



Newfoundland Club of America Draft Test Regulations

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“Clean copy” version with strikeouts removed and new text indicated in purple.

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Newfoundland Club of America Draft Test Regulations

Introduction

The Newfoundland Club of America Draft Tests are a series of exercises designed to develop and demonstrate the natural abilities of purebred Newfoundland dogs. While working in a capacity involving hauling, the dog and handler must demonstrate teamwork skills. The Newfoundland has historically functioned as a draft dog in various capacities, and the performance of these exercises is intended to demonstrate skills resulting both from natural ability and training that are applicable to realistic work situations.

Dogs must be willing to work with their handlers and the exercises must be accomplished efficiently. The goal of each handler is to maintain control while encouraging his dogs' natural independence; together, they demonstrate teamwork. Since a dog can perform draft work only in cooperation with a person, each handler must demonstrate an understanding of draft work with the dog's ability, training, and equipment.

The Newfoundland Club of America Draft Test Regulations is a set of standards by which handlers and Newfoundlands are judged at a Newfoundland Club of America sponsored draft test. The Regulations are neither a guide on how to train for draft work nor a definition of draft work.

Chapter One General Regulations

Section 1 – Application for Draft Tests

A Draft Test Committee from a recognized Regional Club of the Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) may apply to the Working Dog Committee (WDC) of the NCA for permission to host a Draft Test. Application must be made using an approved WDC application form.

Application forms are available from the Draft Test Applications Secretary and the NCA website where toolkits are available in the Working Dog section. The completed application must be sent to the WDC Draft Test Applications Secretary whose name is available on the WDC web site. The application must contain the following information:

1. The names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of the Draft Test Chairperson, the Draft Test Secretary, and a third Draft Test committee member from the test giving club. All must be NCA members and members of the regional club hosting the test.

2. The names of the two judges along with their Judges' Acceptance Form completed and signed.
3. The written guarantee that steward assistance and all equipment (other than the equipment furnished by each entrant), and other necessary provisions will be available at the test site.
4. The certification that all NCA Draft Test Regulations will be followed.
5. The date of the proposed Draft Test, the test site address, and a description of the site including a detailed site map with descriptions of the ground conditions and terrain. If the site has been used more than twice, with no complaints, then the map and description are not needed. The WDC recommends that Draft Test dates be coordinated with neighboring Regional Clubs to avoid conflicting dates within 300 miles.
6. The signatures of the Draft Test Chairperson, the Draft Test Secretary, the third Draft Test committee member and a member of the Regional Club's Board of Directors signing on behalf of the Regional Club.

A completed application, which includes judge's acceptance forms, must be mailed to the Draft Test Applications Secretary a minimum of four (4) months, but not more than twelve (12) months, prior to the date of the proposed test. The WDC Draft Test Applications Secretary usually communicates the WDC's approval or rejection of the Draft Test Application to the Draft Test Chairperson within forty-five (45) days following

the receipt of the completed application. When the WDC is considering a Regional Club's application for an NCA Draft Test, the committee considers any past violations of the Regulations at the club's previous tests. An email address must be included if verification of the application being received is requested. A Draft Test Committee from a recognized Regional Club of the NCA may apply to the WDC of the NCA for permission to host a Draft Test. Application must be made using an approved WDC application form.

An application that is received late will be assessed late fees. Any part of the test application received up to 5 days after the deadline will be assessed a \$25.00 late fee. Fully completed test applications received 6-30 days late will be assessed a \$50.00 late fee. Test applications received more than 30 days after the deadline will not be approved. Late fees must be paid by the Regional Club prior to approval of any further working event.

In the event the WDC denies permission for holding the test, the Draft Test committee may appeal to the NCA Board. The WDC shall supply the NCA Board their reasons, in writing, for not approving the requested test. The final decision shall be that of the NCA Board.

Section 2 – Duties of the Draft Test Committee

The Draft Test Committee will act as the official representative of NCA and must enforce the Regulations. Any violations of these Regulations shall be reported in writing and attached to the Draft Test Committee's report to the WDC.

The Draft Test Committee will prepare a Premium List for the Draft Test to distribute to those who request it. It should also be posted on the Regional club's web site. The Premium List must include the following information:

1. The date and location of the Draft Test; a detailed description of the test site describing ground surfaces, slope and other features to help entrants determine proper equipment; and requirements or regulations specific to the test site.
2. The judges' names, including the name of any observer judge if known yet. [The names and contact information of the committee members including the Safety Officer.](#)
3. The entry limit, maximum and minimum, that there will be an alternate list if the entries exceed the limit and the method to be used for determining alternates will be as specified in the NCA Draft Test Regulations.
4. NCA members are granted a 10-day early entry as a benefit of their membership in NCA. **To take advantage of the early entry rule, if the dog is co-owned, then either all co- owners of the dog must be NCA members OR the handler must be an NCA member.** The beginning date for accepting entries from owners who are NCA members which must be no less than ten (10) day after the premium list has been made available but must also be ten (10) days before the beginning date for non-NCA members. The beginning date for accepting entries from non-NCA members must also be listed and after this date all entries will be treated equally, whether the owner is an NCA member or not.
5. The closing date and time that the Test Secretary must receive entries for them to be accepted.
6. A box to check if the dog's owner or handler is an NCA member. This allows entering a test 10 days earlier and receiving a title patch if the dog passes.
7. The approval date of the Draft Test Regulations being used at the NCA Draft Test.
8. A statement regarding entrant's responsibility for obtaining the current NCA Draft Test Regulations.
9. The name and address of the WDC Publications Secretary from whom entrants can order the NCA Draft Test Regulations and a notification that the Regulations are also available on the NCA web site as well as any updates made to the Regulations.
10. The name and address of the Draft Test Secretary to whom the entries shall be sent.

10. Entries must be made on an official NCA entry form, which includes the Agreement, and includes the notice that a copy of the entered dog's AKC, ILP, PAL, or foreign registration paper must be attached.

11. The schedule in the premium list and letter sent to entrants will list a check in time for each day. Judges must follow that schedule. Any schedule listed in the premium list that is not covered in the regulations takes precedence the day of the test.

12. Additional information such as the following: officers and directors of the NCA and Regional Club; awards; accommodations; directions to test; advertising; meals, any special events and additional activities. **Any event, other than an NCA event, being publicized in a Draft Test premium or catalog must include a statement indicating that the event is not an NCA event.** For example: an ad for an all-breed test following the NCA test must clearly state "This is not an NCA event".

13. Whether or not there will be practice allowed at the site and the times if allowed.

The Premium List must not be made public before the Regional Club receives approval from the NCA WDC to conduct the test(s).

After the closing date and time for entries, the Draft Test Secretary will notify each exhibitor at least ten (10) days before the test. Notification must include: Draft Test location (including a map and/or written directions or street address for GPS), judging time, judges' names, exhibitor number and any changes in the Draft Test information that occurred since the premium list was sent. If entries exceed the published entry limit, the Draft Test Secretary notifies alternates of their position on the alternate list, as per the Regulations. A cell phone contact number for the day of the test should also be listed in the premium or sent to entrants with their entry information.

The Draft Test Chair or Secretary must keep judges up to date on things such as entry numbers and hotel/travel information. Each judge should be sent a premium list, should receive a marked catalog, and should exchange cell phone numbers with someone on the committee.

The Draft Test Secretary will keep a copy of the current NCA Draft Test Regulations and Grievance Procedures at the test site for reference.

The Draft Test Chairperson will appoint a Safety Officer. The Safety Officer will be responsible for ensuring that no unentered dogs are permitted in any of the testing areas at a Draft Test.

The safety officer will also remind entrants to check on their dogs often and announce to entrants that dogs are not allowed to be kept in closed vehicles, even if the air conditioning is running. If a dog is in a vehicle, the vehicle must have at least one open window, door or hatchback. **It is not the club or safety officer's responsibility to**

keep a dog safe. It is the entrant/handler/owner's responsibility, whoever is in charge of caring for that dog on that day. The safety officer's job is only to remind entrants of their responsibility. If possible, the safety officer or other designated personnel should check on vehicles in the parking area throughout the day to be sure that no vehicles with dogs are totally closed and no vehicles with dogs are in the sun without sun protection.

The safety officer or judges will ask entrants during the question and answer session if there are any issues of which the committee and judges should be aware such as bee allergy, heart condition, accommodations for a handicap, anything that the entrant may want to share. In case of bee allergy someone on site should know the location of the person's epi-pen. They should also announce that the test secretary has directions to the closest human and veterinary hospitals should they be needed. The safety officer should also be sure that a tool made for breaking vehicle windows is available on site for vehicle owners to use if necessary.

The safety officer should coordinate with the chief steward if there are any unsafe areas on the freight haul, such as a road crossing or busy parking lot, to be sure extra stewards are available for safety.

The draft test secretary should send a reminder to all entrants about sending in test evaluations.

