas:

- Non-tightening flat collar or non-tightening harness
- Any length of leash but excluding retractable or chain leads
- No chokes, pinch or prong collars, electronic collars or head halters may be worn in the search area.
- Bitches in heat must wear pants.

All trials must be sanctioned by the SDDA and must be judged by a SDDA certified judge.

DESIGNATED ODOUR TEST (PASS/FAIL)

Designated Odour Tests (DOTs) may be taken at any time and are not mandatory. No dog registration is required. The purpose of the DOT is to test if the dog is able to detect the location of the target scents used in competition with its location unknown to the handler and the ability of the handler to correctly call an alert. A formal alert is not required.

DOTs may be held for any official scent and the order is at the discretion of the tester or host.

The scents are as follows: Wintergreen, Pine, Thyme. Only one scent is used in each test.

The DOT is a container search exercise. The target scent is placed into one of 12 to 14 opaque vented boxes (any material), set up in a pattern of one to four rows. Each box is to be set a minimum of 92 centimeters (3') apart. Boxes should not exceed 30 centimeters (12") in height. The target box should contain a single scented cotton swab, prepared the day of the DOT, that is not visible to the handler and is secured to the inside of the box or in a small container inside the box. The target box should be moved to a new location for each dog being tested. The box must be moved out of the sight of the team to be tested so that each search is a blind one. Damaged or noticeably marked boxes must be replaced.

Each search is to be a maximum of 3 minutes in length.

The test is conducted on leash with no deliberate distractions. Only one dog may be in the testing area at any time. Bitches in heat are run at the end of all tests. The number of dogs per handler per odour is set by the DOT host, based on available space and time. The DOT may be observed by anyone.

The tester will provide a handlers briefing to review the test and location parameters. A Starting Mark (SM) will be indicated. Once called, the handler may take up to 15 seconds to begin the search. Time starts when the dog's nose crosses the SM. A SM may be any visual indicator such as a pair of cones, a line of tape on the ground or a gate.

The handler and dog may pass up and down the row(s) in any pattern as many times as they choose. Handlers may direct the dog to the boxes and may but should avoid touching them. When, in the handler's opinion, the dog alerts on the target box, the handler should signal to the tester by saying "FIND" or "ALERT". Other notifications may be discussed with the tester. Once the tester has determined that the dog has found the correct box and verbally informed the handler, the handler may then reward the dog. This is a pass. The reward should be offered near the box but without touching it or allowing food to be dropped to the floor. If the alert is not correct, the tester will direct the handler to the correct box to help the dog succeed. In this case, the dog will not pass for that target odour.

DOT packages with detailed instructions and official SDDA certificates can be purchased from the SDDA and can be administered by anyone with who is a member of the SDDA and has experience in sport detection. Please contact us to order.

TRIAL GUIDELINES

- ❖ Handlers must check in with the trial secretary/registration desk to confirm their dog's SDDA registration number and running order before the handler's briefing.
- ❖ There will be a handler's briefing before trial/level to review general rules and guidelines as well as hide numbers where applicable. Judging criteria may also be reviewed on request.
- ❖ There will be a walk-through for handlers (without dogs) of all the search areas before each component. Start lines and boundaries will be indicated during the walk-through. Allowable off leash search areas will be indicated (if any). Safety concerns may be addressed to a SDDA official at this time. Gross hazards (such as broken glass) will have been removed, however the environment may not be pristine. A 50% refund will be offered if a handler chooses to withdraw from a trial for safety reasons.
- ❖ A running order will be posted in the handler staging area and/or registration desk.
- ❖ There can be no training or non-official use of odour on trial grounds. Any oil bottles, tins or kits must be kept inside personal vehicles.
- ❖ Besides the judge and timer, only non-competing officials or official trial photo/videographers may be present during any search, except in the case of an assistant to a disabled person or the parent of a minor. Handlers may request an exception for a non-competitor or a previous competitor to be in the search area.
- ❖ Handlers may touch a search object (but are to avoid it if possible) but must receive permission from the judge to pick up or move objects in the search area.
- ❖ If components include an optional off-leash search, the location must ensure the dog's safety. Dogs must be under good control if not on leash. Handlers may keep their dogs on leash if they prefer.
- ❖ Hosts must hold a Container search before an Interior or Exterior search for Started, Advanced and Excellent Levels. It is not required to offer Interior and Exterior searches at the same trial. Components in Elite may be run in any order.
- ❖ Container Searches at the Started Level must be held indoors.
- ❖ Containers in Started and Advanced must be opaque and clearly vented (holes should not exceed 7.6 cm (3 in) in diameter). Containers do not have to precisely match but should be of a roughly similar size and a maximum height of 30 cm (12 in). The hide container must not be unique.
- ❖ In Excellent and Elite, the containers may be of any material, shape or design and need not be vented (although they should not have an airtight seal). Examples might include luggage, coffee cans or clothing etc. Hide location must be suitable for the level.
- ❖ If vehicles are used for an Exterior search, hides may only be on the outside of the vehicle and follow height and access guidelines for the level.
- ❖ All teams must complete a component before scores sheets are presented.
- ❖ Official SDDA qualifying ribbons are provided to trial hosts along with score sheets.

