

# *NEW IPO RULES FOR WORKING DOGS 2012*



2011 USCA National Championships  
Kansas City, MO  
November 3 – 6, 2011

## **GUIDELINES for International Utility Dog Trials**

- A review of the major changes to the international rules for working dog sports.
- Major changes will be presented and discussed to prepare handlers for the IPO rules effective January 2012

USCA National Championships

November 5, 2011

Host Hotel @ 7:30pm

- Michael Caputo, USCA/SV
- Nathaniel Roque, USCA/SV
- Al Govednik, USCA



# GUIDELINES for International Utility Dog Trials

- Executed by order of the FCI-Utility Dogs commission:
- These Rules were approved by the FCI General Committee in Rome on April 13, 2011.
- They are effective beginning January 1, 2012.
  - Frans Jansen (NL)
  - Guenther Diegel (D)
  - Wilfried Schaepermeier (D)
  - Edgar Scherk(D)
  - Pierre Walhstroem (S)
  - Fons Van den Bosch (B)
  - Robert Markschlaeger (A)

## New IPO Guidelines are for *EVERYONE*

- These international guidelines shall be applied for all of us participating in dog sport.
- Going forward from January 1, 2012 all titles shall be in reference to these International “IPO” rules.
- As of the starting date, there will no longer be “SchH or VPG” titles.
- One wonders if “Schutzhund” will be a forgotten term??

## PREAMBLE

“It remains the ethical responsibility of man to raise and adequately train the dog. The applied methods must meet the standards of behavioral scientists, especially in regards to the breed. In order to achieve the upbringing, training or training effect, it is important to not utilize force and to use positive methods for the dog. Furthermore it is imperative to decline the use of techniques that do not utilize the proper training, raising and training aides. Using a dog for dog sport has to be oriented to his capabilities, his competitive spirit and his willingness. Influencing the dogs learning capabilities through the use of medication or animal cruelty is to be declined. One must carefully acknowledge the capabilities of his dog. To demand work of a dog that does not have the capability to do so, contradicts every ethical level of consciousness. Only someone who takes the responsibility to be a true friend to his dog will take a healthy and capable dog to trials, competitions and training.”

## SOME NOTABLE STUFF

- The former WH title is gone!
- Trial time for handlers is from submission of scorebook to the Secretary until scorebook is returned by the Secretary!
- “Stick Hits” are replaced with “Stick Stress Test”
- Dogs can be touched during the temperament examination and beyond.
- IPO 1’s report “on leash”

## MORE STUFF

- Only ONE scorebook per dog per trial!
- Scorebook MUST be completely filled in!
- Judges may request to see the scorebook before the trial begins.

## EVEN MORE STUFF

- Handlers **must show proof** of membership in an FCI recognized dog organization, a WUSV member organization, or an AWDF member club.
- In USCA events handlers **must have** a USCA scorebook or a scorebook certified by USCA.

## BH and BH/VT

- BH is the same with only minor changes
- BH/VT is for the first time handler and includes the “theoretical examination” and the training/behavioral tests.
- Leather collars are permissible at this level!
- Motion exercises allow for a “pause”!
- Long Down < Exercise 2 = 0 Points

## Various I.P.O. Titles

- International tests level A1 through A3
- The phases B / C are also carried out for levels 1-3
- FPr- 1-3: Tracking tests only phase A
- UPr-1-3: Obedience tests only phase B
- SPr-1-3: Protection tests only phase C (USCA will not be offering these titles)
- IPO ZTP: International Breed Suitability Test (USCA will not be offering this title)

## Various I.P.O. Titles

- I.P.O. V: Intern. Preliminary working test
- IPO 1-3: Intern working test levels 1-3
- FH1 : Tracking test ( 1 track-1 day)
- FH2 : Tracking test ( 1 track-1 day)
- IPO-FH: International tracking test ( 2 FH  
2 tracks- 2 days performed as 1 track/day)
- STp 1-3: Article indication test

## TRACKING



## TRACKING

- Only major change is the articles are now worth **21 points-----no more “Good” rating without indication!**
- First article must be minimum 100 paces from the start. **One pace = 60-70cm!**
- No articles within 20 paces of corners.
- False article indication -2 points, -4 points with checking!
- Occasional “praise” **only allowed at IPO 1!** At other levels only before or after showing the article.

