

# **New IPO Guidelines**

## **Changes, Clarifications, Explanations, & Reaffirmation of Rules.**

### **PREAMBLE**

It remains the ethical responsibility of man to raise and adequately train the dog. The applied methods must meet the standards of behavioral scientists, especially in regards to the breed. In order to achieve the upbringing, training or training effect, it is important to not utilize force and to use positive methods for the dog. Furthermore it is imperative to decline the use of techniques that do not utilize the proper training, raising and training aides. Using a dog for dog sport has to be oriented to its capabilities, its competitive spirit, and its willingness.

Influencing the dogs learning capabilities through the use of medication or animal cruelty is to be declined. One must carefully acknowledge the capabilities of his dog. To demand work of a dog that does not have the capability to do so, contradicts every ethical level of consciousness. Only someone who takes the responsibility to be a true friend to his dog will take a healthy and capable dog to trials, competitions and training.”

There is more emphasis on proper training of the dog to its "realistic Level of performance". It is important for judges to enforce that it is wrong to train and use excessive compulsion on our dogs to create performances that they are not capable of attaining. It is important for judges to educate Handlers, Trainers and Training Directors to recognize the dog's limits' and not allow inhumane methods to try to exceed these limits.

There are also statements with strong emphasis that dogs in obedience need to appear "happy or lively," and not under pressure (obvious signs of the dog working under pressure will bring the Rating per exercise down by one, and in severe cases, two ratings). It is important to display a strong Handler / dog relationship and teamwork. Being correct cannot get full points if the picture of a happy/lively powerful team is not present.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

As of the January 1, 2012, there will no longer be “SchH or VPG” titles.

The former WH title is gone!

The trial does not end until the awards ceremony has been completed, and the scorebook has been returned to the Handler.

A minimum score of 80 in protection is no longer required to move on to the next level. A minimum of 70 points is sufficient for the dog to go to the next level.

A Judge may judge up to a maximum of 36 parts in one day.

“Stick Hits” are replaced with “Stick Stress Test”

Dogs can be touched during the temperament examination and beyond.

Scorebook **MUST** be completely filled in prior to Judges Signature.

Note: It is still ok to present multiple scorebooks.

Judges may request to see the scorebooks before the trial begins. (i.e.: to determine previous temperament problems for safety, validity of previous titles)

Awards for club trials are the same as before: "a dog for its first time earning a title goes ahead of the dog repeating the title". This is not valid for championships.

## **BH and BH/VT**

Sit Exercise - Handler stops after 10 to 15 steps and gives Sit Command while in Basic Position, then leaves **15** steps. (The dog should sit automatically when the handler stops. The handler then gives the sit command to re-enforce the dog’s position, before walking forward the additional 15 paces.)

Down with Recall Exercise – Handler stops after 10 to 15 steps and gives Down Command while in Basic Position, then leaves **30** steps. (The dog should sit automatically when the handler stops. Then the handler gives the down command before continuing on for 30 paces.)

BH/VT is for the first time Handler and includes the “theoretical examination” and the training/behavioral tests. DVG America is excluded from the written exams at this time.

Leather collars are permissible at this level!

If the dog stands or sits, but stays in the same place it is a partial points. If the dog leaves the designated area by more than 3 meters prior to the other dog completing exercise 2, then the exercise is evaluated with zero points. **If the dog leaves the designated area after the end of exercise 2, then it is given partial points for that exercise. (This is a change to the English translation of the IPO rules)** If the dog goes towards the handler when handler returns after the completion of the exercise, there is a deduction up to 3 points.

## **Various IPO Titles**

IPO A 1, IPO A 2, & IPO A 3 (Utility Dog Title) The phases B/C are carried out for levels 1-3, similar to the old SchH A, but allowing a level 2 and 3 to be earned.

