



(Member of the American Kennel Club)

Saint Bernard Club of America

Draft Test Regulations

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Saint Bernard Club of America Draft Test Regulations

Introduction

The Saint Bernard Club of America Draft Test is a series of exercises designed to develop and demonstrate the natural abilities of purebred Saint Bernard dogs. While working in a capacity involving hauling, the dog and handler must demonstrate teamwork skills. The Saint Bernard 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 Saint Bernard Club of America Draft Test Regulations are a set of standards by which handlers and Saint Bernards are judged at a Saint Bernard Club of America sponsored draft test. The Regulations are not a guide on how to train for draft work nor a definition of draft work.

Chapter I - General Regulations

Section 1 - Application for Draft Tests

A Draft Test Committee from a recognized local area St. Bernard Specialty club or an independent draft test committee may apply to the Working Dog Committee (WDC) of the SBCA for permission to sponsor a Draft Test. The committee must contain at least three (3) individuals. Application must be made using an approved WDC application form.

The WDC recommends that Draft Test dates be coordinated with neighboring Saint Bernard breed clubs to avoid conflicting dates.

Application forms are available from the Draft Work Secretary of the SBCA WDC. The completed application and the fee specified on the application (payable to SBCA), must be sent to the WDC Draft Work Secretary. The application must contain the following information:

1. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Draft Test Chairperson, the Draft Test Secretary and a third person from the test giving club or group. The Chairperson must be an SBCA member and one of the three must be an officer in the local Saint Bernard Breed Club sponsoring the Draft Test if a local Saint Bernard breed club sponsors the test.
2. The Judges' Profile Forms, completed and signed by the two selected judges. Profile Forms must be filled out in full, including the judge's name, address, qualifications for judging Saint Bernard draft work and individual experience with different types of draft equipment. A Judges' Profile Form will not be required if the judge is on the approved list of judges.
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 SBCA 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 detailed site map with descriptions of the ground conditions and terrain, unless the site has previously been used.
6. The signatures of the Draft Test Chairperson, the Draft Test Secretary and the third member of the applying group, either a Saint Bernard breed club sponsoring the Draft Test or the three independent SBCA members.

A completed application must be mailed to the WDC Draft Work Secretary a minimum of two months prior to the date of the proposed test. The WDC Draft Work Secretary usually communicates the WDC's approval or rejection of the Draft Test Application to the Draft Test Chairperson within twenty (20) days following the receipt of the completed application. When the Working Dog Committee is considering the applying group's application for an SBCA Draft Test, the committee considers any past violations of the Regulations at its previous tests.

Section 2 - Duties of the Draft Test Committee

The Draft Test Committee will act as the official representative of the SBCA 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 print a Premium List and make it available, either through a mailing and/or a web site, to Saint Bernard owners potentially interested in entering their dogs in the proposed Draft Test.

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.
3. The entry limit, that there will be an alternate list if the entries exceed the limit and the method to be used for determining alternates.
4. The beginning date for accepting entries, which should be no less than ten (10) days after the mailing date of the premium list.
5. The closing date for accepting entries.
6. The approval date of the Draft Test Regulations being used at the SBCA Draft Test.
7. A statement regarding entrant's responsibility for obtaining the SBCA Draft Test Regulations.
8. The name and address of the WDC Draft Work Secretary from whom entrants can order the SBCA Draft Test Regulations.
9. The name and address of the Draft Test Secretary to whom the entries shall be sent.
10. An entry form that includes a signature and date line and a statement that reads "I enter my dog in this Draft Test at my own risk. I agree to abide by the Draft Test Regulations and the SBCA Constitution and By-laws. I have read and understand the Draft Test Regulations."
11. Entry forms will request the standard information requested on an AKC entry form that is pertinent to a draft test: enclosed fee, breed, class (Novice, Open or Excellent and whether individual or team division), dog's full name, sex, registration (AKC registration number, AKC litter number, ILP/PAL number, foreign registration

number and country), date of birth, breeder, full name of sire, full name of dam, actual owner(s) and address(es), name of agent at test (if any), signature of owner or agent, telephone number of owner or agent, e-mail address of owner or agent and a copy of the AKC registration form.

The Premium List must not be mailed before the applying organization receives approval from the SBCA WDC to conduct the test. After the closing date for entries, the Draft Test Secretary will notify each exhibitor at least ten days before the test of the draft test location (including a map), judging time, judges' names 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 the alternates of their position on the alternate list.

The Draft Test Secretary will keep a copy of the current SBCA Draft Test Regulations at the test site for reference.

The Draft Test Chairperson and Draft Test Secretary must each submit reports to the WDC Draft Work Secretary 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 judges' report sheets, entrant evaluations, judges' evaluations, two (2) copies of a marked catalog, two (2) copies of the premium list and other materials requested by the WDC. As soon as possible following the test, the Test Secretary will send to the Saint Bernard National Archives Archivist the following information for dogs that qualified or re-qualified at that test:

- Dog's full registered Name and titles
- Dog's Sex
- Date the title was earned
- Name of the title earned.

All required reports must be submitted by the applying group in order to receive approval for a subsequent draft test.

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 and other types of pulling. Judges selected by a Draft Test committee for a draft test should be chosen for their ability to judge a Saint Bernard working in harness. Judges should possess thorough knowledge of the draft test rules, a sense of fairness and consideration for the efforts of dogs and handlers.

Before the Draft Test Committee applies for permission to sponsor an SBCA Draft Test, it must select a judging panel that meets the qualifications approved by the WDC.

An approved list of qualified judges is available from the WDC Draft Work Secretary that lists the classes each judge is qualified to judge, i.e., Novice, Open or Excellent.

Section 4 - Dogs Eligible to Compete

National Specialty Draft Tests are open only to pure bred Saint Bernard dogs at least twelve months old and must have one of the following: AKC Registration number, ILP/PAL Number, Foreign Registration number and country of registration for an unregistered imported dog or an identification number issued by the AKC. The word “dog” in the SBCA Draft Test Regulations refers to either sex.

