

IRISH KENNEL CLUB CLG.

**RULES & REGULATIONS FOR
WORKING TRIALS**

2026

(effective from 1st January 2025)

AUTHORITY	1. Working Trials within this State are held under licence granted by the Irish Kennel Club CLG., and are subject to the rules and regulations published by that body.
DESCRIPTION OF WORKING TRIAL STAKES	2. Four Working Trial stakes are authorised by the Irish Kennel Club CLG. Companion Dog Stake (C.D.) Utility Dog Stake (U.D.) Working Dog Stake (W.D.) Tracking Dog Stake (T.D.)
APPLICATION TO HOLD A WORKING TRIAL	3. Application for a licence to hold a Working Trial is made by, and granted to, the promoting body (herein called the Society).
WORKING TRIAL MANAGER	4. The Society shall appoint a Working Trial Manager who shall act for it.
SCHEDULE	<p>5. The Society must issue a Schedule which shall form the basis of a contract between the Society and those entering dogs. The Society may make regulations subject to the approval of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., but no such regulations shall conflict with any Rule or Regulation of the Irish Kennel Club CLG. In the case of any conflict, the Rules and Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., shall prevail. No modifications may be made to the Schedule before the date of the trial, except by permission of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., and such modifications, if possible, must be advertised.</p> <p>Two copies of the schedule must be lodged with the Irish Kennel Club CLG., at least sixty (60) days before the proposed date of the Working Trial for all judges.</p> <p><u>The schedule must contain:-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The name of the Society. (b) The venue. (c) The date of the Working Trial. (d) The names of guarantors. (e) The name and address of veterinary surgeon. (f) The Trial Manager's and, if applicable, Secretary's name and address. (g) The closing date for entries. (h) Report time and day, or if applicable, a statement that all competitors will be notified of report times after entries have closed. (i) Name(s) of judge(s) with the name of each stake. (j) The amount of entry fee and any prize money. (k) Definition of each stake, together with the qualifications and limitations for entry in the stake. (l) In the event of a limitation by the promoting body in the number of entries in any stake then a ballot will be held by the promoting body and notice of such ballot will appear in the Schedule giving the time, date, place, and an invitation to all competitors to attend. (m) A statement that the Working Trial is held under Irish Kennel Club CLG., Rules and Regulations.

- (n) A statement that the organisers reserve the right to refuse any entry.
- (o) A statement that dogs must be registered or transferred with the Irish Kennel Club CLG., save in the case of Greyhounds duly registered with the Irish Coursing Club.
- (p) A separate official entry form with the Irish Kennel Club CLG., approved declaration.
- (q) All offers of sponsorship or donations with the names of sponsors.
- (r) A statement that it is the competitors' responsibility to be available for their stake (and running order, if applicable).
- (s) A statement that the mating of bitches within the precincts of the Working Trial grounds is forbidden.
- (t) A statement that no bitch in season is allowed to compete or be present on the grounds.
- (u) A statement that should a Judge be unable to fulfil the appointment to judge, the Committee reserve the right to appoint another Judge.
- (v) A statement that should circumstances so dictate the Society, in consultation with the Judges may alter arrangements as necessary. Such changes and the circumstances surrounding them must be reported to the Irish Kennel Club CLG.
- (w) A statement that each exhibitor is responsible for keeping their dog under proper control at all times.
- (x) A statement that, dogs that have a docked tail or cropped ears cannot compete in any Irish Kennel Club licenced discipline/event.
Exceptions to be made for dogs who have been docked due to a medical/veterinary reason. This must be backed up with a veterinary certificate submitted to the Irish Kennel Club office for the records.

ENTRY FORMS

- 6. Entries must be made on the official form issued by the Society and entirely in ink. Only one person shall enter on one form. All such entry forms must be preserved by the society for at least 12 months from the last day of the Trial.
- 7. In the event of a limitation by the promoting body in the number of entries in any stake then a ballot will be held by the promoting body and notice of such ballot will appear in the Schedule giving the time, date, place and an invitation to all competitors to attend.

REFUSAL OF ENTRIES

- 8. The Society may reserve to itself the right of refusing any entries.