- ❖ Certificates and rosettes will be awarded by the SDDA for championship titles.
- ❖ Event ribbons or other awards may be presented for individual placements and/or for individual component searches at the discretion of the trial organizer.
- ❖ There are two competition streams: Working (W) and Amateur (A). Handlers or dogs working or previously employed in a professional capacity in detection as well as scent detection instructors/coaches/trainers must enter the Working stream and will be ranked and placed (if placements are offered) separately from Amateurs.
- ❖ Dogs that have achieved a title (passed all 3 components at any level) must also enter the Working stream if they continue to compete at that level. Once they move onto the next level, they may again trial as Amateurs.
- ❖ There will be no change to search areas or hides for Working stream competitors, but a higher level of proficiency may be expected.
- ❖ Once a dog has passed a component at one level, he/she may move onto *the same component* at the next level (i.e. Passing a Started Container search is a pre-requisite to entering an Advanced Container search). Dogs may not enter components that they have not passed at the lower level. An Excellent title is required to enter Elite.
- ❖ Handlers with additional dogs will run their second dog at the end of each component so that the judge can change the hide location but before bitches in heat.
- ❖ A dog may not be entered in the *same* component more than once in the same trial day. (I.e. a dog may not be run in the second dog group even with a different handler)
- ❖ Volunteers/officials will run their dogs at the start of any component and before starting their duties as long as their duties can be temporarily reassigned.
- ❖ Dogs may enter any component For Exhibition Only (FEO) as long as there is available space after all regular entries have been accepted. Trial organizers have the option of limiting FEO entries in other ways (eg. only in certain components or levels) but must state any additional limitations clearly on entry forms. FEO entries will run after regular entries but before bitches in heat.

TITLING COMPETITIONS

ELEMENTS OF TRIALS

A title is achieved once a dog has successfully received a qualifying score in each component at one level (Container, Interior and Exterior). Qualifying scores may be achieved at any trial for Started, Advanced and Excellent. If an untitled dog passes all 3 components of the Level it is entered in at the *same* trial, they will achieve their title with a SPECIAL designation. For an Elite title, all 3 Components *must* be passed at the same trial to title. Titles may only be achieved at SDDA-sanctioned events, which must be judged by SDDA-certified judges.

Scoring

Started Level: The component scores for the Started title total 100 points. The Container Search is scored out of a total of 30 points, with 15 points (50% - the minimum qualifying score) attributed to the find. The Interior Search is scored out of 40 points with 20 points (50% - the

minimum qualifying score) attributed to the find. The Exterior Search is scored out of 30 points with 15 points (50% - the minimum qualifying score) attributed to the find.

Advanced Level: The component scores for the Advanced title total 200 points. The Container Search is scored out of 60 points, the Interior Search is scored out of 80 points and the Exterior Search is scored out of 60 points. Dogs must achieve 50% of the total score of each component for a passing/qualifying score PLUS find both hides in the Container Search and the Interior Search. A passing score in the Exterior Search is 50% of the total score of 60 including the single find. The final score is tabulated by dividing the score out of 200 by two (2) to reach a percentage that will be reflected by the title classifications (see below).

Excellent Level: The component scores for the Excellent Level total 200 points. The Container Search is scored out of 60 points, the Interior Search is scored out of 80 points and the Exterior Search is scored out of 60 points. Dogs must achieve 50% of the total score of each component for a passing/qualifying score PLUS find all three hides in the Container Search and determine the room with one hide, the room with two hides and the clear room in the Interior Search. A passing score in the Exterior Search is 50% of the total score of 60 PLUS both hides. The final score is tabulated by dividing the score out of 200 by two (2) to reach a percentage that will be reflected by the title classifications (see below).

Elite Level: The component scores for the Elite Level total 200 points. The Container Search is scored out of 60 points, the Interior Search is scored out of 80 points and the Exterior Search is scored out of 60 points. Dogs must achieve 50% of the total score of each component for a passing/qualifying score PLUS find all available hides in each search area and call any clear areas. The final score is tabulated by dividing the score out of 200 by two (2) to reach a percentage that will be reflected by the title classifications (see below).

Each Elite component must be passed **on the same trial day** in order to achieve a title.