All other Draft Tests are open to pure bred Saint Bernard Dogs and, at the discretion of the host club, any other dogs that have one of the following: AKC registration number, ILP/PAL number, Foreign Registration number and country of registration for an unregistered imported dog or an identification number issued by AKC and Dogs having an AKC Canine Partners Listing. In the Team Division the Saint Bernard member of a mixed team must have an SBCA Draft Dog Title for the class entered.

Pure bred Saint Bernard Dogs shall always have first entry priority followed by other breeds.

Section 5 - Dogs that May Not Compete

No dog belonging wholly or in part to the Draft Test judge or judges of the test or to any member of such person's immediate family can be exhibited under the judge or judges.

Section 6 - Handling a Dog

Each dog or team must be handled by the same person for all exercises.

Section 7 - Test Disqualification and Ineligibility

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

1. The dog attacks a person or dog on the test grounds.
2. The handler deliberately interferes with another handler or dog.
3. The handler 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.)
4. The dog is lame or wears corrective bandages or other attachments.

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.

Section 8 - Bitches in Season

Bitches in season may participate in SBCA 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.

Section 9 - Un-entered Dogs

A Safety Officer will be appointed and is responsible for ensuring that all un-entered dogs are kept outside and away from the main test area.

Section 10 - Entering at Own Risk

Entrants participate in an SBCA Draft Test at their own risk. Entrants agree to abide by the SBCA Draft Test Regulations and the Constitution and By-laws of the SBCA.

Section 11 - Judges' Decisions

At the draft test, the decisions of the judges are final in all matters affecting the evaluation 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 applying group's Test Secretary receives notification from the SBCA Working Dog Committee of test approval. Once approval is granted, the Draft Test Committee can determine the date it will first accept entries and the date shall be published in the Premium List. This date must not be less than ten (10) days after the mailing date of the premium list.

Maximum entries to be judged is fifteen (15) per test day. 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).

A prominent announcement of test limits must appear on the title or cover page of the Draft Test Premium List with a statement that entries in all classes automatically close when the specified limit or limits are reached, even though the official closing date has not arrived. Priority will be given to entries that have not earned titles in the class or division entered. Titled dogs may be entered for judging (re-qualification) if entry limits have not been filled and the entry form must state that the entry is for re-qualification.

The Draft Test Secretary shall accept entries by mail only. The entry slots shall be filled according to the date of mailing (postmark date). If the number of entries with the same date exceeds the number of available slots, a drawing will take place to fill the vacancies and determine the alternates. All entries received after the entry limit is filled will be placed on an "alternate list" by order of those without titles, in order of postmark, followed by re-qualifiers in order of postmark. If absentees or withdrawals occur prior to the start of the test, the test secretary shall substitute entries from the alternate list. When notifying exhibitors of their entry numbers, exhibitors on the alternate list will be notified of their position on the alternate list. Entrants who learn they will be unable to attend a Draft Test must contact the

Secretary immediately to allow exhibitors on the alternate list to be notified. Entry fees will be refunded if the withdrawal of the entry is done prior to the closing date of the Draft Test. If an entry is withdrawn after the closing date and an alternate is available, the entry fee shall be refunded for the dog withdrawn. Alternates entry fees will be refunded if they are not allowed to participate.

Section 13 - Entry in Team Division

A team consists of two or more dogs working together in unison. Only dogs that have passed in the Individual Division of Novice, Open or Excellent Class will be eligible to compete in the Team Division of the same class. See Chapter 1, Section 5 for handler eligibility.

If a dog entered in the Individual Division has earned the draft test title for that class in a previous test, the entry may be transferred from Individual to Team Division by one of the two following methods.

1. The dog entered in the Individual Division may be added to an already entered team.
2. The dog entered in the Individual Division may enter the Team Division with dogs that have earned Draft Dog Titles. 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 change of entry from Individual to Team Division must be submitted by 6:00 pm the night before the test.

Section 14 - Qualifying Performance and Titles

A- Qualifying Performances

Both judges must pass a dog on all exercises in a class at one Draft Test to qualify and earn a draft title.

B- Titles

1. Novice Draft Dog Class (NDD). The Novice Draft Dog class shall be for dogs that have not earned the Novice Draft Dog (NDD) title or have earned the NDD but have not earned the Draft Dog title (DD). All exercises except the Recall and the Group Stay are performed on leash. The leash must be visibly slack and is not to be used to physically guide the dog during the exercises. Guiding, jerking and/or a tight leash will result in a failing performance. Dogs must be kept on leash when waiting in the ring before or after the Group Stay and when in the ring to receive awards. Each dog with a passing performance in Novice Draft shall earn the SBCA title Novice Draft Dog, to be abbreviated NDD and may use such an abbreviation after the registered name.

2. Team Novice Draft Dog Class (TNDD). The Team Novice Draft Dog class shall be for dogs that have individually earned their Novice Draft Dog (NDD) title or Draft Dog (DD) title and may have earned their Team Novice Draft Dog (TNDD) title, when being paired with a dog that has earned a Novice Draft Dog (NDD) title or Draft Dog (DD) title.

All exercises are the same as those of Novice Draft class. Each dog of a team with a passing performance in Team Novice Draft shall earn the SBCA title Team Novice Draft Dog, to be abbreviated TNDD and may use such an abbreviation after the registered name.

3. Open Draft Dog Class (DD). The Open Draft Dog class shall be for dogs that have earned either a Novice Draft Dog (NDD) title or a Draft Dog (DD) title. The requirement of a NDD title may be waived should the owner deem the dog is adequately trained to compete in the Open Draft Dog test. All exercises are to be performed off leash. Dogs must be kept on leash when not actively being judged and when in the ring to receive awards. Each dog with a passing performance in Open Draft shall earn the SBCA title Draft Dog, to be abbreviated DD and may use such an abbreviation after the registered name.