Docked / Cropped Dogs - Dogs that have a docked tail, or cropped ears cannot compete in any Irish Kennel Club licenced discipline or event.
Exceptions to be made for dogs who have been docked due to a medical/veterinary reason. This must be backed up with a veterinary certificate submitted to the Irish Kennel Club office for the records.

APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

9. Judge(s) for Working Trials must be appointed by the Society

PANEL 'C' JUDGES - Eligible to judge C.D. Stakes

Judges for addition to 'C' Panel must be recommended by an Affiliated Club. They must have qualified their dog Excellent in the stake to be judged.

Stewarding experience at this level is required.

PANEL 'B' JUDGES - Eligible to judge U.D. & W.D. Stakes

Judges must have judged at least two C.D. Stakes as a Panel 'C' Judge. One U.D Stake must be judged prior to any additional U.D. and W.D. Stakes. They must have qualified their dog Excellent in the Stake to be judged.

Stewarding and tracklaying experience at this level is required.

PANEL 'A' JUDGES - Eligible to judge T.D. Stakes

Judges must have judged at least two U.D. and two W.D. Stakes. They must have qualified their dog Excellent in the stake to be judged.

Stewarding and tracklaying experience at this level is required.

A Judge on this panel may award two T.D. Green Stars per year.

N.B. All applications for additions/promotions to the Working Trials Judges Panels are subject to the approval of the Canine Activities and Sports Committee of the Irish Kennel Club CLG. These applications must be made by Affiliated Clubs on or before 31st May in that year to facilitate approval and implementation by the following January 1st.

10. When a Judge is prevented from attending a Trial the Society shall have the power to appoint a replacement but see also 12 below.
11. When a Judge, from ill-health, or any other unexpected cause, is prevented from finishing a meeting, the Working Trial Manager, once the Trial has commenced, shall have the power of deciding what action is to be taken.
12. All substitute Judges must previously have been approved by the Irish Kennel Club CLG., except in the case of overseas judges.

In addition to judging and competitive experience, consideration will be given to applicant's attendance at relevant courses, stewarding experience, actual number of bona fide dogs judged, personal qualities etc.

Appointment or promotion to a Working Trials Judging Panel is at the discretion of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., and it reserves the right to refuse any appointment or promotion to a Judges Panel without explanation.

OVERSEAS JUDGES

13. Overseas Judges must have judged the same Stakes at Championship level in their own country.

Once an overseas Judge is approved and has judged the T.D. Stake, that Judge will be placed on the Overseas Working Trials Judging Panel. Judges on the Overseas Judges Panel are not required to complete a questionnaire.

**DUTIES OF THE
WORKING TRIAL MANAGER**

14. The management of a Working Trial shall be entrusted to a Working Trial Manager, or his/her deputy, who shall be responsible for ensuring that the regulations are observed but he/she may not interfere with the Judges decision which shall be final.

The Working Trial Manager, or his/her deputy, shall decide upon any matter not related to judging and not provided for in the Irish Kennel Club CLG., Rules and Regulations for Working Trials and may call upon the Judge or Judges to assist in reaching the decision which shall be final.

The Working Trial Manager, or his/her deputy, should be present throughout the Trial.

WEATHER

15. The Working Trial Manager and the Judges should assess the weather conditions, and should they consider the weather unfit for holding the Trial the commencement may be postponed until such time and date as is considered necessary, the new date to be approved by the Irish Kennel Club CLG. In such circumstances the competitor shall have the option of withdrawing and his/her entry fee refunded.

ORDER OF RUNNING

16. All competitors are to be notified at least 10 days prior to the trial of their report times, and subsequently confirmed in writing, or by electronic device, except when the report times have already been given in the schedule.

For the T.D. Stake a draw for the competitors' report groups must be made by the Irish Kennel Club CLG. The Irish Kennel Club CLG., shall take into account the following points, which will be notified to them by the host society.

- a) If the Trials Manager is entered in the T.D. Stake, he/she MUST compete on the first day of the T.D. stake with his/her dog/dogs.
- b) A handler working more than one dog in the T.D. Stake to work all their dogs on the same day. Consideration to be given to the timing of the draw/working the dogs to avoid consecutive working of the dogs.

c) The host club to advise the Irish Kennel Club CLG., of the day/days that handlers are available to work their dog/dogs. The draw to take this into account. In the event of the numbers of competitors requesting to work on a specific day exceeding the number of tracks available, then the Irish Kennel Club CLG., to conduct a full draw of all T.D. competitors and they may then be drawn to work over any of the days available. The Irish Kennel Club CLG., will take points a) and b) above into consideration.

