

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE DOG ORGANISATION

JUDGE'S GUIDELINE



for the

International Testing Standards

for rescue dogs

IPO – R 2006

These guidelines are binding.

This guideline is designed to clarify text passages of the International Testing Standards for rescue dog tests (IPO-RH) of the IRO whose meanings were not exactly defined. The guideline describes both, general parameters as well as evaluation details. The judges' guideline is a supplement to the International Testing Standards for rescue dog tests of the IRO and is published in exactly the same manner.

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C H A N G E S

Date	Changes
18.01.2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Voice- and visual signs that are not needed (General)• deleted: „satisfactory“ for alerts where dog has not triggered alert itself (area test)• points for person not found (area test)• points for person not found (rubble test)
14.4.2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearer transcription of Bringsein
26.6.2009	P.7 – Dexterity: to receive the mark “satisfactory” replaced by to receive at most the mark “deficient”

The last changes of the guideline for IRO Tests will be made visible on the margin!

General

The identity of the dog is to be verified by the judge prior to testing.

The judge must proceed immediately to the dog handler upon completion of a test to announce the score.

If an Assistant Judge is present, the Main Judge and the Assistant Judge are to confer after the announcement of results.

Time schedules are to be adhered to strictly.

Unexcused absences or delays at World Championships lead to the loss of the right to participate in the given area of competition. For NRO tests and competitions, this decision is left to the organisation supervisors and the judge.

Use of any type of coercion before, during, between or after the exercises will result in the disqualification of the dog handler and, if applicable, the team leader.

The use of food rewards or toys is not allowed during the event.

Walking through the testing areas for Tracking, Area Search and Rubble Search outside of testing times at World Championships leads to the disqualification of the dog handler and, if applicable, of the corresponding team. For NRO tests and competitions, this decision is left to the organisation supervisors and the judge.

Dogs may be fitted with a blinking collar when dark but may not be fitted with flashlights or spotlights.

Judge's instructions must be followed.

If parts of an exercise are not shown this has to be considered in the evaluation in a negative way. The exercise can at most be evaluated with "befriedigend/satisfactory".

Attention should be paid that a performance error that occurs throughout the event (e.g. non-straight Starting Position) is not too heavily penalized at every exercise. Performances errors of this type can be mentioned in the Overall Evaluation and taken into account there.

Every exercise begins and ends in the Starting Position unless the Testing Standards require something different.

Any voice- or visual sign that is not needed is not judged in a negative way.

The Starting Position executed at the end of one exercise may also be considered the Starting Position of the following exercise if held for a conspicuous amount of time.

If a dog demonstrates too little obedience, the judge is to give the dog handler 3 chances to call the dog to the handler. An exercise is to be given the evaluation "satisfactory" after the second voice signal and "deficient" after the third voice signal. The judge is to determine the timing of the voice signals. The exercise is to be discontinued if the dog does not obey after the third voice signal.

A dog showing aggressiveness in its overall behaviour is to be excluded from the test. Growling alone does not necessarily constitute aggressive behaviour. Any harassment of the test victims by the dog will affect the evaluation negatively. Injury to the test victim, however, results in disqualification.

Every disqualification of a dog at an IRO test must be reported in writing to the Spokesperson for Training via the IRO office. A Ban of Participation for 1 year for all IRO events may be imposed by the IRO board at the request of the Spokesperson for Training. For repeated offences, a dog may be excluded from all IRO events for life.

Overall Performance of Task

The term "Overall Performance of Task" includes the conduct of the dog handler, the dedication to purpose, the willingness to work, the directability and the obedience of the dog. Conduct of the dog handler: Excessive help on the part of the dog handler such as additional motivation, etc. constitutes an error and must be evaluated accordingly.

Alerts

Objects (Tracking)

As soon as a dog has found an object, he must pick it up immediately or convincingly indicate the object without any interaction with the dog handler. Picking up the object may occur while standing, sitting down, or coming to the handler. Continuing on with the object or picking it up while lying is an error. Indicating the object may take place in the laying, sitting or standing position, or may alternate between the three.