4. Team Open Draft Dog Class (TDD). The Team Open Draft Dog (TDD) class shall be for dogs that have individually earned their Draft Dog (DD) title and may have earned their Team Draft Dog (TDD) title, when being paired with a dog that has earned a Draft Dog (DD) title. All exercises are the same as those of Open Draft class. Each dog of a team with a passing performance in the Team Open Draft test shall earn the SBCA title Team Draft Dog, to be abbreviated TDD and may use such an abbreviation after the registered name.

5. Excellent Draft Dog Class (DDX). The Excellent Draft Dog class shall be for dogs that have earned either a Draft Dog (DD) title or a Draft Dog Excellent (DDX) title. All exercises are to be performed off leash. Dogs must be kept on leash when not actively being judged and when in the ring to receive awards. Each dog with a passing performance in the Excellent Draft test shall earn the SBCA title Draft Dog Excellent, to be abbreviated DDX and may use such an abbreviation after the registered name.

6. Excellent Team Draft Dog Class (TDDX). The Excellent Team Draft Dog class shall be for dogs that have individually earned their Draft Dog Excellent (DDX) title and may have earned their Team Draft Dog Excellent (TDDX) title, when being paired with a dog that has earned a Draft Dog Excellent (DDX) title. All exercises are the same as those of the Excellent Draft Dog class. Dogs must be kept on leash when not actively being judged and when in the ring to receive awards. Each dog of a team with a passing performance in the Excellent Team Draft test shall earn the SBCA title Team Draft Dog Excellent, to be abbreviated TDDX and may use such an abbreviation after the registered name.

7. Use of numbers following the dog's titles. A dog that re-qualifies either in the individual or team Divisions will be able to add the number of times the dog has qualified for that title. For example, a dog that has earned its DD title and re-qualifies for the DD title is eligible for using the title DD2.

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 who meets the approved qualifications. The substitute judge must meet the approval of the WDC Draft Work Secretary. If the Draft Test Committee cannot contact the

WDC Draft Work Secretary, then it shall call the WDC Chairperson. If neither of these people is available, then contact any available member of the WDC.

The SBCA WDC Draft Work 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 WDC Draft Work Secretary by mail or electronic means with a full explanation. The WDC Draft Work Secretary must notify the WDC members of the changes and reasons for the request. (If time permits, a written notice should be sent 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 Work Secretary or Chairperson cannot be reached according to the procedures described above, the 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 II, Section 1, paragraph 2) may be appointed by the Draft Test Committee to fulfill the assignment. The WDC Draft Work Secretary or the WDC 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 for a substitute judging assignment, the change must be posted. 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 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, one steward assigned to each handler and dog for safety and, at the judges' request, to monitor handler's compliance with the rules.

The Honor Steward

The honor steward will closely monitor the honoring dog in the Draft Dog Excellent Class. The judge will determine where each dog with draft apparatus attached and handler will be stationed. The duties of the honor steward will include:

1. Following the directions of the judge to take a position that does not interfere with the performance of the dog and handler on the Honor exercise or the dog and handler traversing the maneuvering course.
2. Following the judge's directions on how the Honor exercise is to be performed.
3. Not allowing any outside distractions to hinder their observations of the handler and dog performing the Honor exercise and being able to time the exercise.
4. Reporting any problems of the dog and handler performing the Honor exercise to the judge.

Section 17 - Test Area Conditions

The ring for the Basic Control exercise must be enclosed by ropes, baby gates, etc., be rectangular and should be at least forty by fifty feet (40' x 50'). The testing areas for the other exercises 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, un-entered 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

Since Saint Bernards 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.

Chapter II - Regulations for Performance and Judging

Section 1 - Standardized Judging

Standardized judging is of great importance and, since SBCA 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. 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.

Section 2 - Failed Exercises and Re-judging

During the draft test, judges may permit a handler to assist his 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 re-judged, however, if in the judges' opinion, a particular and unusual circumstance affected the dog's performance, the judges may re-judge the dog on the complete exercise at their discretion. If the judges re-judge a dog on an exercise, they should explain the reason on the Judges' Record. The reason for the re-judging should be announced to the spectators.

Section 3 - Dog in Distress

If, at any time during a draft test, it becomes apparent to either the handler or a judge that the dog 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 the distress is due to an unusual circumstance. In that case, the judges may permit the dog to be re-tested. The dog should be given a reasonable period of time to recover before testing resumes. If the dog 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

The judges will record the pass or fail performances for each dog on the Judges' Record sheets following the conclusion of the test. Entrants may view their Judges' Record sheets. If the judges retain the Judges' Record sheets for their own records, the test committee, at its option, may provide copies for the entrants. It is recommended that the Judges' Record Sheets be prepared on three-part NCR paper, thus providing copies for the Judges, the test giving club and the entrant.

Section 5 - Entrant's Evaluation

The Draft Test Committee will provide entrants with the Handler's Evaluation Forms with the name and address of the WDC Draft Work Secretary. Entrants should complete the forms before leaving the test site and return them to the Draft Test Secretary; if not, the forms should be sent to the WDC Draft Work Secretary within ten (10) days. Evaluations will be submitted to the WDC for review and consideration in matters concerning the test or future tests.

Section 6 - Catalog Order

Catalog order will be determined by Class and the order in which entries are mailed unless a handler requests, at the time of entry, a change due to handling two or more dogs or teams. Other breeds entered in the Draft Test will have a higher catalog number than pure bred Saint Bernards. 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".

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 (not to exceed six dogs), 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 Distance freight haul, judges may allow the dogs to find their position within the group according to each handler and dogs' working speed.

Section 7 - Harnesses, Collars and Leashes

Dogs must wear well-fitting plain buckle or slip chain collars. Fancy collars or special training collars and improperly fitting collars are not permitted. Leashes must be of fabric or leather and must be a minimum of six (6) feet in length to provide adequate slack when the dog is in working position and to allow the handler to work beside, behind or in front of the dog during the Novice division maneuvering test. In Brace, Novice Draft the dogs may be individually leashed or coupled with a single leash.