The Draft Test Chairperson and Draft Test Secretary must each submit reports to the designated WDC member within thirty (30) days after the test. The Chairperson's report will include a description of the test, descriptions of any problems or complaints registered with the Draft Test Committee, and other information requested by the WDC. The Secretary's report will include the Draft Test Record Forms, Entry Forms with AKC registrations, **one (1) electronic (PDF)** copy of the premium list, **one (1) electronic (PDF)** copy of the marked catalog, the secretary report form and any other materials requested by the WDC. The WDC Draft Test Records Secretary will send one **electronic** copy of the marked catalog to the NCA Historian. Test committees must submit articles to NewfTide in the specifications posted on the NewfTide submissions website. Those specifications for NewfTide are also available from the WDC.

All required reports submitted to the designated WDC member must be postmarked within thirty (30) days from the date of the test in order to receive approval for a subsequent test. Completed paperwork that is postmarked 1-5 days late will have the regional club assessed a \$25.00 late fee. Completed event paperwork postmarked 6+ days late will have the regional club assessed a \$50.00 late fee. Late fees must be paid by the Regional Club prior to approval of any further working event approval.

Section 3 – Qualifications of Judges

The WDC believes that the Draft Test Judges should thoroughly understand draft work and the physical conditioning necessary for draft work.

Before the Draft Test Committee applies for permission to host an NCA Draft Test, it must select a judging panel from the list of judges who have met the qualifications approved by the WDC and NCA Board. A current list is available from the designated WDC member who maintains the judges' qualifications records and on the NCA web site. Judges whose names are "flagged" on the judges list cannot accept assignments until they exhibit at a test, or pass an open book exam, and will not be approved on a judging panel. The judging panel at a Draft Test must include at least one judge with a team title which is indicated on the judges list.

Section 4 – Dogs Eligible to Compete

The NCA Draft Tests will be open to purebred Newfoundland dogs **at least eighteen months of age**. The word 'dog' in the NCA Draft Test Regulations refers to either sex. All entered dogs must have an AKC registration number, ILP or PAL number, foreign registration number, or AKC or foreign litter number.

Section 5 – Dogs that May Not Compete

No dog belonging wholly or in part to a Draft Test judge or to any member of such person's immediate family, including in-laws, can be exhibited under the judge. Lame dogs or dogs that have been taped or bandaged in any way, or have anything attached to them for medical purposes, shall be ineligible to be tested.

Section 6 – Handling a Dog

Each dog or team must be handled by the same person for all exercises. Handlers may be substituted after the test closes, but the Draft Test Secretary must be informed of the change before the test begins so that the record form can be changed.

Section 7 – Test Disqualifications and Ineligibility

Judges must immediately disqualify and remove from competition a handler and dog for any of the following reasons:

1. Any dog and handler team not signing in at the appointed time.
2. Any dog which its handler cannot control.
3. Any dog attacks a person or dog on the test grounds.
4. Any handler who deliberately interferes with another handler or dog.
5. Any handler who behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner in or outside the testing area. (Unsportsmanlike behavior includes: directing angry, abusive language at a

person or dog; mistreating a dog; showing discourtesies to judges, test officials, stewards or others.)

6. The dog is lame or wears corrective bandages or other attachments.
7. Any dog that leaves test area while being tested including after last exercise.

The judges will mark the dog disqualified and state the reason on the judges' report for the WDC. The Draft Test Secretary will submit the disqualification to the WDC along with the test report.

The WDC and the NCA have adopted the AKC official policy concerning dog attacks that lead to an injury, either to a person or to another dog. Also, Draft Test judges may excuse, and even ask to have removed from a test site, if necessary, any dog that appears dangerous to other dogs or persons. Actual reports of dog attacks causing injury to either a dog or a person would go directly through the grievance process.

If a judge excuses a dog for aggression that automatically creates a grievance that must be handled by the WDC. No fee is required when this occurs. The test committee must follow the grievance process by collecting witness statements from entrants, stewards or spectators, and the judges. The grievance paperwork will then be forwarded to the WDC, and ultimately to the NCA board of directors for a decision.

A grievance may be filed by the person injured, the person whose dog was injured, or any witness to an attack causing injury. The dog in question should be removed from the test site and cannot be entered in any subsequent NCA working events pending the completion of the grievance hearing process through the WDC, with subsequent action by the Board. Any future test in which the dog was already entered must be forfeited with the dog in question banned from the test site pending completion of the grievance process. The recommendation of the WDC will be sent to the Board following the grievance hearing, which would end the WDC jurisdiction. The Board will need to form a committee whose purpose it is to deal with reinstatement requests after the Board has denied further exhibition privileges for any Newfoundland.

AKC Rules Applying to Dog Shows: Chapter 11, Section 15- Any dog, that in the opinion of the Event Committee, attacks a person or dog at an AKC event, resulting in an injury, and is believed by that Event Committee to present a hazard to persons or other dogs, shall be disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed with the Executive Secretary of The American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not again compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to the American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated.

Section 8 – Bitches in Season

Bitches in season may participate in NCA Draft Tests. If the Basic Control exercises are performed far removed from the other exercises, bitches in season may perform these exercises after the last male dog has finished and before the other exercises begin. Otherwise, bitches in season must compete only after all male dogs are judged. When not being tested, bitches in season must be contained in a designated area well away from male dogs and the official test areas. At least one other bitch must be available to perform the group exercises with any bitches in season. Bitches that have had an ovarian sparing spay are required to be tested as “Bitches in Season”.

Section 9 – Unentered Dogs

A Safety Officer will be appointed and is responsible for insuring that all unentered dogs are kept outside and away from the main test area.

Section 10 – Entering at Own Risk

Entrants participate in an NCA Draft Test at their own risk. Entrants agree to abide by the NCA Draft Test Regulations and the Constitution and By-laws of the NCA. Entrants agree that they will uphold the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, the NCA Code of Ethics, and (if applicable) the NCA Judges Code of Ethics. They also agree that any violation of the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, the NCA Code of Ethics and/or the Judges Code of Ethics will be handled pursuant to the Grievance policies listed on the NCA Working Dog Committee website and event toolkits.

Section 11 – Judges' Decisions

At the Draft Test, the decisions of the judges are final in all matters affecting the scoring and working ability of the dogs and their entrants. The judges are in sole charge of the Draft Test area until their assignment is complete.

Section 12 – Entry Limitation

Entries for a Draft Test must not be accepted prior to the date when the Regional Club's Test Secretary receives notification from the WDC of test approval. The Premium List must not be made available prior to the Test Secretary receiving approval notification from the WDC. Once approval is granted, the Draft Test Committee can determine the date it will accept entries of NCA members and non-NCA members and the date shall be published in the Premium List. This date must be at least ten (10) days after the Premium List has been made public.

Maximum entries to be judged are fifteen (15) per test. If a Draft Test Committee anticipates an entry in excess of its facilities for a Draft Test, it may limit entries to fewer

than fifteen (15). Test Committees may also decide on a minimum number of entries to hold the test as long as it is published in the Premium List.

A prominent announcement of test limits must appear on the title or cover page of the Draft Test Premium List. Priority will be given to entries that have not earned titles in the division entered. Titled dogs may be entered for judging (requalification) if entry limits have not been filled, and the entry form must state that the entry is for requalification. Under no circumstances can the published entry limit be changed.

Entries will be accepted by mail only and must show a postmark between the opening and closing date but must be received by the Test Secretary by the closing date.

Accepting Entries:

Test premiums will list an opening date for NCA members entries and an opening date for non-NCA members entries which will be 10 days later, as well as a closing date for all entries. After the opening date for non-NCA members all entries will be handled equally whether an NCA member or not.

The opening date is the earliest date an entry can be sent as indicated by the postmark of the entry; the closing date is the last day an entry can be received by the test secretary and is unrelated to the postmark. The test will not close officially until the published closing date, even if the entries exceed the limit before the closing date. No dog will be allowed to enter more than once **in the same test** including as an individual entry and a team entry or in two teams. There are no post entries.

Do not assign final entries until the closing date. This will accommodate entries that arrive on different dates but that have identical postmarks. Open all envelopes before assigning entries, because some envelopes may contain more than one entry and some may be entering only one day of a two-day test weekend.

When the test closes, if the entries exceed the maximum limit, follow the procedure listed below. If a lottery is required as specified below, a separate lottery **MUST** be held for each of the two days of a two-day test weekend. (Note: An efficient and unbiased way to do a lottery is to number each entry and put the corresponding numbers on small, individual pieces of paper. Randomly select the papers to determine the status of each entry.) There must always be at least two people present to witness the lottery, at least one of which is not entered in the test.

Assigning Entries:

1. Assign a spot in the test to each entry of an NCA member postmarked with the first allowed entry date; assign a spot in the test to each entry of an NCA member postmarked with the second allowed entry date; continue as above until all of the entries of NCA members who have sent in their entries before the non-NCA member opening date, are assigned spots in the test or the test is full. Continue to do the same with the non-NCA member entries and the NCA member entries that arrives after the non-NCA member entry date.

2. If, at any time, there are more entries with identical postmarks than spots available in the test, conduct a lottery to determine which entries are accepted into the test. Those not assigned spots become alternates.