Timing

Each component search will be timed and all available hides must be found within the time limit for each component. If necessary for placement ribbons or trophies, ties in component/stream placements will be broken by time with the faster time getting the higher placing. The time starts as the dog's nose passes through the Starting Mark and will end when the handler calls "Alert" or "Find" on the final hide in each component or calls "Clear" on the clear area. With multiple room searches, the time may be paused between rooms at the discretion of the judge. In the case of rooms with unknown hides (in Excellent and up), the handler should indicate when they are finished searching each room by saying "Finished" or "Done" or call "Clear" on the clear room before moving onto the next room. Time stops on the final Interior Finished/Clear/Done.

Titling Scores

Dogs will achieve titles by getting a passing score in each of the three (3) components of a Level. Components do not need to be passed in the same day to count towards a title, except at the Elite Level. Dogs that title by passing all three components of a level in one day will have the honorific "Special" (SP) noted on their title certificates.

Competitors may enter any components that they have previously passed in order to bank a higher score or to attempt to achieve a Special as long as the dog has not yet titled. If multiple component scores are achieved before titling, the highest score will be applied to the title score. Title scores are classified as Insufficient (under 50%), Satisfactory (51% to 70%), Bronze (71% – 85%), Silver (86% – 95%) or Gold (96% – 100%).

For Championship and Master Championship titles, competitors may aggregate their highest scores from each passed component, but each passing score may only be used once towards a titling score. An initial Special title will be considered a single score.

Deductions

Both the handler's and the dog's performance will be scored. Deductions are guidelines only and may be affected by the judge's impression of the entire performance and the dog and handler as a team.

Dog deductions include:

- Lack of focus
- False alerts (uncalled by the handler)
- Passing the hide due to lack of commitment or focus
- Distracted
- Disregards handler direction
- Noticeably damaging or opening up the hide
- Leaving hide after alert behaviour
- Lack of or poor formal alert in Advanced, Excellent and Elite

Handler deductions include:

- Handler reads dog poorly (eg. pulling dog off odour)
- Poor control of dog or leash
- Inconsistent search sequence
- Rough commands or handling
- Contaminating the hide or the search area
- Picking up or moving a search item without permission from the judge

NQs

Non-qualifying scores may apply to any component search but will not prevent the team from continuing with other components. After an NQ without a find, the handler may ask the judge to indicate a correct hide location so that the handler may bring the dog to it and reward it.

NQs will be given for the following:

- Timed out – the time limit is exceeded without the dog making a find as determined by the handler or the handler not calling "Clear" for a blank area.
- False finds – the handler calls an alert where no hide is located.
- Excused – the dog is excused by the judge for undue stress or obvious pain without a veterinarian's note (see page 2).
- Elimination in ring – the dog eliminates in the search area. If a handler is able to call the dog back to work without the dog eliminating, they may continue to search.
- Leaving the search area – a dog *or* handler moves entirely out of the search area boundaries (at the judge's discretion, leeway may be given to dogs that are working odour that may have drifted out of the search area).
- Handler excuses him/herself from a search.
- Repeated harsh commands or rough handling resulting in intimidation, anxiety or stress in the dog.
- Dog exposes scent container or distraction before the Alert is called by the handler

Eliminations (applicable at any time during the trial)

A team will be excused from a trial without refund for:

- Striking, kicking or otherwise aggressively handling a dog or any handling that is considered abusive or inhumane in the opinion of the judge
- Harassing or abusing any event official or competitor
- Discussing with other competitors the location of a target odour or clear areas
- Aggression by the dog towards the judge or other officials or extreme lack of control
- The unofficial use of trial scents on the trial grounds

Alerts

When a handler deems the dog has found the location of a hide, he/she must call "Alert" or "Find" with a hand raised and the time for the team stops unless there are multiple hides. After he/she has called an alert, a handler may not cue/re-cue the dog to search until the judge has confirmed the call. After the judge has confirmed the alert, the handler may reward his dog or can directly continue the search in the case of multiple hides. Formal alerts are expected and scored at the Advanced, Excellent and Elite levels and may take any form that does not noticeably damage the hide or open it up. Handlers may submit up to two formal alerts for Advanced, Excellent or Elite trials. They must be the same for each component.

Distractors

Allowable distractors at the Advanced and Excellent levels include: dog toys (Kongs, balls, tugs, stuffed toys etc.), kibble or dry treats in a container, leashes/collars, or unused, clean odour containers and/or swabs. Elite level distractions may also include human food items. Should a dog pick up or mouth an unintentionally distracting object, handlers may command their dog to disregard it or drop it.

Rewards

Dogs may be rewarded in the search area. Rewards may include patting, praise, food and/or toys and must be presented by the handler without unduly disturbing or contaminating the search area.

Search Areas

Container search areas must be a minimum of 400 square feet at all Levels; Interior and Exterior areas must be at least 100 square feet. Maximum size for Started and Advanced is 800 square feet and 1,000 square feet for Excellent and Elite Levels.