TR 1-3 Tracking tests only phase A (BH required but can skip levels)

OB 1-3 Obedience tests only phase B (BH required but can skip levels)

PR 1-3 Protection phase C can only be given when in conjunction with a TR 1-3 or a OB 1-3 (BH required but can skip levels)

IPO ZTP: International Breed Suitability Test -Clubs are not required to offer this title in trials.

IPO VO: International Preliminary working test-Clubs are not required to offer this title in trials.

IPO 1-3: International Working test levels 1-3

FH1 : Tracking test (1 track-1 day)

FH2 : Tracking test (1 track-1 day)

IPO-FH: International tracking test (2 FH 2 tracks- 2 days performed as 1 track/day, same judge allowed for Club trials, 2 judges for Championships. The track on the second day is to be laid in a different location, by a different tracklayer.

STp 1-3: Article search indication test

## **TRACKING**

Occasional “praise” during the working of the track is only allowed in IPO VO and IPO 1! Just as long as it is not at the corner, or when the dog is having trouble. Praise is also allowed at the article either before or after showing the article, but not both

IPO 2 and 3, **no** praise is allowed during the working of the track without it being considered “Handler help” and a point loss will occur. Praise is only allowed at the article, either before or after showing the article, but not both.

Only major change is the articles are now worth 21 points----- no more “Good” rating without indication!

The articles are to be dropped without the tracklayer stopping, also the tracklayer **MUST** continue past the track 5 or 6 paces after the last article is dropped, no hopping off the end.

First article must be a minimum of 100 paces from the start. No articles within 20 paces of corners.

The number on the article and the flag must be the same. The starting flag must be on the left side of the scent pad. This is a requirement for KG, LV, and higher trials only.

The order of tracking at all levels is to be done by draw with the judge present.

Mixed terrain is allowed in all levels of tracking.

When laying the track for IPO 1, the dog must remain out of sight. (This rule might sound funny, but letting a dog watch the track being laid can build drive in the dog.)

For a false indication in the IPO I - IPO III it will be up to minus 4 points deducted if the handler approaches the dog. For the false indication on the FH 1 it will be minus 2 points. For the FH 2, IPO FH it is scored in conjunction with each leg.

The distance between each track, and each leg of the track should be at least 30 paces.

The corners of the track should be a 90 degree angle.

The acute angle at the FH II should be between 30 and 60 degrees.

Guiding of the dog with the leash is not permitted.

When the handler approaches the dog he can approach from either the left or right side, but whatever side the handler places himself will be the starting position from which the dog will start to track again.

When the dog leaves the track, the judge will order the handler to follow the dog, if the handler does not follow the judge's instructions the handler will receive a warning. The warning results in a reduction of the overall score to the next lower category. If another warning is given the handler will be disqualified.

When giving the command to track on restarting the dog after articles, the Handler must be at the side of the dog.

Judges and track layers MUST stay outside 10 meters of the Handler/dog

No commands within 2 meters of the scent pad other than "such/track/find"

Judges are allowed more subjective evaluation based on changes in difficulty of the track.

## **OBEDIENCE**

During all exercises, the dog has to display a naturally happy work ethic coupled with the required concentration to the Handler.

Attention has to be paid that a happy work ethic is also synonymous with the correct execution so that the appropriate award is given. Without attention and a “free willingness performance”, a “V” rating will not be possible.

IPO 1 will report in to the judge on leash. IPO 2 & 3 removes the leash before entering the field and report in off leash.

The examination of the chip number is always with the scanner by a judge. The judge can give the scanner to the handler to locate the chip if the judge was unable to locate it in several attempts.

The judge signals the handler to begin each exercise.

Between the exercises the dog must be in heel position.

**The walking pattern is defined and contains two right turns and a left turn. This is a correction to the IPO Rule Book.**

On the retrieve the dumbbell must promptly be picked up by the dog and returned immediately to the handler. The dog must sit in front and hold the dumbbell.

Basic position is only allowed once at the start of each exercise.