Example 1: If the entries received with the first allowed postmark exceed the test limit on the closing date, conduct a lottery with all of the entries with that postmark. Those not chosen become alternates. Continue to do a lottery for each postmarked date to determine the order of the alternate list.

Example 2: There are openings in the test for entries postmarked with the first and second allowed date. Five entries are postmarked with the third allowed date and there are two openings left. Conduct a lottery with those five entries—two will be entered in the test and three will become alternates as will any entries with later postmarks.

Example 3: If the limit is 15, and there are 20 entries with the first postmark, the first 15 randomly selected in the lottery will be assigned spots in the test and the remaining entries will be pulled as first alternate, second alternate, third alternate, etc. Assign other entries with later postmarks as alternates in the same way doing a lottery for each postmarked date.

3. Add requalification entries to the alternate list after all untitled dogs on the list. Requalification entries should be added by postmark and by lottery, as necessary. If a test is not full it does not matter in what order the requalifiers are tested.

Withdrawing Entries and Refunds:

To withdraw an entry, the entrant must notify the Test Secretary by telephone, email, or U.S. Mail. This should be done, if possible, early enough so that the Test Secretary receives the notification before the test. The Test Secretary must confirm receipt of such notifications. The entrant will receive a full refund of the entry fee if the notification is received prior to the closing date and time for entries. After the closing date has passed, no refunds will be given, even if an alternate was tested in their place, with the exception of alternates that did not get into the test. In addition, an entrant with one dog in the test and another on the alternate list may not substitute one dog for the other. If the entrant must pull the entered dog, then the first dog on the alternate list will fill the opening.

Alternates and Refunds:

If an entrant submits an entry to a Draft Test but is not assigned a place in the test, the Test Secretary must notify the entrant immediately after the closing date and give the entrant the option to be placed on the alternate list. If the entrant prefers not to be on the alternate list, he or she will receive a full refund. If the entrant chooses to stay on the alternate list and pulls their entry at a later date, before the test, they will not receive a refund.

Once the closing date and time listed in the Premium List has passed, if an entrant notifies the Test Secretary that they are withdrawing their entry or have passed at a previous test, all entrants on the alternate list must be notified that their ranks have

changed. If a space does not become available for an alternate on the day of the test, the alternate will receive a full refund.

Example: If a test limit is 15 dogs and 15 dogs are tested, but none of the five dogs that were on an alternate list were tested, the five alternates would receive refunds after the test. If 10 original dogs and three of the alternates were tested, but two alternates did not attend the test, the handlers of those two alternates would not receive refunds because had they attended, they would have been tested.

If an entrant has been assigned a spot in the test but their dog passes at a previous test, the handler must notify the Test Secretary by 6 p.m. the night before the test as to whether they will move their entry to another division (i.e. DD to TDD), withdraw from the test, or requalify in the same division if the test is not full. If the test is full they have the option of being moved to the end of the alternate list to requalify.

Section 13 – Entry in Team Division

A team consists of two or more dogs working together in unison. Only dogs passing the Individual Division at a previous test will be eligible to compete in the Team Division. See Chapter 1, Section 5, for handler eligibility.

If a dog entered and passed the Individual Division in a previous Draft Test, the entry may be transferred from Individual to Team Division by one of two methods:

1. The dog entered in the Individual Division may be added, or substituted, to an already entered team.
2. The dog entered in the Individual Division may change their entry to the Team Division with a dog or dogs that have earned Draft Dog Titles (proof must be shown as described below for each dog in the team).

To transfer the entry, the handler must submit to the Draft Test Secretary a copy of the dog's Draft Dog title certificate or a signed statement listing the name of the dog, the date and location of the Draft Test passed, the judges' names, and the name and address of the owners, a copy of the dogs AKC registration (or equivalent) and a completed Draft Test entry form for each dog. A change of entry from Individual to Team Division must be submitted by 6:00 p.m. the night before the test.

Section 14 – Qualifying Scores & Awards

For a dog or dogs to receive a qualifying performance, both judges must mark the dog with a passing performance for each exercise in the division entered. A dog receiving a qualifying performance in Individual Division is entitled to use the title "Draft Dog" in any Newfoundland Club of America activity. "DD" is the abbreviation for the Draft Dog title. Dogs receiving a qualifying performance in Team Division are entitled to use the title "Team Draft Dog" in any activity. "TDD" is the abbreviation for the Team Draft Dog title.

A dog that requalifies either at the individual or team level will add the number of requalifications after the title such as: DD1 for a dog that has earned its DD title and requalified once or TDD2 for a dog that has earned its team draft dog title and requalified twice at the team level.

Section 15 – Change of Judges, Draft Test Officials or Site

If a Draft Test Committee is informed any time prior to the opening of its Draft Test, that an advertised judge cannot fulfill his/her engagement to judge, the Draft Test Committee will substitute a judge from the NCA WDC Approved Judges List. The WDC Draft Test Applications Secretary (or the WDC Chairperson in the event the Secretary cannot be contacted) must be notified immediately in order to approve the substitution. The WDC Draft Test Applications Secretary may be notified by telephone, mail or electronic means. This same policy applies to an emergency change of site, Draft Test

Chairperson or Test Secretary. If the request is made by phone, a follow-up letter must be sent to the Draft Test Applications Secretary by mail or electronic means with a full explanation. The Draft Test Applications Secretary must notify the WDC members of the changes and reasons for the request. If time permits, a written notice should be mailed to all exhibitors. In the unlikely event that a judge becomes ill or is unable to fulfill the judging assignment on the day of the test, and the WDC Draft Test Applications Secretary or Chairperson cannot be reached according to the procedures described above, the Draft Test Committee may substitute an Approved Draft Test Judge who is in attendance at the test to fulfill the assignment. If an approved judge is not available, a qualified person with considerable Draft Test training and exhibiting experience (see Chapter Two, Section 1, paragraph 2) may be appointed by the Draft Test Committee to fulfill the assignment. The WDC Draft Test Applications Secretary or Chairperson must be notified of the substitution as soon as possible, and a full explanation for the substitution, including the qualifications of the substitute judge, must be included in the Test Chairperson's report.

Prior to the start of the test or substitute judging assignment, the change must be made known to the exhibitors. Exhibitors have the right to withdraw their entry if they choose not to exhibit under the substitute judge and their entry fee will be refunded.

In the event a site must be changed, the Draft Test Committee should make every effort to secure a suitable site within 25 miles of the original site.

If, because of natural disasters, civil disturbances, or other acts beyond the control of the test-giving club, it is impossible to start or complete the test, no refund of entry fees will be made.

Section 16 – Stewards

Stewards assist the judges and they may act only on the judges' instructions. Stewards must not give information or instructions to owners and entrants except as specifically

instructed by a judge and then only in such a manner that it is clear that the instructions are those of a judge. Any harassment of stewards must be reported immediately to the judges.

At least two stewards are required for all exercises. In addition, the test committee must provide a sufficient number of stewards on the Distance Freight Haul: two lead stewards to set a brisk pace, and one steward assigned to each handler and dog for safety and, at the judges' request, to monitor handler's compliance with the Regulations. If there are not enough stewards to have two lead stewards and one with each cart then the Freight Haul will have to be divided. The Freight Haul cannot take place without at least two lead stewards and one steward with each cart.

Section 17 – Test Area Conditions

The testing areas **as well as the perimeter areas indicating what is outside the testing area** must be clearly marked (e.g. ribbons on trees, lime path on route, and so forth). Only members of the Draft Test Committee, judges, and stewards have unlimited access to the testing areas. Only the current handler and dog being tested are permitted in the testing areas.

At the judges' discretion, spectators may be permitted to follow the last entrant on the Freight Haul course but are not permitted in other testing areas.

Section 18 – Spectators

As Newfoundlands working under natural conditions may be in places where there are extraneous sounds (such as in a parade or in a grocery store parking lot), spectators are encouraged to applaud and cheer for a performing dog. However, spectators must not interfere with the performance in any way. Judges may use their discretion to determine what constitutes interference.

Section 19 – Emergency Provisions

The Draft Test Committee should take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of everyone involved. It is recommended that the services of a veterinarian be available during a Draft Test. The veterinarian may be 'on call' if the office is within a fifteen (15) minute drive and a telephone is available at the Draft Test site. Otherwise, the veterinarian must be on site. First aid equipment must be available to handle injuries. **A backboard is recommended. A tool made for breaking vehicle windows must be available on site.**

Section 20 – Provisions for Disabled Handlers

The following provisions were approved to make it possible for more Newfoundland owners to participate in Draft Tests who may have been unable to do so in the past. As a courtesy, entrants who wish to avail themselves of these accommodations should notify the Test Committee and the judges in advance.