Search areas must be cordoned off or marked so that the boundaries are clearly visible, vehicle searches excepted. Walls, fences and other existing barriers may be used as boundaries. A Starting Mark must be provided for each search area. Once the dog has passed the Starting Mark, it should no longer leave the search area with the exception of working an odour pool. Vehicles should be a reasonable distance (enough space to allow comfortable passage of dog and handler) apart in any configuration. Excellent Level Exterior Area searches may include one vehicle. Elite Level searches may be any combination of area and vehicles searches (maximum 3 vehicles).

Hosts should take care to keep the trial search areas clean by not storing prepared swabs on site or otherwise contaminating the search areas. There should be no sport detection training for a minimum of one week prior to a trial held in the same search area(s).

Target Odours

Wintergreen (*gaultheria procumbens*) – Target odour for SD-S

Pine (*pinus sylvestris*) – Target odour added at SD-A

Thyme (*thymus vulgaris*) – Target odour added at SD-E

Scent swabs must be prepared a maximum of 48 hours prior to the trial. One drop or dab of essential oil on a cotton swab, pad or ball will be used for Started, Advanced and Excellent. At Elite level any absorbent material may be used. Scented swabs et al. should be in a scent container or may be uncontained if not accessible by the dog. Hides must be placed in the search areas by the judge a minimum of 15 minutes before the first dog enters the search area. Note that if the hide is moved for handlers with second dogs, there must be sufficient time between the two searches to age the hide. Note that if hides are placed adjacent to one another in any component, they must be different odours. Eg. Pine and Thyme.

LEVELS: STARTED (P10) ADVANCED (P11) EXCELLENT (P12) ELITE (P13)

Sporting Detection Started – SD-S

Target Odour - Wintergreen

There are three components to the SD-S title:

1. Container Search – single hide, time limit 3 minutes, must be indoors
2. Interior Building Search – single hide, time limit 5 minutes
3. Exterior Search – single hide, time limit 5 minutes

Each component must be passed at least once in order to achieve a title. The handler must call the alert to stop the time but a formal, trained response by the dog is not required.

No blank areas and no distractors are allowed.

Accessibility of hides: Up to 92 centimeters (3 feet) in height. Hides should not be readily visible but should not be fully enclosed (eg. In a fully closed drawer or suitcase).

A Starting Mark (SM) will be provided for each search area and boundaries of the area will be marked off with rope, tape, gates etc. Dog and handler will, when called by a steward or judge, wait outside the SM. The judge will ask if the team is ready to start. Handlers have 10 seconds to enter the search area. The time will start once the dog's nose passes through the SM.

S-Container Search

The target scent is placed into one of 14 to 16 vented, opaque boxes (any material), set up in any pattern (lines, circles, squares). Each box is to be set a minimum of 92 centimeters (3') apart from neighboring boxes. Boxes should not exceed 30 centimeters (12") in height. The hide box should contain a single scented cotton swab, pad or ball that is not visible to the handler and is in a small container inside the box. The hide box shall remain in the same location for all the dogs being tested at this level, except in the case of a handler running a second dog where allowed. The judge may also move the hide box at his/her discretion if the area is being marked up or has been contaminated.

S-Interior Search

A single hide is placed out of easy view in a marked area in an enclosed room or building containing approximately 15 - 20 potential hide locations. Objects may include furniture (tables, chairs, etc.), luggage, clothing or miscellaneous containers. Hides will remain in the same location for all the dogs being tested at this level, except in the case of a handler running a

second dog where permitted. The judge may also move the location at his/her discretion if the area is being marked up or has been contaminated.

S-Exterior Search

A single hide is placed out of easy view in an outdoor area containing approximately 15 - 20 potential locations for hides. Locations may include furniture (picnic tables, patio chairs etc.), vegetation, fences, retaining walls or planters. Alternatively, the outdoor search may consist of three vehicles. Scent containers may not be placed inside the vehicle or more than 15 cm (6 inches) under the vehicle. Vehicles must be empty of other dogs or people. Hides will remain in the same location for all the dogs being tested at this level, except in the case of a handler running a second dog where permitted. The judge may also move the hide replace a vehicle at his/her discretion if the area is being marked up or has been contaminated.

Sporting Detection Advanced – SD-A

Target Odours – Wintergreen and Pine

There are three components to the SD-A title:

1. Container Search – two hides, time limit 3 minutes (may be indoors or outdoors)
2. Interior Building Search – two hides, one or two rooms, time limit 5 minutes
3. Exterior Search – one hide, time limit 5 minutes

Each component must be passed at least once in order to achieve a title. A Formal Alert is scored and the judge must be informed what it will be (up to two allowed). The handler must call all finds.

