



International Rescue Dog Organisation

Judges' Guidelines for the International Testing Standards for Rescue Dogs (IPO-R 2012)

The guidelines are an addendum of the IRO International Testing Standards for Rescue Dog Tests (IPO-R) and are published as such. The statements are binding.

The guidelines have been prepared by the Department for Training and Judges in conjunction with the IRO Judges at the Judges' Meeting held in October 2011.

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General Abbreviations

RH	Rescue Dog
RHT	Rescue Dog Team
PR	Rescue Dog Judge
HF	Dog Handler
Hd	Dog
Pkt	Points
VP	Victim
HZ	Voice Command
SZ	Hand Signal
PO	Testing Standards
PL	Test Organising Officer
LRRRef	Spokesperson for Training and Judges

General

Judges are not permitted to judge dogs that are in his ownership or are in his possession, or dogs that reside with him.

During his work, the PR is not allowed to influence the RHT's work by his behaviour.

For NRO testing events or competitions, the decision, concerning walking on the worksites for section A outside of the working time, is the responsibility of the test organising officer and the PR. Care has to be taken that a mistake, which continues to be made throughout the entire work (e.g. crooked basic positions); will not be heavily weighted for every exercise. Such a mistake can also be mentioned in the general critique and can also be taken into account at this point. Unused voice commands and/or hand signals will not be assessed negatively.

If the dog executes an exercise only after the 3rd HZ, the assessment is unsatisfactory. If the dog does not carry out the exercise at all, this exercise is to be assessed with 0 points. Refusing to do an exercise or part of an exercise is unacceptable and will be punished with a warning.

In the Area Search, dogs may be fitted with a lighted collar or an identifying harness. By this it is meant, for example, a flashing light or glow stick, which enables the dog handler to recognise the dog in the dark. However, the dogs may not be fitted with flashlights or spotlights for their orientation.

Approval of the testing area

Before start of the testing event, the official PR has to check out all his relevant tasks – especially with regard to the setting up of the worksites – and make the necessary adjustments in agreement with the PL. If a correction is not possible, the PR makes the decision to accept the test. A written report must be made for the Department for Training and Judges.

Timetable

Prior to the event, a timetable must be drawn up and the performance times of each of the participants must be obvious.

It must be taken into consideration that the assigned PRs do not work any longer than 9 hours per day. Not included in this, is a lunch break of at least 45 minutes. It is important that each RHT is assessed by the same PR for the same category and level.

The timetable generally has to be followed. Disruption of the timetable is possible through delays, dogs being pulled and/or disqualification. In this case, changes can be made in accordance with the test organising officer and the PR.

Reasons for Warnings by the PR

- Disregarding the PR's instruction
- Use of improper aids for the search work
- Touching the dog during obedience/dexterity (apart from praise)

Termination

If a particular section is terminated, the points awarded up until this point will be accredited and the participant starts, if and when still necessary, the next section of his/her test.

Reasons for termination are:

- the dog leaves the testing area and does not come back to the HF after the 3rd HZ
- lack of preparation
- lacking willingness to work
- clear physical limitations
- 2nd warning
- the use of food rewards or toys during the exercise
- 2nd false alert

Disqualification

In the case of a disqualification, the test must be terminated immediately. No points will be awarded for the whole test. It must be entered into log book with an explanation. A written report from the PR to the IRO Department for Training and Judges follows.

Reasons for a disqualification are:

- gross unsportsmanlike behaviour by the HF
- use of compulsive devices in the entire testing area or adjacent areas
- aggressive behaviour of the dog
- injury to the victim
- gun shyness
- temperament flaws

Gun Shyness: Should a dog's behaviour be questionable in view of gun sureness, the PR is obliged to carry out a further test. For this purpose, the dog is placed free in the middle of the testing area, the dog handler distances him-/herself roughly 15 paces from the dog and 2 further shots are fired.

The disqualification can result in the following measures:

In the case of aggressive behaviour of the dog and/or injury of persons and damage of dogs or objects:

- No apparent injury/damage:
Warning from the Department for Training and Judges.
In case of a repeated offence, it is possible, at the request of the LRRef via the Executive Board, to impose a ban for one year or also a lifetime ban.
- Apparent injury/damage:
The LRRef initiates the review for a ban on participation. The Executive Board can impose a ban on participation at all IRO events for one year or for a lifetime.