1. Disabled handlers should be allowed to utilize whatever devices are needed to aid their mobility, such as a cane, crutch, or wheelchair, but these devices must not be used to control the dog in any way.
2. Certified assistance dogs should be allowed to wear a medpack and/or pull handle if such equipment is worn during the normal course of duty as an assistance dog, as long as they do not interfere with the performance of the harness and draft equipment.
3. The draft equipment and harness may be modified to accommodate the handler's disabilities and to permit him/her to harness and hitch the dog without assistance, as long as the modified equipment is safe and comfortable for the dog.
4. A disabled person may bring an attendant, knowledgeable in assisting the handler with his/her disabilities, to accompany the handler on the Maneuvering and Freight Haul exercises. The role of the attendant is to assist the handler with mobility, if needed, due to the rough or uneven terrain of the course, and to look out for the person's safety. The attendant should walk slightly behind the handler on the right side, to be in a position to provide assistance, yet out of the line of sight of the dog, and on the opposite side from the handler's official test steward. The attendant may not touch, speak to, or interact with the dog in any way.
5. The AKC Guidelines for accommodating disabled handlers in Obedience will apply for the Basic Control Exercise.

Section 21 – Canceling a Test

If a Draft Test is canceled the WDC Draft Test applications person must be notified immediately.

Section 22 – Entries of Other Breeds

It is optional for test committees to accept the entries of breeds other than Newfoundlands or mixed breeds in their test under the following conditions: The test must not be full, the judges and committee must agree to accept the entry, the entry will not be judged until after all Newfoundlands have been judged and the Newfoundland test is considered finished including bitches in season, there must be a “volunteer” dog to participate in the Long Down, the Out of Sight and Freight Load and the Freight Haul since they are considered group exercises.

Chapter Two Regulations for Performance and Judging

Section 1 – Standardized Judging

Standardized judging is of great importance, and since NCA Draft Tests occur on natural terrain, the judges may, if necessary, make minimal adaptations to the exercises to fit the available site. Judges must act in a professional, impartial, and pleasant manner in accordance with the NCA Judges Code of Ethics. If, in the opinion of the judges, the test setup is not safe or will not adequately test a dog's and handler's abilities, the judges may disapprove of the Draft Test Committee's test setup and make suggestions for improvements. **In no instance, however, should the judges add, delete or change any draft test requirement.**

Judges selected by a Draft Test Committee for a Draft Test should be chosen for their ability to judge Newfoundland dogs working in harness. Judges should possess thorough knowledge of the Draft Test Regulations, a sense of fairness, and consideration for the efforts of dogs and handlers. The NCA WDC maintains a copy of the Qualifications for Draft Test Judges and a current list of approved judges which is also available on the NCA web site. Two judges are required to judge a Draft Test, one of which must have earned a team title. Judges should use the NCA Equipment Guide to support and explain their judging decisions.

Section 2 – Failed Exercises and Rejudging

During the Draft Test, judges may permit a handler to assist his/her dog in completing a failed exercise. Only gentle guidance by the dog's collar is permitted as discipline.

If a dog fails a particular exercise, it will not ordinarily be rejudged. However, if in the judges' opinion, a particular and unusual circumstance affected the dog's performance, the judges may retest the dog on the complete exercise at their discretion. If the judges retest a dog on an exercise, they should explain the reason on the Judges' Record. The reason for the retesting should be announced to the spectators. Exhibitors should not be failed for personal ideas that are not within the regulations or equipment set up as described in the equipment guide.

Section 3 – Dog or Person in Distress

If at any time during a Draft Test it becomes apparent to either the handler or a judge that a dog or person is in distress, the exercise will be immediately terminated, and the dog will be recorded as failed unless the judges determine that the cause of distress is due to an unusual circumstance. In that case, the judges may permit the dog to be retested. The dog or person should be given a reasonable period of time to recover before testing resumes. If the dog or person does not recover sufficiently to continue testing without causing an unreasonable delay, the judges must mark the dog failed. If in the judges' opinion a handler is not showing reasonable consideration for the dog's

welfare, it is within the judges' discretion to terminate the exercise and to mark the dog as failed.

Section 4 – Judges' Records Forms

The judges will record the pass or fail performances for each dog on the Judges' Record forms following the conclusion of the test. Any significant comments on judges' score sheets should be noted on the Judges' Records. Entrants may view their score sheets. If the judges retain the score sheets for their own records, the Test Committee, at its option, may provide copies for the entrants.

Section 5 – Entrant's and Judge's Evaluations

The Draft Test Committee will provide each entrant and judge with a Test Evaluation Form with the name and address of the WDC Test Evaluations person. Entrants and judges should complete the forms and mail to the WDC Test Evaluations person within two weeks. These evaluations may also be filled out electronically on the NCA web site under the Draft Test page of the Working Dog section. If it is a two-day test with the same site and judges entrants will only have to complete one evaluation. If the two-day test has different sites or at least one different judge then entrants should complete two evaluations, one for each day. The WDC compiles information from these evaluations to send anonymous feedback to judges and Test Committees. **Please remember to complete these evaluations; they are very important.**

Section 6 – Catalog Order/Check In/Certificates

Catalog order will be determined by the order in which entries are received unless a handler requests, at the time of entry, a change due to handling two or more dogs or teams.

Handlers and dogs must exhibit in catalog order unless otherwise allowed by the judges.

It is the responsibility of each handler to be ready since judges are not required to wait for an entrant. If no arrangements have been made in advance, judges may mark absent and refuse to judge any dog or team that is not ready to be judged in catalog order.

Bitches in season are judged as stated in the Chapter I, Section 8, "Bitches in Season" in Chapter I. Exercises are performed in the order given in Chapter III, "Individual Division" and Chapter IV, "Team Division."

To facilitate judging, entrants may be divided into groups of equal size in catalog order for the Distance Freight Haul. The judges may switch an entrant from one group to another only for special circumstances, such as to accommodate a bitch in season. As the dogs begin the trail, judges may allow the dogs to find their position within the group

according to each handler and dog's working speed. Under no circumstances should groups be divided into dogs that are passing or have failed.

Handlers must check in with the test secretary during the advertised check in time. If a handler is not present during the advertised check-in time they will not be judged that day. If an alternate list exists an entrant from the alternate list will be assigned the absent handler's position. If there have been changes to the entry since the test closed such as a different handler or the dog has passed a previously entered test the test secretary must be notified at the check in time. Handlers must be sure that all of the information on the test record form is correct before they sign it. The information on the test record form will be used to produce the title certificate if the dog passes the test. If the handler signs the form without telling the secretary about any corrections that need to be made there will be a \$15 charge to have the title certificate corrected. If a certificate is lost or a duplicate is needed for a co-owner there will be a \$10 charge.

Section 7 – Use of Leash

All dogs at an NCA sponsored Draft Test are tested off lead unless otherwise specified in the description of an exercise. All dogs must be held on a leash or securely confined at all times when not being tested.

Section 8 – Required Equipment

Handlers

In addition to providing a collar and leash, the handler provides the dog's draft equipment (including appropriate harness, traces, and draft apparatus for site conditions) and a freight load that properly fits the draft apparatus. Equipment may be shared by two (2) or more exhibitors or by two (2) or more dogs owned by the same exhibitor; however, the sharing must not interfere with the safety or the timely completion of the Draft Test.

A Dog entered in the test must wear a well-fitted plain buckle, slip or snap-around slip collar. Fancy collars, special training collars, electronic collars, halter collars and collars that are improperly fitted are not permitted. There shall not be anything hanging from the collar.

The harness must fit the dog. At test sites where the Distance Freight Haul encompasses hilly terrain, the WDC strongly recommends that an entrant use a siwash-style harness for the dog's safety and efficiency in hauling. If an appropriate harness and apparatus are not used in such terrain, the judges may fail the handler for improper equipment for trail conditions.

If at any time during the test the equipment breaks down in a manner that could not have been anticipated by the handler, the judges may allow the handler to make an emergency repair. The repair must be made within ten (10) minutes with materials that

the handler carries or carries in the apparatus. The handler must make the repairs without assistance from others.

Draft Test Committee

The Draft Test Committee must provide the following test items:

ropes, standards or ring gates for Basic Control and test area where needed

exhibitor numbers

watch or stop watch to time "stays" clipboards and pencils or pens for judges

markers for the distance freight haul obstacles

scale for weighing the freight loads

Cell phone or two way radios, if there is no cell signal, to take on the Freight Haul in case an emergency arises with a dog or person.

Stretcher large enough to hold a Newfoundland should be available on site.

In addition, the Draft Test Committee must have first aid equipment available and a vehicle large enough to carry a dog and handler. A tool made for breaking car windows must be available on site.

Examples of Removable Obstacles include the following: gates, saw horses, logs, branches, and highway construction cones. Obedience equipment must not be used. When deciding what Removable Obstacles to use, the Draft Test Committee should consider the types of obstacles working dogs encounter in parades, neighborhoods, the woods, and a trip to a store.

Prior to the beginning of the Draft Test, the judges will inspect and approve or disapprove all of the equipment provided by the Draft Test Committee. The equipment must be suitable for the test site. Judges will use the NCA Equipment Guide as a reference for judging equipment.