Accessibility of hides: Up to 92 centimeters (3 feet) in height. Hides may be fully enclosed (eg. In a closed drawer or suitcase).

One distractor is to be added to the Container Search (inside box).

A Starting Mark (SM) will be provided for each search area and boundaries of the area will be marked off with rope, tape, cones etc. Dog and handler will, when called by a steward or judge, wait outside the SM. The judge will ask if the team is ready to start. Handlers have 10 seconds to enter the search area. The timer will start once the dog's nose passes through the SM and stop on the final alert.

A-Container Search

Advanced level container searches will contain two hides, at least one of which must be Pine. Each target scent is placed into one of 16 to 20 vented, opaque containers (any material), set up in any pattern (lines, circles, squares). Each box is to be set a minimum of 92 centimeters (3') apart from neighboring boxes. Boxes should not exceed 30 centimeters (12") in height. The hide box should contain a single scented cotton swab, pad or ball that is not visible to the handler and is in a small container inside the box. The hide boxes shall remain in the same location for all the dogs being tested at this level, except in the case of a handler running a second dog where allowed. The judge may also move a hide at his/her discretion if the area is being marked up or has been contaminated.

A-Interior Search

Two hides are placed out of easy view in one or two marked areas in an enclosed room or buildings containing approximately 15 - 20 potential hide locations. If two rooms are used, there must be a hide in each room. Objects may include furniture (tables, chairs, etc.), luggage, bags

or miscellaneous containers. The judge will advise handlers at the briefing of the number of hides. Hides will remain in the same location for all the dogs being tested at this level, except in the case of a handler running a second dog where permitted. The judge may also move the hide(s) at his/her discretion if the area is being marked up or has been contaminated.

A-Exterior Search

A single hide is placed out of view in an outdoor area containing approximately 15 - 20 potential locations for hides. Locations may include furniture (picnic tables, patio chairs etc.), vegetation, fences, retaining walls or planters. Alternatively, the outdoor search may consist of three vehicles. Scent containers may not be placed inside the vehicle or more than 15 cm (6 inches) under the vehicle. Vehicles must be empty of other dogs or people. Hides will remain in the same location for all the dogs being tested at this level, except in the case of a handler running a second dog where permitted. The judge may also move the hide replace a vehicle at his/her discretion if the area is being marked up or has been contaminated.

Sporting Detection Excellent – SD-E Target Odours – Wintergreen, Pine and Thyme

There are three components to the SD-E title:

1. Container Search – 3 hides, time limit 4 minutes (may be indoors or outdoors)
2. Interior Building Search – 3 hides, 3 rooms, one of which is a clear area, time limit 15 minutes
3. Exterior Search – 2 hides, time limit 10 minutes

Each component must be passed at least once in order to achieve a title. A Formal Alert is scored and the judge must be informed what it will be (up to two allowed). The handler must call all finds and the clear.

Accessibility of hides: Up to 123 centimeters (4 feet) in height. Hides may be fully enclosed (eg. In a closed drawer or suitcase), but not in an airtight container.

One or two contained distractors may be added to the Container Search. One contained distractor may be added to the Interior Search.

A Starting Mark (SM) will be provided for each search area and boundaries of the area will be marked off with rope, tape, gates etc. Dog and handler will, when called by a steward or judge, wait outside the SM. The judge will ask if the team is ready to start. Handlers have 10 seconds to enter the search area. The timer will start once the dog's nose passes through the SM. The timer will stop the clock when the handler calls "Clear", "Finish" or "Done" on the final room.

E-Container Search

Excellent level container searches will include three hides, one of which must be Thyme. Each target scent is placed into one of 16 to 20 vented, opaque containers (any material), set up in any pattern (lines, circles, squares, etc.). Each container is to be set a minimum of 30 centimeters (1 foot) apart from neighboring containers. The hide containers should contain a single scented cotton swab, pad or ball that is not visible to the handler and is in a small container inside the box. The hide boxes shall remain in the same location for all the dogs being tested at this level, except in the case of a handler running a second dog where allowed. The judge may also move the location at his/her discretion if the area is being marked up or has been contaminated.

E-Interior Search

There will be three interior search areas (“rooms”). One will have one hide, one will have two hides and one will be clear. The clear room must be declared clear by the handler by raising his/her hand and saying “Clear”. The judge has the discretion to allow competitors to choose the order of the searches or may determine an order. Each room must contain at least 15 potential hide locations. Objects may include furniture (tables, chairs, etc.), luggage, clothing or miscellaneous containers. Hides will remain in the same location for all the dogs being tested at this level, except in the case of a handler running a second dog where permitted. The judge may also move the hide at his/her discretion if the area is being marked up or has been contaminated.