Victim Alerts

The dog must convincingly and continuously sound an alert upon locating a victim until the dog handler has arrived at the scene. While alerting, the dog may receive absolutely no support from the dog handler or the victim.

Bringing

If the dog brings the object the dog can be put back on the track at the point where he has picked up the object or where he has dropped it of.

The Bringsel Method

When using the Bringsel method, a dog may be fitted with a special collar. The dog has to bring the Bringsel to the dog handler upon locating a victim. After taking the bringsel from the dog, the handler is to give the command for the dog to independently bring the handler to the victim on a direct route. The dog handler must be in constant contact with the dog. The dog may be put on leash.

Error is:

- running back and forth between the victim and the handler
- Barking before taking the Bringsel
- If the dog is not under control of the dog handler during indication
- Mouthing on the Bringsel

Recall/Refind

When doing Recall/Refind the dog leads the handler to the hiding person by independently and constantly running back and forth between the handler and the hiding person.

Barking

The dog must bark continuously while staying within 2 meters of the victim until the handler arrives. The terrain must be taken into account.

If a handler has declared that his dog will use the Bringsel method but the dog first alerts by barking before bringing the Bringsel, it is an error and must be taken into account as such in the evaluation.

If a dog alerts by a method other than the declared method but the alternative method is in accordance with the Testing Standards, the alert may only be given the mark "satisfactory" (e.g. Bringsel dog alerts by barking).

If a dog alerts using none of the designated methods but the alert is recognized by the handler and reported to the judge, the victim is to receive partial credit and a grade of "satisfactory".

Suitability Test

Entries in the Performance Certificate: Only a confirmation that the dog has passed the suitability test should be made, with no mention of whether it was shown in a tracking exercise, area search or rubble search.

Alert Exercise: the dog must bark for at least 20 seconds. The victim must have contact with the ground for the alert exercise.