Section 9 – Commands, Signals and Encouragement

During the testing, a handler may give commands, signals and encouragement to the dog by voice, arm signal or with a verbal whistle. Multiple commands and signals are permitted. When one command only is specified for an exercise, it may be a voice, hand, or simultaneous voice and hand command. A simultaneous voice and hand command is considered a single command. While an entrant may encourage the dog in a pleasant upbeat manner, undue and frequent yelling, shouting or reprimands should

be considered undesirable and unnecessary for a dog under control. Such behavior constitutes a failure of the exercise.

Section 10 – Praise

Physical praise and petting are encouraged between and after exercises. A handler shall not carry or offer food during the exercises or in the testing area.

Section 11 – Handling between Exercises

A dog may be guided gently by the collar between exercises. No other physical guidance is permitted and will result in a failure.

Section 12 – Familiarization with the Test Courses

Sixty (60) minutes before the start of judging, handlers and dogs (except bitches in season) are allowed a thirty (30) minute period to familiarize themselves with the test areas. At least three (3) stewards must be available to walk entrants on the Distance Freight Haul course and to monitor the test areas. Handlers may walk the course with their dogs on lead, but not hitched to an apparatus. Dogs must not be allowed to urinate on the walk through of maneuvering course. Handlers will not be permitted to walk the Maneuvering or Distance Freight Haul courses after this time period.

No later than sixty (60) minutes before the start of judging, all entrants will check in with the Draft Test Secretary. If a handler is not present during the advertised check-in time they will not be judged that day and an entrant from the alternate list, if any, will be assigned the absent handler's position.

Thirty (30) minutes before the start of judging, handlers and stewards must meet with the judges for instructions. Judges will answer questions at this time.

Section 13 – Interference and Double Handling

Double handling or interference is not permitted. If a judge notices assistance or interference while a handler and dog are performing, the judge must act promptly to stop the double handling or interference. If the circumstances warrant (in the judges' opinion), the judge shall mark the dog failed for the exercise when aid was received.

Section 14 – Complaints and Discipline

Complaints against judges, exhibitors, or members of the test-giving committee will be dealt with according to the NCA WDC Grievance Policy. The Test Committee is required to have copies of the Grievance Procedure with the approved forms at the Draft Test. Any person attending a Draft Test may obtain a copy of the NCA WDC Grievance Procedure and forms from the Draft Test Chairperson. All complaints must

be filed with the Test Chair within thirty (30) minutes of the end of the test. The WDC and the NCA Grievance Policies are also available on the NCA web site.

Section 15 – Qualifying and Non-Qualifying Performance

A dog's ability to perform assigned tasks with its handler is the primary quality emphasized in a Draft Test. In addition, judges must consider a dog's willingness and smoothness of performance. A dog that willingly completes each task within a reasonable time period and without physical assistance should be marked as passed.

To earn a title, both judges must pass dog and handler on all exercises in either the Individual or Team Division.

The judges will inform entrants if they pass or fail at the completion of each series of exercises as follows:

Basic Control after Group long down

Harnessing, Hitching, Equipment Check after Entrant's completion of the exercise

Maneuvering Course, Basic Commands after Entrant's completion of the exercise

Freight Load and Out-of-Sight Stay after Group Exercise

Distance Freight Haul after Group Exercise

Judges will mark entrants with a failing performance during any portion of the test for the following

Failures Common to All Exercises:

1. Any dog not signing in at the appointed time.
2. A dog is not under the handler's control. If at any time, the dog is deemed to be "out of control", in the judge's opinion, the judge may fail the dog and request that, to continue, the dog perform the rest of the test on leash.
2. A handler yells at his/her dog frequently to maintain control of his/her dog.
3. A handler abuses the dog or fails to show consideration for the dog's welfare.
4. The dog upsets the draft apparatus.

5. A dog urinates while being tested (except during the freight haul when it will be limited to one occurrence).
6. A dog defecates while being tested (except during the freight haul when it will be limited to one occurrence and the handler must clean up appropriately).
7. The handler or dog violates specific test site regulations.
8. The handler uses his/her body to block the forward motion of the dog.
9. The dog leaves the test area while being tested. The dog is then disqualified and will not continue with the exercise or in the test.
10. Dog leaves test area before being put on leash at end of testing.

Chapter Three Individual Division Exercises

Section 1 – Basic Control

All dogs entered in the Draft Dog test must perform Basic Control.

The handler and dog are tested to verify the handler's control over the dog off lead before they are attached to an apparatus. Unlike AKC Obedience Trials, however, no point system exists and handlers are permitted to talk and to encourage their dogs during the exercises *where permitted*.

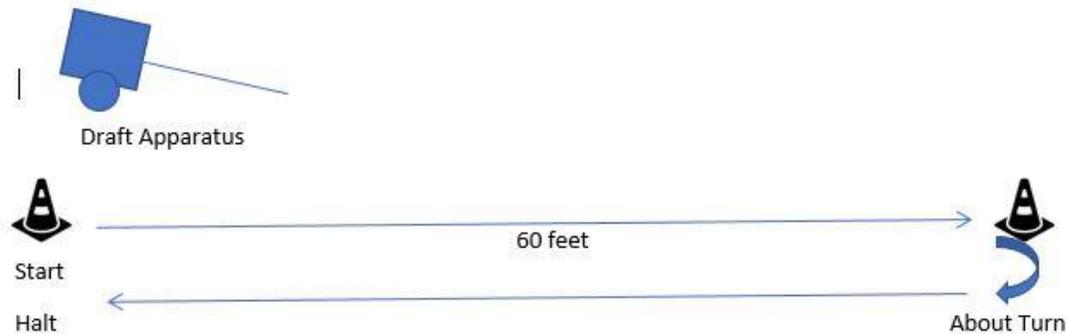
Prior to the official beginning of the exercise, the handler will bring the draft equipment, including the harness, to the steward assigned to the test area. The steward will place the draft apparatus with the harness in the test area according to the judge's instructions.

Basic Control will be performed off leash in a designated area marked off as part of the Harnessing and Hitching area. There are two parts to Basic Control: Controlled Walking and a Recall. The only sit required in Basic Control is at the start of the Recall exercise. One judge will call the commands, but both judges mark the dog and handler's performances. The dog may be guided gently by the collar between exercises. Extra hand signals, voice commands, and praise are acceptable on the motion exercises.

If the dog leaves the marked test area at any time during Basic Control it is a disqualification. If a dog is disqualified the dog will not be allowed to continue in the test and may not finish the exercise. If the handler grabs the dog to prevent the dog from leaving the test area it is a failure but not a disqualification.

Controlled Walking

Controlled Walking



(One additional halt will be added by judges)

A steward will take the leash at the edge of the test area. The handler may take the dog gently by the collar and enter the test area off leash, when directed to do so by the judges, and proceed to a designated marker (cone, flag, post) near the apparatus.

Controlled Walking should be done in a relatively straight line from marker to marker. The dog must walk with the handler in response to the commands given and must remain within four feet of the handler **the majority of the time**. The handler must not touch the dog but may command and encourage the dog. The dog is not required to remain in any particular position but must remain within four feet of the handler **the majority of the time**. The dog does not have to sit at any time during this exercise, however, before the exercise begins handlers may GENTLY place the dog into a sit if they so choose.

One judge will state "This is controlled walking, are you ready?" If the handler indicates that he/she is not ready to begin he/she can take the dog gently by the collar and take a few seconds to reposition or refocus the dog and then indicate to the judge that they are ready. When the handler indicates that he/she is ready to begin he/she must remove his/her hand from the collar. The judge will give a command to move forward. The handler and dog will move forward in a relatively straight line toward the marker that is 60 feet away where the judge will give a command for an about turn. After the about turn the handler and dog will continue forward 60 feet to the original marker where the judge will give a command to halt. At some point during the Controlled Walking pattern the judge will give an additional halt command which will be in the same location for all dogs. Once the dog and handler have reached the original marker and halted the judge will indicate "exercise finished". The handler may then take the dog gently by the collar and set up for the recall.

During this exercise one judge will call commands, but both judges will score. The commands from the judge will include: forward, about turn, halt, and exercise finished.

If the dog leaves the four-foot area around the handler during Controlled Walking it **must** return to the handler within 20 seconds of leaving the four-foot radius. If the dog does not return to the handler within 20 seconds or leaves the ring, it will be a disqualification and the dog will not be allowed to continue in the test.

Principal parts of the Controlled Walking Exercise

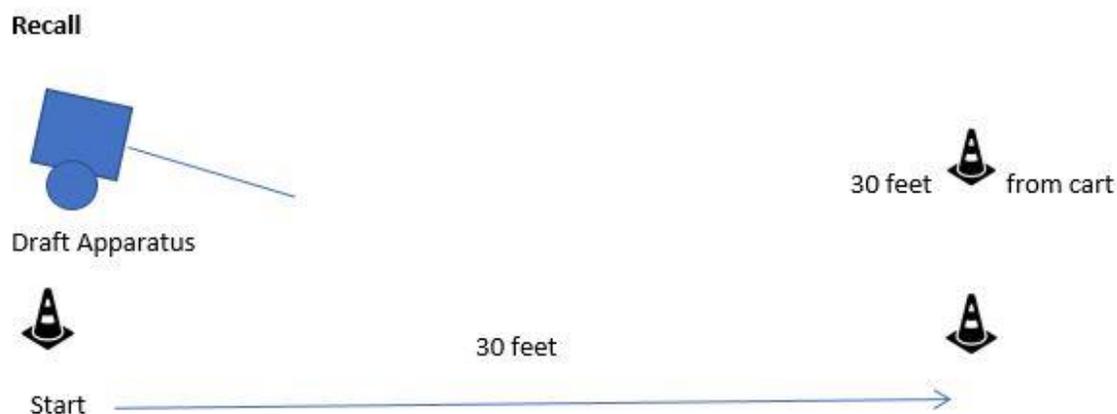
1. The dog will respond to his handler's commands and walk in a controlled manner.
2. The dog will walk within four feet of the handler **the majority of the time**.