The harness must fit the dog and be appropriate for the apparatus and the terrain where the Draft Test is being held. If the proper harness is not used the judges may fail the handler for improper equipment for Distance Freight Haul conditions.

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, as noted in Section 7, 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.

The harness must properly 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 Distance Freight Haul conditions.

If a toboggan is used it must be equipped with a rope attached to the rear of the toboggan to be used only for braking.

If at any time during the test the equipment breaks 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 test area where needed;
- exhibitor numbers;
- a stop watch to time “stays”;
- clipboards and pencils or pens for judges;
- markers for the distance freight haul;
- obstacles;
- intriguing distractions;
- a scale for weighing the freight load;
- measuring wheel or pedometer.

In addition, the Draft Test Committee must have first aid equipment available and a vehicle large enough to carry a dog and handler if an emergency should occur.

Examples of removable obstacles include the following: gates, saw horses, logs, branches or 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 or 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.

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 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 for 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 - Equipment Check and Walk Through

The Draft Test-day will begin with the Equipment Check. The time of the Equipment Check will be published in the draft test premium list, notification letter and the program. All entrants will check in with the Draft Test Secretary and all equipment to be used in the Draft Test must be on line at this time. Dogs are not required to be present for the equipment check, unless they are wider than the equipment to be used in the test. If a handler is not present within fifteen (15) minutes after the posted start time of the equipment check, an entrant from the alternate list will be assigned the absent handler's position. All equipment to be used in the test shall be checked by the judges before the test commences. This includes harnesses, traces, rigs, weights, collars and leashes. At this time pertinent information on type of rig, width of apparatus or dog team, whichever is widest, shall be recorded on the Judge's Worksheet for ease of reference during the test. Collars shall be in accordance with Chapter II, Section 7. Should the judges find a deficiency with a handler's equipment that, in their opinion, could potentially cause harm to the dog, they may recommend that the handler make the repair. The repair must be complete at the time of the subsequent equipment check that occurs at the end of the Harnessing and Hitching exercise at the beginning of the Practical Draft Work exercise. Should the equipment be found faulty at that time, the team must be failed. The Judges' Briefing and Walk Through for the handlers and stewards shall follow the Equipment Check. The Walk Through will include Basic Control, Maneuvering course and Freight Haul course. The Walk Through of the Freight Haul may be omitted if all handlers decline to participate. Handlers may walk the Freight Haul course with their dogs on-leash, but not hitched to an apparatus.

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 – Discipline

Discipline for violations of the SBCA Draft Test Regulations will be under provisions of the SBCA Constitution and By-Laws and the SBCA Working Dog Committee Grievance Procedure. Any person attending a draft test may obtain a copy of the SBCA WDC Grievance Procedure and Forms from the Draft Test Chairperson. Complaints must be registered with the Draft Test Chairperson no later than thirty (30) minutes following the announcement of awards.

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:

1. Basic Control after Group long down.
2. Harnessing and Hitching and Equipment Check after Entrant's completion of the exercise.
3. Maneuvering Course and Basic Commands after Entrant's completion of the exercise.
4. In-Sight or Out-of-Sight Stay after Group Exercise.
5. Freight Load and Distance Freight Haul after Entrant's completion of the exercise.

Failures Common to All Exercises:

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

1. A dog is not under the handler's control.
2. A handler yells at his dog frequently to maintain control of his 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 freight haul when it will be limited to one occurrence).
6. A dog defecates while being tested (except during freight haul, when the handler must clean up appropriately).
7. The handler or dog violates specific test site regulations.

Chapter III - Individual Class Exercises

Section 1 - Basic Control

Basic Control is required for all Drafting Classes. The handler and dog are tested to verify the handler's control over the dog. Unlike AKC Obedience Trials, no point system exists and handlers are permitted to talk and to encourage their dogs during the exercises.

Basic Control takes place in a ring at least forty (40) feet by fifty (50) feet. Three different exercises make up Basic Control: a heeling pattern, a recall and a group one-minute down stay. 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, including the sits during the heel pattern.

Heeling Exercise

The Novice Class Heeling Exercise is on leash; whereas, Open and Excellent Class Heeling is off leash. The dog shall heel within arm's reach of the handler. The handler must not touch the dog, but may command and encourage the dog to remain within arm's reach at all times. The judge calls the following commands: forward, slow, fast, normal, right turn, left turn, about turn, halt and exercise finished. The judges will determine the order of commands and the calling judge will call the same pattern for each dog and handler.

Principal Parts of the Heeling Exercise

The dog performs the heeling pattern on the left side of the handler and within arm's reach while responding to the handler's commands.

Failing Performance

1. Handler must constantly adapt to the pace of the dog.
2. Dog does not walk under control within arm's length of the handler at all times.
3. Dog leaves the ring.
4. Dog is considered unmanageable by the judges.
5. Dog must be physically handled by the handler during the heel pattern.
6. Handler uses the leash for guidance during the heel pattern (Novice).
7. Dog fails to change pace.
8. Dog interferes with handler's movement.

Recall

The dog performs the recall off-leash across the full length of the ring. The dog will stay in place until called by the handler. The dog must respond to the first command or signal to come; a simultaneous voice and hand command is permitted as described in Chapter II, Section 9. Extra hand signals and vocal commands are allowed after the dog begins to move. The dog will come to the handler near enough to be touched and should sit facing the handler. The judge calls the following commands: leave your dog, call your dog and exercise finished.

Principal Parts of the Recall Exercise

The dog remains in place until the judge tells the handler to call the dog. "Stay" and "Come" may be voice, hand or a simultaneous voice and hand command.

Failing Performance

1. Handler gives more than one (1) stay command.
2. Dog does not stay when told to do so.
3. Dog does not respond to the first command to come.
4. Dog does not go to the handler.
5. Dog goes to the handler, but remains out of reach.
6. Dog leaves the ring.
7. Dog must be physically handled by the handler.

