



RULES FOR SAR DOG TRIAL

SEARCH IN WILDERNESS

Equipment

- ❖ Properly fitted harness for SAR Dogs.
- ❖ GPS collar is allowed during the search
- ❖ Spiked collar and Teletac is not allowed. Neither before nor during nor after the search.

Eligibility

- ❖ All registered Catahoulas may enter.
- ❖ Spayed or neutered Catahoulas may enter.
- ❖ „In heat“ females may enter. They will start at last. Before and after work, they shall wear a well fitted dog diaper.
- ❖ A person shall not be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs while participating in an event. This may cause a person to forfeit that day's entries.
- ❖ A team of a handler and a dog enter a competition.
- ❖ The handler may form another team with another dog during the event.
- ❖ A SAR dog examination is not a precondition for participation at this trial
- ❖ Minimum Age of the dog is 15 month.

Line Up

You will be called for pre-line up. When you hear your name, go to the marked area and check in with the steward. It is important that the steward checks your arm band number and knows you are there, ready to follow instructions. Please stay in the area until it is your turn.

- ❖ You must be on time.

Automatic Disqualifications

The Judge **MUST** disqualify if:

- ❖ Dog attempts to bite/attack any person and/or other dogs.
- ❖ The dog will be disqualified if he leaves the search area and does not come back after a reasonable period of time. The judge decides, after which period the disqualification occurs.
- ❖ Animal welfare-related behavior of the handler before, during or after the search.

Discretionary Deductions or Disqualifications

The Judge **MAY** deduct points or dismiss at his/her discretion for:

- ❖ Dog showing aggression or unmanageable behavior.
- ❖ Handler over-correcting, training or disciplining his/her dog during work.
- ❖ Dog showing injury or illness.

Rules for Search in Wilderness

Search area and hidden person

- ❖ There will be two hidden persons in a forest of around 30000-50000 square meters which need to be found before the predetermined time ends. The forest can be of dense vegetation and may also partially contain green field.
- ❖ The judge selects the search area as well as the hidden persons.
- ❖ The hidden persons need to be strange to the dog.
- ❖ One competition will take place within the same area for all of the participants.
- ❖ The location as well as the size of the area will be announced, before the beginning of the competition.

Time

- ❖ The search time will be set by the judge and will be between 15-25 minutes depending on the search area.
- ❖ This predetermined time will be the same for all participants and will be announced before the beginning of the competition.
- ❖ The walk of the handler to the dog and with the found person and the way back to the second search approach is included in the time. The time will not be stopped.
- ❖ If the predetermined time will be exceeded by less than 3 minutes, the judge will deduct points. If the predetermined time will be exceeded by more than 3 minutes, the search won't be continued and the judge will have to disqualify this team.

Marking behavior

a) Barking

- ❖ Once the dog found a hidden person, the dog needs to bark loudly and continuously until the handler arrives. While barking, the dog shall stay within a the hiding person surrounding area of 5 meters.
- ❖ If the dog leaves the hidden person during the marking behavior and doesn't return independently or if the dog doesn't bark or doesn't bark continuously, the team will be disqualified.

b) Recall/Refind

- ❖ The handler needs to tell the judge beforehand in which way the dog indicates that it has found the hidden person when it returns to the handler. After the find, the dog needs to perform exactly this behavior.
- ❖ Afterwards, the dog will lead the handler directly to the hidden person.
- ❖ If one of the two tasks mentioned above wont be fulfilled, the team will be disqualified.

The instructions of the judges must be followed throughout the entire Performance Review.

Evaluation criteria:

- **Time** 0 – 10 points
- **Search intensity** 0 – 10 points
- **Marking** 0 – 10 point
- **Teamwork Dog/Handler** 0 – 10 points

Maximum attainable score = 40 points