

REVIEW OF THE RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF TRACK & SEARCH DOG TRIAL

DOGS QLD

PROPOSAL:

NEW RULE

Change the words Canine Control to Member Body right throughout the rule book.

RATIONALE: This should be done to make the wording in the rule book the same as with all the other dog sport disciplines' rule books – including the Tracking Rules.

INTRODUCTION

DOGS VIC

PROPOSAL:

All track & search tests are to be conducted in urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas.

By allowing free quartering off-lead I believe two (2) major issues arise:

Local Council by-laws are being broken as dogs are off-lead in an area that will not be a legally designated off-lead area; and doing so sanctioned by the ANKC and member bodies as the rule currently stands breaks this local government law.

Of immense concern to me is the possibility that while free quartering off-lead a dog may be startled/distracted by something, and run off, potentially being injured, lost, or in the worst of circumstances hit by a car and killed or put motorists into a dangerous situation where they or pedestrians may be killed while trying to evade the dog.

If competitors across the country are not actually using the free quartering option, then the rule would be obsolete and should be removed anyway.

DOGS QLD

The track & search dog tests should be a test of credibility, verifying the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent while adapting to changing scenting conditions.

The tests should be as close as possible to a life-like situation, where a dog is used to find a missing person and therefore the test should be as realistic as possible while demonstrating the dog's willingness and enthusiasm to follow a specific scent.

PROPOSAL:

The track & search dog tests should be a test of credibility, verifying the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent while adapting to changing scenting conditions. The principal goal in Track and Search is for the dog to find the tracklayer.

The tests should be as close as possible to a life-like situation, where a dog is used to find a missing person and therefore the test should be as realistic as possible while demonstrating the dog's willingness and enthusiasm to follow a specific scent.

This is a test of the dog, to not only follow the track but to use all their natural skills. This includes searching as well as tracking and which may involve air scenting, which could involve the dog taking a different route to the path walked by the tracklayer.

All track & search tests are to be conducted in urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas.

The tests require the dog to work on varied surfaces including gravel, sand, paved surfaces, roads and grass. Tracks should be as natural as possible, bearing in mind that lost children are drawn to playgrounds, while adults are drawn to buildings to seek help.

Tracks may cross small streams or shallow bodies of water, roads (but not including major roads) and may be laid in contaminated areas which may include houses, bridges, shelters, stairs and ramps, parking areas or similar structures. Light vehicle & pedestrian traffic including other dogs walking on lead should not be avoided.

Where referred to in the rules the words, Canine Control, shall mean the Controlling Body in each State or Territory of Australia.

Interpretation of these rules should not be necessary, however, should there be a need for individuals to seek clarification; application must be made by the Canine Control to the appropriate Committee of the ANKC, whose decision shall be binding.

RATIONALE: Track & Search is a discipline where the objective is for the dog to find the tracklayer in an urban environment. The dog should be allowed to use all its many abilities to 'track' and to 'search' to achieve this goal. It is not an 'obedience' based dog sport but a dog sport based on the natural abilities of the dog – not those a dog is trained to perform. Within this rule book there are rules determining how the track may be designed to ensure that a dog would not go naturally from the start straight to the finish so there should be no requirement to place further restrictions on how the dog should 'track' and 'search'.

DOGS TAS

PROPOSAL:

Addition to INTRODUCTION:

It shall be the responsibility of the Affiliate to check relevant State Dog Act and Local Government Dog Acts prior to trial to ensure any permits/requirements are met.

e.g. Lead length required when walking a dog in public places. Areas where dogs are/are not permitted.

DOGS QLD

INTRODUCTION

The track & search dog tests should be a test of credibility, verifying the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent while adapting to changing scenting conditions.

The tests should be as close as possible to a life-like situation, where a dog is used to find a missing person and therefore the test should be as realistic as possible while demonstrating the dog's willingness and enthusiasm to follow a specific scent.

All track & search tests are to be conducted in urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas.

The tests require the dog to work on varied surfaces including gravel, sand, paved surfaces, roads and grass. Tracks should be as natural as possible, bearing in mind that lost children are drawn to playgrounds, while adults are drawn to buildings to seek help.

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Where referred to in the rules the words, Canine Control, shall mean the Controlling Body in each State or Territory of Australia.

Interpretation of these rules should not be necessary, however, should there be a need for individuals to seek clarification; application must be made by the Canine Control to the appropriate Committee of the ANKC, whose decision shall be binding.

PROPOSAL:

The track & search dog tests should be a test of credibility, verifying the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent while adapting to changing scenting conditions.

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The tests require the dog to work on varied surfaces including gravel, sand, paved surfaces, roads and grass. Tracks should be as natural as possible, bearing in mind that lost children are drawn to playgrounds, while adults are drawn to buildings to seek help.

Tracks may cross small streams or shallow bodies of water, roads (but not including major roads) and may be laid in contaminated areas which may include houses, bridges, shelters, stairs and ramps, parking areas or similar structures. Light vehicle & pedestrian traffic including other dogs walking on lead should not be avoided.

Because Track and Search trials are conducted in public areas, it is possible that the dog and handler could encounter other animals, pedestrians and/or vehicular traffic during the search. The handler has full responsibility for and must have complete control over the dog throughout all stages of the trial.

Where referred to in the rules the words, Canine Control, shall mean the Controlling Body in each State or Territory of Australia. Interpretation of these rules should not be necessary, however, should there be a need for individuals to seek clarification; application must be made by the Canine Control to the appropriate Committee of the ANKC, whose decision shall be binding.

RATIONALE: In most other disciplines the dog is being tested in a defined area with restricted public access and where the Member Body has control over the competition area. Track and Search is one of the few disciplines where the dog is being tested in amongst the general public and in areas and circumstances where the dog and handler may encounter unknown people and/or dogs. In many cases the judge does not have any opportunity to assess a dog before they meet the handler and dog at the starting point of a track. Aggressive behaviour on the part of a dog in the lead up to, during or after a search could have serious implications not only for the handler and the dog but also for the affiliate conducting the trial and even for the Member Body and ANKC.

While ultimately the handler has responsibility for their dog, it is imperative that the Judge have authority to order the removal of any dog which he/she has reasonable grounds for believing is demonstrating aggressive behaviour or which is not under the complete control of the handler.

Such action would precede and hopefully avoid the need for an incident report (eg under Dogs Queensland Rule 7.1), though the Judge would be required to provide a report outlining the basis for his/her decision.

REMOVAL OF DOG

DOGS QLD:

CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES: REMOVAL OF DOG; ELIGIBILITY; GENERAL:

1. REMOVAL OF DOG

The Judge must order the removal and disqualification from all trial competition on the day any dog that attacks, and must lodge a report with the Canine Control.

The Judge may order the removal from competition of any dog which does not obey its handler or is not under effective control or, any handler who interferes wilfully with another competitor or a competitor's dog or whose behaviour is objectionable and must exclude from competition any dog which the Judge considers unfit to compete.

PROPOSAL:

REMOVAL OF DOG

SUBMISSION ONE:

The Judge must order the removal and disqualification from all trial competition on the day any dog that attacks, and must lodge a report with the Canine Control.

The Judge may order the immediate removal from the trial environs and may order up to and including disqualification from all trial competition on the day any dog that:

(a) demonstrates aggressive behaviour towards, any person or animal at any stage of the trial; does not obey its handler or is not under effective control of the handler; or

which the Judge considers unfit to compete.

The Judge must lodge a report with the Member Body regarding any order for removal of any dog. The Judge may order the removal of any handler who interferes wilfully with another competitor or a competitor's dog or whose behaviour is objectionable.

DOGS QLD

PROPOSAL:

SUBMISSION TWO:

If circumstances and the situation permit, the Judge may give a warning asking the handler to bring their dog under effective control. If the Handler does not comply the judge may fail the dog.

ELIGIBILITY

DOGS QLD

CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE

2. ELIGIBILITY

A dog must be a minimum of six (6) months of age to enter in a Track and Search Trial.

Whilst there is no formal obedience assessment, it is understood that because of the possibility of other animals, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, the handler must be confident that they have complete control over the dog.

PROPOSAL:

ELIGIBILITY

A dog must be a minimum of six (6) months of age to enter in a Track and Search Trial and be under the complete control of the handler throughout all stages of the trial.

~~Whilst there is no formal obedience assessment, it is understood that because of the possibility of other animals, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, the handler must be confident that they have complete control over the dog.~~

DOGS QLD

ELIGIBILITY

A dog must be a minimum of six (6) months of age to enter in a Track and Search Trial.

PROPOSAL:

ELIGIBILITY

A dog must be a minimum of twelve (12) months of age to enter in a Track and Search Trial.

RATIONALE: There are too many safety risks and potential situations which could cause great harm to a young puppy competing in Track and Search. Education on the welfare of dogs, including their growth patterns, their mental abilities, and their physicality, gives proof that we should not put stress on the dog's mental ability or physical ability.

To ensure the physical and mental well being of our dogs it is essential that dogs have some maturity both in body and mind before competing in such an open, stressful and potentially dangerous environment as Track and Search. In today's world where everything is visible we must be seen to be encompassing the welfare of our dogs. Dogs Australia should be promoting the welfare and care of our dogs so that they have a long and healthy life.

TITLES

DOGS QLD

TITLES

Rule F)

After qualifying for the TS Grand CH certificate a dog is not eligible for further entry in track and search trials.

PROPOSAL:

Rule F)

After qualifying for the TS Grand CH certificate a dog may continue to compete in Track and Search in the Track Level of the handler's choice excluding TSD1. If balloting is required TS GR CH titled dogs will be automatically excluded before the ballot is conducted. As this is a non-titling track it will be the Affiliate's choice whether this facility is offered.