The competitors will report to the Trials Base as follows:

- normally in groups of 2 and 3
- if 5 competitors, in groups of 2 and 3
- if 4 competitors or less, in 1 group
- when a competitor is handling more than 1 dog, the Irish Kennel Club CLG., must ensure a different reporting group for each dog.

A further draw for tracking times will then take place at the Trials Base not more than 45 minutes before the first track in each group is to be worked. Any alterations to the above method of TD report times must be authorised by the Irish Kennel Club CLG., prior to the society notifying competitors.

In the case of cancellations after the Irish Kennel Club CLG., draw has taken place, the Trials Manager shall ensure that the competitors still report in groups that conform to the ones set out above while still remaining in the original order drawn by the Irish Kennel Club CLG.

If the trials manager sees in advance that a competitor could have two dogs tracking one after another due to four dogs or less competing or by having a dog in two consecutive draws, the trials manager must use his/her discretion by allowing extra time between tracks if there are only three or four dogs competing, or between groups of tracks if there is to be more than one draw.

17. Dogs must be over eighteen months of age on the first day of a Working Trial to enter the Agility section of the Working Trial.

Dogs aged between six and eighteen months of age on the first day of a Working Trial are eligible to enter all tests except for the Agility section.

HANDLING OF DOGS BY OWNER OR DEPUTY

18. An owner or person nominated by him/her may handle the dog, but it must be one or the other, and once the dog has commenced work an owner must not interfere with his/her dog if he/she has deputised another person to handle it.

**DISQUALIFICATION
FOR ABSENCE**

19. The Working Trial Manager shall announce the specific time at which a dog or group of dogs may be called for any exercise or group of exercises. Each dog must be brought up at its proper time and in its proper turn without delay. If the occasion demands, the times and order may be changed at the discretion of the Working Trial Manager with the approval of the Judge or Judges, provided that no hardship is thereby caused to any competitor. If absent when called, the dog shall be liable to be disqualified by the Working Trial Manager.

**WITHDRAWAL OF DOGS
FROM COMPETITION**

20. No dog entered for competition and actually at the meeting may be withdrawn from competition without notice to the Working Trial Manager. No dog shall compulsorily be withdrawn from a Stake by reason of the fact that it has obtained less than 70% of the marks in any one group.

DISQUALIFICATION

21. A dog shall be disqualified by the Judge(s) and removed from the ground if in their opinion it is:
 - (a) Unfit to compete by reason of sexual causes.
 - (b) Suffering from any infectious or contagious disease.
 - (c) Interfering with the safety or chance of winning of an opponent.
 - (d) Of such temperament or is so much out of hand as to be a danger to the safety of any person or other animal.
 - (e) Likely to cause cruelty to the dog if it continues in the Trial.

If a dog competes which has been exposed to the risk of any contagious or infectious disease during the period of six weeks prior to the Working Trial and/or if any dog shall be proved to be suffering at a Working Trial from any contagious or infectious disease, the owner thereof shall be liable to be dealt with under Rule 17 of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., Rules.

**FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE
IN ANY EXERCISE**

22. Failure to attempt any exercise in a group in any Stake shall result in the dog being ineligible for any placing or qualification in that Stake.

METHOD OF WORKING

23. The Judge or Judges, in consultation with the Working Trial Manager, may arrange for dogs to be worked singly or together in any numbers. All dogs entered in a Stake shall be tested as far as possible under similar conditions.

**REGULATIONS FOR
HANDLING**

24. (a) A person handling a dog may speak, whistle or work it by hand signals as he/she wishes, but he/she can be called to order by the Judge or Judges for making unnecessary noise, and if he/she persists in doing so the Judge or Judges may disqualify the dog.

(b) No person shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling of a dog at The Working Trial, any such behaviour must be penalised by disqualification. The Working Trial Manager must report the occurrence to the Canine Activities and Sports Committee of the Irish Kennel Club CLG.