Failing Performance

1. Dog walks beyond four feet of the handler **for the majority of the time**.
2. Handler must constantly adapt to the pace of the dog.
3. Dog is considered **out of control** by the judges.
4. Dog must be physically handled by the handler during controlled walking.
5. The dog refuses to accompany the handler.
6. The dog **urinates or defecates in the test area**.
7. **The handler grabs the dog to prevent it from leaving the test area.**

Recall

The recall will be performed following Controlled Walking. The handler may gently hold the dog by the collar to prepare the dog to start at the marker where Controlled Walking finished near the apparatus. The judge will state "This is the Recall exercise, are you ready?" If the handler indicates that he/she is not ready to begin he/she can take a few seconds to reposition or refocus the dog and then indicate to the judge that they are ready. When the handler indicates that he/she is ready to begin he/she must remove his/her hand from the collar.



The judge will instruct the handler to "Sit your dog" (handler may GENTLY place dog into a sit) and will ask "Are you ready?" The judge will then instruct the handler to "Leave your dog". The handler must give only one stay command. The stay command can be given by both voice and hand simultaneously. The dog must stay in a sit until called by the handler. The handler will walk to the **designated marker thirty (30) feet away**, turn, face the dog, and remain in place until the exercise is finished. The judge will instruct the handler by voice or hand signal to call the dog. A signal, verbal command, or simultaneous commands may be used to call the dog. Extra hand signals and vocal commands are allowed after the dog begins to move. The dog must respond within 10 seconds. The dog will come close enough to be touched by the handler and should sit, but is not required to sit, facing the handler. The judge's commands to the handler are "Sit your dog", "Leave your dog", "Call your dog", and "Exercise finished". (The dog is not required to finish). **The handler may then take the dog gently by the collar, pat and praise and prepare for the next exercise, harnessing and hitching.**

If the dog does not go directly to the handler **or remains more than 4 feet away from the handler or does not return to the handler within 20 seconds of being called it will fail.** If the dog runs around the ring area and does not return to the handler within 20 seconds of being called or leaves the test area, it will be a disqualification and the dog will not be allowed to continue in the test.

Principal parts of the Recall Exercise

1. The dog will remain in place **in a sit** until called by the handler. "Stay" may be both verbal command and/or signal.
2. The dog will respond within ten (10) seconds.
3. **The dog will come directly to the handler, but may arc, within four feet of the handler and stop.**

4. The handler will remain in place until the exercise is complete.

Failing Performance

1. Handler gives more than one (1) stay command or more than one “come” command. (Hand signals and voice commands must be given at the same time to be considered “one command”).
2. The dog does not stay in place in a sit.
3. Dog does not respond to the first ‘Come’ command within 10 seconds.
4. Dog does not go to the handler.
5. Dog goes to the handler but remains out of reach.
6. Dog **urinates or defecates in the test area.**
7. **The handler grabs the dog to prevent it from leaving the test area.**

Section 2 – Harnessing, Hitching & Equipment Check

A Draft Test demonstrates cooperation between the handler and dog. Since a handler's draft work knowledge and abilities are essential to draft work, the judges evaluate a handler's knowledge and ability to select the correct equipment for the dog, site, and conditions and to use the equipment properly. It is critical that a handler understand the equipment that the dog uses and its correct fit, since the dog has no recourse if the equipment is poor. The equipment includes the harness, draft apparatus, freight weight and any traces or tack required. The same equipment must be used for the duration of the test. All equipment to be used by a handler at a draft test must be thoroughly inspected by the judges for suitability. Equipment must be checked on each day of testing prior to the start of each test even if using the same equipment as the day before. Once inspected substitutions are not permitted without the judge's approval.

Using the equipment provided by the handler, the handler harnesses and hitches the dog in this exercise. A handler may touch the dog only as required to harness and to hitch the dog but may not touch to discipline or touch the collar other than to move the collar out from under the harness. The dog must demonstrate willingness to be harnessed and hitched to the draft apparatus without shying. The judges should touch the dog and equipment as necessary for checking the appropriate fit and balance. Once checked, equipment may not be substituted, and the handler must use the approved equipment throughout the remainder of the test.

The equipment must remain in safe working condition throughout the Draft Test. Consequently, the judges may fail improper or unsafe equipment during the scheduled Equipment Check or at **any time** during the remainder of the test.

After completing the Recall exercise, the judges will ask the handler if they are ready to begin Harnessing and Hitching. When the handler indicates they are ready, the handler must have hands off their dog at that time. Then, the judges instruct the handler to proceed to an indicated spot which is thirty (30) feet from the draft apparatus. This must be done off leash and with hands off the dog and collar. The judges will then instruct the handler to harness and hitch his/her dog. The handler instructs the dog to stay in any position, facing any direction, leaves the dog, gets the harness, and returns to harness the dog. The dog must remain in the position and location in which they were left by the handler. The handler may instruct the dog to cooperate for harnessing and hitching.

When instructed by the judges, the handler commands the dog to back up. Within a thirty (30) second time limit, the dog must back a distance of at least four (4) feet closer to the apparatus, in the direction of the draft apparatus, without varying more than 90 degrees to either side. If the dog backs at an angle the dog must back further than four feet to actually be four feet closer to the apparatus. Next, the handler hitches the dog to the draft apparatus by either telling the dog to stay and bringing the apparatus to the dog or instructing the dog to accompany him/her, hands off, to the apparatus. When the dog is completely hitched, the judges will indicate that the dog and handler are to move to a predetermined location (at least twenty (20) feet ahead) and stop. As the dog and handler move forward, the judges observe the equipment to verify that the equipment works safely, efficiently, and in harmony with the dog's anatomy during the forward motion and during braking. When the dog and handler have stopped at the designated location, a judge calls the exercise finished. The judges will then go over the equipment to be sure that it fits and is adjusted correctly.

Judges instruct the handlers through the exercise using such commands as: harness your dog, back your dog, hitch your dog, move forward to the next position and halt, exercise finished. Judges are expected to adapt their instructions to the handler, dog and test site conditions.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. Handler leaves the dog in the center of the test area in a stand, sit or down position (handler's choice), facing any direction and instructs the dog to stay.
2. Handler gets harness and returns to dog.
- 3 Dog cooperates with handler for harnessing.
4. Dog stands, backs up at least four (4) feet closer to the cart without substantially changing direction; the handler may reposition by voice or hand commands and restart the back within thirty (30) seconds from the start of exercise.
5. Dog cooperates for hitching.

6. Handler and hitched dog move into position in center of test area and indicate readiness to proceed.
7. Handler demonstrates that the equipment performs safely and efficiently when in motion and when braking.
8. Judges inspect equipment, which must fit correctly, be in good working condition, safe and appropriate for the test site and for the dog.
9. Handler uses equipment correctly and appropriately during the remainder of the test.

Failing Performance

1. Handler physically guides dog during the exercise, with the exception of the necessary physical contact required to harness and to hitch the dog.
2. Dog refuses to accompany handler to harnessing or hitching area.
3. Dog leaves location or changes position where told to stay while handler gets harness.
4. Dog is uncooperative (walks away, refuses to obey handler's commands) during harnessing.
5. Dog refuses to back up four (4) feet on command within thirty (30) seconds.
6. Dog substantially changes direction while backing (judges' discretion, but changes of direction less than 90 degrees will not fail).
7. Dog is uncooperative during hitching.
8. Handler does not properly harness or hitch the dog to the apparatus.
9. Harness does not fit correctly.
10. The hitch is unsafe.
11. Apparatus balance is unsafe or causes dog trouble while working.
12. Equipment is poorly designed or in need of repair.
13. Draft equipment selected by handler is inappropriate for site.
14. Equipment breaks in a manner that could not be anticipated and cannot be repaired by the handler without assistance within ten (10) minutes.

Section 3 – Maneuvering Course & Basic Commands

The Draft Test Committee sets up and clearly marks a maneuvering course that includes as many natural features as possible. The judges will verify that the course meets the test criteria. If necessary, the judges may modify the course so that it adequately tests the handler and dog's maneuvering abilities. The course must cover at least 150 yards and include the following:

1. A minimum of two 360-degree circular patterns, one in each direction.
2. A minimum of two broad curves one in each direction
3. Ninety-degree turns; at least one to the left and one to the right.