The praise is allowed only in the final position after a brief pause.

To determine the category the main focus points are the correctness of the exercise (70%), precision (19%) and the motivation behavior (11%) should be taken.

To receive a score the dog must bring the dumbbell back to the handler.

For the jumps, the dog must do at least 1 jump and complete the retrieving portion in order to receive any points at all. If the dog drops the dumbbell in front of the Handler, it is better for the Handler to give a second command, then to reach down and pick it up.

The main focus of the retrieve exercise is how the dog goes out, picks up the dumbbell, and returns to the sit position in front of the handler.

**IPO 3 down out of motion is 10 to 12 normal and 10 to 12 fast.  
This is a correction to the English IPO rule book**

IPO 1-3 Long Down - Zero Scores clarified so that dogs leaving 3 or more meters (10 feet) prior to the completion of the exercises below must receive ZERO (0)

- Third exercise for IPO 1 (Down/Recall)
- Fourth exercise for IPO 2 (Stand)
- Fifth exercise for IPO 3 (Flat Retrieve)

When the handler, whose dog is to be on the down, assumes the basic position and looks to the judge for the signal to down the dog, the handler who will be working is to take his/her start position and be ready to work at the judge's signal. It is from that point that the judging of each dog begins.

In all Out of Motion exercises WITHOUT RECALL Handlers only need to PROCEED 15 paces after executing the command to Sit or Stand!

In all exercises that the dog is RECALLED the Handler goes 30 paces away.

All Dumbbell re-throws; the dog must stay in place at SIT! (If the dog follows the Handler past the equipment, exercise is over, "M" 0 points) If the dog leaves the SIT, but does not go beyond the equipment there will be a deduction.

Send out faults now standardized

- Additional down -1.5 points
- Second down -2.5 points
- No down after two extra commands - 3.5 points
- Back to Handler = 0 points

## **PROTECTION EVALUATION**

"The Five Phases of Attack Work"

- 1) The Opening Phase
- 2) The Pressure Phase
- 3) The Transition Phase
- 4) The Release Phase
- 5) The Guarding Phase

**Search**

All Handlers report in to the Judge at all levels. At Championship event a designated "Judge/Official" will be assigned at the entry of the field to avoid having to walk the full field to report in. (My position on this would be the same in club trials)

IPO 1 reports in on lead and proceeds to the start position of the search on lead, and then the lead is removed.

IPO 2 reports in on lead to the judge and then removes the lead and free heels to the start position of the search;

IPO 3 reports in off lead and heels off lead to the start position for the search.

As before, the HANDLER and dog have three chances to go to the find blind before DQ.

If the dog leaves the blind before the HANDLER is directed to come to the call out position, the dog may be sent in one more time to Bark and Hold.

Escape position the dog is placed 5 paces from the helper.

Escape is to be done with a command such as "Vorán", "Go.

The Escape exercise is now properly executed by the HANDLER giving a "go" command at the same time as the Helper is directed by the Judge to go. Failure to give the command is faulty and will have a point deduction equal to a lower rating in that category. The command may not be a "bite" command. Examples of **incorrect** commands are: get him, sic him, bite, and packen.

### **Defense**

Defense exercise remains the same.

### **Back Transport**

Back Transport must be at least a minimum distance of 30 paces and does not have to have a corner. During the back transport, if the dog leaves the Handler and goes to the helper but does NOT bite the sleeve, and the Handler calls the dog back to heel and continues. A minimum deduction is -4 points

During all transports if the dog is not in control after 2 extra commands (3 commands total), then the dog is disqualified for out of control.

There is now an escort to the judge after the attack out of the back transport at the IPO 2 level, as well as the IPO 3 level.

### **Long Bite**

Attack on Dog out of Motion (Long Attack, Courage Test) for all levels the Handler / Dog Team are positioned at the end of the field between blinds 1 and 2.

