



Royal Kennel Club

# Working Trial and Bloodhound Trial Regulations

2026

## **Kennel Club Regulation Booklets**

This is one of a series of booklets designed to present the Regulations in a more accessible form. The complete set of Rules & Regulations is of course still available within the Royal Kennel Club Year Book.

There are booklets available for Breed Shows, Obedience Shows, Agility Shows, Working Trials and Bloodhound Trials, Heelwork to Music, Field Trials and Rally. Whilst including all the relevant regulations also included is an extract from the B Regulations on the requirements of dog registration.

# ROYAL KENNEL CLUB WORKING TRIAL REGULATIONS

*As at 1st January 2026*

## GENERAL REGULATIONS

### 1. Eligibility.

- a. Working trial licences will be issued to registered or affiliated societies only.
- b. Dogs entered at Royal Kennel Club licensed working trials must be registered at the Royal Kennel Club in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Regulations for Classification and Registration [B].
- c. Dogs under 18 calendar months of age on the closing date are ineligible for competition at Royal Kennel Club licensed working trials, except that dogs of 6 calendar months of age on the closing date of the trial may be entered for Special Stakes, which do not include the long jump, clear jump and scale. Bloodhounds may be entered for Bloodhound Trials at 12 calendar months on the first day of the trial. However, societies may accept Not for Competition entries at their discretion. Dogs 12 weeks and over are eligible to enter Not for Competition.
- d. If, in the opinion of the Board, a dog is of a savage disposition it shall be ineligible for entry at any working trial held under Royal Kennel Club Regulations.
- e. Persons disqualified or suspended under Royal Kennel Club Rules are not eligible to take part in any Royal Kennel Club licensed event.
- f. No activity shall be conducted which permits, encourages or develops aggression in a dog other than in the strictly controlled conditions of Patrol Dog (PD) stakes.

### 2. Welfare of dogs.

An exhibitor (or competitor) whose dog is entered at a Royal Kennel Club licensed event should take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog(s) are met, and should not knowingly put their dogs' health and welfare at risk by any action, default, omission or otherwise. A breach of this Regulation may be referred to the Board for disciplinary action under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations. The use of pinch collars, electronic shock collars, or prong collars, is not permitted at any working trials event licensed by the Royal Kennel Club. This shall apply at the venue and within the precincts of the Trial.

### 3. Code of conduct.

Those taking part in Royal Kennel Club licensed/approved events are expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards, in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and appropriate Codes of Conduct as published from time to time.

**4. Licensed working trials.**—Licensed working trials held under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are those held under licence granted by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club, and are:

- a. Championship working trials—Open to all competitors, except where a qualification for entry has been approved by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club.
- b. Open working trials—Open to all competitors.

On the day of the event a current public liability insurance document must be held or the event will be deemed to be unlicensed.

#### **5. Permission to hold working trials.**

- a. The Board shall have the power to grant, withhold or cancel permission to hold any licensed working trials.
- b. Any cancellation or abandonment of a trial without prior permission of the Board must be reported in writing to the Royal Kennel Club without delay, and must be carried out in accordance with the relevant Royal Kennel Club published event cancellation policy.

#### **6. Societies are required to apply for permission to hold Special Events.**

Applications should be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club by email at least six months before the start of any qualifying heats for the event.

Special Events are designated as any activity-related event which cannot be included on the schedule of a normally licensed show/trial/competition due to being invitational and therefore not open to all competitors, or which are not being held at a licensed show. Where competitors qualify for a final via heats held at that and other shows/trials/competitions, special event permission must be sought for the final whether it is held in conjunction with a licensed show/trial/competition or as a separate standalone event. This would not apply where all of the heats are held at the same show/trial/competition at which the final is held.

The regulations relating to the disqualification and forfeit of awards will apply to these events.

#### **7. Jurisdiction and responsibilities.**

The Officers and Committee members of the society holding the licence are deemed responsible for organising and conducting the trial safely and in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Royal Kennel Club and agree to abide by and adopt any decision of the Board or any authority to whom the Board may delegate its powers subject to the conditions of Regulation I32. In so doing those appointed as officers and committee members, accept that they are jointly and severally responsible for the organisation of the trial and that this is a binding undertaking.

Any decision given against the society under Rule A11 of the Royal Kennel Club Rules may be communicated by the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club to the Secretaries of registered or affiliated societies holding licensed events, and may also be published in the Royal Kennel Club Journal, together with a report of the proceedings in the matter.

Any notice sent to the Secretary of the Society at the contact address duly lodged at the Royal Kennel Club shall be deemed full and sufficient notice on the part of the Royal Kennel Club of (a) any proceedings, matter or decision of the Board, or of any Authority to whom the Board may have delegated its powers or (b) of anything arising out of the trial licence or to the conduct of the Trial, or (c) of any other matter whatsoever arising out of or in connection with the same. Any change in officers or committee members must be notified to the Royal Kennel Club.

### **8. Veterinary support.**

The secretary of a licensed trial is required to arrange veterinary support compatible with the arrangements for the trial and anticipated entries. The name, address and telephone number of the veterinary surgeon, practitioner or practice supporting the trial is to be available.

### **9. Application.**

The application for a licence to hold a working trial must be made to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club, and must be accompanied by the appropriate licence fee, at least six months before the date of the working trial.

### **10. Documentation.**

At every working trial the following documents must be available:

- a. The licence for the trial.
- b. A current public liability insurance document must be available at the trial. Failure to have a current document at the date of the trial will invalidate the licence.
- c. A copy of Royal Kennel Club Rules and relevant Working Trials Regulations.
- d. A copy of the schedule and catalogue for the trial.
- e. The completed entry forms for the trial.
- f. A Royal Kennel Club incident book, containing details of all incidents occurring at the trial, a copy of which must be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club within 14 days.

### **11. Removal of dogs.**

Following discussion between the trial management and/or a veterinary surgeon a dog shall be prevented from competing and/or removed from the Trial if it is:

- a. A bitch which is in season.
- b. Suffering from any infectious or contagious disease.
- c. Interfering with the safety or chance of winning of an opponent.
- d. Of such temperament or is so much out of control as to be a danger to the safety of any person or other animal.
- e. Likely to cause suffering to the dog if it continues competing.

The circumstances of such a removal shall be recorded in the trial incident book and submitted to the Royal Kennel Club

### **12. Competition of dogs suffering from contagious or infectious disease.**

No dog suffering from any infections or contagious disease or having been exposed to such disease during the period of 21 days prior to the trial may compete. Competitors infringing this Regulation will be liable to be fined and/or dealt with under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.

### **13. Objections.**

- a. An objection must be lodged directly with the Royal Kennel Club within seven days after the last day of the trial and under these circumstances a copy of the objection must be sent to the trial secretary.

When an objection is lodged the following information must be given;

A statement detailing the objection, quoting the relevant regulation(s).

The objection fee of £35, or such amount as may from time to time be decided by the Board.

The name and address of the objector.

The name and address of the owner of the dog (if relevant).

All relevant evidence.

The objection fee may be returned after consideration of the objection.

- b. With the exception of objections made under Regulation I11 (Removal of Dogs) the dog should be allowed to compete and a full report made to the Royal Kennel Club.
- c. The right to lodge an objection to a dog or any action taken at a trial is limited to anyone in attendance at the trial not under a term of suspension imposed by the Royal Kennel Club, or the owner of a dog competing or his accredited representative.
- d. No objection shall be invalidated solely on the grounds that it was incorrectly lodged.
- e. Objections or alleged breaches of Royal Kennel Club Regulations shall be referred to the Board who shall have the power to delegate the hearing of the objection or breach of regulation to the relevant Committee or may decide to refer the matter for disciplinary action under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.
- f. Any appeal against the relevant Committee decision must be lodged within fourteen days of the decision being given and will be subject to the prescribed appeals procedure as shall be determined by the Board from time to time.

#### **14. Fraudulent or discreditable conduct at working trials.**

The secretary of a trial must immediately report in writing to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club any case of alleged fraudulent or discreditable conduct, or any default, omission or incident at or in connection with the trial which may come under his notice, even where parties concerned have indicated that they intend taking no action and at the same time forward to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club all documents and information in connection therewith which may be in his possession or power. If evidence is placed before the Board to its satisfaction that undue influence has been exercised by any person(s), or that any improper means have been used to influence the appointment of a judge or interfere with the competition of a dog at any trial held under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations, the Board may require all correspondence and evidence in connection with the case to be produced in order that it may deal with the offender(s) under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.