E-Exterior Search

Two hides are placed out of easy view in an outdoor area containing at least 15 potential locations for hides. Locations may include furniture (picnic tables, patio chairs etc.), vegetation, fences, retaining walls or planters. The area search may contain one vehicle. Alternatively, the Exterior search may consist of three to four vehicles. Scent containers may not be placed inside the vehicle or more than 15 cm (6 inches) under the vehicle. Vehicles must be empty of other dogs or people. Hides will remain in the same location for all the dogs being tested at this level, except in the case of a handler running a second dog where permitted. The judge may also move the hide replace a vehicle at his/her discretion if the area is being marked up or has been contaminated.

Sporting Detection Elite – SD-EL

Target Odours – Wintergreen, Pine or Thyme

There are three components to the SD-EL title:

1. Container Search – 2 to 4 hides, time limit 4 minutes (may be indoors or outdoors)
2. Interior Building Search – 2 or 3 rooms, zero to 5 hides, time limit 10 minutes
3. Exterior/Vehicle Search – zero to 3 hides, time limit 4 minutes

Each component must be passed at the same trial in order to achieve a title. Components will be done in the order determined by the host and/or judge. A Formal Alert is scored and the judge must be informed what it will be (up to two allowed). The handler must call all finds and the clears.

Accessibility of hides: Up to 122 centimeters (4 feet) in height from the floor or above a stable surface (table, bed etc.). Hides may be fully enclosed (eg. in a closed drawer).

One to three contained distractors may be added to any search element.

A Starting Mark will be provided for each search area start and boundaries of the area will be marked off with rope, tape, cones etc. Dog and handler will, when called by a steward or judge, wait outside the Starting Mark. The judge will ask if the team is ready to start. Handlers have 10 seconds to enter the search area. The timer will start once the dog’s nose passes through the Starting Mark.

EL-Container Search

Elite level container searches will include two to four hides of any target scent. Each target scent is placed into one of 16 to 20 opaque containers (any material), with or without holes, set up in any pattern (lines, circles, squares). They may also be raised or placed below furniture. Each box is to be set a minimum of 30 centimeters (1 foot) apart. The hide containers should contain a single scented piece of absorbent material that is not visible to the handler and is in a small

container. The hide containers shall remain in the same location for all the dogs being tested at this level, except in the case of a handler running a second dog where allowed. The judge may also move the location at his/her discretion if the area is being marked up or has been contaminated.

EL-Interior Search

There will be two or three interior search areas. The Interior search areas (combined) may have up to 5 hides or as little as none. Clear rooms (if there is one) must be declared clear by the handler by raising his/her hand and saying "Clear" and before the team can move from one room to another, they must call "Finish". Each room must contain at least 15 potential hide locations. Objects may include furniture (tables, chairs, etc.), luggage, bags or miscellaneous containers. Hides will remain in the same location for all the dogs being tested at this level, except in the case of a handler running a second dog where permitted. The judge may also move the location at his/her discretion if the area is being marked up or has been contaminated.

EL-Exterior Search

Zero to three hides are placed out of easy view in an outdoor area containing at least 15 potential locations for hides. Locations may include any combination of furniture (picnic tables, benches, etc.), vegetation, fences, retaining walls or planters as well as up to 3 vehicles. Hides will remain in the same location for all the dogs being tested at this level, except in the case of a handler running a second dog where permitted. The judge may also move the location at his/her discretion if the area is being marked up or has been contaminated.

Additional Titles

All previous SDDA titles earned may be counted towards Championship scores.

Sporting Detection Champion – SD-CH

Five (5) titling scores at the Advanced or Excellent Level. At least two (2) scores must be from Excellent or Elite level.

Sporting Detection Master Champion – SD-MACH

Ten (10) titling scores at the Advanced or Excellent Level. At least three (3) scores must be from the Excellent or and the team must have at least three (3) Gold scores at any of those levels.

COMPETITION GAMES

SPEED SWEEPSTAKES

Sporting Detection Speed Sweepstakes aka SpeedStakes

This is not a titling class at this time

Class description: There will be 20 containers in any pattern in the search area. There will be 2 to 4 hides placed somewhere in the pattern as well as two to four distractors. The number of both will be unknown to the handler. Two timers are required with the recorded time the average of the two. This is a Pass/Fail contest with time determining the winner. The hides and distractors remain the same for all dogs. No second dogs to be run in the same class. Hosts may offer this class as often as they wish during a trial event. Entry fees for each class will be shared 50/50 between the host and placing teams. Number of placements will be determined by the

host. If there are no completed runs (all hides found under time), winners will be chosen by random draw. Spectators are allowed where space permits.

Advanced Class: Open to all titled and untitled dogs. Any combination of Pine or Wintergreen can be used. Vented boxes only will be used. Time limit 90 seconds.