QUALIFICATIONS

25. The Judge or Judges shall award qualifications at a Tracking Dog (T.D.), Working Dog (W.D.), Utility Dog (U.D.) and Companion Dog (C.D.) Stake to those dogs which have obtained 70% or more marks in each group of exercises in the Stake entered. The added qualification 'Excellent' shall be awarded should the dog also obtain 80% or more marks of the total for the Stake.

QUALIFICATION TITLES

Two qualifiers in the appropriate Stake at 70% entitle the dog to the qualification C.D., U.D., W.D., T.D. Two qualifiers in the appropriate Stake at 80% entitle the dog to the qualification C.D.EX., U.D.EX., W.D.EX., T.D.EX. The two qualifiers necessary to obtain the title in each Stake must be gained under two different Judges.

WORKING TRIALS CHAMPION

To gain the title of Working Trials Champion, two wins - (Green Stars) with at least 80% at T.D. level, under two different Judges, are required.

AWARDS

26. All awards by the Judge or Judges at a Working Trial shall be in accordance with the agreed scale of points of the Irish Kennel Club CLG. Equal awards for any of the prizes offered at Working Trials are prohibited.

Where there is equality of marks, the award must be decided as follows –

(i) Where all parties involved are present at the time of the award, the order shall be decided by a run-off exercise(s). Run-offs will be judged, one at a time, by normal scheduled exercises for that Stake, until a winner is determined. The Judge will have the final decision as to what exercise(s) may be used.

(ii) Where all parties are not present at the time of the award, the order shall be decided at the discretion of the Judge.

**NOTIFICATION OF
AWARDS**

27. The Secretary of the Society shall send (within 7 days of the Trial) the Judges' certification and a marked catalogue to the Irish Kennel Club CLG., indicating the prize winners and those dogs to which the Judge(s) has awarded qualifications. The Irish Kennel Club CLG., shall, from their records grant to all qualified dogs their appropriate titles on application from those so qualified.

PRIZES	28. The winner of the stake shall be the dog that has qualified with 70% or more marks in each group of the stake and has obtained most marks. No dog that has not so qualified shall be placed in the prize list above a qualified dog. If no dog has qualified, the dog with the highest number of marks may be awarded the prize. Judges are also empowered and instructed to withhold any prize or prizes if in their opinion the dogs competing do not show sufficient merit. Nothing in this Regulation shall apply to the award of 'Special' prizes.
PENALTIES FOR IMPUGNING JUDGES DECISION	29. If anyone taking part in the Working Trial openly impugns the decision of the Judge or Judges, the incident must be reported by the Working Trial Manager to the Canine Activities and Sports Committee of the Irish Kennel Club CLG.
APPENDIX	30. The Canine Activities and Sports Committee shall issue an Appendix to these rules entitled 'Description of Exercise and Guidance for Judges and Competitors at Working Trials'.
	<p>This Appendix may be altered from time to time, and in respect of such alterations, due notice shall be given to all concerned.</p>
RULE CHANGES	31. Additions / changes to the Working Trials Regulations must be proposed by an Affiliated Club to arrive at the Irish Kennel Club CLG., not later than 31 st May. These proposals shall be reviewed by the Canine Activities and Sports Committee in June each year.

APPENDIX NO.1 - Schedule of Exercises and Points:

Companion Dog (C.D.) Stake

	Marks	Group Total	Minimum Group Qualifying Mark
Group I. Control			
1. Heel on Leash	5		
2. Heel Free	10		
3. Recall to Handler	5		
4. Sending the dog away	10		
5. Sit (2 Minutes) In sight	10		
6. Down (5 Minutes) In sight	10	50	35
Group II. Agility			
7. Scale (3) Stay (2) Recall (5)	10		
8. Clear Jump	5		
9. Long Jump	5	20	14
Group III. Retrieving and Nosework			
10. Retrieve a dumb-bell	10		
11. Elementary Search	20	30	21
Totals	100	100	
			70% Overall = 70
			80% Overall = 80