#### **15. Disqualification and forfeit of awards.**

- a. Dogs may be disqualified by the Board from any awards whether an objection has been lodged or not, if proven amongst other things to have been:
  - (1) Competed at an unrecognised event
  - (2) Entered for competition or handled by a person disqualified or suspended under Rule A11, as from the date of the complaint having been lodged at the Royal Kennel Club and for the period of disqualification or suspension.
  - (3) Not entered on a Royal Kennel Club approved entry form in the name and with the details which are recorded with the Royal Kennel Club.
  - (4) Entered after the closing date of entries, or contrary to Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations.
  - (5) Suffering from an infectious or contagious disease.

- (6) Competed in a stake for which it is not entered.
  - (7) Entered for competition or handled at the trial by a judge of dogs at that trial/Bloodhound stake.
  - (8) Registered or recorded as owned by the scheduled judge within a period of twelve months prior to the trial/Bloodhound stake. This shall not apply to dogs owned by a judge appointed in an emergency.
  - (9) Handled at a trial/Bloodhound stake within the previous twelve months by the scheduled judge. This shall not apply to dogs owned by a judge appointed in an emergency.
  - (10) Handled in the stake by the scheduled judge's spouse, immediate family or is resident at the same address as the scheduled judge. This shall not apply to a judge appointed in an emergency.
  - (11) Not correctly registered or recorded in the name of the owner at the Royal Kennel Club or as provided in Regulation 1.23.b.
  - (12) The subject of any other default, omission, action or incident occurring at or in connection with the trial rendering it unfair that the award should be allowed to stand.
- b. A dog shall be disqualified by the Board from any awards gained whether an objection has been lodged or not, if entered in a stake for which it is ineligible and not withdrawn from competition and the competitor may be fined at the discretion of the Board.
  - c. The owner of the dog disqualified for any of the above reasons is liable to forfeit all entry fees paid, and all prize money won by such dog.

#### **16. Order of merit when dogs are disqualified.**

If a dog be disqualified, the prize to which it would otherwise have been entitled shall be forfeited. The Committee may at its discretion move up the dog or dogs next in order of merit (up to and including reserve or fourth place) to take the prize or prize(s).

#### **17. Penalty for infringement of Royal Kennel Club Rules by working trial managements.**

The Board shall have power to fine the officers of the society holding the working trial who have broken Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations in the conduct of the trial.

#### **18. Unlicensed trials.**

Notwithstanding the provision of these Regulations, certain events which are not licensed by the Royal Kennel Club may from time to time be recognised by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club.

The Board shall have power to grant permission for Royal Kennel Club registered dogs to be entered for such events. The standing of a judge, exhibitor or promoter will not be prejudiced by participation in these special unlicensed events.

#### **19. Working Trial Certificates.**

- a. A Royal Kennel Club Working Trial Certificate will be awarded to any dog winning a TD or PD stake at a Championship Working Trial provided that it has obtained 70% or more marks as indicated in the schedule of points and has also been awarded the qualification 'Excellent' by obtaining at least 80% of the possible total marks for the stake. A Reserve Working Trial Certificate will be awarded to the dog placed second in the stake provided it is similarly qualified.

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- b. Certificates will be awarded by the judge or judges at a championship working trial PD (Patrol Dog), TD (Tracking Dog), WD (Working Dog), UD (Utility Dog), and CD (Companion Dog) stake to dogs which have obtained 70% or more marks in each group of exercises in the stake entered, provided that the dog has complied with any additional requirements for that stake. The added qualification 'Excellent' shall be awarded should the dog also obtain 80% or more marks of the total for the stake.
  - c. The judge or judges of introductory, CD, UD, WD, TD and PD stakes at open working trials shall award Certificates of Merit for those dogs whose marks would have gained them a qualification 'Excellent' at a championship working trial, or, in the case of the Introductory stake, for those dogs which have obtained 70% or more marks in each group of exercises and 80% or more of the total marks. The certificate must include the following words: 'This certificate does not entitle the dog named thereon to any qualification recognised by the Royal Kennel Club except entry in appropriate stakes at championship working trials' or, in the case of the Introductory stake, the following words: 'This certificate does not entitle the dog named to any qualification recognised by the Royal Kennel Club'. Such Certificates of Merit must contain the name and breed of the dog, the name of the owners, the title of the society and date of the trial, the stake and the marks awarded.
  - d. Societies may issue Qualification Certificates in Championship stakes to their own design, subject to the approval of the Royal Kennel Club, but they must contain the name and breed of the dog, the name of the owner, the title of the society and the date of the trials, the qualification and marks awarded and signature of the judge(s) and working trial manager.

## **20. Penalties.**

The Board shall have power to impose any of the following penalties upon any person for any breach of Royal Kennel Club Regulations subject to a right of appeal, notice of intention of which must be lodged within 14 days from the date on which the decision is given and subject to the prescribed appeals process as shall be determined by the Board from time to time;

- a. Warn
- b. Censure/reprimand
- c. Apology directive (Conduct Regulation or the Control of Dogs Regulation)
- d. Fine
- e. Award disqualified

In addition, the Board may make the following directives;

- f. A dog's registration record may be marked 'incident recorded'
- g. A dog's registration record may be endorsed 'not eligible for entry in any event held under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations, nor any unlicensed event recognised by the Royal Kennel Club.'

The right of appeal against directives f) and g) listed above extends to an appeal on the finding of fact of a deliberate dog bite only, but does not extend to an appeal against those directives f) and g) in terms of cancellation or modification of such directives if there is a finding of fact of an intentional dog bite.

In the event of any fine not being paid, or non compliance with any apology directive issued within the time stipulated by the Board, then that person may, at the discretion of the Board, be dealt with as if a complaint under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11 had been lodged and proved to the satisfaction of the Board.

For complaints of conduct whether at a licensed event or on social media, in addition to a warning issued - a short term fixed period of refusal of entry/attendance at Royal Kennel Club licensed events may also be imposed in accordance with procedures to be published from time to time to implement this regulation.

## **21. Working Trial Championships.**

- a. The Royal Kennel Club Working Trial Championships at which Patrol Dog (PD) and Tracking Dog (TD) stakes shall be scheduled are held annually.
- b. The responsibility for organising the championships each year will normally be delegated to a working trial society approved to hold championship working trials, such society to be selected by the Activities Committee from applications submitted by societies.
- c. The secretary of the host club will, unless otherwise specified, be the working trial secretary for the event, the society scheduling the championships appointing a trials manager.
- d. The following shall be the method of selection of judges for the championship:
  - (1) Nominated by working trial societies which have been granted championship working trial status for balloting by the Working Trial Council. Every nominee must have already judged the relevant stake for which they are nominated.
  - (2) Recommendation by the Activities Committee.
  - (3) Final approval by the Board.
- e. Dogs eligible for entry in the championships qualify as follows:
  - (1) TD Championship: A dog must have been placed 1st in Championship TD stake with the qualification 'Excellent' in the stake during the period week no. 35 to week no. 34 the following year.
  - (2) PD Championship: A dog must have been placed 1st in Championship PD stake with the qualification 'Excellent' in the stake during the period week no. 35 to week no. 34 the following year.
  - (3) Dogs which qualify as above in both PD and TD Championship stakes may be entered in both Championship stakes.
  - (4) The Winners of the previous year's Championship stakes qualify automatically.
  - (5) No other dogs are eligible for entry in the championships except by special permission of the Board of the Royal Kennel Club.
- f. The championships will normally be held during the third weekend in October each year.
- g. The working trial society selected to hold the championships may forego holding one open working trial during the year in which they hold the championships without affecting their status to hold other championship trials.

## 22. Schedules.

- a. The trial society must issue a schedule for the trial, such schedule to follow the layout of the specimen schedule provided by the Royal Kennel Club and conform with Royal Kennel Club Regulations. No modifications may be made to the schedule except by permission of the Royal Kennel Club and such modifications must be advertised.
- b. A copy of the schedule issued for each trial must be retained by the organisations for at least one year from the date of the trial and must be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club if requested, together with any other documents.
- c. The schedule must contain:
  - (1) On the front outside cover or title page, the name of the trial society, the type, venue and date of the trial as described on the licence and any additional title for which prior permission has been given by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club and the trial manager's name, a contact address and telephone number.
  - (2) The latest date for applying for entry at the trial.
  - (3) The amount of entry fees and any prize money.
  - (4) A statement that a draw will be made for the order of running.
  - (5) A statement if applicable on details of how entries can be made via the internet.
  - (6) The conditions and qualifications for making entries and for intimating acceptance or refusal of entries.
  - (7) An announcement that the working trial is held under Royal Kennel Club Working Trial Regulations with such exceptions as the committee of the society may decide. Such exceptions and conditions must have received the approval of the Board of the Royal Kennel Club prior to publication of the schedule.
  - (8) The definition of each stake, together with the qualification and limitations for entry in that stake.
  - (9) The names of the judges. An announcement that if the entries in the Companion Dog (CD) Stake exceed 20, a second judge may be appointed to judge the Group III exercises and the competitors notified accordingly.
  - (10) A statement that spayed bitches and castrated dogs may compete.
  - (11) If applicable, a statement that;
    1. Not for Competition entries will be accepted for dogs aged 12 weeks and over. Details of each dog so entered must be recorded on the entry form and must be Royal Kennel Club registered or
    2. Not for Competition entries are not accepted.
  - (12) An announcement that dogs under the age of 18 months on the closing date for the trial are not eligible for entry.
  - (13) A regulation which prohibits judges at the trial entering a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership.
  - (14) If accepting postal entries; A separate official entry form which must include the 'declaration' to be signed by the entrant as on the specimen entry form issued by the Royal Kennel Club.
  - (15) A statement that the committee reserves the right to itself to refuse any entries.