Excellent Class: Open to dogs titled in Advanced and up. Any combination of the three SDDA odours may be used. Containers can be any type of boxes or other items. Time limit 120 seconds.

HOSTING A TRIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VENUES, JUDGES, HOSTS AND COMPETITORS

Trial Requirements - Hosts

1. A scent kit consisting of all necessary odours, clean containers and swabs/cotton balls.
2. All judging supplies such as pens, score sheets, calculators, stopwatches and clipboards. Spares of each are recommended.
3. Suitable container search boxes as described in the trial descriptions.
4. Spare hide objects (boxes, suitcases, scent containers, etc.) must be provided by the trial host in case a judge wishes to replace a damaged or contaminated hide.
5. Distractions such as food, containers and toys for Advanced, Excellent Levels. Elite Level may also include human food. A variety should be offered to the judge who will determine which items are appropriate for each level.
6. The correct number of vehicles (if the exterior search is to be on vehicles) for each level. Vehicles may include: cars, vans, trucks, tractors, motorcycles, skidoos, recreational vehicles and boat or utility trailers (horse and other livestock trailers excluded).
7. Suitable, safe search areas for each component offered. Search areas must be clear of dangerous items or contamination.
8. Search areas that have borders that are clearly marked as well as a Starting Mark.
9. Enough stewards/wranglers, gate keepers and timers to assist the judge in the smooth running of the trial.
10. A staging area where competitors may wait to be called to search without visual access to the search areas.
11. Score sheets prepared with available information for each competitor for the judge and (if applicable) the shadow judge. The shadow judge should use photocopies or printouts of the score sheets.
12. One copy (white) must be returned with the Trial Results Sheet to the SDDA along with any unused score sheets and qualifying ribbons. Yellow copies are given to the competitor. A host may make additional copies for their own records.
13. A running order must be posted (NB. a trial official or shadow judge trialing a dog must go first in the order).

14. Hosts may only use the same judge in two consecutive trial events, after which he/she must use a different judge at least once. A trial event is defined as a single day trial or two or more consecutive trial days.

Trial Requirements – Competitors

1. Upon arrival the exhibitor should check in with their dog's registration card and to determine their place in the running order. Note that the running order may change for each component.
2. The exhibitor should know the scheduled trial start time and be present and ready to go when he/she is called by the steward from the staging area.
3. The dog should be wearing a properly fitted allowable collar (non-tightening) and/or non-restricting harness.
4. Tags and other items hanging from the harness or collar are prohibited in the search area.
5. The leash may be any length that allows the dog to work freely but not interfere with officials. No extendable or chain leashes allowed.
6. All dogs will approach and leave the search area on leash, even if the area has been designated as safe for unleashed searches. In the case of a secured room, the leash may be removed before crossing the starting mark once the area has been secured. Please check with the gate steward if you are unsure.
7. Dog clothing and accessories may be worn for the dog's comfort and safety with the judge's approval, as long as they do not interfere with the search. Accessories that emit odour are not permissible.
8. Handlers may bring rewards in the form of toys, treat containers or tugs into the search area. The presentation of the rewards must not, in the judge's opinion, contaminate the search area. It is recommended that toys and tugs be clean so as not to introduce dirt or hair onto the hide.
9. Handlers should avoid touching containers or furniture with hands or reward items so as to limit contamination.
10. Dogs may walk on or touch search elements but should be prevented from damaging them or contaminating the environment.
11. Handlers may communicate freely with their dog throughout the search as long as it is not deemed by the judge to be harsh (NQ) or abusive (elimination).
12. Any questions remaining after the judge's briefing should be addressed to the stewards or trial secretary before crossing the Starting Mark.
13. Handlers are expected to keep their dogs under control at all times. The judge or the event host may expel any person who fails to control a dog (even one not entered in the trial) and allows it to interfere with any person or dog or with the ability of others to trial their dogs.
14. Dogs should be on leash at all times when not contained in a crate, vehicle or pen and while not competing in a designated off-leash search area.

Trial Requirements – Search Areas

Containers Component: the surface must be safe for dog and handler and cordoned off to indicate the boundaries of the search area.

Interior Component: searches are typically done in room-sized areas such as kitchens, offices, hotel room or storage room. The building can be of any type. Indoor areas divided by gating or other barrier within a larger space are permissible. Note that for Excellent Level Interior Search areas, which require a clear room, or Elite Level which may have a clear room, solid walls are preferred. Judges must pre-approve open-sided search areas.

Exterior Component: this component may consist of one of the following two variations for Started, Advanced and Excellent levels – (A) Vehicle Searches or; (B) Exterior Area Searches. Exterior searches will be conducted under any and all safe weather conditions (excluding lightning storms, for example). Search times may be extended at the discretion of the judge if weather or other factors will affect the difficulty of the search.