One Minute Down

The one-minute down is a group exercise and will be performed with the Novice Class handlers standing at the end of a six-foot leash or with the Open and Excellent Class handlers across the width of the ring. As a judging convenience, the judges will keep each group to a maximum of ten dogs. The handlers may physically place their dogs in the down position before the judge commands the handlers to leave their dogs. In the Open and Excellent Classes, the handlers will remove the leash or leashes and place them behind their dogs. The judge calls the following commands: down your dogs, leave your dogs, return to your dogs and exercise finished. The “stay” command may be given as a voice, hand or simultaneous voice and hand command. The judge will tell the handlers to return to their dogs after one minute has elapsed, at which time they will walk around their dogs and return to heel position.

Principal Parts of the One Minute Down Exercise.

The principal part of this exercise is that the dog remains in the down position until released by the judge.

Failing Performance

1. Dog moves substantially even though still down.
2. Dog sits or stands any time before the judge says “Exercise Finished”.

Section 2 - Harnessing, Hitching and 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 understands the equipment that the dog uses, since the dog has no recourse if the equipment is poor. The equipment includes the harness, draft apparatus and any traces or tack required.

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. The dog must demonstrate willingness to be harnessed and hitched to the draft apparatus without shying. The judges may touch the dog and equipment as necessary for checking. 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.

Prior to the official beginning of the exercise, the equipment steward moves the empty draft apparatus, including the harness, from the equipment check-in line to the test area according to the judges' instructions.

With the dog and handler at the edge of the test area, the judges instruct the handler to harness and to hitch his dog. The handler and dog move into the test area at least twenty (20) feet from

the draft apparatus. For the Novice Classes, the dog remains on leash and may accompany the handler to retrieve the harness from the draft apparatus. The leash may be removed to assist the harnessing. For the Open and Excellent Classes, the dog enters the test area off leash. The handler instructs the dog to stay, leaves the dog, retrieves the harness from the draft apparatus and returns to harness the dog. The handler may instruct the dog to cooperate for harnessing and hitching.

When instructed by the judges, the handler commands the dog to back. Within a thirty (30) second time limit, the dog must back a distance of at least four (4) feet (Novice and Open Classes) or at least ten (10) feet (Excellent Class) in the direction of the draft apparatus. The dog may not vary more than 90° to either side.

The handler then hitches the dog to the draft 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. At this time the judges may physically check to see that the dog and apparatus work well together. When the dog and handler have stopped at the designated location, and the judges have examined the equipment, a judge calls the exercise finished.

Judges instruct the handlers throughout the exercise using such commands as: harness your dog, back your dog, hitch your dog, move forward to the next position, halt and exercise finished.

Judges are expected to adapt their instructions to the handler, dog, class and test site conditions.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. Novice Dogs only enter the test area on leash.
2. Handler leaves the dog in the center of the test area in a stand, sit or down position (handler's choice) and instructs the dog to stay. (Open and Excellent Classes)
3. Handler retrieves harness from the drafting apparatus. Dog may accompany the handler in the Novice Class.
4. Handler retrieves harness from the drafting apparatus and returns to dog in the Open and Excellent Classes.
5. Dog cooperates with handler for harnessing.
6. Dog stands, backs at least four (4) feet (Novice and Open Classes) or at least ten (10) feet (Excellent Class) 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.
7. Dog cooperates for hitching.
8. Judges inspect equipment, which must 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.
10. Handler and hitched dog move into position in center of test area and indicate readiness to proceed. Handler demonstrates that the equipment performs safely and efficiently when in motion and when braking.

Failing Performance

1. Handler physically guides the 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 where told to stay while handler retrieves harness. (Open and Excellent Classes)
4. Dog is un-cooperative (walks away, refuses to obey handler's commands) during harnessing.
5. Dog refuses to back on command within thirty (30) seconds.
6. Dog substantially changes direction while backing (judges' discretion, but changes of direction less than ninety degrees (90°) 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 and Basic Commands

A. Novice and Open

The Draft Test Committee sets up and clearly marks a maneuvering course, which 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 Maneuvering Exercises may be arranged by the committee or judges in any order.

Maneuvering exercises are performed with an empty draft apparatus, unless a light load is allowed by the judges. The course must cover at least 150 yards in a minimum area of 10,000 square feet and include the following:

1. Circular patterns.
2. Broad curves.
3. Ninety degree (90°) turns; at least one to the left and one to the right.
4. At least two narrow areas six (6) or more feet long; preferably one low to the ground (e.g., logs) and one solid narrow area a minimum of three (3) feet high (e.g., stacked bales of hay).
5. Removable obstacle.

At the beginning of the maneuvering course, the judges tell the handler and dog to take the course. Novice Class dogs are on leash, Open Class dogs are off leash. The handler, with the dog 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.

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. 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, back at least one (1) or three (3) feet (depending upon the apparatus used).

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.

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. The other narrow areas may be wider.

At the removable obstacle the handler commands the dog to wait while the obstacle is removed, moves through the passageway at the owner's command and waits on the other side of the obstacle for the handler to replace the obstacle. The Novice handler may drop the leash while opening the removable obstacle then returns to the dog and leads the dog on leash through the removable obstacle. Once through the removable obstacle the Novice handler may again drop the leash while returning to the removable obstacle to replace it. Once the removable obstacle is replaced the novice handler shall return to the dog, pick up the leash and continue the course.

The dog must 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 hand from the apparatus.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. The handler directs the dog to pull through the maneuvering course while harnessed and hitched.
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 uses the leash for guidance (Novice).
3. Handler touches dog or apparatus without judges' permission.
4. Dog refuses to accompany handler.
5. Dog does not obey commands given by handler.
6. Dog or apparatus bumps objects more than two (2) times.
7. Dog bumps handler who chooses to work in front of his dog.
8. Dog refuses to back the required distance within thirty (30) seconds on command.
9. 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 the original position.
10. Dog upsets draft apparatus.
11. Equipment breaks in a manner that could not be anticipated and cannot be repaired by the handler without assistance within ten (10) minutes.