- (16) A statement that should circumstances so dictate the society, in consultation with the judges, may alter arrangements as necessary. Such changes and the circumstances surrounding them must be reported to the Royal Kennel Club.

### **23. Entry forms.**

Such forms must be in accordance with the approval form issued by the secretary of working trial.

- a. An entry form, which must include a box for the Royal Kennel Club registration number or authority to compete (ATC) number and the standard declaration approved by the Royal Kennel Club and included in the specimen entry form issued by the Royal Kennel Club.
- b. A dog must, at the time of entry for a trial be registered as required by Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations in the owner's name (or registration or transfer applied for). In the case of joint registered owners the full name of every registered owner must be given.

Where an owner makes an entry on behalf of another joint registered owner(s) or where an agent enters on behalf of a single or joint registered owner(s) such person must have the authority and consent from the single or joint registered owner(s) to sign the entry form on their behalf thereby binding them all to Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations. In the event of any dispute, evidence of such authority and consent will be required.

A dog acquired subsequent to entry having been made at a trial may compete as the new owner's property provided that an application for the transfer has been forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club before the trial, and the new owner has undertaken to abide by the Regulations and conditions of the original entry form (and in accordance with the conditions set out above).

- c. A separate application for entry must be made by each owner and acceptance of the entry declaration must be given in accordance with the provisions specified thereon - whether in writing or via the internet. Entries cannot be accepted without the appropriate fees or acceptance of the entry declaration.
- d. All entry forms and a set of track and search articles must be retained by the committee of a working trial for at least 12 months from the last day of the trial, and must be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club if requested, together with any other documents.

### **24. Catalogue.**

The society must publish a catalogue for the trial containing:

- a. On the front outside cover or title page, the name of the trial society, the type, venue and date of the trial as described on the licence and any additional title for which prior permission has been given by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club and the trial manager's name, a contact address and telephone number.
- b. The date and place of the trial.
- c. The names and addresses of competitors (unless withheld by competitors).
- d. The registered name of each dog entered, the stake in which it is entered together with its full particulars as recorded on the entry form.
- e. The name of the judge(s) for each stake.

*Championship* – Within 14 days of the close of the trial, a copy of the official catalogue for the trial, containing a full and correct list of all the entries, with all the tracking dog and patrol dog awards correctly marked, must be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club.

*Open* – A copy of the official catalogue for each trial, containing a full and correct list of all the entries, with all the awards correctly marked, must be retained by the organisations for at least one year from the date of the trial and must be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club if requested, together with any other documents.

## **25. Management.**

- a. Societies must schedule one other tracking stake in addition to the working trial certificate stake. Societies may schedule a single Championship CD, UD or WD stake, provided there is no Championship TD or PD stake on the same dates.
- b. A working trial manager must be appointed by the committee of the society who shall be responsible for ensuring that the regulations are observed but he may not interfere with the judges' decisions which shall be final. He shall decide upon any matter not related to judging and not provided for in the Rules and Regulations and may call upon the judge or judges to assist with the decision which will be final. The manager and his deputy, one of whom should be present throughout must not enter or work a dog at the trial.
- c. The working trial manager and the judges should assess the weather conditions and should they consider the weather unfit for holding the Trial commencement may be postponed until such time as it is considered necessary for the trial to be abandoned and the entry fees returned.
- d. When a judge is prevented from attending or finishing a meeting which has commenced, the working trial manager shall decide what action is to be taken.
- e. The order of running tracks shall be determined by a draw and competitors notified accordingly by post of their reporting time prior to the day of the trial.
- f. The committee may reserve to themselves the right to refuse any entries.
- g. Replacement judges appointed in an emergency must have previously judged the stake they are to judge.
- h. The working trials manager shall be in receipt of a specimen set of track and search articles prior to the commencement of the trial. The judge must ensure that the articles and all exercises are:
  - (1) suitable to the nature of the ground,
  - (2) suitable to the stake being judged, and
  - (3) unlikely to be in any way injurious to the dog.

## **26. Approval of judges.**

- a. Working trial societies must apply to the Board for the approval of judges for Championship T.D. and P.D. Stakes at least nine months before the date of the Trial. All first time appointments must be applied for a minimum of eighteen months before the date of the trial on the form provided. Individuals may apply to the Board for approval to award Championship Working Trial Certificates for the first time, provided that the judge has fulfilled the minimum criteria in accordance with Regulation I26.b. Subject to approval judges would be included on the list of Approved Championship Working Trial Judges.

- b. On application for a person's first appointment to judge Championship Working Trial Certificate Stakes, the minimum conditions which apply are:  
A person must:
- (1) Have 5 years experience of judging at Royal Kennel Club licensed working trials.
  - (2) Have judged a W.D. Stake at two or more championship trials.
  - (3) Have judged two or more Open T.D. working trials for T.D. judges and open P.D. working trials for P.D. judges.
  - (4) Have qualified a dog 'Excellent' in the nominated stake.
  - (5) Have attended a Royal Kennel Club Working Trial Regulations and Judging Procedure Seminar and passed the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination either at a classroom-based seminar or on the Royal Kennel Club Academy.
  - (6) Have attended a Royal Kennel Club Practical Working Trials seminar. In addition P.D. judges must have attended a Royal Kennel Club P.D. Regulations and Judging Procedure Seminar and passed the relevant examination.
  - (7) Have been assessed by a Royal Kennel Club approved assessor.
- c. A person approved to judge a Championship Working Trial Certificate stake may not judge the same stake within a period of four calendar months. The relevant date being the last day of each trial.
- d. Societies must be satisfied that the following minimum conditions have been met for the first appointment of judges for C.D., U.D. and W.D. stakes at a championship working trial:
- (1) For C.D. Stake—Must, as a minimum, have judged all groups in a C.D. open or U.D. open trial or above, and have as a handler qualified a dog C.D. 'Excellent' or above.
  - (2) For U.D. Stake - Must, as a minimum, have judged all groups in a U.D. open trial or above, have judged C.D. stake at a championship working trial and have as a handler qualified a dog U.D. 'Excellent' or above.
  - (3) For W.D. Stake - Must have judged all groups in the U.D. stake at a championship working trial and have as a handler qualified a dog 'Excellent' in a Championship W.D. stake.
- e. Judges at open working trials—Before a person is appointed to judge at an open working trial, they must satisfy the committee of the society holding the trial that they have qualified a dog 'Excellent' in the stake they are to judge or in a higher stake. For a TD or PD appointment they must have previously judged the nosework section of a lower tracking stake.
- f. To judge the introductory stake a person must have qualified a dog CD Ex.
- g. Additionally judges appointed to officiate for the first time must have attended a Royal Kennel Club Working Trials Regulations and Judging Procedure Seminar and passed the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination.
- h. The Board of the Royal Kennel Club shall have the power to grant, withhold, suspend or cancel the approval of any judge.

## 27. Judging.

- a. Judges at Royal Kennel Club licensed working trials are expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards in accordance with Royal

- Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and appropriate Codes of Best Practice as published from time to time.
- b. Judges at working trials may not enter a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership; or handle a dog at the trial at which they are judging.
  - c. The judge or judges in consultation with the working trial manager may arrange for dogs to be working singly or together in any numbers. All dogs entered in a stake shall be tested as far as possible under similar conditions.
  - d. All awards made by the judge or judges at a working trial shall be in accordance with the agreed scale of points approved by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club. Equal awards are prohibited, where there is equality of marks the award must be decided as follows:
    - (1) Where all parties involved are present at the time of the award, the order shall be decided by a runoff exercise(s).
    - (2) Where all parties involved are not present at the time of the award, the order shall be decided at the discretion of the judge.
  - e. The winner of the stake shall be the dog which:
    - (1) has qualified in all groups and obtained the highest overall marks.
    - (2) if no dog has qualified in all groups, that with the highest overall marks shall win.