In the case of a ban, the following procedure is necessary (assessment procedure):

- To obtain a written statement from the HF
- To obtain a written statement from the PR, PL persons injured and possible witnesses
- Resolution from the Executive Board regarding the ban

- Notification of the ban, including all the dog's data (breed, name, date of birth, chip number and/or tattoo):
 1. The dog handler and his/her NRO in writing and via email
 2. The PR and the IRO NRO, at whose event the incident took place, via email
 3. in the next issue of the IRO Info

The responsible Spokesperson for Training and Judges is in any case entitled to direct a preliminary ban for preventive reason until the assessment procedure is completed.

Alerts

General

If the dog shows another alert other than the one announced but anchored in the PO, the alert then can only be scored as "satisfactory" (e.g. "Bringsel dog" barks).

If the dog doesn't show any of the different types of alert, but the HF identifies an alert and announces this to the PR, the victim exercise is then evaluated with a partial assessment of "unsatisfactory".

Alerts for Articles

How a dog indicates the articles is not relevant. If the dog retrieves the articles, the dog may start the track either from where he brings the article or where he picked it up.

Barking

The dog must bark continuously, while staying within 2 meters of the victim / place of alert, until its HF reaches him. The terrain must be taken into account. Pawing in rubble search is also allowed in addition to barking, whereby the discontinuation of barking while the dog paws is not a fault.

The Bringsel Method

Maintaining contact may also be interrupted under certain circumstances (depending on terrain) without having a negative impact on the evaluation. Restless holding or respectively mouthing of the Bringsel is not faulty. In rubble search the dog is not allowed to be put on leash.

Faulty is:

- Running back and forth between the VP and the HF
- Barking before taking the Bringsel
- If the dog doesn't run back goal-oriented to the victim
- If the dog drops the Bringsel

Recall

Among others the following can be presented during recall:

- Jumping on or nudging the HF
- Barking at the VP and the HF
- Eye contact between HF and dog

Search Tactic

Each outlined phase in the tactical evaluation should be evaluated with 10 points each. Essential criteria for the tactic include: Taking into account the terrain and shape, wind direction, assessing the dog's ability, in the case of included buildings also their make-up (entrance, structure...), last known location of the persons, etc.

For National and World Championships tactical restrictions are possible in view of the number of participants and the timetable.

Suitability Test RH-E

Alert exercise and alerting the VP: the dog must bark for at least 20 seconds. The VP must sit or lie. During Obedience and Dexterity the dog must wear a large-link chain collar.

Tracking Test RH-F Level A and B

In the case of several participants, the order is to be determined on-site by the drawing of lots before beginning of the Tracking Work. There must be a clear level of difficulty in the course of the track for level B such as change of area, ditches, traversing paths and/or streets, etc.

If the dog lies down where there is no article and the handler confirms that there is no article and gives the command to continue the search = -1 point. For a false indication, which is confirmed by the HF, a deduction of points follows with the value of an article.

If the dog handler has reported that the dog will alert by barking but the dog clearly indicates the victim without barking, the alert will be scored with "unsatisfactory". If the dog does not bark correctly at the prescribed direction or leaves the VP at times, the alert will be assessed with a maximum of "satisfactory". Other alerts equivalent.

It is up to the PR's discretion, to lengthen the time due to existing circumstances after the last change in direction. If the track is terminated, the HF leaves the area with his dog on the most direct path. Further search is not permitted. The PR decides about an alternative track.

Area Search Test RH-FL Level A and B

The search work in the Area is to be carried out at a normal pace. Running by the HF is not allowed. The dog handler receives a detailed sketch from which the boundary conditions of the area are recognisable. Afterwards he/she must choose his/her tactic. He/she is not allowed to walk around (outside) the testing area.

If the HF finds the VP, there will be no reduction in the assessment, if the HF leaves the dog to search freely and the dog then alerts correctly.

Comment to: "An alert, which is not confirmed by the HF, is faulty, but not to be evaluated as false alert". After a non-confirmed alert, a request follows within an acceptable time from the PR to the HF to make a decision about the continuation of the work.