RATIONALE: Many dogs achieve their track and search grand champion title by a relatively young age and, consequently, are forced to retire from this sport. However, in many other dog sports dogs can compete indefinitely.

If the trial has too many entries, those dogs can be voted out without a ballot.

With the current situation in Track & Search there are some regions where there is only a small amount of entries. This rule change would assist in ensuring the tracking community a solid amount of competitors and people engaged in this sport thus making the costs involved more viable.

The track of choice is an option, ensuring that as dogs age they can still compete at a level suitable to their abilities. Tracking is not suited to some dogs and/or handlers which eliminates this sport as an alternative to Track & Search.

DOGS VIC

TITLES

Track & Search Dog (TSD)

Test 1 (known person)

PROPOSAL:

Track & Search Dog (TSD)

Test 1 (unknown person)

RATIONALE: Track & Search by its nature and environment; and by the intent of the rules as I see them, the quality of the work required from the dog to be success is of a higher standard than other like disciplines. As such, I believe that a dog should be capable of finding an unknown person from the first TSD test, whether or not the dog has had past experience. Coming from another angle during the course of the present rules having a known tracklayer for TSD Test 1 has caused organisational problems for Judges, as well as handlers who train alone and do not have someone to attend trials with them, when the nominated tracklayer is not available to be set out by the judge. Having a known tracklayer is contradictory to the description of a TSD dog and tests in the first 5 paragraphs of the rule book under Introduction page 4. In reality it would not happen often that a dog that was searching for a lost person that they knew.

If this change was successful, it would also impact on Equipment (a)

EQUIPMENT

DOGS VIC

EQUIPMENT

(a) All track & search dog tests must be conducted with a dog in a harness suitable for tracking that does not restrict the dog's breathing and allows the dog to move freely. For tests 1-4 the minimum length of lead should be ten (10) metres and for tests 5-10 the lead should be a minimum

of five (5) metres and no longer than six (6) metres. The dog must be worked at a length of lead suitable to the terrain, environment and in accordance with local government requirements. Unless specified in the description of the test, the lead must be connected to the harness and should be held by the Handler while the dog tracking or searching. Dropping the lead temporarily is acceptable provided that the dog remains under control.

PROPOSAL:

(a) All track & search dog tests must be conducted with a dog in a harness suitable for tracking that does not restrict the dog's breathing and allows the dog to move freely. For tests 1-4 the minimum length of lead should be ten (10) metres and for tests 5-10 the lead should be a minimum of five (5) metres and no longer than six (6) metres. The dog must be worked at a length of lead suitable to the terrain, environment and in accordance with local government requirements. Unless specified in the description of the test, the lead must be connected to the harness and should be held by the Handler while the dog tracking or searching. Dropping the lead temporarily is acceptable provided that the dog remains under control. *The lead used in all Urban Evening/Night Tests (Tests 6, 8 & 10) to be reflective. If requested by the Judge at any time, the Handler must coil the lead in their hand and not leave it to trail behind them.*

RATIONALE: Brings all the lead requirements to one place.

DOGS QLD

EQUIPMENT

(a) All track and search dog tests must be conducted with the dog in a harness suitable for tracking that does not restrict the dog's breathing and allows the dog to move freely. For tests 1-4 the minimum length of lead should be ten (10) metres and for tests 5-10 the lead should be a minimum of five (5) metres and no longer than six (6) metres. The dog must be worked at a length of lead suitable to the terrain, environment and in accordance with local government requirements. Unless specified in the description of the test, the lead must be connected to the harness and should be held by the Handler while the dog is tracking or searching. Dropping the lead temporarily is acceptable provided that the dog remains under control.

PROPOSAL:

(a) All track and search dog tests must be conducted with the dog in a Hi Viz harness suitable for tracking that does not restrict the dog's breathing and allows the dog to move freely. ~~For tests 1-4 the minimum length of lead should be ten (10) metres and for tests 5-10~~

The lead should be a minimum of five (5) metres and no longer than six (6) metres. The dog must be worked at a length of lead suitable to the terrain, environment and in accordance with local government requirements. Unless specified in the description of the test, the lead must be connected to the harness and should be held by the Handler while the dog is tracking or searching. Dropping the lead temporarily is acceptable provided that the dog remains under control.

During a track the dog may wear a fixed collar along with a suitable harness or only a harness. When a dog is tracking, the lead must only be connected to the harness. The dog may wear a tick collar.

Dogs must not have any item hanging from the dog's collar or harness other than a council registration tag or an identification tag with the dog's details on it i.e., name and contact phone number. A dog may wear a collar that contains phone numbers and name and is stitched into the collar material.

RATIONALE: For safety reasons, a 5-6 metre lead should be standard across all levels of tracks as, regardless of whether the team is working in a suburban street or a park or open reserve, the dog/handler team are required to work in and around hazards which may include pedestrian traffic, cyclists, loose dogs etc. The 5-6 metre lead length allows the handler to quickly shorten the lead and

it also allows easier compliance with Local Government By-Laws which may restrict the length of lead on which a dog may be worked.

Dogs should when working in the urban environment wear some form of identification in case the dog should become loose and lost (as per the incident in Qld where a police dog got loose on a search and was not found again).

For Safety Reasons the harness should also be Hi Viz during the conduct of all tracks not just night ones.

DOGS ACT

PROPOSAL:

(a) All track and search dog tests must be conducted with the dog in a harness suitable for tracking that does not restrict the dog's breathing and allows the dog to move freely. For tests 1-4 the minimum length of lead ~~is should be ten (10)~~ five (5) metres and ~~the maximum length 10 (10) meters.~~ For ~~for~~ tests 5-10 the lead should be a minimum of five (5) metres and no longer than six (6) metres. The dog must be worked at a length of lead suitable to the terrain, environment and in accordance with local government requirements. ~~Unless specified in the description of the test, the~~ The lead must be connected to the harness and should be held by the Handler while the dog is tracking or searching. Dropping the lead temporarily is acceptable provided that the dog remains under control.

RATIONALE: For tracks 1-4 a shorter lead length should be permitted as these tracks can also be in urban areas where a shorter lead is safer. The proposed omission of ~~Unless specified in the description of the test, the~~ is necessary if the proposed removal of off-lead searching is agreed.

DOGS QLD:

EQUIPMENT

(b) All articles used on the track must belong to the tracklayer, be approved by the Judge or their delegate and should represent articles used in everyday life that a child or adult might carry and drop; i.e. wallet, purse, mobile phone, sunglasses, notebook, bunch of keys, soft toy or cap etc. All articles must be small enough to fit into a normal size pocket. The optional finish article, if used in place of the tracklayer must be no larger than a normal sized T-shirt or similar and should be clearly marked finish article. Articles used on the track should not have any sharp or protruding parts that may cause injury to the dog.

PROPOSAL:

EQUIPMENT

(b) All articles used on the track must belong to the tracklayer, be approved by the Judge or their delegate and should represent articles used in everyday life that a child or adult might carry and drop; ~~i.e. wallet, purse, mobile phone, sunglasses, notebook, bunch of keys, soft toy or cap etc~~ eg child's shoe, soft toy, stubbie cooler, small torch, notebook, a piece of wallet, key or mobile phone case etc. ~~The articles should look used and/or broken so not to be unduly attractive to the public. All Articles must be small enough to fit into a normal size pocket. The optional finish article, if used in place of the tracklayer must be no larger than a normal sized T-shirt or similar and should be clearly marked finish article.~~ Articles used on the track should not have any sharp or protruding parts that may cause injury to the dog.

RATIONALE:

Most of the examples of articles provided in the rules can be very attractive to the public and may be picked up and not be left on the track for the dog to find. Providing new examples and including 'used and/or broken' provides a better guide to tracklayers when they are selecting the articles for use on the track.

Replace i.e. with e.g. as *i.e.* is an abbreviation for "that is." *i.e.* is used to restate something said previously in order to clarify its meaning. *e.g.* means "for example."

Delete the word 'All' at the beginning of the third sentence as it is superfluous and not required.

Move the sentence describing the optional finish article to a separate paragraph numbered (c).

NEW RULE (Refer 4 in Rationale above):

The optional finish article, if used in place of the tracklayer must be no larger than a normal sized T-shirt or similar and should be clearly marked finish article.

RATIONALE: Information regarding the size of the finish article should be under a separate rule so that it is easier to locate.

DOGS ACT

PROPOSAL:

(b) All articles used on the track must ~~belong to the tracklayer~~, be approved by the Judge or their delegate and should represent articles used in everyday life that a child or adult might carry and drop; i.e. wallet, purse, mobile phone, sunglasses, notebook, bunch of keys, soft toy or cap etc. All articles must be small enough to fit into a normal size pocket. The optional finish article, if used in place of the tracklayer must be no larger than a normal sized T-shirt or similar and should be clearly marked finish article. Articles used on the track should not have any sharp or protruding parts that may cause injury to the dog.

RATIONALE: It is not necessary for the articles to ‘belong’ to the tracklayer. The rule under “tracklayer B” that they must keep the article with them for 30 minutes is sufficient. Rules about ‘ownership’ don’t really allow for tracklayers who forget articles, bring inappropriate articles or who are called to track-lay on short notice and have to borrow articles.

DOGS QLD

EQUIPMENT

(c) The starting article should be a soft article of clothing that can be easily carried by the Handler. e.g. fabric hat, beanie, cloth glove etc. Test 1 will commence at a marker. Tests 2 to 4 will commence with a starting line which shall be indicated by 2 markers approximately thirty (30) metres apart.