Other placings in the stake shall be allocated on the same basis.
  - f. Lockouts are permitted for the Quartering the ground and Search and Escort exercises only. There must be a run through of the complete Patrol test except the Quartering the ground and Search and Escort exercise (if there is a Lockout of those exercises) in the presence of the competitors before judging of the Patrol exercises commences. If a handler has more than one dog to work in the patrol section of the stake, then a lockout is not permitted.
  - g. Any physical disciplining of the dog by the handler in the test area or any uncontrolled behaviour of the dog must be penalised by deducting points from the total score and the judge may bar the dog from further competition in the stake.
  - h. The Board of the Royal Kennel Club shall have the power to grant, withhold, suspend or cancel the appointment of any Judge.
  - i. Patrol Dog stake judges must, before commencement of the Patrol Dog test, provide Working Trials Managers with sufficient detail of the tests, the risks arising from them and measures to manage those risks, to be included within the risk assessments completed in respect of the events.

## **28. Judging Contracts.**

- a. Invitations to judge must be made by working trial societies in writing and must include the following wording:  
 'In accepting this invitation you agree to be bound by Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and the Royal Kennel Club Code of Best Practice for Judges and confirm that you are qualified to judge in accordance with Working Trial Regulation I26. In addition, you will familiarise yourself with the Royal Kennel Club I Regulations which are current at the date of the judging appointment.

In doing so you also recognise that you are obliged to notify us in writing of any change in personal circumstances which may affect your ability to fulfil this judging appointment. You should note that we reserve the right to cancel the contract before the date of the appointment if there is such a change in your circumstances, which in our reasonable opinion would adversely affect your ability to fulfil the appointment. Clubs may cancel a judging appointment where there is clear evidence that the judge's ability to fulfil the appointment has been adversely affected, or in consultation with the judge.'

- b. Working trials societies must ensure that written acceptances are received and these must be followed by written confirmation of the appointment by the society upon which a judging contract will be deemed to have been formed; except that in the case of appointments to judge TD & PD Stakes at championship working trials, the contract will only be formed when Royal Kennel Club approval of the appointment has been given.
- c. All judging contracts are subject to cancellation at the discretion of the Royal Kennel Club in the event of the judge being subject to relevant disciplinary action.
- d. In the event of a judge failing to honour an engagement to judge, the Board will require reasons for such failure, and in the event of an explanation not being considered satisfactory, the Board may impose a fine. Similarly, in the event of a society not honouring a judging contract, the society may be required by the Board to give reasons for such failure, and in the event of the explanation not being considered satisfactory, the Board may impose a fine upon the society.
- e. In the event of such fines not being paid within the time stipulated by the Board, the judge or officers and committee members of the society, as applicable, may at the discretion of the Board be dealt with as if a complaint under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11 had been lodged and proved to the satisfaction of the Board.

### **29. Control of dogs.**

The owner, exhibitor, handler or other person in charge of a dog at Royal Kennel Club licensed events must at all times ensure that the dog is kept under proper control whilst at the licensed venue, including its environs, car and caravan parks and approaches. This Regulation applies before (at any time during the set up period at the venue), during the event and afterwards (at any time during the breakdown of the event). The mating of bitches within the precincts of the competition, as stipulated above, is forbidden. An exhibitor or competitor should ensure that contact details for any handler are available and must be provided upon request in any investigation of a breach of this regulation by such handler.

### **30. Competing.**

- a. An owner or handler may handle the dog, once the dog has commenced work an owner must not interfere with his dog if he has deputed another person to handle it.
- b. The working trial manager shall announce the specific time at which a dog or group of dogs may be called for any exercise or group of exercises. Each dog must be brought at its proper time. The times and order may be changed if necessary at the discretion of the working trial manager with approval of the judge or judges provided that no hardship is thereby

caused to any competitor. If absent when called, the dog shall be liable to be eliminated by the judge or judges.

- c. No person shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling of a dog at any time whilst at the licensed venue, including its environs, car and caravan parks and approaches.
- d. A person handling a dog may speak, whistle or work it by hand signals as he wishes, but he can be called to order by the judge or judges for making unnecessary noise, and if he persists the judge or judges can eliminate the dog. Punitive correction or harsh handling of the dog is forbidden.
- e. No dog entered for competition and at the meeting may be withdrawn from competition without notice to the working trials manager. No dog shall compulsorily be withdrawn from a stake by reason of the fact that it has obtained less than 70% of the marks in any one group.
- f. Failure to participate in all exercises shall result in the dog being ineligible for any placing or qualification.
- g. No competitor shall impugn the decision of the judge or judges.
- h. A dog must not compete in the same stake more than once, including special stakes.
- i. One close fitting smooth collar must be worn, providing the only attachment is a form of identification. Dogs must not wear any type of slip or half-slip collar when under test.

### **31. Animals allowed at an event.**

No animal other than one officially entered shall be brought into the precincts of a dog show during its continuance, except any dogs registered to assist the disabled, or dogs required for educational or instructional purposes or by permission of the Board.

### **32. Delegated powers of the Scottish Kennel Club.**

For the purpose of these Regulations, all powers of the Board relative to working trials held in Scotland and licensed by the Scottish Kennel Club are delegated to the Executive Council of the Scottish Kennel Club. Applications for licences, objections and allegations of fraudulent or discreditable conduct relative to working trials licensed by the Scottish Kennel Club must be made to the Secretary General of the Scottish Kennel Club, Unit 2 - Ground Floor, Satellite Business Park, Macmerry, Tranent, East Lothian. EH33 1RY.

For the purpose of paragraphs 1, 4 and 5 of these Regulations, the power to grant, withhold or cancel permission to hold any licensed working trial in Scotland, other than a championship working trial, shall be delegated to the Scottish Kennel Club.

### **33. Definition of Stakes, Eligibility and Exercises.**

The detailed Regulations for the Definition of Stakes, Eligibility and Exercises are given in Annex A.

### **34. Description of Exercises and Guidance for Judges.**

The Description of Exercises and notes for the Guidance of Judges are given in Annex B.

### **35. Bloodhound Trial Regulations.**

The Specific Regulations for Bloodhound Trials are given in Annex C.

## DEFINITION OF STAKES, ELIGIBILITY AND EXERCISES

1. When entering for championship or open working trials, wins at members working trials will not count.

2. A stake will be won by the dog that has obtained the most points across the exercises, having qualified in each group, unless otherwise stated for special stakes.

3. Any dog entered in PD or TD stakes at a championship trial shall not be eligible to enter any lower stake at the meeting.

4. Societies may schedule stakes other than those defined below. The eligibility for 'Special' stakes must be defined by the society and included in the schedule. The word 'Special' must be included in the title of the stake.

5. No working trial stake shall be limited to less than 30. If a limit is imposed on entries in any stake, it shall be carried out by ballot after the date of closing of entries. Championship TD or PD stakes shall not be limited to numbers.

### 6. Open Working Trials.

- a. Introductory stake—For dogs which have not qualified CD Ex or UD Ex. Dogs in this stake may also enter the CD stake.
- b. Companion dog (CD) stake—For dogs which have not qualified or obtained a Certificate of Merit in WD, PD or TD stakes at open or championship working trials.
- c. Utility dog (UD) stake—For dogs which have not been awarded a Certificate of Merit in WD, PD or TD stakes.
- d. Working dogs (WD) stakes—For dogs which have been awarded a Certificate of Merit in UD stakes but not in PD or TD stakes.
- e. Tracking dog (TD) stake—For dogs which have been awarded a Certificate of Merit in WD stakes but excluding dogs that have qualified TD Ex.
- f. Patrol dog (PD) stake—For dogs which have qualified WD Excellent at a championship trial but excluding dogs that have qualified PD Excellent at a championship trial.

### 7. Championship Working Trials.

- a. Introductory stake—For dogs which have not qualified CD Ex or UD Ex. Dogs in this stake may also enter the CD stake.
- b. Companion dog (CD) stake—For dogs which have not qualified WD Ex.
- c. Utility dog (UD) stake—For dogs which have been awarded a Certificate of Merit in an Open UD stake. A dog is not eligible for entry in this stake if it has qualified WD Excellent or is entered in the WD stake at the same trial.
- d. Working dog (WD) stake—For dogs which have qualified CD Ex and UD Ex and have been awarded a Certificate of Merit in an Open WD stake or qualified WD Ex. A dog is not eligible for entry in this stake if it has qualified TD or PD Excellent or entered in the TD or PD stake at the same trial.