B. Excellent Class

The Draft Test Committee sets up and clearly marks a maneuvering course, which 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 Maneuvering Exercises may be arranged by the committee or judges in any order.

The Maneuvering exercises are performed with an empty draft apparatus, unless a light load is allowed by the judges. The course must cover at least 200 yards in a minimum area of 10,000 square feet and include the following:

1. A large figure eight with one halt on one of the diagonals.
2. Four cones or obstacles weave with the objects approximately 10' on center.
3. At least four broad curves.
4. At least two ninety-degree (90°) left turns and at least two ninety degree (90°) right turns.
5. There shall be at least three narrow areas, two of which shall be at least six (6) or more feet long and the third shall be ten (10) feet long. One of the six foot or longer narrows shall be low to the ground (e.g., logs, etc.) and one shall be at least three feet high (e.g., stacked bales of hay or fencing). One of the six foot or longer narrow areas shall be adjusted to twelve (12) inches wider than the widest point of the dog or dogs or the apparatus, whichever is wider and shall be adjusted for each entrant. The other six foot or longer narrow areas shall be twenty-four (24) inches wider than the dog or dogs or the apparatus of the widest of the entrants. Either of the six foot or longer narrows may be adjustable and the other must be fixed. The ten (10) foot narrows shall be twice as wide as the dog or dogs or apparatus, whichever is wider and shall be adjusted for each entrant
6. Two removable obstacles approximately ten (10) feet apart.
7. One individual from which an item (load) shall be acquired and a second individual to which the item will be delivered. The item may be a blanket, bag or some other item of minimal weight.
8. A change of pace from normal to slow and back to normal over a thirty-foot distance and a change of pace from normal to accelerated and back to normal, over a thirty foot distance. The accelerated change does not have to be a run, but may be a brisk walk.
9. A six-inch obstruction, at least four (4) feet in length, over which the handler and dog must pass.

10. A "wheel turn" exercise where the dog or dogs must turn the apparatus 360°, in either direction, without the wheel moving outside a two (2) foot circle. If the wheel leaves the circle the Judges will call "out" and the handler returns the wheel to the circle and starts over again to complete the 360° turn. The timing does not start over. The dog and handler have two (2) minutes to complete the exercise.
11. An area on the peripheral assigned for a non-working dog to accomplish an out-of-sight stay with an observer. (Honor Stay).

The maneuvering course shall begin when the judges tell the handler and dog to take the course. The dog shall be off leash and hitched to the draft apparatus. The handler shall command and/or signal the dog to haul forward and shall work at a normal working speed unless otherwise commanded by the judge. There are no time constraints for completing the course as long as the dog continues to work. The judge will allow the handler and dog to maneuver the course without further commands except that the handler strays from the designed course. All obstacles, including the slow and fast, shall be clearly marked.

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 by stepping in front of the dog to enforce a halt command or to stop a dog from changing direction. A light load will be allowed if it significantly improves the apparatus' stability.

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.

The dog and handler will maneuver between each of the narrow areas moving forward except that after moving forward through the ten-foot narrow area the handler shall have the dog back through the same narrow area and exit. The handler must have the dog move forward until the nose of the dog is even with the end of the narrow area before asking the dog to back. When the dog has cleared the start of the narrow area, while backing, the handler shall ask the dog to move to the next obstacle. The dog must begin to back within thirty (30) seconds of being asked, but shall not have a time limit to complete the back as long as the dog is working.

When the dog and handler arrive at the removable obstacles, the handler shall ask the dog to wait for the obstacle to be moved before proceeding forward. Once the obstacle has been cleared the handler shall ask the dog to wait while the obstacle is replaced. They will then proceed to make a right or left turn to a second removable obstacle where the same procedure shall occur. The obstacles must be at least ten (10) feet apart before the turn and ten (10) feet after the turn.

The handler and dog shall approach the individual with the load and halt. The handler will greet the individual and take the item to be transported. The handler will secure the item in the apparatus and proceed to the individual that will receive the item. The receiving individual shall be on the opposite side of the maneuvering area. The handler will greet the individual and the individual shall greet and touch the dog on the head. The handler will transfer the item to the individual and proceed to the next obstacle.

The handler and dog shall perform two change of pace exercises during the course which shall be performed in areas that do not require a turn during or immediately after the change and shall not have any obstacle impede the movement.

There shall be placed on the course an item approximately six (6) inches high and at least four (4) feet long which the handler shall direct the dog to cross. The handler may halt the dog at any time during the execution of this exercise. The handler may lift the apparatus after making contact with the obstacle or just before making contact and ask the dog to pull forward until the obstacle has been cleared after which the apparatus shall be returned to the surface. The handler may not push the apparatus forward to cause the dog to pull forward.

There shall be an area on the course designated for the wheel turn to be accomplished. The area shall be marked in such a manner that the judges can determine the dog has accomplished the required maneuver without the handler and dog having to wait for the judges to physically measure. The dog shall turn the apparatus in either direction 360° without moving the fixed wheel more than two (2) feet within two (2) minutes.

The Honor Exercise - Upon completion of the maneuvering course, the dog shall, with the apparatus still attached, perform an out-of-sight sit or down stay in a designated area on the edge of the maneuvering course for five (5) minutes (Honor Stay). There shall be assigned to this area an Honor Steward to time and release the honor dog. The judges shall determine the maneuvering/honor sequence from the approved methods. Depending on the sequence used to accomplish the maneuvering/honor exercise, the dog that has just completed the maneuvering course will be allowed to leave the maneuvering course area to rest and receive water while the next dog is being harnessed and hitched. The dog must remain harnessed and hitched.