PROPOSAL:

(c) The starting article should be a soft article of clothing that can be easily carried by the Handler. e.g. fabric hat, beanie, cloth glove etc. ~~Test 1 will commence at a marker. Tests 2 to 4 will commence with a starting line which shall be indicated by 2 markers approximately thirty (30) metres apart.~~

RATIONALE: The description of the commencement of Tests 1 -4 should be the subject of a separate rule as they do not have anything to do with the starting article.

CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE:

DOGS QLD

NEW RULE: (Refer above)

Test 1 will commence at a marker. Tests 2 to 4 will commence with a starting line which shall be indicated by 2 markers approximately thirty (30) metres apart.

If the suggested changes to Equipment (b) and (c) are accepted then the following rules require renumbering.

From: EQUIPMENT (b),(c),(d),(e),(f),(g),(h)

To: EQUIPMENT (b),(c),(d),(e),(f),(g),(h),(i),(j)

DOGS ACT

(c)The starting article should be a soft article of clothing that can be easily carried by the Handler. e.g. fabric hat, beanie, cloth glove etc. Test 1 will commence at a marker.

Tests 2 to 4 will commence with a starting line which shall be indicated by 2 markers approximately thirty (30) metres apart.

PROPOSAL:

(c) The starting article should be a soft article of clothing that can be easily carried by the Handler. e.g. fabric hat, beanie, cloth glove etc. ~~Test 1 will commence at a marker.~~

~~Tests 2 to 4 will commence with a starting line which shall be indicated by 2 markers approximately thirty (30) metres apart.~~

RATIONALE: Not necessary to repeat this here as it is dealt with under the description of tracks.

DOGS ACT

(e) No markers or equipment indicating the track shall remain in place during the testing of a dog. The tracklayer for all urban tracks must be supplied with a detailed map as physical markers (flags) cannot be used.

PROPOSAL:

~~(e) No markers or equipment indicating the track shall remain in place during the testing of a dog. The tracklayer for all urban tracks must be supplied with a detailed map as physical markers (flags) cannot be used.~~ The Judge must make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that the handler receives no guidance, other than from their dog, as to where the track goes.

RATIONALE: it completely undermines the idea of track and search trials simulating the search for a lost person if the handler is able to discern where the track goes whether this is from markers, re-use of tracks known to the handler or guidance from the positioning of officials/ spectators. Greater emphasis of this point is needed in the rules to ensure national consistency and the onus should be on judges to ensure rules, including this one, are upheld. The proposed removal of the sentence about physical markers not being used on urban tracks is because it is inconsistent with rule ‘tracklayer (f)’ – and also unnecessary as that rule mentions providing a map when flags are not used.

DOGS VIC

(f) The handler may not offer food or utilise training aids during the running of a track, however water may be offered to the dog.

PROPOSAL:

(f) The handler may not offer, *nor carry on their person food or training aids or toys* during the running of a track. *Failure to comply will result in disqualification.* Water may be offered to the dog.

RATIONALE: Makes the intent of the clause clear.

DOGS QLD

EQUIPMENT

(f) The Handler may not offer food or utilise training aids during the running of a track, however water may be offered to the dog.

PROPOSAL: SUBMISSION ONE:

~~(f) Training aids may not be utilised during the running of a track. However, the dog may be offered water and a food reward for finding each article on the track.~~

(f) Water may be offered to the dog.

(g) The dog may be rewarded with food or a toy for finding each article on the track, but no other training aids may be used during the running of the track

RATIONALE: In training, dogs are often rewarded for each find they make. In scent work, when there are multiple hides, the dog is treated after it finds each one, not just a treat at the end. Allowing optional rewards at articles builds the dog's motivation especially when first starting out and makes tracking a positive experience.

CONSEQUENTIAL:

Reletter present (g) and (h).

DOGS QLD

EQUIPMENT:

(f) The handler may not offer food or utilise training aids during the running of a track, however water may be offered to the dog.

PROPOSAL: SUBMISSION TWO (if Submission One fails):

(f) The handler may not offer food or utilise training aids during the running of a track, however water may be offered to the dog.

A reward may be offered at the conclusion of the track. The handler (only) be permitted to carry the reward (food of up to 100 gms in a sealed container, or a toy that makes no audible sound). The handler may also carry water, but food and water must be carried separately. The reward (food or toy) may be offered to the dog only after 'Test Finished'. Water may be offered to the dog with the judge's permission during the running of the test.

All rewards must remain out of sight during the running of the track. Failure to do so may invoke the ANKC Rule "The handler may not offer food or utilise training aids...".

Verbal & physical rewards are, however, encouraged.

RATIONALE: Most Member Bodies permit the use of rewards at the end of the track. However, the protocol for doing this varies from State to State which makes it difficult for both judges and handlers when judging/competing in another state. It is proposed to standardise the protocol for rewards at the completion of the track. If the handler wishes to reward at the end of the track then it should be the handler's responsibility to carry that reward and to ensure the reward has no effect on the running of the track.

DOGS QLD:

EQUIPMENT

(g) High Visibility day and night vests/jackets which comply with the current Australian Standard, must be worn by the handler & all those officiating on all urban tracks and on any other track where the judge considers it appropriate. For urban night racks a functioning head light must be worn by the handler.

PROPOSAL:

Move to GENERAL SAFETY &/OR repeat under EQUIPMENT if required, renumber rules in each section accordingly

(g) High Visibility day and night vests/jackets which comply with the current Australian Standard, must be worn by the handler and all those officiating on all levels of Track & Search tests. For urban night racks a functioning head light must be worn by the handler.

RATIONALE: This is a safety requirement. All mandatory safety procedures/equipment requirements should be clearly listed under Safety Requirements, so they are not missed/misinterpreted. They could also be repeated under Equipment if required.

DOGS ACT

PROPOSAL:

~~(g) High visibility reflective day and night vests/jackets, which comply with the current Australian Standard, must be worn by the handler and all those officiating on all urban tracks and on any other track where the judge considers it appropriate. For urban night tracks a functioning head light must be worn by the handler.~~

RATIONALE: the rules about high-viz clothing should all be in one spot (under safety). See proposed changes under safety.

DOGS VIC

(g) High visibility reflective day and night vests/jackets, which comply with the current Australian Standard, must be worn by the handler and all those officiating on all urban tracks and on any other track where the judge considers it appropriate. For urban night tracks a functioning head light must be worn by the handler.

PROPOSAL:

(g) High visibility reflective day and night vests/jackets, which comply with the current Australian Standard, must be worn by the handler and all those officiating on all urban tracks and on any other track where the judge considers it appropriate. For urban night tracks a functioning head light must be worn by the handler, *stewards and Judge and/or as directed by the Judge.*

Rationale: Safety.

DOGS ACT

(h) The Judge may refuse to judge any handler who does not comply with safety requirements.

PROPOSAL:

Delete – (h) The Judge may refuse to judge any handler who does not comply with safety requirements.

RATIONALE: this rule should be moved to 'safety' and should be changed to 'may disqualify' – see changes under safety

EXHIBITS

DOGS ACT

EXHIBITS

(a) Bitches in oestrus or showing a coloured discharge of any sort shall not be permitted to compete in trials, nor remain within the precincts of a trial. An examination of all bitches to be conducted on each day of the trial. A member of the Affiliate conducting the trial may do this examination.

PROPOSAL:

(a) Bitches in oestrus or showing a coloured discharge of any sort shall not be permitted to compete in trials, nor remain within the precincts of a trial unless all of the following are complied with:

· The affiliate, if they decide to allow bitches in season to compete, must include this in the advertisement for the trial.

· The handler must alert the trial manager that the bitch has come into season as early as possible and before the trial commences.

· Tracks for any bitch in season must be run at the end of the trail after all dogs have finished competing (tracks used by a bitch in season cannot be re-used by a male dog in the trial).

· The bitch must not be brought into the vicinity (including to the designated area) of the trial until all male dogs have finished competing.

An examination of ~~all~~ bitches ~~to~~ may be conducted on each day of the trial. A member of the Affiliate conducting the trial may do this examination.

RATIONALE: The tracking season is very short and a bitch coming into season means they may miss a significant part of it. Suggest this rule be changed to allow bitches in season to compete but only in very controlled circumstances which will not prejudice dogs, and at the discretion of the Club running the trial. (ie Clubs who do not want to do this can choose not to allow). The issue is particularly acute for small jurisdictions who don't run many trials each year.

Examination of bitches should be at the discretion of the affiliate.

DOGS ACT

(b) A dog must wear high visibility safety equipment and may wear protective clothing in a trial.

PROPOSAL:

~~A dog must wear high visibility safety equipment and may wear protective clothing in a trial~~

RATIONALE: the rules about high-viz clothing should all be in one spot (under safety). See proposed changes under safety.

DOGS QLD

EXHIBITS (b)

A dog must wear high visibility safety equipment and may wear protective clothing in a trial.

PROPOSAL:

~~A dog must wear high visibility safety equipment and may wear protective clothing in a trial.~~

RATIONALE: The use of high visibility safety equipment is more thoroughly covered under Rule (j) in General Safety.

DOGS QLD:

(b) A dog must wear high visibility safety equipment and may wear protective clothing in a trial.

PROPOSAL:

Move to GENERAL SAFETY &/OR repeat under EQUIPMENT if required, renumber rules in each section accordingly

(b) A dog must wear high visibility safety equipment which includes the harness and may include a Hi Viz vest and may wear protective clothing in a trial. During night tracks the addition of a light attached to the harness is required to ensure reflective elements (tape etc) is clearly visible under all conditions or the dog also wearing a LED collar.