- e. Tracking dog (TD) stake—For dogs which have been awarded two Certificates of Merit in Open TD stakes and have qualified WD Ex at two championship trials.
- f. Patrol dog (PD) stake—For dogs which have been awarded two Certificates of Merit in Open PD stakes, and have qualified WD Ex at two championship trials.

### 8. Members Working Trial.

Restricted to the members of the society holding the working trial, otherwise eligibility for stakes is as for open working trials.

### 9. Introductory Stake.

A working trial may be run consisting only of an Introductory Stake.

### 10. Schedule of Exercises and Points.

a. <b>INTRODUCTORY AND COMPANION DOG (CD) STAKE</b>			
	Maximum marks	Group total	Minimum group qualifying mark
<b>Group I. Control</b>			
1. Heel on leash	5		
2. Heel free	10		
3. Recall to handler	5		
4. Sending the dog away	10		
5. Sit (Introductory stake 1 minute; CD Stake 2 minutes)	10		
6. Down (Introductory stake 5 minutes; CD stake 5 minutes)	10	50	35
<b>Group II. Agility</b>			
7. Clear jump	5		
8. Long jump	5		
9. Scale (3) Stay (1) Position (1) Recall (5)	10	20	14
<b>Group III. Retrieving and Nosework</b>			
10. Retrieve a dumb-bell	10		
11. Elementary search	20	30	21
Totals	100	100	70
Minimum qualifying mark (70% in each section and 80% overall)			80

b.

**UTILITY DOG (UD) STAKE**

	Maximum marks	Group total	Minimum group qualifying mark
<b>Group I. Control</b>			
1. Heel free	5		
2. Sending the dog away	10		
3. Retrieve a dumb-bell	5		
4. Down (10 minutes)	10		
5. Speak on command	5	35	25
<b>Group II. Agility</b>			
6. Clear jump	5		
7. Long jump	5		
8. Scale (3) Stay (1) Position (1) Recall (5)	10	20	14
<b>Group III. Nosework</b>			
9. Search	35		
10. Track (90)			
11. Articles 10+10 (20)	110	145	102
Totals	200	200	141
Minimum qualifying mark (70% in each section and 80% overall)			160

c.

**WORKING DOG (WD) STAKE**

	Maximum marks	Group total	Minimum group qualifying mark
<b>Group I. Control</b>			
1. Heel free	5		
2. Sending the dog away	10		
3. Retrieve a dumb-bell	5		
4. Down (10 minutes)	10		
5. Speak on command	5	35	25
<b>Group II. Agility</b>			
6. Clear jump	5		
7. Long jump	5		
8. Scale (3) Stay (1) Position (1) Recall (5)	10	20	14
<b>Group III. Nosework</b>			
9. Search	35		
10. Track (90) Articles (10+10=20)	110	145	102
Totals	200	200	141
Minimum qualifying mark (70% in each section and 80% overall)			160

d.

**TRACKING DOG (TD) STAKE**

	Maximum marks	Group total	Minimum group qualifying mark
<b>Group I. Control</b>			
1. Heel free (5) Down on the move (5)	10		
2. Send away and directional control	10		
3. Speak on command	5		
4. Down (10 minutes)	10	35	25
<b>Group II. Agility</b>			
6. Clear jump	5		
7. Long jump	5		
8. Scale (3) Stay (1) Position (1) Recall (5)	10	20	14
<b>Group III. Nosework</b>			
9. Search	35		
10. Track (100) Articles (10+10+10=30)	130	165	116
Totals	220	220	155
Minimum qualifying mark (70% in each section and 80% overall)			176

e.

**PATROL DOG (PD) STAKE**

	Maximum marks	Group total	Minimum group qualifying mark
<b>Group I. Control</b>			
1. Heel free (5) Down on the move (5)	10		
2. Send away and directional control	10		
3. Speak on command	5		
4. Down (10 minutes)	10	35	25
<b>Group II. Agility</b>			
6. Clear jump	5		
7. Long jump	5		
8. Scale (3) Stay (1) Position (1) Recall (5)	10	20	14
<b>Group III. Nosework</b>			
9. Search	35		
10. Track (60) Articles (10+10=20)	80	115	80
<b>Group IV. Patrol</b>			
11. Quartering the ground	45		
12. Test of courage	20		
13. Search and escort	25		
14a. Recall from protected steward	30		
14b. Pursuit and detention of protected steward	30	150	105
Totals	320	320	224
Minimum qualifying mark (70% in each section and 80% overall)			256

## DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISES AND GUIDANCE FOR JUDGES

### 1. Method of handling.

Although implicit obedience is necessary, dogs and handlers must operate in as free and natural a manner as possible; persistent barking, whining, etc. in any exercise other than location of person or speak on command should be penalised. The handler must not have food or a toy on their person whilst the dog is being tested. As far as reasonably practical, competitors should not watch any dog working the nosework in the same stake, prior to competing.

### 2. Heel work.

The judge should test the ability of the dog to keep its shoulder reasonably close to the left knee of the handler who should walk smartly in a natural manner at normal, fast and slow paces through turns and among and around persons and obstacles. The halt, with the dog sitting to heel and a 'figure of eight' may be included at any stage. Extra commands shall be permitted in the Introductory and CD Stake.

Any act, signal or command or jerking of the lead which in the opinion of the Judge has given the dog unfair assistance shall be penalised.

Where required the lead must be attached to a close fitting smooth collar. Retractable leads or head collars are not to be used. In TD and PD Stakes, at some time during the test, while working at a normal pace, the dog shall be required to be left in the down position when directed by the judge. The handler shall continue forward alone, without hesitation, and proceed as directed by the judge until upon reaching the dog, when the dog is on the handler's left hand side and both handler and dog are facing in the same direction, both shall continue forward together in accordance with the instructions given.

### 3. Sit (Introductory stake 1 minute. CD stake 2 minutes in sight).

Dogs may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The judge or stewards will give the order 'last command' and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to the dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the judge or steward until ordered to return to them. Dogs must remain in the sit position throughout the test until the judge or steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements may be penalised. The judge however may use discretion should interference by another dog cause the dog to move.

### 4. Down (Introductory and CD stake 5 minutes. Other stakes 10 minutes).

Handlers must be out of sight of the dogs who may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The judge or steward will give the command 'last command' and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the judge or steward until ordered to return to them. Dogs must remain in the 'down' position throughout the

test until the judge or steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements may be penalised. No dog will be awarded any marks that sits, stands or crawls more than its approximate body length in any direction. The judge however may use discretion should interference by another dog cause the dog to move.

#### **5. Recall to handler.**

The dog should be recalled from the 'down' or 'sit' position. The handler being a reasonable distance from the dog at the discretion of the judge. The dog should return at a smart pace and sit in front of the handler, afterwards going smartly to heel on command or signal. Handler to await command of the judge or steward. Extra commands shall be permitted in the introductory and CD stakes.

#### **6. Retrieve a dumb-bell.**

The dog should not move forward to retrieve nor deliver to hand on return until ordered by the handler on the judge or stewards' instructions. The retrieve should be executed at a smart pace without mouthing or playing with the dumb-bell and the dog should sit in front of the handler. After delivery the handler will send the dog to heel on the instruction of the Judge or Steward. Extra commands shall be permitted in the Introductory and CD stakes.

#### **7. Send away and directional control.**

The minimum distance that the judge shall set for the send away shall be 20m for the Introductory stake and the CD stake and 50m for all other stakes. In the Introductory stake the maximum distance that the judge shall set for the send away shall be 50m. The TD and PD stakes shall also include change of direction or directions of a minimum of 50m. When the dog has reached the designated point or the judge is satisfied that after a reasonable time the handler cannot improve the position of the dog by any further commands the dog should be stopped in either the stand, sit or down position at the discretion of the handler. At this point in the TD or PD stakes the judge or steward will instruct the handler to redirect the dog. In all stakes, whilst the judge should take into account the number of commands used during the exercise, importance should be placed upon the handler's ability to direct the dog to the place indicated.

#### **8. 'Speak on command'.**

In TD and PD, the number of barks is at the judge's discretion and after the cease 'speaking' the handler may be instructed to make the dog speak again. 'Speaking' should be sustained by the dog with the minimum of commands and/or signals. Continuous and/or excessive incitements to 'speak' must be heavily penalised. This test must not be incorporated with any other test.

The judge will control the position of the handler in relation to the dog. In UD Stake and WD Stake, this position should be near and in sight of the dog. The handler may place the dog in the stand, sit or down.