If the dog distances itself more than 2m from the VP, the score to be awarded is "unsatisfactory". A dog, which only alerts the VP for a short time and then runs back to the HF, will receive no points for this alert. It is up to the PR, to carry on with the search work after all the VPs have been found.

The VPs must leave the hiding place after having been located, which includes removal of a blanket and other such items.

Rubble Test RH-T Level A and B

The PR needs to wear the necessary protective clothing on the rubble, especially helmet and safety shoes.

Distraction by smouldering fire and/or engine noise and/or strokes of a hammer and/or drums and/or sound carriers etc. must be arranged with the PR. Helpers must act neutrally and are not allowed to disturb the dog during the exercise. The attempt by a dog to advance to the victim from a different, closer place, after the initial alert is sounded, is not considered faulty.

If a dog has **obviously** picked up the scent of a person and leaves the spot without wanting to advance to the victim from another side, this person can only be marked as "satisfactory" in the case of a subsequent alert, even though the HF initially did **not** report the alert. Additional mistakes in the other alert work can lead to further reduction of the alert points. It is up to the PR, to carry on with the search work after all the VPs have been found.

Avalanche Test RH-L Levels A and B

Blankets, back-packs or similar items are not allowed to be left behind in the hiding places.

With the depth of the burying of the VP the height of the covering is meant. Covering the receiver (Avalanche Transceiver, LVS) should be about 30cm.

Water Work RH-W Levels E, A and B

The victims and the personnel need to wear a long wetsuit. The dog's harness for the work in the water should be a standardised harness without swimming aids. The stipulated distance of 25 metres and 40 metres need to be marked on the water's surface using buoys.

The end of the rope must float and always be fitted with a reinforced end. The end of the rope must be secured to a life-saving ring. The captain should also have a helper with him/her in the boat. The helper watches the rope. In order to avoid bruises on the hands, while handling or pulling the rope, protective gloves must be worn. For the safety of the dogs the helper lies on the surfboard, however he is completely motionless throughout the exercise. The order of both the distances will be determined by the judge.

Obedience and Dexterity for RH-F, FL, T

The straddle position by the HF is generally incorrect and devalues the particular exercise.

If HZ and SZ are allowed, it is optional for the HF to also use only one. If he uses both, they should be given at the same time. Group: The PR may decide that the group can stop while the HF shows the "figure eight".

If the HF gives an obviously false command for a position during the exercise "Distance Control", the exercise will be marked as "unsatisfactory". In the English version the position 'stay' (steh) is to be understood as 'stand'.

The utility article must be shown to the PR before the drawing of lots and must be useable on the spot. Jute rolls / tugs ("Beissrollen"), toys or similar are not considered to be an article. Primed articles (wrapped gloves or other assembled articles) are also not permitted.

The ladder must be fitted with two cross-pieces on the outer edges. If the dog does not reach the last rung with both paws and/or is lifted down before the last rung, as a consequence the exercise will be marked down accordingly.

For the execution of the exercise "Directability at a Distance", the HF may change position towards the direction set out for the dog as well as making a side step in a particular direction, without however leaving the spot.

If the middle is not approached, the exercise can be marked with a maximum of "satisfactory", if a table is not shown, the work is marked as "unsatisfactory".

Laying down while distracted: while lying down a minimum distance (10m) to the detached table or the equipment must be maintained.

The evaluation of "m" unsatisfactory in the case of a false position is to be adjusted to the mistake. A dog which sits calmly all the time is to be marked with as "unsatisfactory", while shifting positions will lead to further deductions.

Obedience and Dexterity for RH-L

For the general parts and all the exercises, which correspond to those in section B for RH-F, FL and T, the same execution is valid as is described in section B for RH-F, FL and T.

The exercises 7 and 8 can also be carried out individually before or after the search work (e.g. following ski tracks while walking to the search work).

Obedience and Dexterity for RH-W

For the general parts and all the exercises, which correspond to those in section B for RH-F, FL and T, the same execution is valid as is described in section B for RH-F, FL and T.

The distance of 50 metres there and back for the boating for all levels is sufficient. The exercises 8 and 9 can be carried out individually before or after the water test.