The Helper will always come out of blind six and will run further up field for the IPO1 and IPO 2 before the dog is released. Distance is Full field for IPO 3.

For IPO1 the Helper must run down field and the dog is released at about 30 -40 paces from the Helper.

IPO 2 the dog is released when the helper is about 40-50paces from the Helper.

IPO 3 the dog is released when the helper is about 50 paces from the helper.

The Helper runs out of the Blind to the midline of the field and turns to attack the dog for all levels of the long attack in IPO 1-3.

Verbal threats are given 2 times, once after Helper turns towards the dog, and once more just prior to contact with stick threat!

After reporting out the Handler is required to free heel their dog a distance away from the Judge and Helper. (3 to 5 paces in all levels)

## **Guarding**

Guarding portions out on the field after outing will be approximately 5 seconds before re-attacks.

If the dog leaves the helper during guarding phase on the field and returns to the Handler as the Handler is approaching, the team will receive deductions. The deductions depend on the distance the Handler is from the dog. If the dog leaves before the Judge signals to the Handler to pick up the dog (or a large distance i.e. long attack) then the routine is terminated.

Guarding must be powerful, attentive and focused intensity to the helper. An active (barking) or silent guard are correct as long as there is intensity. All Guarding phases will be about 5 sec. guarding in the blind (Hold and Bark) must be active barking.

After the helper stops, there MUST be a TRANSITION phase from fight to out.

Strong and correct guarding must be present to earn "V"



## **General Rules Protection**

Rules state that for more than seven dogs in a level, an additional helper is required. For DVG/USA Club Trials this rule will be waived to allow smaller clubs with only one helper to hold trials.

All dogs in the same level must be worked by the same helper unless there are special circumstances where a helper is also entered in the trial. This must be discussed and approved by the judge.

**The handler does not yell at the helper on the long bite. This is a correction to the English IPO rule book.**

Six blinds are always set upon the trial field regardless of whether there are any IPO 2 or 3 dogs. This is done to show control of the IPO 1 and 2 dogs.

One Helper may work front and back half SchH3 at club level.

Special attention by the judge needs to be given to the pressure phase, the transition from prey to defense, out phase, guarding phase, responsiveness to the handler, and the behavior of the dog during the critique.

## **DISQUALIFICATION VS TERMINATION**

**•Handler and Dog disqualification is much more clearly outlined in the rules and there is more emphasis placed on "sportsmanship behavior"**

### **DISQUALIFIED**

Unsportsmanlike conduct  
Violation of rules  
Suspicion of fraud  
Lack of control  
Failure of temperament test  
No points awarded in any phase

### **TERMINATED**

Illness of Handler or dog with vet support  
Return to Basic Position during blind search  
Failure of a fighting phase  
Injury during an event phase  
Points earned to the point of termination are recorded

## **RULES FOR HELPERS**

### **A) Pre-requisites for employment as a helper in Phase "C"**

1. The guidelines and rules regarding IPO helper work are to be followed.
2. On the day of the trial, the protection helper is the assistant of the trial judge.
3. With regard to his personal safety, as well as because of insurance liability laws, in training work as well as in trials, and competitions, the helper is to wear protective clothing (protection pants and jacket, protection sleeve, cup, and, if necessary, gloves).
4. The helper's footwear must be suited to the weather and ground conditions, provide good traction and be slip resistant.
5. Prior to the start of Part C, the helper will receive instructions from the judge. He must perform the work in accordance with the judge's instructions.
6. In accordance with the trial rules, the helper must follow the handler's instructions during the disarming/search of the helper. He must give the handler the opportunity to position his dog in the basic heel position for the side/back transports.
7. **Club trials may be worked with a single helper. If there are more than 7 dogs entered in a single trial level, then 2 helpers are required. For all trials other than club trials (such as KG and LV Championships etc.) a minimum of 2 helpers have to be deployed. In all of these trials, a helper living in the same household as one of the handlers may be appointed.**