Vehicles should be of a number suitable to each level and only include the exterior. Vehicles may include: cars, vans, trucks, tractors, motorcycles, skidoos, recreational vehicles and boat or utility trailers (horse and other livestock trailers excluded). The handler will never open a vehicle door or direct the dog into a window or open trailer. There should be NO dogs or people within the search vehicles. Handlers will be faulted or NQ'd (for visible, permanent damage) if the dog scratches or damages any vehicle.

Exterior area searches can consist of any area that is outside. They can include but are not limited to exterior walls of buildings, fencing, picnic tables, planters, gardens, etc.

Elite Level Exterior searches may consist of any combination of area and up to three (3) vehicles.

Trial Requirements – Judges' Responsibilities

1. Approval of each search area to be used in the trial, preferably before the trial application is submitted.
2. Preparation of all scent containers and setting of hides. Judges are encouraged to bring their own supplies when possible.
3. Presiding over the judge's briefing and answering any rule or procedural questions during it.
4. Filling in the scores on the score sheets. The trial secretary should have score sheets prepared with all available information for each team before the trial begins and be prepared to review them should the judge have questions.
5. Score sheets must be returned to the secretary. After the component is complete, competitors may pick up their copy of the score sheets (yellows) from the secretary or the judge may choose to make a presentation of the results. Hosts may make copies of completed score sheets for their own records.
6. Making or approving any minor variations on trial day in search area layout or design or component order to assist with the efficient and fair running of the trial. This may

include changing the order of components (as long as Containers are held first in Started, Advanced or Excellent) or running a team in consecutive components (eg. Interior following Containers immediately.)

Applying for an SDDA-Approved Event

Hosts should fill out the relevant trial application form in full listing the judge(s) and venue(s) that have been booked and all contact information. Every effort should be made to confer with the judge to ensure that the trial venue is appropriate for the levels and components offered. The SDDA executive is also available for consultation on site suitability.

This must be submitted to the SDDA for approval a minimum of 60 days prior to the trial date. Once approved, the date and venue may be posted on the SDDA website and hosts must prepare a Premium List with entry form which can be distributed publicly no sooner than three (3) days after the approval of their trial. This is so that SDDA registrants can be given priority notice of the trial date(s), location, levels, components and judge(s). Premium lists should be forwarded to them on request. The Premium List will then be published in the Events section of our website.

Should any of the elements of the premium list change, please advise all entrants and the Secretary of SDDA immediately. In the event of such a change, hosts should be prepared to refund any entries in full. More information on preparing a trial application is on our website under: Hosting a Trial.

OUR MISSION

- *To encourage all dogs, purebred and mixed, pets, companion, working or show dogs to participate in the sport of scent detection.*
- *To encourage all handlers, experienced or inexperienced, and of any background to enjoy competing with their dog.*
- *To provide a venue for dogs to earn titles in Sporting Scent Detection in Canada.*
- *To maintain a registry of dogs competing.*
- *To qualify and certify judges so that more trials can be held.*
- *To maintain a registry of trial results and titles achieved.*
- *To establish a database of classes, clinics and trials.*
- *To encourage the humane training of dogs and good sportsmanship.*
- *To develop this sport in Canada and elsewhere and establish new levels of competition.*
- *To encourage appreciation for the dog's incredible scenting abilities.*

SPORTING DETECTION DOGS JUDGES AND OFFICIALS CODE OF ETHICS AND STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

The purpose of this document is to describe the standards for ethical conduct expected of any official or judge representing the Sporting Detection Dogs Association (SDDA). Officials include the board of directors and SDDA volunteers as well as hosts that have had trials approved by the SDDA.

Throughout this Code, use of the word "must" indicates that a clause is compulsory for SDDA officials. Use of the word "should" indicates that the clause is not compulsory but strongly encouraged as a best practice.

1. An SDDA official must at all times represent the spirit of the SDDA and strive to maintain the association's Mission Statement.
2. Judges must stay current with SDDA rules and regulations. Other officials should also remain current and be prepared to answer competitor questions.
3. SDDA officials must treat all dogs and competitors with respect and consideration for their well-being.
4. Officials should encourage and support positive methods of training.
5. Officials should practice, encourage and promote good sportsmanship in and out of the search areas.
6. Officials should refrain from publicly criticizing other judges, hosts or board members.
7. Judges and officials should assist hosts in the running of a fair and efficient trial and be willing to provide advice and adapt to unavoidable trial conditions.

Any judge or other SDDA official in violation of ethical conduct will have such conduct reviewed by the Board of Directors. Minor infractions will result in a warning letter. More serious or repeated infractions may result in the removal of judging or hosting privileges and may also result in being banned from participating in SDDA trials.

Judge's copy requires signature: _____

Print name: _____ Date: _____