RATIONALE: This is a safety requirement, there are now many Hi-Vis safety harnesses on the market & the use of same ensures all participants including the dog are visible as taking part in a 'working' event. All mandatory safety procedures/equipment requirements should be clearly listed under Safety Requirements, so they are not missed/misinterpreted. They could also be repeated under Equipment if required.

DOGS ACT

(c)The order of judging must be decided prior to commencement of the trial.

PROPOSAL:

(c)The order of judging must be decided prior to commencement of the trial. However, the order of judging can be modified during the trial if there is a change of circumstances which necessitates a change in running order to maintain the smooth running of the trial.

RATIONALE: Sometimes it is necessary to change the order, particularly in small trials where most handlers are also stewarding or tracklaying. Eg if a dog fails at the start and puts timing out – next handler might be stewarding or tracklaying so to avoid delay a different track may be run next.

INSPECTION

DOGS TAS

INSPECTION

An examination of all bitches should be conducted on each day of the trial.

PROPOSAL:

An examination of all bitches should be conducted on each day of the trial, except where proof of desexing of a bitch is provided.

RATIONALE: It is extra work for the affiliate to examine all bitches when many of them are desexed and therefore could not be in season. In Tasmania about one third of the entries are dogs on the Associate Register, which requires them to be desexed before registration. In addition many of the bitches on the main register have also been desexed.

DOGS ACT

INSPECTION

An examination of all bitches is to be conducted on each day of the trial. A member of the Affiliate conducting the trial may do this examination.

PROPOSAL:

~~An examination of all bitches is to be conducted on each day of the trial. A member of the Affiliate conducting the trial may do this examination.~~

RATIONALE: Not necessary as this is already stated above under exhibits.

DOGS QLD

An examination of all bitches to be conducted on each day of the trial. A member of the Affiliate conducting the trial may do this examination.

PROPOSAL:

DELETE THIS RULE:

INSPECTION

~~An examination of all bitches to be conducted on each day of the trial. A member of the Affiliate conducting the trial may do this examination.~~

RATIONALE: The rule is already covered in EXHIBITS (a)

JUDGES

DOGS ACT AND DOGS VIC

PROPOSAL:

(b) A combination of TSD, ~~TTSDX~~, TS Champion and TS Grand Champion tracks must not exceed 27 points for any judge on one day. Judges may specify on their contracts how many points they are willing to judge.

RATIONALE: typos

DOGS QLD

JUDGES

(f) A signed copy of the Judge's Report is to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Canine Control concerned within 7 days of the trial.

PROPOSAL:

(f) The relevant Member Body reports to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Member Body as required.

RATIONALE: This amendment is not as prescriptive and allows different member bodies to have their own requirements for reporting.

DOGS ACT

(g) Judges should bear in mind when placing articles that pedestrians and other animals may pick up the articles or that the wind direction can cause them to move position.

PROPOSAL:

(g) Judges should be mindful that in urban environments articles may be moved or removed. ~~bear in mind when placing articles that pedestrians and other animals may pick up the articles or that the wind direction can cause them to move position.~~

RATIONALE: the comment about 'wind direction' causing articles to move does not really make sense – and calling pedestrians 'other animals' is probably offensive! A more generic comment will suffice.

DOGS ACT AND DOGS VIC

(h) Judges should position themselves on the track so that they properly evaluate the dog's performance and to ensure that the dog is given adequate time and distance to work out scenting problems particularly around heavily contaminated areas and buildings. Judges should be familiar with scenting conditions in areas which consist of more than just vegetation. Buildings, other structures and various surfaces can affect the scent.

PROPOSAL:

Judges should position themselves on the track so that they **can** properly evaluate the dog's performance and to ensure that the dog is given adequate time and distance to work out scenting problems particularly around heavily contaminated areas and buildings. Judges should be familiar with scenting conditions in areas which consist of more than just vegetation. Buildings, other

RATIONALE: typo

DOGS ACT

The Judge must at all times be within hearing distance of the Handler.

PROPOSAL:

This rule should be moved here from 'general'

DOGS ACT

It is desirable that the Judge be involved in the setting out of the track.

PROPOSAL:

This rule should be moved here from 'general'

TRACKLAYER

DOGS VIC

Consequential change if Glossary change is approved

(a) The Tracklayer shall be a person approved by the Judge and unknown to the handler and have not previously laid a track for that dog within the preceding four (4) months, in competition, except in the case of TSD test 1 where a known person shall be any person known to the dog and nominated by the handler. It shall be the responsibility of the Affiliate conducting the trial to make a genuine effort to ensure that only unknown tracklayers are used.

Delete if glossary change is approved: *except in the case of TSD test 1 where a known person shall be any person known to the dog and nominated by the handler.*

PROPOSAL:

The Tracklayer shall be a person approved by the Judge and unknown to the handler and have not previously laid a track for that dog within the preceding four (4) months, in competition. It shall be the responsibility of the Affiliate conducting the trial to make a genuine effort to ensure that only unknown tracklayers are used.

DOGS TAS

TRACKLAYER

(a)The Tracklayer shall be a person approved by the Judge and unknown to the handler and have not previously laid a track for that dog within the preceding four (4) months, in competition, except in the case of TSD test 1 where a known person shall be any person known to the dog and nominated by the handler. It shall be the responsibility of the Affiliate conducting the trial to make a genuine effort to ensure that only unknown tracklayers are used.

PROPOSAL:

(a)The Tracklayer shall be a person approved by the Judge and whose identity must be unknown to the handler and have not previously laid a track for that dog within the preceding four (4) months, in a Track and Search Trial, except in the case of TSD test 1 where a known person shall be any person

known to the dog and nominated by the handler. It shall be the responsibility of the Affiliate conducting the trial to make a genuine effort to ensure that only unknown tracklayers are used.

RATIONALE: Amendment 'identity must be unknown' is more practicable and brings into line with Tracking Trial Rules.

Tracking and Track & Search are now separate disciplines, therefore a tracklayer should be available as unknown tracklayer in both disciplines.

DOGS ACT

TRACKLAYER

(b) Before starting the track, the Tracklayer must show the Judge or their delegate all the articles to be used. These articles are to be with the Tracklayer for at least 30 minutes prior to laying the Track so that his scent may be imparted to them.

PROPOSAL:

(b) Before starting the track, the Tracklayer must show the Judge or their delegate all the articles to be used. These articles are to be with the Tracklayer for at least 30 minutes prior to laying the Track so that ~~his~~ their scent may be imparted to them.

RATIONALE: tidy up from last rule change to remove gendered pronouns

GENERAL

DOGS QLD

CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE

3. GENERAL

(t) The dog must be under the Handler's control at all times during the working of the track.

PROPOSAL:

(t) {renumber as (c)}. The dog must be under the handler's control at all ~~times during the working of the track~~ stages of the trial.

CONSEQUENTIAL RENUMBERING:

GENERAL (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p), (q), (r), (s), (t), (u), (v)

DOGS QLD

GENERAL

(b) To qualify the dog must track & search to complete at least 50% of the principle components of the track, including the numbers of turns in each test and the car section where applicable"

PROPOSAL:

DELETE THIS RULE:

~~(b) To qualify the dog must track & search to complete at least 50% of the principle components of the track, including the numbers of turns in each test and the car section where applicable"~~

RATIONALE:

This rule removes the judge's discretion in judging the dog in front of them by taking into account the variable conditions that may affect the original scent trail. The judge is continually assessing the scent conditions as the dog is actively tracking and searching. The Judge's ability to do this should not be hampered by obedience type rules limitations.

As per the introduction to the rules:

"The track & search dog tests should be a test of credibility, verifying the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent while adapting to changing scenting conditions."

Also experience has shown this new rule in the last rules review seems to be interpreted in a multitude of ways.

A dog and handler team should not be able to qualify for any Track and Search title by only completing just over half the elements of the track.

The rule has complicated the design of tracks to try to ensure that it is not possible for the dog to reach the end of the track by only completing just over half the track.

The rule means that it can take longer to run tracks as the judge has to allow a dog that is not near the track to continue as long as it is still possible for it to find the hide by completing just over half the track.

The term 'principal component' is not defined in Track and Search rules, unlike in Obedience rules where the principal features of every exercise are described (together with the instruction to judges 'a dog which fails to perform the principal feature of an exercise or part exercise shall receive a zero score ...' meaning that it will fail the trial).

The intention of this rule is not clear and is interpreted in different ways by competitors and judges. This proposed rule was not considered by the individual ANKC member bodies before it was approved. The word 'principle' is wrongly used – the word 'principal' is actually meant.

DOGS VIC

GENERAL

(b) To qualify the dog must track & search to complete at least 50% of the principle components of the track, including the *numbers* of turns in each test and the car section where applicable.

PROPOSAL: Should read:

(b) To qualify the dog must track & search to complete at least 50% of the principle components of the track, including the *number* of turns in each test and the car section where applicable.

DOGS VIC

GENERAL

(b) To qualify the dog must track & search to complete at least 50% of the principle components of the track, including the numbers of turns in each test and the car section where applicable.

PROPOSAL:

Additional of the following paragraph to General part B to clarify what is allowed

GENERAL

(b) To qualify the dog must track & search to complete at least 50% of the principle components of the track, including the numbers of turns in each test and the car section where applicable.

The weather and external conditions must be taken into consideration by the Judge, who at their discretion may allow less than 50% of tracks to be completed by the dog and to still obtain a pass.

RATIONALE: By included the above paragraph to the rules it allows Judges to use their expertise to make decisions on whether a dog and handler have completed the components necessary to obtain a pass taking into account the weather and external conditions at the time.