The purpose of these turns is to demonstrate the team's ability to maneuver around tight corners.

The turns are to be set precisely. The inside barrier of the turn may be of any type of material at the club and judge's discretion, but each leg must be at least 4 feet long, straight, and the two legs must be set at a 90 degree angle. The outside barrier must be a highly visible line at least two inches wide and smooth with the ground surface (examples: spray-on field marking chalk, parking lot spray-on line paint, duct tape

stuck to surface, tennis court marking tape, etc.). The outside barrier line is to be set so that the lane formed by the two barriers is 28 inches wide from the lane side of the inside barrier to the lane side of the outside marking. (See photo and diagram below)

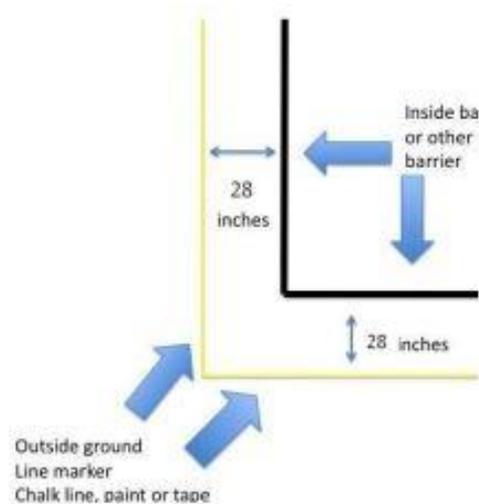
The turn is to be performed by keeping the rear most, inside wheel of the apparatus within the lane. The handler, dog and other parts of the apparatus may be outside of the lane to allow for different sized apparatus and hitches as well as the handler working in front of, beside, or behind the dog and apparatus. Handlers may stop the dog at any point or turn in one sweeping movement.

1. The handler directs the dog to pull through the turn.
2. The dog follows the handler's directions and makes the turn honoring the inside barrier while keeping the inner rear most wheel within the 28-inch lane throughout the maneuver (turn).

Bumps

1. The inner barrier should not be touched by the dog or any part of the apparatus.
Touching the inner barrier shall be considered a bump. Crossing, damaging or moving the barrier out of position shall be considered a failure of the maneuver.

2. The inside rear wheel is the only part of the team which should be judged regarding the outer line marking. Touching or being on the line shall be considered a bump. Crossing the line completely or riding on the line shall be considered a failure of the maneuver.



Failing Performance: Failures Common to the exercises and failure to honor the inside barrier as noted in “bumps”.

If a four-wheel wagon is used in DD competition, only the back inside wheel will be judged in respect to the 90 degree turns. For other acceptable type of apparatus to be used, the judges will evaluate the 90 degree turns with only the rear inside quarter of the apparatus that touches the ground bound to the limits of the boundaries

4. At least two narrow areas six or more feet long; preferably one low to the ground (e.g., logs) and one solid narrow area a minimum of three feet high (e.g., stacked bales of hay), one of which must be adjusted for each dog.

5. Removable obstacle.

At the beginning of the maneuvering course, the judges tell the handler and dog to take the course. The handler, with the dog off lead and hitched to the draft apparatus, hauls forward at a normal working speed unless commanded otherwise by the judges. There are no time constraints for traversing the course as long as the dog continues to work. If the dog stops pulling at any point along the test route, the handler has thirty (30) seconds to get the dog moving again. At the judge’s discretion repetitive episodes of failing to respond to the handler’s commands may constitute a failure.

The handler may work in front of, beside, or behind the dog, or any combination of these positions. The handler may not impede the dog’s forward movement at any time. This includes stepping in front of a dog to enforce a halt command or stepping in front of a dog that tries to change direction against the handler’s command. Handlers may stop

the dog at any point before turning or turn in one sweeping movement. Judges will allow a light load if it significantly improves apparatus stability.

At appropriate locations along the maneuvering course, the judges will command (in any order) the handler and dog to slow, halt, and back at least one (1) or three (3) feet (depending upon the apparatus used). These commands may be spread out over the course and do not have to be done back to back.

Judges will instruct handlers using the commands: haul forward, haul slowly, stop, back your dog, and exercise finished. Judges will decide in advance the appropriate locations and sequences for the commands. The locations will be the same for all dogs.

If a dog's apparatus bumps an object (e.g. tree or narrow area) and the dog obeys the handler's commands in dislodging it, the judges will pass the dog. However, if this happens more than two (2) times, the judges will fail the dog. The dog will also fail the exercise if the dog damages the objects or apparatus. Continuous contact with an obstacle translates to bump, after bump, after bump and will fail.

At least one of the narrow areas should be adjusted to be twelve (12) inches wider than the widest point of each dog and apparatus. Other narrow areas may be wider but must be at least Eighteen (18) inches wider than the widest team/apparatus entered.

At the removable obstacle the dog waits (handler instructions allowed) for the handler to move the obstacle, and then the dog waits until the handler instructs the dog to move through the passageway. The judges will instruct the handler to leave the dog and return the obstacle to its former position. Dog must stay while obstacle is replaced.

The dog must complete the back within thirty (30) seconds. Draft apparatus with wheels must move at least three (3) feet. Those draft apparatus without wheels, (e.g., sleds, toboggans, traditional Indian travois) may not be capable of being backed, in which case the traces will slacken and the dog must back at least one (1) foot. The judges will decide whether an apparatus and harness are appropriate for the dog to be required to back its apparatus.

The handler may not touch the draft apparatus unless special permission is granted from the judges, and then only if negotiation of a maneuver exceeds the dog's ability or if the equipment requires assistance in passing an obstacle (e.g. a curb). Once the area is passed, the handler must release his/her hand from the apparatus.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. With the dog harnessed and hitched to the draft apparatus, the handler directs the dog to pull through the maneuvering course.
2. The dog follows the handler's instructions to turn, halt, slow and back as directed by the judges.

Failing Performance

1. Handler impedes the dog's forward movement by moving in front of the dog to enforce a halt command.
2. Handler touches dog or apparatus without judges' permission.
3. Dog refuses to accompany handler.
4. Dog does not obey commands given by handler.
5. Dog or apparatus bumps objects more than two (2) times.
6. Dog bumps handler who chooses to work in front of his dog.
- 7 Dog refuses to back the required distance within thirty (30) seconds on command.
8. Dog tries to pass removable obstacle without waiting for handler to move it, does not wait for handler's command to move forward or does not stay while the handler returns the obstacle to original position.
9. Dog upsets draft apparatus.
10. Dog refuses to move the loaded draft apparatus when told to do so (thirty (30) second time limit).
11. Equipment breaks in a manner that could not be anticipated and can not be repaired by the handler without assistance within ten (10) minutes.

[Section 4 – Three-Minute Out-of-Sight & Freight Load](#)

When all dogs have completed the Maneuvering course (with the exception of bitches in season) the judges will announce the time for the first group of dogs to be ready for the Three-Minute Out-of-Sight exercise. Handlers should have their dogs harnessed and hitched and ready for that time. The Three (3)-Minute Out-of-Sight will be tested as a group exercise, with a maximum of six (6) entrants at a time, as part of the Freight Load Exercise. This exercise is divided into two (2) parts as follows:

[Part A – Three \(3\) Minute Out-of-Sight](#)

The handlers will leave their dogs upon command from the judges and will go out of sight for three (3) minutes. The judge will instruct the handlers to leave their dogs. Timing will begin when the judge says, "leave your dogs". The handler will instruct the dog to stay in a stand, sit or down position. The dog may shift position (e.g. go from a sit to a down) but may not significantly move the apparatus forward or back ward, other

than the motion that occurs from a change in position. The steward assigned to the handler for the Distance Freight Haul Exercise will be stationed behind the handler's cart for safety while the handler is out of sight. After the handlers return to their dogs at the conclusion of the three (3) minutes, (the handlers do not have to go around the dog and cart and may return directly to heel position) the judges will indicate that Part A of the exercise has been completed. The handlers are permitted to gently pet and praise their dogs at this time and until it is their turn to load their freight, but not physically handle the dog. They must remain in the area for Part B of the exercise.

Part B – Freight Load

The judges will watch each individual handler, in catalog order, load and secure the freight in the apparatus. The handler must select an appropriate freight load for the apparatus and the dog within the following guidelines:

Five to twenty (5-20) pounds for a travois.

Fifteen to fifty (15-50) pounds for a sled or toboggan.

Twenty-five to one hundred (25-100) pounds for a wheeled apparatus.

A steward will weigh any non-standardized freight materials. At the judges' discretion, the steward may be asked to weigh any of the loads. If the load is too light when weighed, the handler may add to the load to reach the minimum weight.

The handler will provide the freight load for the apparatus. With hands off the dog, the handler must secure the load adequately so that it does not shift when the apparatus moves. The handler must place and secure the load into or on the draft apparatus without help from anyone else, unless the judges grant an exception and permit assistance. **The weight must be physically secured not just set in, friction and fit alone is not adequate.** The judges will check that the load is appropriate for the dog, apparatus, and the site conditions **and that it is balanced after the weight is added.** Once the judge indicates exercise finished the handler may again gently pat and praise the dog. Animals or people may not be used as loads. Factory sealed containers of pet food may be used, if the seal has not been broken.