In TD and PD, the handler may be required to work the dog walking at heel. If the dog is not required to walk at heel, the handler may place the dog in the stand, sit or down.

In UD the number of barks should be 5, in WD the number of barks should be 10.

#### **9. Agility.—the descriptions below should be followed for agility:**

- a. No part of the clear, long jump or scale equipment to be traversed by the dog shall be less than 914mm wide nor be in any way injurious to the dog.

The test must commence with the clear jump and then be followed in any sequence of the long jump and scale. Handlers should not be prevented from pacing or stepping out the position from which to send their dogs over the clear, long or scale jump provided this does not cause unnecessary delay.

- b. The Clear Jump must be so constructed that it will be obvious if the dog has exerted more than slight pressure upon it. All poles or bars must be easily displaced by the dog. There must be a further removable pole or bar approximately halfway below the top pole. No further pole or bar is required if the jump is lower than approx. 914mm. Appreciable pressure exerted by the dog on the clear jump shall be considered to be a failure.
- c. The construction of the Long Jump shall be as follows: The front element to be a minimum of 914mm wide graduating over 5 elements. (The largest of which is removed for dogs not exceeding 380mm at shoulder: the largest two of which are removed for dogs not exceeding 254mm at shoulder) to a back element of a minimum width of 1m. The front edge of the front element to be 102mm high rising to 178mm at the back edge. Each element thereafter graduating in height by 25mm - the back of the last element being 280mm high. The minimum width (front to back) of each element to be at least 152mm and clearly visible to the dog.
- d. The handler may either approach the clear and long jumps with the dog or send it forward or stand by the jumps and call the dog up to jump. At no time should the handler proceed beyond any part of the jumps before they have been traversed by the dog. Casual fouling of the Clear or Long Jump may be penalised. Once the dog has cleared the obstacle he should remain on the other side under control until joined by the handler.
- e. The scale should be a vertical wall of wooden planks which must be grooved, or chamfered along their bottom edge, to assist the dog. Slats are not permitted. The top surface of the scale may be slightly padded. The handler and dog must approach the face of the scale at a walking pace with the dog at heel. At the handlers discretion and in his own time whilst the dog and handler are in a stationary position and the dog's front feet are within the clearly defined 2.74m marker(s) the dog should be ordered to scale. On reaching the other side the dog should be ordered to stay in the stand, sit or down position, the handler having previously nominated the position to the judge. The judge should ensure that the dog will stay steady and may indicate to the handler where he should stand in relation to his dog and the scale before ordering the dog to be recalled over the scale. A dog which fails to go over the scale at the second attempt shall be excluded from the stay and recall over the scale. Failure in the recall over the scale does not disqualify from marks previously gained.
- f. Failure or refusal at any of the 3 types of jump may be followed by a second attempt and any one such failure shall be penalised by half the marks allotted to that part of the exercise in which the dog is given a second attempt.

- g. Jumping heights and lengths:
- (1) *Introductory stake:*
    - (a) Clear Jump—  
Dogs not exceeding 254mm at shoulder 380mm  
Dogs not exceeding 380mm at shoulder 457mm  
Dogs exceeding 380mm at shoulder 760mm
    - (b) Long Jump—  
Dogs not exceeding 254mm at shoulder 990mm  
Dogs not exceeding 380mm at shoulder 1.524m  
Dogs exceeding 380mm at shoulder 1.830m
    - (c) Scale—  
Dogs not exceeding 254mm at shoulder 760mm  
Dogs not exceeding 380mm at shoulder 990mm  
Dogs exceeding 380mm at shoulder 1.524m
  - (2) *CD and UD stakes:*
    - (a) Clear Jump—  
Dogs not exceeding 254mm at shoulder 457mm  
Dogs not exceeding 380mm at shoulder 610mm  
Dogs exceeding 380mm at shoulder 914mm
    - (b) Long Jump—  
Dogs not exceeding 254mm at shoulder 1.090m  
Dogs not exceeding 380mm at shoulder 1.625m  
Dogs exceeding 380mm at shoulder 2.438m
    - (c) Scale—  
Dogs not exceeding 254mm at shoulder 0.838m  
Dogs not exceeding 380mm at shoulder 1.14m  
Dogs exceeding 380mm at shoulder 1.676m
  - (3) *WD, TD and PD stakes:*
    - (a) Clear Jump 914mm
    - (b) Long Jump 2.438m
    - (c) Scale 1.676m

### 10. Search.

The Introductory Stake Search shall contain 4 articles of which only 3 are to be recovered. The Companion Dog (CD) Stake Search shall contain 3 articles and all other stakes shall contain 4. In all stakes fresh articles must be placed for each dog which must recover a minimum of 2 to qualify. The judge must choose track and search articles suitable to the nature of the ground and stake being judged and which are unlikely to be in any way injurious to the dog. The time allotted shall be 4 minutes in the Introductory stake and the CD stake and 5 minutes in all other stakes. The articles must be well handled and placed, not dropped, or buried, by a steward who shall foil the ground by walking in varying directions over the area. An area of ground which has had a search laid over it must not have another search laid over it until the following day.

The Introductory Stake and the CD stake search area shall be approx. 14m square, all other stakes being approx. 23m square and shall be clearly defined by a marker peg at each corner. The handler may work his dog from any position outside the area, but must not enter it. In the Introductory Stake and the CD stake a maximum 5 marks should be allotted for each article and a maximum 5 marks for style and control. In all other stakes a maximum 7 marks should be allotted for each article and a maximum 7 marks for style and control.

### 11. Track.

The descriptions below should be followed for the track:

- a. The track should be plotted on the ground to be used for the nosework previous to the day of commencement of the trials. An area of ground which has had a track laid over it must not have another track laid over it until the following day. Wherever possible the ground used for a tracking stake shall be as similar as possible to the ground used at that trial in that stake. The judge must choose track and search articles suitable to the nature of the ground and stake being judged and which are unlikely to be in any way injurious to the dog.
- b. The track shall be a single line and may include turns. It shall be approximately 800m long and should be laid as far as possible by a stranger to the dog. In UD, it shall be a minimum of 550 metres long. The article(s) must be well handled and be placed, not dropped or buried on the track.
- c. There shall be a marker left by the track layer to indicate the start of the track which must be far enough from the search square to allow the square to be worked without interfering with the track. The track layer will indicate to the competitor the line he took to the pole. There shall be no back track. In the U.D. stake a second marker should be left not more than approx. 30m from the start to indicate the direction of the first leg.
- d. When the judging is in progress the track layer shall be present at the side of the judge to indicate the exact line of the track and the position of the articles.
- e. If a time limit is given for the completion of a track it must not be less than 20 minutes.
- f. Unless the judge considers the dog to have lost the track beyond recovery or has run out of time allotted for the completion of the track a handler may recast his dog at his discretion. The judge should not at any time indicate to the handler where the dog should be recast except in exceptional circumstances.
- g. Tracks for specific stakes shall be as follows:
  - (1) The UD stake track shall be not less than half an hour old and shall include 2 articles, one of which must be placed in the first half of the track. At least one article must be recovered to qualify.
  - (2) The WD stake track shall be not less than one and a half hours old and shall include 2 articles one of which must be recovered to qualify.
  - (3) The PD stake track shall be not less than 2 hours old and shall include 2 articles one of which must be recovered to qualify.
  - (4) The TD stake track shall be not less than 3 hours old and shall include 3 articles two of which must be recovered to qualify.

- h. In all stakes the last article shall indicate the end of the track. No 2 articles should be laid together.
- i. A spare track additional to requirements should be laid but the opportunity to run a new track should be given only in exceptional circumstances.
- j. The area used for tracking is out of bounds to all competitors for practice tracks and exercise from the time of the first track and any competitor found contravening this instruction is liable to be disqualified by the judge and or trials manager from participating in the trial in accordance with the provision of Regulation I11.c.
- k. The dog must be worked on a harness and tracking line. The line must be attached to the upper section of the harness so that when the dog is worked the line does not pass under the dog.

### **12. Quartering the ground.**

The missing person, protected consistent with safety, must remain motionless in a seated or standing position out of sight of the handler but must be accessible on investigation to the dog when 'winded'. The protected steward must not be lying down. The judge should satisfy himself that the dog has found the person and has given warning spontaneously and emphatically without being directed by the handler. A dog that bites the hidden person must be heavily penalised.

### **13. Test of courage.**

This is a test of courage rather than of control, and the method of testing is at the judge's discretion. Handlers must be prepared to have the dog tested when off the lead by a protected steward. The protected arm must be accessible. The dog must be judged on its courage and attitude.