DOGS ACT

GENERAL

(d) The Judge at all times must be within hearing distance of the Handler.

PROPOSAL:

~~(d) The Judge at all times must be within hearing distance of the Handler.~~

RATIONALE: This rule should be moved to 'judges'

DOGS ACT:

GENERAL

(h) It is desirable that the Judge be involved in the setting out of the track.

PROPOSAL:

(h) ~~It is desirable that the Judge be involved in the setting out of the track.~~

RATIONALE: this rule should be moved to judges

DOGS QLD

GENERAL

(j) Tests 5-10 may cross one (1) separate track, a maximum of two times. A different tracklayer and cross tracklayer must be used for each of the two (2) tracks.

PROPOSAL:

(j) Tests 1-10 may cross one (1) separate track, a maximum of two times. A different tracklayer and, where applicable, different diversion tracklayers must be used for each of the two (2) tracks.

RATIONALE: Although currently tests 5-10 may cross, it would be advantageous to extend this to tests 1-4 as it is often difficult to find enough space in urban parks, schools and reserves to accommodate more than one track. Allowing two tracks to intercept would assist with utilising the area available, limiting the travel between tracks and assist with the logistics of running Track and Search trials.

DOGS QLD

GENERAL

(k) A track may be reused for testing a second dog, provided the minimum time lapse between the tracks is 3 hours. The time lapse commences from the time the Tracklayer is sent out.

PROPOSAL:

(k) A track may be reused for testing a second dog, provided the minimum time lapse between the tracks is 3 hours. The time lapse commences from the time the Tracklayer is sent out. The time lapse is from the time the first dog commences the track to the time when the Tracklayer for the second track is sent out. A different Tracklayer should be used when tracks are reused.

RATIONALE:

Although the tracks for tests 5 and 6 may be a minimum of 2 hours old the maximum is 4 hours. This rule means that a second tracklayer could walk the track before the first dog had started the track. For higher level tests of longer duration this could certainly happen.

DOGS NSW

GENERAL

(k) A track may be reused for testing a second dog, provided the minimum time lapse between tracks is 3 hours. The time lapse commences from the time the Tracklayer is sent out.

PROPOSAL:

(k) A track may be reused for testing a second dog, provided the time lapse between tracks is **FOUR** hours. The time lapse commences from the time the Tracklayer is sent out.

RATIONALE: To make the rule the same as in Tracking (Paragraph N, Page 8). To make the rule less confusing.

DOGS ACT

GENERAL

(n) Reprimands either physical or verbal will not be tolerated. Reprimands will be severely penalised up to and including disqualification. Disqualification shall be reported to the Canine Control within fourteen (14) days.

PROPOSAL:

(n) Reprimands either physical or verbal will not be tolerated. Reprimands will be severely penalised up to and including disqualification. ~~Disqualification shall be reported to the Canine Control within fourteen (14) days.~~

RATIONALE: It is not necessary to re-state the rule about reporting DQ to the Canine Control here – that is dealt with at the front of the rules already.

DOGS ACT

GENERAL

(r) Although not preferred, multiple diversion tracks may be laid by the same tracklayer.

PROPOSAL:

~~(r) Although not preferred, multiple diversion tracks may be laid by the same tracklayer.~~

RATIONALE: As the only tracks that have diversion tracks (T2 &3) only have one diversion track each this rule does not make any sense.

DOGS ACT:

GENERAL

(t) The dog must be under the Handler's control at all times during the working of the track.

PROPOSAL:

~~(t) The dog must be under the Handler's control at all times during the working of the track.~~

RATIONALE: This should be moved to safety

DOGS QLD

GENERAL

Thirty (30) day suspension.

(p) Dogs, which have failed on two consecutive occasions, may be subject to a thirty (30) day suspension from competing at a track and search dog trial. This thirty (30) day suspension will only take effect if the Affiliate conducting the track and search dog trial has to ballot for the tests available. Affiliates which do not have to ballot for available tests, must not invoke the thirty (30) day rule under any circumstances. Suspensions will not be carried over a calendar year. It is the responsibility of the Handler to advise the Affiliate of two consecutive fails. Failure to do so will result in a report to the Member Body.

PROPOSAL:

DELETE THIS RULE:

~~(p) Dogs, which have failed on two consecutive occasions, may be subject to a thirty (30) day suspension from competing at a track and search dog trial. This thirty (30) day suspension will only take effect if the Affiliate conducting the track and search dog trial has to ballot for the tests available. Affiliates which do not have to ballot for available tests, must not invoke the thirty (30) day rule under any circumstances. Suspensions will not be carried over a calendar year. It is the responsibility of the Handler to advise the Affiliate of two consecutive fails. Failure to do so will result in a report to the Member Body.~~

RATIONALE: This rule is imposing restrictions on how individual clubs manage their trials and adds complexity and unfairness to the balloting procedure. A new balloting rule is required to provide clubs with flexibility in managing their trial numbers.

Clubs should be able to ballot across all levels or place limits within title levels.

DOGS QLD

PROPOSAL:

NEW RULE: GENERAL

(p) Balloting

Should a club need to restrict entries due to resource constraints, it may ballot for the tests available. Separate ballots may be conducted for tests in different titles (e.g., a ballot for tests 1-3, a ballot for

tests 4-6, a ballot for tests 7-8, and a ballot for test 9-10). The rules for balloting will be those of the Member Body concerned.

RATIONALE: Resource constraints, such as the available land, time, or people may mean that clubs need to limit the numbers and levels of tests that can be run. These constraints may vary greatly from State to State. The purpose of this rule is to acknowledge this situation while pointing out that any ballot must be conducted in accordance with the requirement of the Member Body concerned which may vary between States/Territories.

DOGS SA

GENERAL

(r) 2. Cross Track: The dog may check any cross track, however any downgrading is at the judge's discretion.

PROPOSAL:

Remove

RATIONALE: There are no longer cross tracks in track and search trials

DOGS QLD

GENERAL

(v) For all tests the distance from the start to the finish, measured in a straight line, should be no less than 50% of the stated length of the track.

PROPOSAL:

(v) For all tests the distance from the start to the finish, measured in a straight line, should be no less than 50% of the stated length of the track unless there is a substantial natural or man-made barrier that prevents the dog from cutting off a major section of the track e.g. fencing, buildings, waterways etc.

RATIONALE: The current rule eliminates the use of suitable areas for tracks where large man-made or natural barriers exist. The design of the track should be at the judge's discretion to achieve the intention of this rule which is to discourage the dog from air scenting the tracklayer from the start of the track.

DOGS QLD

PROPOSAL:

NEW RULE:

PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING DEVICES

A competitor may arrange photography and/or videoing of the team's search by:

- (a) an official of the Affiliate (if one is available);
- (b) a spectator (in circumstances where the Judge has permitted spectators to observe the search); or
- (c) use, by the competitor, of a wearable camera.

Permission to video or photograph must be granted by the Judge prior to competition.

Videotaping and/or photography of a competitor may only be undertaken on behalf of the competitor for their own personal use or, with the prior permission of the competitor, by the Affiliate, for promotional or educational purposes.

The Affiliate may, after consultation with the Judge, designate an area from which videotaping/photography may be undertaken.

The Judge may direct that any photography and/or videoing be discontinued if it is deemed to be disruptive or to impede any search.

No photography or video footage can be used in a protest of the Judge's decision.

RATIONALE: Most dog sports (Agility, Rally, Tricks, DWD, Scent Work) allow the use of videography and photography as a means of reviewing the dog's performance and as a way of improving handling and future training.

Videography is also useful to Member Bodies and Affiliates in providing useful, real examples of tracking/track and search in training sessions with trainee judges, handlers, members and potential members. It is an excellent method of education.

GENERAL SAFETY

DOGS TAS

GENERAL SAFETY

(a) The Tracklayer when laying urban tracks; will be followed by a vehicle or escorted by a safety steward. The vehicle may collect the Tracklayer from the end of the track and also may be used to transport the Tracklayer back to the end of the track.

PROPOSAL:

Safety Vehicle and/or Steward

If, in the opinion of the affiliate, it is considered necessary for safety reasons:

The Tracklayer when laying urban tracks; may be followed by a vehicle or escorted by a safety steward. The vehicle may collect the Tracklayer from the end of the track and may be used to transport the Tracklayer back to the end of the track.

Whilst the dog is being tested on the track, the dog/handler, judge and safety stewards may be followed by a safety vehicle.

RATIONALE: In some instances, it may be advisable to have a safety vehicle and/or steward. e.g. tracklaying after dark, or in an area where there may be a lot of traffic during the test track, the vehicle following will alert traffic to unusual activity ahead.

The Affiliate would be in the best position to advise on conditions in their area.

DOGS QLD

GENERAL SAFETY

(j) When working the night/evening tracks, high visibility clothing and head light must be worn by the handler. The dog should have reflective tape sewn onto the harness or alternatively have some type of LED light attached to the harness.

PROPOSAL:

Safety clothing must be worn by the handler, judges, and stewards during the running of any level track. When working the night/evening tracks, high visibility clothing and head light must be worn by the handler. The dog should have at least three (3) of:

reflective tape sewn onto the harness;

a LED light attached to the harness;

a LED collar;

a HI-VIZ vest.

RATIONALE: Safety for all involved in Track and Search must be paramount. While reflective tape on a harness is fine if there is a light shining on it it does not work without a light. A LED light on the harness assures the dog is visible to the judge and others at all times.

DOGS QLD

GENERAL SAFETY

(k) It is not necessary and, in most cases, not desirable for the Tracklayer to remain at the end of the track but must be in place before the track is worked unless a finish article is used.