After the judges have observed each handler load and secure the freight in the apparatus, they will watch the dogs and handlers move individually in catalog order, with hands off, to the beginning of the distance freight haul area as they watch for balance and shifting of freight load.

The judges must fail a handler and dog for the following reasons:

1. The freight load is too heavy for the dog to pull.
2. The load is not balanced.

3. The load is not securely tied down.
4. The dog is improperly harnessed or hitched.

If the judges fail a handler because the freight load is too heavy for the dog to pull, weight may be removed and the handler and dog may continue the course with a lighter load.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. The handlers leave their dogs, harnessed and hitched to an apparatus, and go out of sight for three (3) minutes.
2. The handler selects a comfortable working load for the dog and apparatus.
3. The handler loads and secures the weight in the apparatus.
4. Judges observe that the freight load is balanced and secured safely during movement.

Failing Performance

A failing performance may occur during loading or at any time during the remainder of the test.

1. During the three (3) minute out of sight stay, the dog moves the apparatus a significant distance forward or backward.
2. Handler overloads the dog's apparatus.
3. Handler must reduce or re-balance the freight load after the dog begins to pull.
4. Handler physically touches or guides the dog unnecessarily during loading.
5. Dog refuses to move loaded draft apparatus.
6. Freight load becomes unbalanced when the apparatus is moving.
7. Freight load is too heavy for the dog or unbalanced.

[Section 5 – Distance Freight Haul](#)

The Distance Freight Haul is a group exercise with a maximum of six (6) handlers per group. Each dog will haul a loaded apparatus on a course that is at least one (1) mile in

length. Each handler and dog will start the course in **catalog order** (refer to Chapter II Section 6, "Catalog Order") with an assigned steward. As the dogs begin the trail, judges may allow the dogs and teams to find their position within the group according to each handler and dog's working speed. Each handler and dog must be within sight of at least one judge at all times. One judge should stay with the faster dogs in the group and the other judge should stay with the slower dogs in the group and switch places at the halfway point. Per judges' instructions, the two lead stewards will set and maintain a pace that the dogs and handlers will follow.

The course may have natural obstacles (bends in the trail, trees, potholes, etc.) that are native to the test area, including wildlife. Each dog will pull the freight that has been loaded and secured during the Freight Load Exercise. As long as the dog works, there is no time limit. If the dog stops pulling at any point along the test route, the handler has thirty (30) seconds to get the dog moving again. At the judge's discretion repetitive episodes of failing to respond to the handler's commands may constitute a failure. With the judges' permission, a handler may stop the dog at the side of the course to rest briefly. At that time, the judges may allow other dogs in the group to pass. If other situations arise, such as ice balls in paw pads during a winter draft test, the handler may request permission from the judges to stop and attend to the situation. Judge's may allow a break so that the handlers may offer the dogs water.

With the judges' permission, a handler may touch the draft apparatus in order to lift it over an obstruction such as a curb.

The handler may work in front of, beside, or behind the dog, or any combination of these positions. The handler may not impede the dog's forward movement at any time. This includes stepping in front of a dog to enforce a halt command or stepping in front of a dog that tries to change direction against the handler's command. If a team has multiple minor bumps or a major collision during the freight haul judges should use their discretion as to whether the team is out of control or demonstrating a lack of teamwork and should be failed.

At the completion of the Distance Freight Haul the handler will wait in a designated area for a judge to verify that the dog cooperates with the handler while being unhitched from the draft apparatus. When all dogs, and both judges, have returned to the unhitching area the judges will instruct the handlers to unhitch their dogs in the order in which they returned to the unhitching area. Once the dog is unhitched, a judge will state that the exercise is finished. With the permission of a judge, the handler may unload the freight before unhitching.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. Dog hauls a loaded draft apparatus a distance of at least one (1) mile off lead, with the handler, in a group of two to six teams of dogs and handlers.
2. Dog must be under handler's control and remain behind the lead stewards.

3. Dog cooperates with its handler for unhitching from the apparatus

Failing Performance

1. Handler physically touches the dog or apparatus during the exercise without judges' permission.

2. Handler must alter the load on the course.

3. Handler impedes the dog's forward movement by moving in front of the dog or otherwise physically impedes the cart to enforce a halt command.

4. Dog refuses to move the loaded draft apparatus when told to do so (thirty (30) second time limit).

5. Dog bumps lead stewards or overruns and tries to pass lead stewards.

6. Dog cannot comfortably or safely move the freight load the full length of the course.

7. Dog bumps handler who chooses to work in front of his dog.

8. Dog does not cooperate during unhitching.

9. Equipment breaks in a manner that could not be anticipated and cannot be repaired

Section 6 – Intriguing Distraction

Though a planned distraction is no longer required, if a naturally occurring intriguing distraction appears during the Maneuvering & Basic Commands or Distance Freight Haul exercises the dog's reaction will still be judged. The dog may stop what it is doing or shift its position to watch but may not divert from the course. To give the dog time to respond to the handler's stop command, the dog may move two or three steps toward or away from the distraction. If the dog stops to watch the distraction, the handler should encourage the dog to proceed when appropriate to do so.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. A naturally occurring intriguing distraction may appear near the working dog during a moving exercise.

2. The dog may stop and notice the distraction but may not pursue the distraction.

3. The handler redirects the dog, and the dog continues with the exercise.

Failing Performance

1. Handler physically touches or guides the dog during the occurrence.
2. Dog changes direction and follows the distraction.
3. Dog flees from the distraction.
4. Dog barks more than a few times or refuses to stop barking when instructed by the handler.
5. Dog refuses to resume the course after the distraction passes.

Chapter Four Team Division Exercises

Section 1 – Basic Control

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for Basic Control for a team will follow Chapter III, Section 1, with the exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog and the ring may be enlarged, if necessary, to accommodate a team. The dogs in the team are to perform the commands together and to work as partners. Dogs may have their collars connected by a coupling device not less than 6 inches in overall length.

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 1, and Chapter II, Section 15, with the stipulation that a failing performance by any one member of the team is cause for failure of that exercise for the entire team. Judges should consider ages and sizes of the dogs when judging the team's allocation of work.

Section 2 – Harnessing, Hitching & Equipment Check

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for Harnessing, Hitching & Equipment Check for a team are to follow Chapter III, Section 2, with the exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog in the test area at once. The handler may work with each dog individually when harnessing and hitching and may instruct the other dog(s) to cooperate appropriately. The dogs must back as a team.

Dogs may have their collars connected by a coupling device not less than 6 inches in overall length, but their harnesses may not be connected in any way for the backup exercise.

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 2, and Chapter II, Section 15, with the stipulation that a failing performance by any one member of the team is cause for failure of that exercise for the entire team.

Section 3 – Maneuvering Course & Basic Commands

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for Maneuvering Course & Basic Commands for a team will follow Chapter III, Section 3, with the exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog hitched to the draft apparatus. Dogs may have their collars connected by a coupling device not less than 6 inches in overall length. The dogs in the team are to perform the commands together. The adjustable narrows area should be twelve (12) inches wider than the team or apparatus (whichever is wider). Any other narrow areas on the course, such as a gate or the non-adjustable narrows, must be at least eighteen (18) inches wider than the team or apparatus (whichever is wider).

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 3, and Chapter II, Section 15, with the stipulation that a failing performance by any one member of the team is cause for failure of that exercise for the entire team. If one member of the team consistently pulls less than its share, the team is considered to have failed the exercise. Judges should consider ages and sizes of the dogs when judging the team's allocation of work.

Section 4 – Three-Minute Out-of-Sight & Freight Load

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for the Three-Minute Out-of-Sight & Freight Load for a team will follow Chapter III, Section 4 with the exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog hitched to the draft apparatus. Dogs may have their collars connected by a coupling device not less than 6 inches in overall length. The weight specified in Chapter III, Section 4 – Three-Minute Out-of-Sight & Freight Load, must be multiplied by the number of dogs to determine the appropriate load for the team.

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 4, and Chapter II, Section 15. A failing performance by any one member of the team is cause for failure for the entire team.

Section 5 - Distance Freight Haul

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for the Distance Freight Haul for a team will follow Chapter III, Section 5, with the exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog hauling the loaded apparatus. Dogs may have their

collars connected by a coupling device not less than 6 inches in overall length. The dogs in the team are to traverse the distance course working together.

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 5, and Chapter II, Section 15, with the stipulation that a failing performance by any one member of the team is cause for failure of that exercise for the entire team. If one member of the team consistently pulls less than its share, the team is considered to

have failed the exercise. Judges should consider ages and sizes of dogs when judging the team's allocation of work.

Section 6 - Intriguing Distraction

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of Exercise for an Intriguing Distraction for a team will follow Chapter III, Section 6, with the exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog hitched to the draft apparatus if a distraction occurs.

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 6, and Chapter II, Section 15, with the stipulation that a failing performance by any member of the team is cause for failure for that exercise for the entire team.