Utility Dog (U.D.) Stake

	Marks	Group Total	Minimum Group Qualifying Mark
Group I. Control			
1. Heel Free	10		
2. Sending the dog away	10		
3. Retrieve a dumb-bell	5		
4. Down (5 Minutes) Out of sight	10	35	25
Group II. Agility			
6. Scale (3) Stay (2) Recall (5)	10		
7. Clear Jump	5		
8. Long Jump	5	20	14
Group III. Nosework			
9. Search	35		
10. Track (90) Article (10+10=20)	110	145	102
Total	200	200	
			70% Overall = 140
			80% Overall = 160

Working Dog (W.D.) Stake

		Marks	Group Total	Minimum Group Qualifying Mark
Group I. Control				
1. Heel Free	10			
2. Sending the dog away	10			
3. Retrieve a dumb-bell	5			
4. Down (10 Minutes) Out of sight	10	35	25	
Group II. Agility				
6. Scale (3) Stay (2) Recall (5)	10			
7. Clear Jump	5			
8. Long Jump	5	20	14	
Group III. Nosework				
9. Search	35			
10. Track (90) Article (10+10=20)	110	145	102	
Total	200	200		

70% Overall = 140
80% Overall = 160

Tracking Dog (T.D.) Stake

		Marks	Group Total	Minimum Group Qualifying Mark
Group I. Control				
1. Heel Free	10			
2. Sendaway & Directional Control	10			
3. Speak on Command	5			
4. Down (10 Minutes) Out of sight	10	35	25	
Group II. Agility				
6. Scale (3) Stay (2) Recall (5)	10			
7. Clear Jump	5			
8. Long Jump	5	20	14	
Group III. Nosework				
9. Search	35			
10. Track (100) Articles (10+10+10=30)	130	165	116	
Total	220	220		

70% Overall = 154
80% Overall = 176

APPENDIX NO.2

DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISES AND GUIDANCE FOR JUDGES AND COMPETITORS AT WORKING TRIALS

A. Method of Handling

Although implicit obedience to all orders is necessary, dogs and handlers must operate in as free and natural a manner as possible. Excessive formalism may be penalised, particularly if, in the opinion of the Judge, it detracts from the ability of the dog to exercise its senses in relation to all that is happening in the vicinity. Persistent barking, whining etc., in any exercise other than speak on command should be penalised. Food may not be given to the dog by the handler whilst being tested. The dogs name may be used simultaneously with command or signal without penalty.

Food may not be carried or given to the dog on the competition field. Any other article carried by the handler is subject to the judges' discretion and must be indicated to the judge prior to the commencement of the test. Food must not be left in the vicinity of the working area of the trial where it is likely to affect another competitors' chance of qualifying or winning.

All competitors must show respect for the judge. Training rounds will only be allowed if prior permission has been given by the judge.

B. Heelwork

The Judge shall test the ability of the dog to keep his shoulder reasonably close to the left knee of the handler who should walk smartly in a natural manner at normal, fast and slow paces through turns and which may include among and around persons and obstacles. The halt, with the dog sitting to heel and a 'figure of eight' may be included at any stage.

Any act, signal or command or jerking of the leash, which in the opinion of the Judge has given the dog extra assistance, must be penalised.

C. Sit Stay (2 Minutes) In Sight

Dogs may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The judge or Steward will give the command "Last Command" and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to the dogs. Any further commands or signals will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the Judge or Steward until ordered to return to them. Dogs must remain in the sit position throughout the test until the Judge or Steward indicates that the test is finished. Minor movements must be penalised, and no marks will be awarded to any dog which stands, lies down or crawls. The Judge may use his/her discretion should interference by another dog cause a dog to move.

D. Down Stay

C.D. Stake 5 minutes, handlers in sight

U.D. Stake 5 minutes handlers out of sight

W.D. & T.D. Stakes 10 minutes handlers out of sight

In the C.D. Stake Handlers must be in sight of the dogs, in U.D., W.D. and T.D. Stakes the handlers will be out of sight of the dogs who may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The Judge or Steward will give the command "Last Command" and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the Judge or Steward until ordered to return to them. Dogs must remain in the 'down' position throughout the test until the Judge or Steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements must be penalised, and no dog will be awarded any marks that sits, stands, or crawls more than its approximate body length in any direction. The Judge may use his/her discretion should interference by another dog cause a dog to move.