PROPOSAL:

(k) It is not necessary and, in most cases, not desirable for the Tracklayer to remain at the end of the track. However, unless a finish article is used, the Tracklayer must be in place at the end of the track when the handler and dog complete the track. but must be in place before the track is worked unless a finish article is used.

RATIONALE: Rules General Safety (k) and Tracklayer (g) are inconsistent regarding the time when the tracklayer must be in place at the end of the track.

Making the suggested changes above to General Safety (k) provides for consistency.

DOGS ACT:

PROPOSAL:

(l) the handler should be advised at the commencement of the track whether there is a tracklayer or a finish article at the end of the track. If there is a tracklayer a brief description of the tracklayer should be provided.

RATIONALE: this should be moved here instead of under 'safety' (see also proposed changes under safety)

DOGS ACT

GENERAL SAFETY

~~It is imperative that a brief description of the Tracklayer be given to the handler prior to the commencement of the track. These details should include:~~

- ~~• Adult/Child (age)~~
- ~~• Name of lost person~~
- ~~• Physical characteristics i.e. gender, hair colour, build~~
- ~~• Clothing/footwear~~

~~Safety of the Tracklayer is paramount, therefore the following points must be observed at all times.~~

- ~~(a) The Tracklayer when laying urban tracks; will be followed by a vehicle or escorted by a safety steward. The vehicle may collect the Tracklayer from the end of the track and also may be used to transport the Tracklayer back to the end of the track.~~
- ~~(b) Whoever accompanies the Tracklayer must carry a hand-held communication device such as a two-way radio or mobile phone.~~
- ~~(c) If a child is the Tracklayer, they should be no younger than ten (10) years of age and must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult walking alongside who is approved by the parent/guardian of the child. A communication device such as a two-way radio or mobile phone must be carried by the accompanying adult.~~
- ~~(d) Where a child is used in any capacity in a track & search dog trial, this must be in accordance with Federal, State and Territory Legislative requirements.~~
- ~~(e) Where the track ends outside a dwelling/building, the occupant and immediate neighbours must be advised prior to the event that a sanctioned event will be conducted and that a Tracklayer will be waiting outside their premises during the time the track is being worked.~~
- ~~(f) A "safety steward" must position themselves in the vicinity of the handler while working urban tracks or any other track as required by the Judge. Their responsibility is to alert the Handler of any impending hazards such as vehicles, cyclists, stray dogs, pedestrians so that if required, evasive action can be taken. The dog may be stopped to allow traffic/pedestrians etc. to pass by calling the dog to heel or shortening the lead to have complete control.~~
- ~~(g) Additional safety stewards may be employed on any track at the judge's discretion.~~
- ~~(h) When crossing streets, handlers must be able to gather their lead off the road so that any oncoming traffic will not cross the lead thus impeding the dog.~~
- ~~(i) The Tracklayer must be able to make contact with the judge via a communication device such as two-way radio or mobile phone at all times while the track is being worked. The safety of the~~

~~Tracklayer will take precedence over the working of the track. If at any time the Tracklayer's safety is compromised, the track must be aborted.~~

- ~~(j) When working the night/evening tracks, high visibility clothing and head light must be worn by the handler. The dog should have reflective tape sewn onto the harness or alternatively have some type of LED light attached to the harness.~~
- ~~(k) It is not necessary and in most cases not desirable for the Tracklayer to remain at the end of the track, but must be in place before the track is worked unless a finish article is used.~~

PROPOSAL:
SAFETY

The safety of competitors, tracklayers, officials, other persons and dogs at a trial is of paramount concern. As track and search tests are conducted in urban environments where there are likely to be hazards including moving vehicles and uneven surfaces all reasonable steps to protect safety must be taken.

A competitor who does not comply with safety requirements may be disqualified. Before commencing judging a test the judge must check that the dog and handler have on the necessary equipment. A judge may abort or suspend a track at any time if they consider it necessary to do so for safety.

(a) The Tracklayer when laying urban tracks; will be followed by a vehicle or escorted by a safety steward. It is not necessary and in most cases not desirable for the Tracklayer to remain at the end of the track, but they must be in place before the track is worked unless a finish article is used.

(b) Officials involved in running a trial (including judges and safety stewards) as well as tracklayers must be able to communicate with each other during the trial (eg via mobile phone or radio).

(c) At least one safety steward must walk near the handler while working urban tracks or any other track as required by the Judge. The safety steward is to alert the Handler to any impending hazards such as vehicles, cyclists, stray dogs, pedestrians so that if required, evasive action can be taken (the safety steward may not guide the handler as to where the track is). The safety steward may direct the handler to temporarily stop and/or to bring their dog to heel to avoid a hazard. A handler who has been directed to stop for safety may re-scent their dog without penalty.

(d) When crossing a road the handler must work the dog on a short lead and must gather the remainder of the lead up so that it does not drag on the road. Failing to comply may result in downgrading or disqualification.

(e) The handler, Judge and stewards must wear high visibility vests or jackets on all tracks. In addition, on night tracks the dog must wear a harness or vest that includes reflective material or a LED light, the lead must incorporate reflective material and the handler must wear a functioning headlamp.

(f) the dog must be under the control of the handler at all times during the working of the track.

RATIONALE: The current safety section is confusing and is not all about safety. The proposed replacement strengthens the safety requirements, simplifies the drafting and removes irrelevant material.

Safety of all involved in the trial – not only the tracklayer – must be the priority. New first para highlights this and outlines key risks. New second para makes clear judge can disqualify a person who does not comply with safety requirements (current rule is only 'refuse to judge') and can also abort or suspend a track if necessary for safety. Rules (a) and (b) have been made simpler and clearer by

combining related points in the same paragraphs and omitting unnecessary detail (like which car can be used to pick up tracklayer).

New rule (c) makes clearer the role and authority of the safety steward. The proposed rule also allows a handler to re-scent their dog without penalty if they have been stopped by the safety steward. Don't want any unintentional dis-incentive for safety steward to stop handler if there is a danger – or doubt that they have authority to do so.

Proposed new rule (d) strengthens the rule about picking up a lead when crossing a road as this is a significant safety risk. The rule also gives judges clear authority to penalise failing to do so.

Proposed new rule (e) put all the high-vis clothing requirements in one spot – under safety.

ACT recommends removing the rules about children, or at least current rule (c). Having rules about children may encourage organisers to use children in events when they don't properly understand the complexity of State and Territory laws in this regard.

ACT also recommends removing the part about the description of tracklayer as this is not really a 'safety' rule and should be moved to 'general' or 'tracklayer' and in any case should be replaced with 'the handler should be advised at the commencement of the track whether there is a tracklayer or a finish article at the end of the track. If there is a tracklayer a brief description of the tracklayer should be provided'.

The rule about advising occupants of dwellings has been removed – this is not always practicable (eg commercial or apartment buildings) and should be a matter of good trial management not the subject of rules, in the same way that any access to private land must be by permission is a matter of trial management not rules.

GRADINGS

DOGS QLD

GRADINGS

(b) A dog must be marked "fail" if it does not find or indicate the required number of articles.

PROPOSAL:

DELETE THIS RULE:

~~(b) A dog must be marked "fail" if it does not find or indicate the required number of articles~~

NEW RULE:

(b) A dog may be downgraded if it does not find or indicate the required number of articles.

RATIONALE: This current requirement does not provide a level playing field across the track levels. If a dog is lucky enough to have both articles removed it is automatically given full credit for both articles whilst the dog which still has both articles on its track will be judged according to its article recognition. To make it fairer to all dogs a downgrading only should be given if an article/s is missed, removed or not in place.

CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES:

Remove this sentence or its equivalent from the descriptions of Tests 1 – 4.

~~A minimum of one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.~~

DOGS ACT

NOTES FOR AFFILIATES

At Track and Search Trials an area should be allotted where competitors and their dogs must remain until called by an official. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

PROPOSAL:

At Track and Search Trials an area or areas should be allotted where competitors and their dogs must remain until called by an official. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

RATIONALE: At some trials it may be desirable to have competitors wait in different areas (eg where there is more than one judge and each is judging in an area some distance apart).

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD) – TEST 1

DOGS VIC

p. 10 Test 1

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

p.11 Test 2

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

p.12 Test 3

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

p.12 Test 4

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion

PROPOSAL:

Change to read as per tests 5-10

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

RATIONALE: As stated in the Track and Search Rules introductory section:

DOGS VIC

(1) Consequential changes if Test 1 change is accepted

The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

PROPOSAL:

Change if proposal 1 is successful.

The dog is required to track and search for **an unknown** person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

RATIONALE: keeping in line with change 1.

(2) Test 1 Page 10. (a)remove

A minimum of one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

Remove (a)(b)(c)(d) if proposal 8 is successful.

(b)Test 2 page 11 remove

At least one must be indicated by the dog to pass.

(c) Test 3 page 12 remove

At least one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

(d) Test 4 page 12 remove

At least one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

RATIONALE: Keeping in line if proposal 8 is successful.

DOGS WEST

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD) Test 1

The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

At least 25% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces. The Track will have 3 to 5 changes of direction. The start marker will remain.

At least thirty (30) metres before the start marker, the Tracklayer will place one (1) of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the start marker, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness.

The dog must then track and search for and locate the lost person or the location of the finish article. The minimum time for the commencement of the track will be one (1) hour and the maximum two (2) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be 2 articles placed on the track. A minimum of one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

The Tracklayer or location of the finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

PROPOSAL:

Incorporate the Diversion from Track 2 into Track 1

The main Tracklayer shall follow a track accompanied by the diversion Tracklayer. The diversion Tracklayer will accompany the main Tracklayer for not less than thirty (30) metres from the start and leave no closer than thirty (30) metres from the first change of direction while the main Tracklayer continues on the tracks.