### **14. Search and Escort.**

The 'protected steward' will be searched by the handler with the dog off the lead at the sit, stand or down. The judge will assess whether the dog is well placed tactically and ready to defend if called to do so. The handler will be told to escort the 'protected steward' at least 30m in a given direction, he will give at least one turn on the direction of the judge. During the exercise the 'protected steward' will turn and attempt to overpower the handler. The dog may defend spontaneously or on command and must release the 'protected steward' at once when the handler calls him off.

### **15. Recall from protected stewards.**

The dog will be off lead beside the handler. The position of the dog and the command given to send the dog must be the same as that for the Pursuit exercise. The 'protected steward' will be challenged and will reply in order to gain the dog's attention before running away as directed by the judge. The handler will be told when to send his dog. When the dog is approximately half way between the handler and the 'protected steward' the judge will signal to recall the dog. The 'protected steward' should continue running until the dog returns to the handler or bites the sleeve. The recall may be by whistle or voice.

**16. Pursuit and detention of protected stewards.**

The dog will be off lead beside the handler. The position of the dog and the command given to send the dog must be the same as that for the Recall exercise. The 'protected steward' will be challenged and will reply in order to gain the dog's attention before running away as directed by the judge. The handler will be told when to send his dog. A run-out point may be set by the judge. The dog must detain the 'protected steward' by holding him by the protected arm until commanded by the handler to release. The protected steward should continue to try to escape if not detained by the dog. If the dog fails to detain the 'protected steward', it shall lose any marks that it may have obtained for the Recall exercise, or it shall not be tested on the Recall.

**17. Health and Safety, Bite Exercises.**

In any exercise where the dog is required to bite a protected steward (protected consistent with safety), it must be on the right arm. Any indiscriminate biting will result in the dog being excluded from the remainder of the test. At no time in any exercise should the sleeve be presented to the dog in an obvious and exaggerated manner, but equally it must not be obscured in such a way as to make it inaccessible to the dog. A protected steward shall, for both their safety and that of the dog, take the energy impact of the bite, landing all of the dog's feet as soon as possible, and without any such movement that causes the dog to be swung or lifted up in a circular motion.

**a. Patrol Dog - Equipment and Protective Clothing**

The judge must either provide the equipment or check its suitability. Sleeves must have a tapered edge, and a jute cover, and must be suitable for all dogs entered. The cover must not be brand new, nor frayed. There must be a hand grip inside the sleeve. Close weave covers must not be used. There must not be external buckles, or a joint in the sleeve which leaves a gap. The sleeve must not be obscured by clothing or anything else. Puppy sleeves may not be used. 'Scratch pants' which protect the helper from dogs' nails may be worn. The sleeve must be accessible should the dog bite.

b. For Quartering the ground, Search and Escort, Recall from protected stewards, and Pursuit and Detention of protected stewards, protected stewards must wear a sleeve as described in the Equipment and Protective Clothing regulation on the right arm.

c. For the Test of courage, protected stewards must wear a sleeve on the right arm as described in the Equipment and Protective Clothing regulation, or a 'bite jacket' with a light-coloured jute area on the right arm. Items used in the Test of courage must be designed to be non-injurious to the dogs, with no sharp points or hard objects inside any sacks used.

(The use of the singular throughout this Annex may, where appropriate, also apply to the plural.)

## SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR BLOODHOUND TRIALS

These Regulations to be read in conjunction with Royal Kennel Club Working Trial Regulations [I].

### 1. Bloodhound Working Trial Certificates.

A Royal Kennel Club Bloodhound Working Trial Certificate may be awarded to a Bloodhound winning a senior stake without assistance at a Championship Bloodhound Trial if it has clearly identified the runner to the satisfaction of the judge or judges. A hound will be considered to have made a satisfactory identification if it is seen to approach and clearly select the runner from a group of three people at the end of the line. Handlers who choose to work/hunt their hounds leashed must drop their leash within a minimum of 200yds/183m of the line up, so that a natural identification takes place that is free from any handler interference. Judges may award a Certificate of Merit in all stakes to any hound not being placed which has given a good performance.

### 2. How to Win a Class/Stake/Competition.

A stake will be won by the hound that completes the line most accurately, in the best time considering all variables - weather/ terrain - to satisfy the standards of the stake entered.

### 3. Schedules.

- a. The society holding a Bloodhound Trial must issue a schedule which shall form the basis of a contract between the society and those entering hounds. No modifications may be made to the schedule before the date of the trial, except by permission of the Royal Kennel Club and such modifications must be advertised.
- b. A copy of the schedule issued for each trial must be retained by the organisations for at least one year from the date of the trial and must be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club if requested, together with any other documents.
- c. The schedule must contain:
  - (1) The date and place of the Bloodhound Trial.
  - (2) The latest date for applying for entry at the trial.
  - (3) The amount of entry fees and any prize money.
  - (4) A statement that a draw will be made for the order of running.
  - (5) The conditions and qualifications for making entries and for intimating acceptance or refusal of entries.
  - (6) A statement if applicable on details of how entries can be made via the internet.
  - (7) An announcement that the Bloodhound Trial is held under Royal Kennel Club Regulations for Bloodhound Trials with such exceptions as the committee of the society may decide. Such exceptions and conditions must have received the approval of the Board of the Royal Kennel Club prior to publication of the schedule.
  - (8) The definition of each stake, together with the qualification and limitations for entry in that stake.

- (9) The names of the judges.
- (10) A statement that spayed bitches and castrated dogs may compete.
- (11) An announcement that hounds under the age of 12 months on the first day of the Trial are not eligible for entry. Dogs aged four calendar months and over are eligible to enter Not for Competition.
- (12) A Regulation which prohibits judges entering a hound which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership in the stake they are judging.
- (13) If accepting postal entries; A separate official entry form which must include the declaration to be signed by the entrant as on the specimen entry form issued by the Royal Kennel Club.
- (14) A statement that should circumstance so dictate the society, in consultation with the judges, may alter arrangements as necessary. Such changes and the circumstances surrounding them must be reported to the Royal Kennel Club.

#### **4. Entry forms.**

Such forms must be in accordance with the approved form issued by the secretary of the Bloodhound Trial. All entries must be made on the official entry form and each competitor must use a separate form.

#### **5. Catalogue.**

The society must publish a catalogue for the trial containing:

- a. The name of the society holding the trial.
- b. The date and place of the trial.
- c. The names and addresses of competitors.
- d. The registered name of each hound entered, the stake in which it is entered together with its full particulars as recorded on the entry form.
- e. The name of the judge for each stake.

*Championship* – Within 14 days of the close of the trial, a copy of the official catalogue for the trial, containing a full and correct list of all the entries, with all the senior stake awards correctly marked, must be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club.

#### **6. Veterinary support.**

The secretary of a licensed Bloodhound trial is required to arrange veterinary support compatible with the arrangements for the trial and anticipated entries. The name, address and telephone number of the veterinary surgeon, practitioner or practice supporting the trial is to be available.

#### **7. Management.**

- a. Societies must schedule one other stake in addition to the Royal Kennel Club Bloodhound Working Trial Certificate stake.
- b. A stake manager must be appointed by the committee of the society for each stake who shall be responsible for ensuring that the Regulations are observed but may not interfere with the judges' decisions which shall be final. The stake manager shall decide upon any matter not related to judging and not provided for in the Rules and Regulations and may call upon the judge or judges to assist in the decision which will be final. The stake manager should be present throughout the stake and must not enter for competition a hound which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership or resident at the same address; or handle a hound at the trial at which they are the stake manager.

- c. The stake manager and the judges should assess the weather conditions and should they consider the weather unfit for holding the trial the commencement may be postponed until such time as it is considered necessary for the trial to be abandoned and the entry fees returned.
- d. When a judge is prevented from attending or finishing a meeting which has commenced, the stake manager shall decide what action is to be taken.
- e. The order for running lines shall be determined by a draw and competitors notified accordingly by post of their reporting time prior to the date of the trial.
- f. The committee may reserve to themselves the right to refuse any entries.
- g. Replacement judges appointed in an emergency must have had previous judging experience.