The Honor exercise shall be off leash with the handler out-of-sight. Once a dog and handler team has finished the Harnessing and Hitching Exercise, the Honor Dog and Handler, with the dog hitched to his Drafting Apparatus, move to the designated honor exercise station. This exercise will be off leash and will be performed while the next dog runs the maneuvering course. Upon arriving at the Honor exercise station, the handler will command and/or signal his dog to sit or down. When the judge commands the next handler to begin the maneuvering course with the order "Forward," the Honor handler will command and/or signal the dog to stay and leave the dog, moving to an area designated for the out-of-sight stay, while the Honor steward times the dog for a period of five (5) minutes. The handler will remain in that location until the Honor steward advises them that they can return to the dog. The dog performing the Honor exercise must remain in the designated area in a sit or down position without moving significantly from that location. The command "Exercise Finished" from the steward will be given when the handler has returned to heel position after the five (5) minutes have elapsed. At that time, the exercise is finished and the handler may leave the Honor station. The Honor station must not be in the path of the dog and handler team on the maneuvering course.

The following examples show the combinations that will accomplish the maneuvering/honor sequences:

1. Sequence Number 1 (Example for six dogs: 1,6 2,1 3,2 4,3 5,4 6,5).
2. Sequence Number 2 (Example for six dogs: 1,2 2,1 3,4 4,3 5,6 6,5).
3. Sequence Number 3 (Example for six dogs: 1,2 2,3 3,4 4,5 5,6 6,1).

The judges shall determine which sequence best accomplishes these exercises with the least amount of disruption with the dogs and handlers.

Principal Parts of the Exercise:

1. The handler shall direct the dog to pull through the maneuvering course while harnessed and hitched to the apparatus.
2. The dog follows the handler's instructions to pull forward, turn, back, halt or change speed.
3. The handler leaves their dog harnessed and hitched to an apparatus in the designated area of the maneuvering course and goes out-of-sight for five (5) minutes.

Failing Performance:

1. Handler impedes the dog's forward movement by moving in front to enforce a halt command or change of direction.
2. Handler touches the apparatus without the judge's permission except where allowed in the regulations.
3. Dog refuses to work on command of the 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 the dog.
7. Dog refuses to back the required distance.
8. Dog tries to or does pass the removable obstacle without waiting for the handler to move it, does not wait for the handler to command the dog to move forward or does not stay while the handler returns the obstacle to the original position. The dog may take a step or steps in order to balance as long as it is not a significant distance.
9. Dog upsets the draft apparatus.
10. The equipment breaks in a manner that could not be anticipated and cannot be repaired by the handler, without assistance, within ten (10) minutes.
11. The dog fails to stay in the designated area on the maneuvering course or moves a significant distance forward or backward during the honor stay.
12. The dog fails to complete the 360 ° stationary wheel turn within two (2) minutes.
13. Dog and handler fail to perform any exercise on the maneuvering course as described.

Section 4 - Novice and Open Class Three Minute Stay

The Three (3) Minute Novice In-Sight Stay or Open Out-of-Sight Stay will be judged as a group exercise, with a maximum of six (6) entrants at a time. In preparation for this exercise, the handlers will harness and hitch their dogs.

Novice Class - Leashes are removed from the dog and placed in the apparatus. The handlers will leave their dogs upon command from the judges and stand at least six (6) feet in front of the dog for three (3) minutes. 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 must not significantly move the apparatus forward or backward, 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 apparatus for safety during this exercise. When the handlers return to their dogs at the conclusion of three (3) minutes, the judges will indicate that this exercise has been completed. The handlers are permitted to pet and praise their dogs at this time, but they must remain in the area for the next exercise. The leash is placed on the dog for the Novice Class only at this time.

Open Class - The handlers will leave their dogs upon command from the judges and will go out-of-sight for three (3) minutes. 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 must not significantly move the apparatus forward or backward, 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 apparatus for safety while the handler is out-of-sight. When the handlers return to their dogs at the conclusion of three (3) minutes, the judges will indicate that this exercise has been completed. The handlers are permitted to pet and praise their dogs at this time, but they must remain in the area for the next exercise.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. Novice: The handlers remove their leashes, leave their dogs harnessed and hitched to an apparatus and stand six (6) feet in front of their dogs for three (3) minutes.
2. Open: The handlers remove their leashes, leave their dogs harnessed and hitched to an apparatus and go out-of-sight for three (3) minutes.

Failing Performance

1. Novice: During the three (3) minute in-sight stay, the dog moves the apparatus a significant distance forward or backward.
2. Open: During the three (3) minute out-of-sight stay, the dog moves the apparatus a significant distance forward or backward.

Section 5 - Freight Load

The handler will provide the freight load for the apparatus. 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 judges will verify that the load is appropriate for the dog, apparatus and the site conditions. Animals or people may not be used as loads.

Factory sealed containers like pet food bags, kitty litter, salt etc. may be used, if the seal has not been broken.

The Excellent Class Freight Load shall start no sooner than fifteen (15) minutes after the last dog and handler finish the maneuvering course.

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

A. Novice and Open Class

1. Five to Twenty (5-20) pounds for a travois.
2. Fifteen to fifty (15-50) pounds for a sled or toboggan.
3. Twenty-five to one hundred (25-100) pounds for a wheeled apparatus.

B. Excellent Class

1. Ten to forty (10 - 40) pounds for a travois.
2. Thirty to one hundred (30 - 100) pounds for a sled or toboggan.
3. Fifty to one hundred (50 -100) pounds for a wheeled apparatus.

A steward will weigh any non-standardized freight materials. At the judge's discretion, the steward may be asked to weigh any of the loads.

The load for the Excellent Class shall be two (2) items, one of which shall be liquid, not to exceed half or to be less than one-third of the provided weight and one shall be bagged. The load may not be attached to a fixed object and must be held to the apparatus by ropes, bungee cords, straps or other such fastening devices.

The judges will observe each handler as he loads the freight load.