DOGS ACT

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD)

Test 1 Paragraph 1

The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

PROPOSAL:

The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar. Suitable areas include suburban areas, city parks, light industrial areas, new housing developments, university or school campuses and sporting complexes or similar locations (but not forests or a paddock).

RATIONALE: The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

DOGS ACT

PROPOSAL: - Delete Paragraph 7

~~The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness.~~

~~The dog must then track and search for and locate the lost person or the location of the finish article.~~

RATIONALE: Whether a dog is allowed off-lead in an urban area is a matter of local government rules. Even if a handler has trained off lead starts (few if any do) they may get to a trial and find they are not allowed to start that way because the area being used is on-lead only. Not reasonable for trial organisers to have to find off-lead dog areas for tracks 1-4 on the off chance someone might want to do an off-lead start. Also increases risk to dog and others having a dog off lead. All of the text can be omitted because other parts of the rulebook deal with the dog being in harness and lead.

DOGS OLD

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD)

Test 1

The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

PROPOSAL:

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD)

Test 1

The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone, concrete/bitumen pathways or similar.

RATIONALE: For tracks run through parks and urban greenways the use of concrete and/or bitumen pathways as part of the hard surface percentage is common.

CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES:

Add these words to the first paragraph in Test levels 1 to 4.

DOGS QLD

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD)

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG EXCELLENT (TSDX)

Test 1 - 4 – all have this paragraph

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness.

PROPOSAL:

DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH SECTION IN TESTS 1 - 4:

Tests 1 - 4

~~The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track,~~

the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness.

NEW PARAGRAPH:

For Tests 1 – 4 (AS PER TESTS 5 – 10)

The dog in harness with the lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

RATIONALE: This paragraph is from the first version of the rules when Track and Search was conducted in a bush environment. This rarely occurs today and for safety and abidance of Local By-Laws it is recommended to remove free quartering from all levels of track and search.

DOGS NSW

TESTS 1,2,3 & 4.

The Paragraph which reads: "The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened on to the harness."

PROPOSAL:

THIS PARAGRAPH TO BE REMOVED:

NEW RULE

Tests 1,2,3 & 4:

The Paragraph to read: "The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion."

RATIONALE: To remove the option of free quartering. It is negative to stop the dog when track is located. It is also a safety issue as all TSD Tracks are in public areas.

DOGS WEST

Tests 1, 2, 3, 4

There will be 2 articles placed on the track at least one must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass

PROPOSAL:

There will be 2 articles placed on the track. If one or more are indicated – grading given by the judge will reflect this. If neither of the articles are indicated, then a grading of no higher than a "Pass" can be obtained by the dog to pass.

RATIONALE: The introduction to our sport of Tracking says: *'The idea of tracking trials is to encourage dogs to make use of their strongest faculty by emulating as closely as possible, the seeking and finding of a missing person while acknowledging that in the interests of a fair assessment, the tracks cannot be aimless wanderings more likely to characterise the trail of a lost person nor include the possible machinations of one deliberately trying to deceive any following dog. In all other ways sight should never be lost that it is a person being followed and every aspect of the track must relate to a person and, in the case of articles, must be items of personal possession.'*

We have seen several dogs which keep to the track but have no interest in the articles as they are more focused on the objective of finding the lost person. These dogs fail because of this ruling.

We consider a dog which is so resolute in its pursuit of the tracklayer to the exclusion of identifying articles, should still be rewarded for its performance and success in finding the tracklayer.

While acknowledging a dog which finds the required number of articles is performing the task to the current rules better and will therefore achieve a higher grade, we consider the other dog which achieves the outcome of finding the tracklayer but fails to indicate the articles, can be awarded the lower grading of 'Pass'.

DOGS QLD

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD)

Test 1

The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

At least 25% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Track will have 3 to 5 changes of direction.

The start marker will remain.

At least thirty (30) metres before the start marker, the Tracklayer will place one (1) of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the start marker, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness.

The dog must then track and search for and locate the lost person or the location of the finish article. The minimum time for the commencement of the track will be one (1) hour and the maximum two (2) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be 2 articles placed on the track.

A minimum of one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

The Tracklayer or location of the finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

PROPOSAL:

Test 1

The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 500 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

At least 25% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Track will have 3 to 5 changes of direction.

The start marker will remain.

At least thirty (30) metres before the start marker, the Tracklayer will place one (1) of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the start marker, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness.

The dog must then track and search for and locate the lost person or the location of the finish article. The minimum time for the commencement of the track will be 30 mins and the maximum 90 mins from the time the track is laid.

There will be 2 articles placed on the track.

The Tracklayer or location of the finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

RATIONALE: This is an introductory level track with a start marker and a known tracklayer. The time should be reduced in line with the introductory TD1 track in tracking.

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD) – TEST 2**DOGS ACT****Test 2**

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

PROPOSAL:

The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar. Suitable areas include suburban areas, city parks, light industrial areas, new housing developments, university or school campuses and sporting complexes or similar locations (but not forests or a paddock).

RATIONALE: The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

DOGS ACT

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting line and open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

PROPOSAL:

(ACT) The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog to approximately thirty (30) meters from the starting line; open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking. The judge shall not provide any guidance as to where between the flags the tracklayer walked.

RATIONALE: the idea of the two flag start is that the dog has to search for the start of the track. Some judges place the article on the track line which undermines this. The additional text is to improve consistency in judging.

DOGS ACT

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

PROPOSAL:

~~(ACT): The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~

RATIONALE: Whether a dog is allowed off-lead in an urban area is a matter of local government rules. Even if a handler has trained off lead starts (few if any do) they may get to a trial and find they are not allowed to start that way because the area being used is on-lead only. Not reasonable for trial organisers to have to find off-lead dog areas for tracks 1-4 on the off chance someone might want to do an off-lead start. Also increases risk to dog and others having a dog off lead. All of the text can be omitted because other parts of the rulebook deal with the dog being in harness and lead.

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD) – TEST 3

DOGS ACT

TEST 3

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

PROPOSAL:

The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar. Suitable areas include suburban areas, city parks, light industrial areas, new housing developments, university or school campuses and sporting complexes or similar locations (but not forests or a paddock).

RATIONALE: The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

DOGS ACT

TEST 3

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate. The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting line, open the container if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

PROPOSAL:

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog to approximately thirty (30) meters from the starting line; open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking. The judge shall not provide any guidance as to where between the flags the tracklayer walked.

RATIONALE: the idea of the two flag start is that the dog has to search for the start of the track. Some judges place the article on the track line which undermines this. The additional text is to improve consistency in judging.

DOGS ACT

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

PROPOSAL:

~~The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~

RATIONALE: Whether a dog is allowed off-lead in an urban area is a matter of local government rules. Even if a handler has trained off lead starts (few if any do) they may get to a trial and find they are not allowed to start that way because the area being used is on-lead only. Not reasonable for trial organisers to have to find off-lead dog areas for tracks 1-4 on the off chance someone might want to do an off-lead start. Also increases risk to dog and others having a dog off lead. All of the text can be omitted because other parts of the rulebook deal with the dog being in harness and lead.

DOGS ACT

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid. There will be 2 articles placed on the track; at least one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

PROPOSAL:

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two ~~(2) hours~~ (1) hour and the maximum ~~four (4) hours~~ (2) hours from the time the track is laid. There will be 2 articles placed on the track; at least one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

RATIONALE: Tracks 1&2 are to be 1-2 hours old, track 3 jumps to 2-4 hours (which is the same as the 3 TSDX tracks). Track 3 should be 1-2 hours to be consistent with the other TS level tracks.

DOGS WEST

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

At least 25% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Track will have 3 to 5 changes of direction.

Approximately 30 minutes after the main Tracklayer has commenced the track, the first part of the track will be re-walked by a diversion Tracklayer. The diversion Tracklayer will re-walk the track for not less than thirty (30) metres from the start and leave no closer than thirty (30) metres from the first change of direction.

The start marker and all other flags indicating the direction of the track, up to the point where the diversion Tracklayer makes their turn; will be left in position by the main Tracklayer. The diversion tracklayer will remove the start marker and all other flags up to the point where the main Tracklayer has continued on. The starting line flags will remain.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate. The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting line, open the container if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid. There will be 2 articles placed on the track; at least one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

The Tracklayer or finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

PROPOSAL:

Previous Track 3 is now Track 2

Track 4 is now Track 3 with incorporating elements from the previous Track 4 for a title.

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSDX) – TEST 4

DOGS VIC

PROPOSAL:

Full stop required at the end of **paragraph 7**

DOGS WEST

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG EXCELLENT (TSDX) Test 4

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone, roads, paved surfaces or similar.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Track will have 4 to 6 changes of direction.

This track should start in a contaminated point such as a road-end. If the area is not subject to foot traffic, two deliberate fresh cross tracks are to be laid by unknown Tracklayers who should cross the track just prior to the dog and handler working the track.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting line, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid. There will be 2 articles placed on the track at least one must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

The Tracklayer or the location of the finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

PROPOSAL:

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG EXCELLENT (TSDX) Test 4 [Urban Day Track]

The dog is required to track and search for a KNOWN person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

The track should be laid utilising any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid in close proximity to buildings and fences.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces. The track will have 4 to 6 changes of direction.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the handler e.g. a residential gateway, front door or car door. The track should not cross a main road.