### **8. Approval of judges.**

- a. Societies must apply to the Board for approval of all judges at championship Bloodhound trials at least six months before the date of the trials. All first time senior stake judges must be applied for a minimum of eighteen months before the date of the trial on the form provided. Individuals may apply to the Board for approval to award Championship Bloodhound Working Trial Certificates for the first time, provided that the judge has fulfilled the minimum criteria in accordance with Regulations I(C)7.b., I(C)7.c. and I(C)7.d. Subject to approval judges would be included on the list of Approved Championship Bloodhound Working Trial Judges.
- b. On application for a person's first appointment to award a Royal Kennel Club Bloodhound Working Trial Certificate, the nominee must meet the minimum conditions which apply are:  
A person must:-
  - (1) have judged at least three stakes, not at the same trial, at Royal Kennel Club licensed Bloodhound Trials.
  - (2) have completed and passed a Royal Kennel Club Bloodhound Regulations and Judging Procedure examination on the Royal Kennel Club Academy and have attended a Royal Kennel Club Planning and Managing of Bloodhound Trials Seminar and passed the assessment.
- c. Prior to being granted Board approval judges must have been assessed by a Royal Kennel Club approved assessor.
- d. A person approved to judge a Senior stake may not judge another Senior Stake within a period of twelve calendar months.

### **9. Judging.**

- a. Judges at Royal Kennel Club licensed Bloodhound Trials must judge in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations.
- b. All judges must have completed and passed a Royal Kennel Club Bloodhound Regulations and Judging Procedure examination on the Royal Kennel Club Academy every five years since passing the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination. This Regulation is effective from 1 January 2022.
- c. Judges at Bloodhound Trials may not enter a hound which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership in the stake which they are judging.

- d. An award or prize may be withheld if in the opinion of the judge there is a lack of sufficient merit.
- e. The committee shall have the power to grant, withhold, suspend or cancel the appointment of any judge.

#### 10. Competing.

- a. Only one person may handle a hound during a trial; an owner having deputed authority to another must not interfere with the handling of that hound.
- b. If an entered hound is absent one hour before the published start time for its line, the hound shall be liable to be disqualified by the judge.
- c. Punitive correction or harsh handling of the hound is forbidden.
- d. No hound entered for competition and at the meeting may be withdrawn from competition without notice to the stake manager.
- e. No competitor shall impugn the decision of the judge or judges.

#### 11. Classification.

##### a. Working permits.

To compete at Royal Kennel Club licensed trials a hound, resident in the UK, must hold an Association of Bloodhound Breeders or Bloodhound Club working permit. Hounds resident in countries outside the jurisdiction of the Royal Kennel Club must hold a restricted working permit issued by a Bloodhound club in their own country similar in content to that issued in the UK. Awards gained at Bloodhound trials held overseas do not count towards eligibility to compete at Trials licensed by the Royal Kennel Club.

##### b. Stock test

Bloodhounds entered on a restricted permit must be hunted on a leash, they may only be hunted free if they hold part two of a working permit issued by the Association of Bloodhound Breeders or the Bloodhound Club to certify they are steady with farm stock. Hounds are required to have passed a stock test in the UK before being hunted off leash and are ineligible to compete in a Senior stake until successfully stock tested. Hounds aged 6 months or over may take part one of the working permit, however hounds must be at least 12 months of age before undertaking part two of the working permit.

##### c. Entries

Bloodhounds must be entered in the lowest stake for which they are eligible at the closing date for entries.

#### 12. Definition of stakes

##### a. Novice stake

The line shall be approximately 1.6km (one mile) long and not less than half an hour cold. For Bloodhounds holding a working permit at the close of entries. No hound that has gained 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Novice stake or gained 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place in a Junior stake, or gained 1<sup>st</sup> place in an Intermediate stake or Senior stake may enter.

- b. **Junior stake**  
The line shall be approximately 3.2km (2 miles) long and not less than one hour cold. For Bloodhounds that have gained 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Novice stake at the close of entries. No hound that has gained 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place in a Junior stake, or gained 1<sup>st</sup> place in an Intermediate stake or Senior stake may enter.
- c. **Intermediate stake**  
The line shall be approximately 4.0km (two and a half miles) long and not less than one and a half hours cold. For Bloodhounds that have gained 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Junior stake at the close of entries. No hound that has gained 1<sup>st</sup> place in Intermediate stake or Senior stake may enter.
- d. **Senior stake**  
The line shall be approximately 4.8km (3 miles) long and not less than two hours cold. For Bloodhounds that have won an Intermediate stake at close of entries. Bloodhounds are ineligible to compete in a Senior stake until successfully stock tested.

# REGULATIONS FOR ENTRIES IN THE STUD BOOK, CHAMPIONS AND WARRANTS

*As at 1st January 2026*

## 1. Stud Book Qualifications.

- a. An entry in the Stud Book shall consist of the registered name of the dog, its sex, colour, date of birth, owner, breeder and an extension of its pedigree limited to three generations, or a Stud Book reference within that limit.
- b. All dogs must be entered in the Stud Book in the name of the registered owner at the time of qualification.
- c. A Royal Kennel Club Stud Book number will be assigned to each dog accepted for entry.
- d. A neutered dog, which has qualified for an entry in the Stud Book will be listed therein with the letters 'NEUT' appearing after its name.
- e. The following dogs are entitled to entry in the Royal Kennel Club Stud Book subject to regulations a, b, c, and d above.
  - (4) Winners of Qualifying Certificates in TD or PD Stakes at championship working trials held under Royal Kennel Club Working Trial Regulations.
  - (5) Dogs awarded 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in the Senior stake for Bloodhounds at Championship Working Trials held under Royal Kennel Club Working Trial Regulations.

## 2. Championship qualifications.

- f. *Title of Working Trial Champion (WT Ch)* The following dogs shall be entitled to be described as Working Trial Champion. All wins are confined to TD or PD stakes or Senior stake for Bloodhounds at Championship Working Trials:
  - (1) *TD or PD stake*

Any dog awarded two Working Trial Certificates under two different judges provided that it has obtained 70% or more marks as indicated in the schedule of points in the appropriate columns for each group of exercises separately shown in that schedule and has also been awarded the qualification 'Excellent' by obtaining at least 80% of the possible total of marks for the stake.
  - (2) Any dog which has won a Royal Kennel Club Working Trial Championship qualifying 'Excellent'.
  - (3) *Senior stake*

Any Bloodhound awarded two Royal Kennel Club Bloodhound Working Trial Certificates under two different judges which has won a Senior stake without assistance at a Championship Working Trial for Bloodhounds and it has clearly identified the runner to the satisfaction of the judges. A hound will be considered to have made a satisfactory identification if it is seen to approach and clearly select the runner from a group of three people at the end of the line.

## ROYAL KENNEL CLUB REGULATIONS FOR CLASSIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

As at 1st January 2026

### **20. Dogs for competitions.**

Dogs entered for any form of Royal Kennel Club competition i.e. show classes, field trials, gundog working tests, obedience, working trials, agility, heelwork to music, and rally must be registered in the name of the person(s) making the entry. If, at the closing date for entries, the owner(s) have applied for but have not received the Royal Kennel Club registration certificate, the dog shall be entered in the name shown as the first choice on the application form for registration and the name should be followed by the letters 'N.A.F' (name applied for). In the case of applications for transfer of ownership and change of name, the dog should be entered 'T.A.F.' (transfer applied for) 'C.N.A.F.' (change of name applied for) where application has been made but not received. Dogs are exempt from registration in the following cases:-

- a. Dogs either exhibited exclusively in classes specially exempted by the Royal Kennel Club Board or in special classes sanctioned by the Board.
- b. Hounds belonging to recognised packs.

**ROYAL KENNEL CLUB REGULATIONS FOR THE  
REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE OF TITLE  
OF SOCIETIES, BRANCHES AND BREED COUNCILS  
AND THE AFFILIATION OF AGRICULTURAL  
SOCIETIES AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES**

As at 1st January 2026

**5. General**

- c. A Royal Kennel Club licence is issued to the designated society only and it is non transferable under any circumstances.

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## WORKING TRIALS AMENDMENTS FOR 2026 (1 REGS)

### Amendment to regulation I6

I6. Societies are required to apply for permission to hold Special Events.

**TO:**

Applications should be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club by email at least six ~~weeks~~ **months** before the start of any qualifying heats for the event.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)  
(Effective 1 January 2026)

### Amendment to regulation I9

Regulation I9. Application.

**TO:**

The application for a licence to hold a working trial must be made to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club, and must be accompanied by the appropriate licence fee, at least six ~~weeks~~ **months** before the date of the working trial.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)  
(Effective 1 January 2026)

### Amendment to regulation I.27.f

Regulation I.27.f

**TO:**

Lockouts ~~are not permitted for any of the Patrol exercises~~ **permitted for the Quartering the ground and Search and Escort exercises only**. There must be a run through of the complete Patrol test **except the Quartering the ground and Search and Escort exercise (if there is a Lockout of those exercises)** in the presence of the competitors before judging of the Patrol exercises commences. **If a handler has more than one dog to work in the patrol round section of the stake, then a lockout is not permitted.**

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)  
(Effective 1 January 2026)

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