E. Recall to Handler

The dog should be recalled from the 'down' or 'sit' position, the handler being a reasonable distance from the dog at the discretion of the Judge. The dog should return at a smart pace and sit in front of the handler, afterwards going smartly to heel on command or signal. Handler to await command of Judge or Steward.

F. Retrieve a Dumbbell

The dog should not move forward to retrieve nor deliver to hand on return until ordered by the handler on the Judge or Steward's instructions. The retrieve should be executed at a smart pace without mouthing or playing with the object. After delivery the handler will send his dog to heel on the instructions of the Judge or Steward.

G. Sendaway and Directional Control

The distance that the Judge shall set for the Sendaway shall be 20 yards to 50 yards for the C.D. Stake, 50 yards to 100 yards for the U.D. Stake, and a minimum of 50 yards for all other stakes. The T.D. Stake shall also include a redirection, or redirections, of a minimum of 50 yards. When the dog has reached the designated point or the Judge is satisfied that after a reasonable time the handler cannot improve the position of the dog by any further commands the dog should be stopped in either the stand, sit or down position at the discretion of the handler. At this point in the T.D. Stake the Judge or Steward shall instruct the handler to redirect his/her dog. In all Stakes, whilst the Judge should take into account the number of commands used during the exercise, importance should be placed upon the handler's ability to direct his/her dog to the place indicated.

H. Speak on Command

The Judge will control the position of the handler in relation to the dog and may require the handler to work the dog walking at heel. If the dog is not required to walk at heel, the handler may, at his/her discretion, place the dog in the stand, sit or down position. The dog will be ordered to speak and cease speaking on command of the Judge or Steward who may then instruct the handler to make the dog speak again. Speaking should be sustained by the dog whilst required with the minimum of commands and/or signals. Continuous and/or excessive incitements to speak shall be severely penalised. This test should not be incorporated with any other test.

I. Agility

No part of the Scale or Clear or Long Jump equipment to be traversed by a dog shall be less than three feet wide nor be in any way injurious to the dog. The tests shall be followed in a sequence agreed by the Judge and will commence with the Clear Jump. The Scale should be a vertical wall of wooden planks which may be grooved or chamfered on both sides in the top half of the Scale. The top surface of the Scale may be lightly padded. The handler and dog should approach the Scale at a walking pace with the dog at heel. At the handler's discretion, and in his own time whilst the dog and handler are in a stationary position and the dog's front feet are within the clearly defined 2.73m (9 Ft) marker/s, the dog should be ordered to scale. On reaching the other side, the dog should be ordered to stay in the stand, sit or down position, the handler having previously nominated such a position to the Judge. The Judge should ensure that the dog will stay steady and may indicate to the handler where he should stand in relation to his dog and the Scale before ordering the dog to be recalled over the Scale. A dog which fails to go over the Scale at the second attempt shall be excluded from the stay and recall over the Scale. Failure in the recall over the Scale does not disqualify from marks previously gained.

The handler may either approach the clear and long jumps with the dog or send it forward or stand by the jumps and call the dog up to jump. At no time should the handler proceed beyond any part of the jumps before they have been traversed by the dog. Once the dog has cleared the

obstacle he should remain on the other side under control until joined by the handler. The clear jump should be so constructed that it will be obvious if the dog has exerted more than slight pressure upon it. The rigid top bar may be fixed or rest in cups and the space below may be filled in but the filling should not project above the bottom of the top bar. If the bar stays in position the dog shall be considered to have cleared the jump.

The construction of the Long Jump shall be as follows: The front element to be a minimum of 90cm (3ft.) wide graduating over five elements (four for small dogs) to a back element of a minimum width of 112cm (3ft.8ins.). The front edge of the front element to be 10cm (4ins.) high rising to 17.5cm (7ins.) at the back edge. Each element thereafter graduating in height by 1in (2½cm)-the back of the last element being 27.9cm (11ins.) high. The minimum width (front to back) of each element to be at least 15cm (6ins.) and clearly visible to the dog.

Failure or refusal at any of the three types of jumps may, at the judge's discretion, be followed by a second attempt and any one such failure shall be penalised by at least 50% of the marks allotted to that part of the exercise in which the dog is given a second attempt.