Every care should be taken when working the dog in traffic and to shorten the lead if necessary, ensuring the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

The dog should work regardless of any distractions.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting point, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting point, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The Tracklayer or finish article must be indicated at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

Track 5 remains the same.

RATIONALE: Track & Search is now an established separate discipline to Tracking. In most of the titles within Track & Search, there is a similarity in the grouping of the tests within titles. E.g. Track & Search Dog

Tests 1 to 3 all have elements of using varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar. They then have graduating challenges from test 1 to 3. Tests 7 & 8 for Track & Search Champion have similar requirements of both being 1000m in length, both 5-7 changes of direction and both have the 2-minute stop. The obvious difference being one is day-time and one night time.

Tests 9 & 10 for Track & Search Grand Champion have similar requirements of 1200m in length, both 6-8 changes of direction, both have in-car sections with the test 10 having the more challenging 300m in car and 2 changes of direction and is the night test.

Therefore, we consider the 3 tests within the Track & Search Dog Excellent title should be more similar with all being urban tracks as opposed to one varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar, and then onto concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces to the other 2 tests.

Considering this we consider the format and challenges in the current tests 2 – 4 would be suitable for inclusion in the TSD title and dispense with the current test 1.

The proposed new test 4 would then be the introduction to urban tests, with a known tracklayer in the test 4 to introduce the dogs to a new environment but a familiar scent.

DOGS SA

Test 4 Description: The dog is required to track an unknown person over a trail of approximately 1200 metres of varied terrain & vegetation. The track should follow a dirt road or trail for a part of the distance, have at least 4 turns and generally meander as a lost person may do. It should cross at least one paved or gravel road, stream or shallow body of water. This track should start in a contaminated point such as a road-end. If the area is not subject to foot traffic, two deliberate fresh cross tracks are to be laid by unknown Tracklayers who should cross the track just prior to the dog and handler working the track.

PROPOSAL:

Change point to area.

RATIONALE: (d) Tests 1-4 will commence with a starting line which shall be indicated by 2 flags approximately thirty (30) metres apart. This cannot be at a point and need to be an area

DOGS QLD

CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE:

SUMMARY

The major features of all track & search tests are summarised in the table below, which is provided for explanatory purposes only.

Test #	Day/Night	Length (metres)	% non-vegetated	Changes of direction	Additional components	Time Delay (hours)	Tracklayer
1	Day	800 500	25%	3 to 5		1 to 2 30 – 90 mins	Known
2	Day	800	25%	3 to 5	Diversion 2 together	1 to 2	Unknown
3	Day	800	25%	3 to 5	Diversion 1 30 minutes after	2 to 4	Unknown
4	Day	1000	50%	4 to 6	Contaminated start	2 to 4	Unknown
5	Day Urban	800	80%	4 to 6		2 to 4	Unknown
6	Night Urban	800	80%	4 to 6		2 to 4	Unknown
7	Day Urban	1000	80%	5 to 7	2 min. pause	3 to 4	Unknown
8	Night Urban	1000	80%	5 to 7	2 min. pause	3 to 4	Unknown
9	Day Urban	1200	80%	6 to 8	Car 200m 1 turn	4 to 5	Unknown
10	Night Urban	1200	80%	6 to 8	Car 300 m 2 turns	4 to 5	Unknown

DOGS ACT

Test 4

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone, roads, paved surfaces or similar.

PROPOSAL:

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone, roads, paved surfaces or similar. Suitable areas include suburban areas, city parks, light industrial areas, new housing developments, university or school campuses and sporting complexes or similar locations (but not forests or a paddock).

RATIONALE: The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

DOGS ACT

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting line, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

PROPOSAL:

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog to approximately thirty (30) meters from the starting line; open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking. The judge shall not provide any guidance as to where between the flags the tracklayer walked.

RATIONALE: the idea of the two flag start is that the dog has to search for the start of the track. Some judges place the article on the track line which undermines this. The additional text is to improve consistency in judging.

DOGS ACT

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion

PROPOSAL:

~~The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~

RATIONALE: Whether a dog is allowed off-lead in an urban area is a matter of local government rules. Even if a handler has trained off lead starts (few if any do) they may get to a trial and find they are not allowed to start that way because the area being used is on-lead only. Not reasonable for trial organisers to have to find off-lead dog areas for tracks 1-4 on the off chance someone might want to do an off-lead start. Also increases risk to dog and others having a dog off lead. All of the text can be omitted because other parts of the rulebook deal with the dog being in harness and lead.

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG EXCELLENT (TSDX)

DOGS ACT

Test 5 [Urban Day Track]

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

PROPOSAL:

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

RATIONALE: The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”. And tracks 5-10 are described as urban tracks. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

TRACK AND SEARCH DOG EXCELLENT (TSDX)

DOGS ACT

Test 6 [Urban Evening/Night Track]

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

PROPOSAL:

(ACT) The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

RATIONALE: The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”. And tracks 5-10 are described as urban tracks. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

DOGS ACT

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

PROPOSAL:

~~The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~

RATIONALE: If the proposed change about removing off-lead searching for tracks 1-4 is accepted then this sentence is no longer needed – other parts of the rules require that the dog be on lead/ in harness at all times.

TRACK AND SEARCH CHAMPIONSHIP (TS Ch)

DOGS ACT

Test 7 [Urban Day Track]

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

PROPOSAL:

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

RATIONALE: The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”. And tracks 5-10 are described as urban tracks. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

DOGS ACT

The dog in harness with lead attached; will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

PROPOSAL:

~~The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~

RATIONALE: If the proposed change about removing off-lead searching for tracks 1-4 is accepted then this sentence is no longer needed – other parts of the rules require that the dog be on lead/ in harness at all times.

TRACK AND SEARCH CHAMPIONSHIP (TS Ch)

DOGS ACT

Test 8 [Urban Evening/Night Track]

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

PROPOSAL:

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

RATIONALE: The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”. And tracks 5-10 are described as urban tracks. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

DOGS ACT

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

PROPOSAL:

~~The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~

RATIONALE: If the proposed change about removing off-lead searching for tracks 1-4 is accepted then this sentence is no longer needed – other parts of the rules require that the dog be on lead/ in harness at all times.

TRACK AND SEARCH GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP (TS Grand Ch)

DOGS ACT

Test 9 (Urban Day Track)

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1,200 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicles and pedestrian traffic.

PROPOSAL:

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

RATIONALE: The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”. And tracks 5-10 are described as urban tracks. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport.

DOGS ACT AND DOGS VIC

The track should be laid utilizing any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid **fin** close proximity to buildings and fences.

PROPOSAL:

The track should be laid utilizing any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid **in** close proximity to buildings and fences.

RATIONALE: typo

DOGS ACT

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

PROPOSAL:

~~The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~

RATIONALE: If the proposed change about removing off-lead searching for tracks 1-4 is accepted then this sentence is no longer needed – other parts of the rules require that the dog be on lead/ in harness at all times.

TRACK AND SEARCH GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP (TS Grand Ch)

DOGS VIC

Test 10 (Urban Evening/Night Track)

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person *** walked a trail of approximately 1,200 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicles and pedestrian traffic.

At least 80% of the tack must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

PROPOSAL:

Should be:

Test 10 (Urban Evening/Night Track)

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person **who** walked a trail of approximately 1,200 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicles and pedestrian traffic.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

GLOSSARY CHANGES

DOGS ACT

Test 10 (Urban Evening/Night Track)

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person walked a trail of approximately 1,200 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicles and pedestrian traffic.

PROPOSAL:

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Suitable areas include suburban or urban areas, light industrial areas and similar locations.

RATIONALE: The front of the rules (p4) makes it clear that all tests must be conducted in “urban environments, parklands or other suitably contaminated urban areas”. And tracks 5-10 are described as urban tracks. However there seems to be some inconsistency between States about where trials are run, as such greater guidance in the rules without being entirely prescriptive should aid in bringing more consistency to the sport. Also – typo “who has” was missing

DOGS ACT

The track should be laid utilizing any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid in close proximity to buildings and fences.

At least 80% of the tack must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

PROPOSAL:

At least 80% of the ~~tack~~ track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

RATIONALE: typo

DOGS ACT

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

PROPOSAL:

~~The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.~~

RATIONALE: If the proposed change about removing off-lead searching for tracks 1-4 is accepted then this sentence is no longer needed – other parts of the rules require that the dog be on lead/ in harness at all times.

DOGS ACT

PROPOSAL:

SUMMARY

The major features of all track & search tests are summarised in the table below, which is provided for explanatory purposes only.

Test #	Day/Night	Length (metres)	% non-vegetated	Changes of direction	Additional components	Time Delay (hours)	Tracklayer
1	Day	800	25%	3 to 5		1 to 2	Known
2	Day	800	25%	3 to 5	Diversion 2 together	1 to 2	Unknown
3	Day	800	25%	3 to 5	Diversion 1 - 30 minutes after	2 to 4	Unknown
4	Day	1000	50%	4 to 6	Contaminated start	2 to 4	Unknown
5	Day Urban	800	80%	4 to 6		2 to 4	Unknown
6	Night Urban	800	80%	4 to 6		2 to 4	Unknown
7	Day Urban	1000	80%	5 to 7	2 min. pause	3 to 4	Unknown
8	Night Urban	1000	80%	5 to 7	2 min. pause	3 to 4	Unknown
9	Day Urban	1200	80%	6 to 8	Car 200m 1 turn	4 to 5	Unknown
10	Night Urban	1200	80%	6 to 8	Car 300 m 2 turns	4 to 5	Unknown