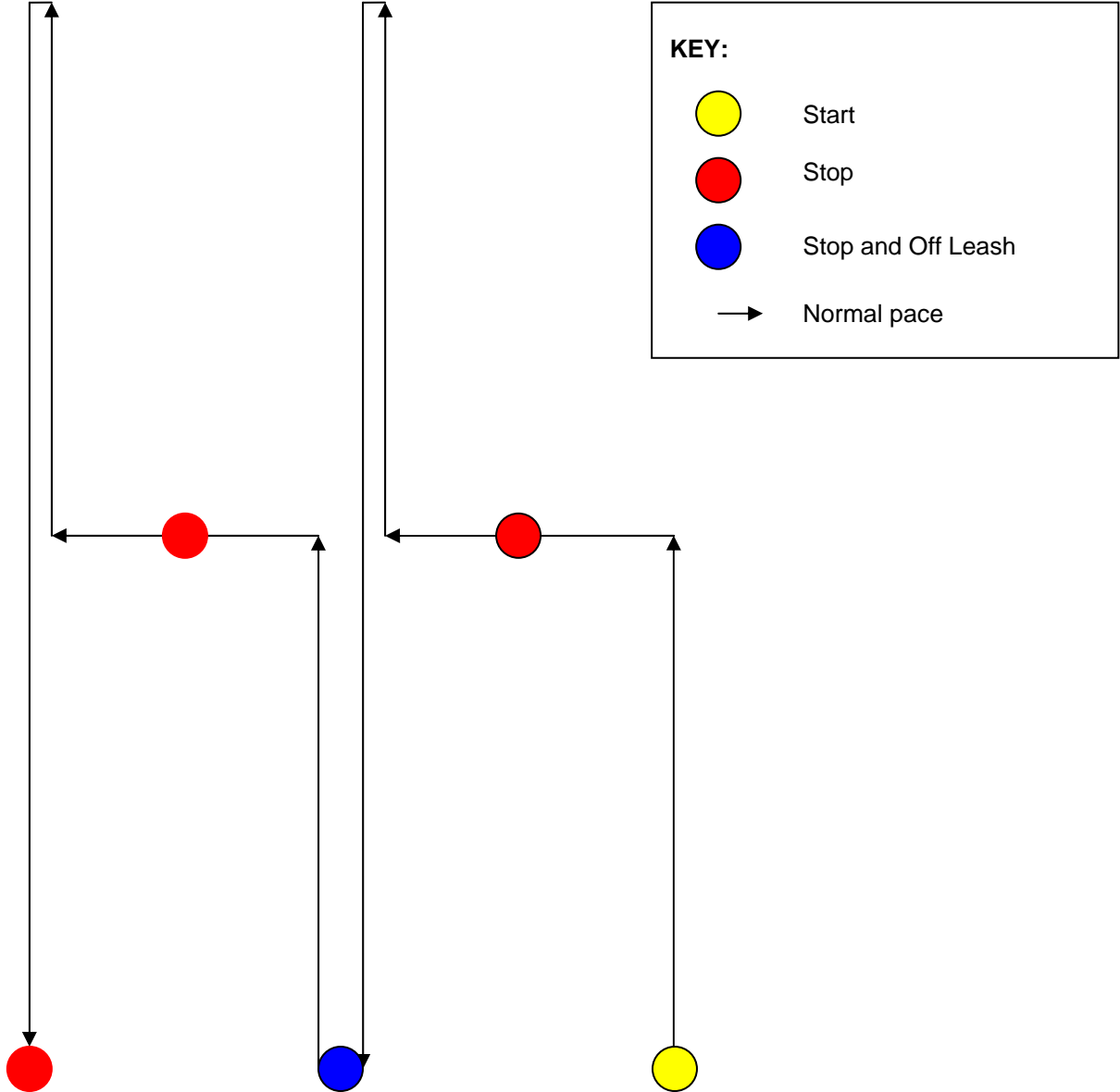
Tracking

If the dog indicates the object more than a body-length in front of or behind the object, it is to be evaluated as a partial error.

Area Search

The victim may be sitting or lying. For the Suitability Test, the dog may be put on leash while the victim is being briefed.

Suitability Test Diagram for the Obedience Exercise



Obedience Exercises / Obedience

If several dogs are participating in the obedience section, one of the dog handlers will draw lots to determine the order in which the exercises will be done.

The order of exercises 1 - 6 will be determined by a drawing lots immediately before the beginning of the exercises and are to be completed by the team in that order.

Sound recordings played at an appropriate volume are allowed as a replacement for actual motor sounds during the off leash heeling exercise.

The judge is responsible for ensuring the gunshot occurs at the correct time in the exercise.

Crawling: If the dog handler holds his hand over the dog for the entire exercise, the exercise is to be graded „satisfactory“.

A **“Dumbbell”** (German: “Bringholz”) is not acceptable as the “article” used for retrieval.

Dexterity

If a dog refuses to approach an apparatus, it is to receive 0 points. A second attempt is not allowed. If a dog turns towards the dog handler after having performed an exercise in dexterity this is not incorrect. If a dog jumps into an apparatus or leaves it too early, the exercise is to be graded “deficient”.

Unstable Plank

The plank may be limited in its forward or backward motion by the judge.

See-Saw

The see-saw must have a rough, slip-resistant surface.

Horizontal Ladder

A dog handler may not approach his dog until the dog is standing on the ladder with all four legs. If a dog does not reach the last rung (one leg) and / or is lifted down from the ladder before the last rung, the exercise can only be marked “good”.

Directability at a Distance

The dog handler may not leave the Start Position designated for testing directability. A single step does not however count as leaving the Start Position. All three designated points have to be approached.

The first designated point/mark for the dog is to be considered reached when the dog has approached the point to within 2 meters. A command to “stay” is permissible. If a dog approaches the tables in the wrong order, but has otherwise had an error-free exercise, the exercise is to receive at most the mark “deficient”.

The Diagram for the Arrangement of the Tables included in the addendum must be followed.

Carrying and Handing-Over the Dog

Any method of carrying is permissible as long as the dog can be handed over correctly and without setting the dog down.

Tracking Test

The order of the tracking is to be determined on site by a drawing of lots before beginning. The victim is to be briefed by the track layer at the end of the track 30 minutes prior the begin of work for the dog. The track layer is to accompany the judge while laying the track.