Jumping heights and lengths CD, UD, WD & TD Stakes

(a) Scale Jump

Dogs not exceeding 10ins at shoulder: 91.44cm (3ft)

Dogs not exceeding 15ins at shoulder: 121.92cm (4ft)

Dogs exceeding 15ins at shoulder: 167.64cm (5ft 6ins)

(b) Clear Jump

Dogs not exceeding 10ins at shoulder: 45.72cm (1ft 6ins)

Dogs not exceeding 15ins at shoulder: 60.96cm (2ft)

Dogs exceeding 15ins at shoulder: 91.44cm (3ft)

(c) Long Jump

Dogs not exceeding 10ins at shoulder: 121.92cm (4ft)

Dogs not exceeding 15ins at shoulder: 152.4cm (5ft)

Dogs exceeding 15ins at shoulder: 213.36cm (7ft)

J. Search

In the Companion Dog (C.D.) Stake the Search shall contain three articles and in all other Stakes shall contain four articles. In all Stakes fresh articles must be placed for each dog who must recover a minimum of two to qualify. Articles should not be injurious to a dog and should not include any food related items. The judge should choose articles in relations to the nature of the ground and the Stake which he/she is judging. The time allotted shall be four minutes in the C.D. Stake and five minutes in all other Stakes. The articles should be well handled and placed by a Steward who shall foil the ground by walking in varying directions over the areas. Each competitor shall have a separate unused piece of land.

The C.D. Stake Search area shall be 13.5m (15 yards) square, all other Stakes being 22.5m (25 yards) square and shall be clearly defined by a marker peg at each corner. The handler may work his dog from any position outside the area, provided that he does not enter it.

In the C.D. Stake a maximum of five marks should be allotted for each article and a maximum of five marks for style and control. In all other Stakes a maximum of seven marks should be allotted for each article and a maximum of seven marks for style and control.

K. Track

The track should be plotted on the ground to be used for the nosework by Stewards previous to the day of commencement of the Working Trial. An area of ground which has had a track laid over it must not have another track laid over it until the following day. The track shall be single line and may include turns. The articles should be in keeping with the nature of the ground. There shall be a marker left by the track layer to indicate the start of the track. In the U.D. Stake a second marker should be left no more than 27m (30 yards) from the start to indicate the direction of the first leg.

Unless the Judge considers the dog to have lost the track beyond recovery, or to have run out of the time allotted for the completion of the track, a handler may recast his/her dog at his/her discretion. The Judge should not at any time indicate to the handler where he/she should recast his dog save in exceptional circumstances.

The track shall be approximately half a mile long. The track should be laid as far as possible by a tracklayer who does not know in advance for whom the track is being laid. The article(s) should be well scented. When the Judging is in progress the tracklayer shall be present at the side of the Judge to indicate the exact line of the track and the position of the articles.

The U.D. Stake track shall be not less than half an hour old and should include two articles, one of which should be placed on the first half of the track. At least one article must be recovered to qualify.

The W.D. Stake track shall be not less than one and a half hours old and shall include two articles one of which must be recovered to qualify.

The T.D. Stake track shall be not less than three hours old and shall include three articles two of which must be recovered to qualify.

In all Stakes the last article shall indicate the end of the track. No two articles should be laid together.

A spare track, additional to requirements, should be laid out but the opportunity to run a new track should be given only in exceptional circumstances.

The area used for Tracking is out of bounds to all competitors for practice tracks and exercise from the time of the first track and any competitor found contravening this instruction will be disqualified by the Judge from participating in the Working Trial.

The dog must be worked on a harness and tracking line. The line must be attached to the upper section of the harness so that, when the dog is worked, the line does not pass under the dog.

If a time limit is given for the completion of a track, it must not be less than 20 minutes.

CRITERIA FOR ANNUAL IRISH KENNEL CLUB CLG., TOP IRISH WORKING TRIALS DOG AWARD

The following criteria apply to all Irish Kennel Club CLG., licenced Working Trials, from 1st January to 31st December each year, to determine the Top Irish Working Trials Dog.

The Top Irish Working Trials Dog will be the dog with the highest number of Working Trials Green Stars.

Where there is a tie for the Top Irish Working Trials Dog Award, reserve Working Trials Green Stars will be counted. Should there still be a tie after reserve Green Stars are counted, a joint award shall be given.