Once handlers have loaded their draft apparatus, judges will observe as the dogs and handlers move as a group to the beginning of the distance freight haul area. At this point, the judges will instruct the handlers that this part of the exercise is completed.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. The handler selects a comfortable working load for the dog and apparatus.
2. The handler loads and secures the weight in the apparatus.
3. Judges observe that the freight load is balanced and secured safely during movement.

Failing Performance

1. Handler must reduce or re-balance the freight load after the dog begins to pull.
2. Handler physically touches or guides the dog unnecessarily during loading.
3. Dog refuses to move loaded draft apparatus.
4. Freight load becomes unbalanced when the apparatus is moving.
5. The freight load is too heavy for the dog.
6. The load is not securely tied down.
7. The dog is improperly harnessed or hitched.
8. 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.

Section 6 - Distance Freight Haul

The Distance Freight Haul is a group event with a maximum of six (6) handlers per group. Each dog will haul a loaded apparatus on a test route that is at least one (1) mile in length. Each handler and dog will start the test route in catalog order (refer to Chapter II, Section 6, "Catalog Order") with an assigned steward. As the dogs begin the Distance Freight Haul, the judges may allow the dogs and teams to find their position within the group according to each handler's and dog's working speed. Each handler and dog must be within sight of at least one judge at all times. Per judges' instructions, the two lead stewards will set and maintain a pace that the dogs and handlers will follow.

The test route may have natural obstacles (bends, trees, potholes, etc.) that are native to the test area. Each dog will pull the freight that was loaded and secured during the Freight Load Exercise. As long as the dog works, there is no time limit. If the dog stops working at any point along the test route, the handler has one (1) minute to get the dog moving again. With the judges' permission, a handler may stop the dog at the side of the test route 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. Should the apparatus come in contact with an obstruction, such as a curb or log, the judges may grant permission to the handler to lift it over the object as long as the handler does not push the dog forward.

The handler may work in front of, beside or behind the dog or any combination of these positions. The Novice Class is on leash, the Open and Excellent Class is off leash. 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.

Principle Parts of the Exercise

1. (Novice Class) Dog hauls a loaded draft apparatus a distance of at least one (1) mile on-leash with the handler.
2. (Open and Excellent Classes) Dog hauls a loaded draft apparatus a distance of at least one (1) mile off-leash with the handler.
3. Dog must be under handler's control and remain behind the lead stewards.
4. 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 uses the leash for guidance during the freight haul (Novice).
3. Handler must alter the load on the test route.
4. Handler impedes the dog's forward movement by moving in front of the dog or otherwise physically impedes the apparatus to enforce a halt command.
5. Dog refuses to move the loaded draft apparatus when told in one (1) minute.
6. Dog bumps lead stewards or overruns and tries to pass lead stewards.
7. Dog cannot comfortably or safely move the freight load the full length of the test route.
8. Dog bumps handler who chooses to work in front of his dog.
9. Dog does not cooperate during unhitching.
10. Equipment breaks in a manner that could not be anticipated and cannot be repaired by the handler without assistance within ten (10) minutes.

Section 7 - Intriguing Distraction

At some point during one of the moving exercises (Maneuvering and Basic Commands or Distance Freight Haul) a planned intriguing distraction occurs near the dog. If the distraction is planned for the Maneuvering and Basic Commands, a different distraction may occur for each dog. If an unplanned distraction occurs, the dog will be judged the same as on the planned

intriguing distraction. When the distraction appears, the dog may stop what it is doing or shift its position to watch, but may not divert from the test route. 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. The test committee person who selects the intriguing distractions cannot participate in the test or be related to a handler. The intriguing distraction will remain a secret. If a handler knows the intriguing distraction before the start of the test, a different intriguing distraction will be used.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

1. An intriguing distraction occurs 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 exercise.
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 exercise after the distraction passes.
6. Dog fails a naturally occurring distraction for the above reasons, even if it has passed the planned distraction.

Chapter IV - 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 six (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 and Equipment Check

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for Harnessing, Hitching and 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 six (6) inches in overall length, but their harnesses may not be

connected in any way for the backing 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 and Basic Commands

A. Novice and Open

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for Maneuvering Course and Basic Commands for a team will follow Chapter III, Section 3, Sub-section A 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 six (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).

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 3, Sub-section A 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.

B - Excellent Maneuvering Course and Basic Commands

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for Maneuvering Course and Basic Commands for a team will follow Chapter III, Section 3, Sub-section B, 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 six (6) inches in overall length.

The dogs in the team are to perform the commands together. One of the six (6) foot or longer narrow areas shall be adjusted to twelve (12) inches wider than the widest point of the dogs or the apparatus, whichever is wider. The other six foot or longer narrow areas shall be twenty-four (24) inches wider than the dogs or the apparatus, whichever is wider. The ten-foot narrows shall be twice as wide as the dogs or apparatus, whichever is wider.

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 3, Sub-section B 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 - Novice and Open Class Three Minute Stay

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for the Novice and Open Class Three Minute Stay 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 six (6) inches in over-all length.

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 - Freight Load

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for the Freight Load for a team will follow Chapter III, Section 5 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 six (6) inches in overall length. The weight specified in Chapter III, Section 5, "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 5 and Chapter II, Section 15. A failing performance by any one member of the team is cause for failure for the entire team.

Section 6 - 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 6, 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 six (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 6 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 7 - Intriguing Distraction

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for the Intriguing Distraction for a team will follow Chapter III, Section 7, with the exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog hitched to the draft apparatus when the distraction occurs. A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as Chapter III, Section 7 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.

End of SBCA Draft Test Regulations

Where to get copies of the SBCA Draft Test Regulations and Test Applications

Copies of the SBCA Draft Test Regulations and Draft Test Applications may be obtained from SBCA Draft Work Secretary, Barry Roland 4029 Weelaunee Road, Ellenwood, GA 30294.
8.5 x 11 size via e-mail or from the SBCA Web page – No charge

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