Track B

The dog must search for the scent in the unmarked stretch where the starting point can be found. The dog handler may not enter this area until the dog is at least a leash-length away, or at least 10 meters from the handler if off-leash. The dog handler is to keep to the imaginary middle line.

If the tracking exercise is aborted, the dog handler, the dog, and the judge are to leave the area on a direct route. Continued searching is not allowed.

An alternate tracking exercise is at the discretion of the judge.

Moistening of the dog's nose or mouth is allowed at a test.

The dog's behaviour upon clearly indicating an object (e.g. a non-straight position in relation to the object) is not relevant.

If a dog lays down where there is no object and the handler confirms that there is no object and gives the command to continue the search = -1 point.

If the dog does not sound an alert when it has located the victim, the appropriate part of the exercise will receive 0 points.

If the dog leaves the victim or the dog handler links the dog to the victim by any means, the corresponding part of the exercise will be evaluated as "deficient" and at least 25 points deducted.

If the dog handler has declared the dog will alert by barking but the dog clearly indicates the victim without barking, the alert will be awarded a "good".

A warning from the judge results in a deduction of 5 points.

A second warning results in the abortion of the tracking exercise. The dog handler receives a partial evaluation, but cannot pass the test. Warnings may be given to handlers for unsportsmanlike behaviour or the use of illegal assistance.

The end of the track should be clearly marked by the track layer to ensure the exact positioning of the victim who must lay or sit at the marking.

Area Search Test

Type of Terrain: The search area must consist of at least 50% covered terrain.

All victims must be found in order to pass the test.

At the discretion of the judge, the search may be continued after finding all victims.

Occasional crossing back by the dog is not an error.

Minimal deviations from the middle line (depending on terrain) on the part of the dog handler (max. 5 meters left or right) do not constitute an error.

Dog handlers receive a warning from the judge if they deviate from the middle line more than the allowable distance. 5 points are deducted per warning. The Area Search is aborted upon the second warning and the dog handler receives a partial evaluation. Warnings may be given to handlers for unsportsmanlike behaviour or the use of illegal assistance.

If a dog handler confirms an alert in a form other than the declared form but there is no victim at that location, the alert will be considered a false alert.

If a dog alerts by barking outside of the prescribed distance or occasionally leaves the victim, a deduction of 30% for the alert will be given.

A dog which sounds the alert for a victim only shortly and then returns to his handler will be awarded 0 points.

For a person that is not found the maximal number of points (200) is reduced by 61 points.

Rubble Search Test

Noise Emissions may be replaced by recordings at an appropriate volume.

All victims must be found in order to pass the test.

The dog handler must clearly recognize the location of the scent or the point from which the scent emanates when the dog sounds the alert.

At the discretion of the judge, the search may be continued after finding all victims.

If a dog alerts by a method other than the declared method but the alternative method is in accordance with the Testing Standards, the alert may only be given the mark "satisfactory" (e.g. Bringsel dog alerts by barking).

If a dog handler confirms an alert in a form other than the declared form but there is no victim at that location, the alert will be considered a false alert.

A dog which sounds the alert for a victim only shortly and then returns to his handler will be awarded 0 points.

The attempt by a dog to advance to the victim from a different, closer place after the initial alert is sounded does not constitute an error.

The dog handler may give his dog the command to continue searching directly from the site where a victim was found, but the handler must then leave the rubble scene immediately.

For a person that is not found the maximal number of points (200) is reduced by 61 points.

Avalanche Test

General Rules

Hiding-place dig-outs in the snow must be at least 10 meters apart. Used hiding places may be reused at any time, but they must remain open after use. No covers, back-packs or similar objects may remain in the unused hiding places.

The judge ends the test.

Avalanche Peeps Location Device

The device should be buried to a depth of approx. 30 centimetres. The search pattern should be taken into account in the evaluation.

Dexterity

All exercises may also be executed individually before or after the Obedience or Scent Work. (e.g. Following Ski Tracks while approaching Scent Work; Directability after Obedience.)

The dog should remain calm and secure while travelling in the various forms of transport.