## TRACKING

- Handlers are now required to **“stay” “on” or inside the track,** no more swinging wide opposite the turn!
- Tracks **MUST** be laid at a normal walking pace and normally walked corners
- **Judges and track layers MUST** stay outside 10 meters of the handler/dog.
- No commands within 2 meters of the scent pad other than **“such/track/find”**

# OBEDIENCE



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- During all exercises, the dog has to display a naturally happy work ethic coupled with the required concentration (**FOCUS**) to the handler.
- Attention has to be paid that a **happy work ethic** is also synonymous with the **correct execution** so that the appropriate award is given.
- Without continuous attention and a “free willingness performance”, a “V” rating will not be possible.
- Heeling shall be normal movement or gait, prancing or bouncing is not correct. **“Normal movement is better defined as a fairly level topline during the Heeling”**

## OBEDIENCE

- Long Down Zero Scores clarified such that dogs leaving > 3 meters (10 feet) must receive zero (0)
  - < Third exercise for IPO 1 (Down/Recall)
  - < Fourth exercise for IPO 2 (Stand)
  - < Fifth exercise for IPO 3 (Flat Retrieve)
- Long Down start and Work start **must be simultaneous! (both teams at the Basic Position at the same time)**
- A **second left turn** has been added to the pattern prior to entering the group.

## OBEDIENCE

- Motion exercises **WITHOUT RECALL** **only need to proceed 15 paces** after executing the command to Sit or Stand!
- **ALL RECALL** exercises still proceed the normal 30 paces!
- Dumbbell re-throws; **dog must stay in place at SIT!** (if the dog follows the handler past the equipment, exercise is over, “M” 0 points)

# OBEDIENCE

- **Send out faults now standardized**
  - Additional down -1.5 points
  - Second down -2.5 points
  - No down after two extra commands - 3.5 points
  - Back to handler = 0 points (no BP demoed at end)

# PROTECTION



## PROTECTION

- Helpers run to midline for all levels of long attack!
- Verbal threats x2 only after turn towards the dog and once more just prior to contact with stick threat!
- Escape performance shall focus on **POWER over fullness of grip!**

## PROTECTION REPORTING

- Check In at all levels (Progressive).
  - IPO 1 on leash to Judge and then to Set-Up position where leash is removed.
  - IPO 2 on leash to Judge, off leash and free heel to Set-Up position.
  - IPO 3 off leash to Judge, off leash to Set-Up position.

## PROTECTION

- Escape is to be done with a command such as “Vorán”, “Revere”, “Hold” “Go”... NO GRIP commands are permissible e.g., “Pachin”. **If no verbal command is given, -1 point deduction! We are recommending the command “GO”!**
- After the helper stops, there **MUST** be a **TRANSITION** phase from fight to out.
- After reporting out to the Judge, Leashes back on at a location away from Judge and Helper!

## PROTECTION EVALUATION *“The Five Phases of Attack Work”*

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



## *DISQUALIFICATION VS TERMINATION*

- **DISQUALIFIED**
  - Unsportsmanlike conduct
  - Violation of rules
  - Suspicion of fraud
  - Lack of control
  - Failure of temperament test
  - **No points awarded in any phase**
- **TERMINATED**
  - Illness of handler or dog with vet support
  - Return to BP during blind search
  - Failure of a fighting phase
  - Injury during an event phase
  - **Points earned to the point of termination are recorded**

## *REFERENCES and CREDITS*

- [www.germanshepherddog.com](http://www.germanshepherddog.com)
- [www.fci.be](http://www.fci.be)
- Watch for articles in the USCA magazine and on the website!
- Photos by Charles Snyder, Kathy Males and Donna Haynes

# QUESTIONS AND WHAT IF'S

Questions

Points

- Tracking – Govednik
- Obedience – Caputo
- Protection - Roque



## FAQ's / Tracking

- How should the track be laid. *The rules state a normal walking pattern is used to lay the track. It should never be "kicked" in. The judge now has the discretion to evaluate the work based on the difficulty of the terrain.*
- What does it mean that the Handler must "follow the dog" or not "swing out on the corners" *Under the new guidelines it is faulty if the handler swings out on corners to keep the line tight. At all times the handler must remain on the track or inside the track.*
- Praising the dog in tracking. *IPO 1 Track the handler may give occasional praise to the dog during the track without point loss as long as it is not during a time when the dog is having difficulty. IOP2 and 3, no praise is allowed during the working of the track without it being considered "handler help" and a point loss will occur. Praise is allowed at the article either before or after showing the article.*

## FAQ's / Obedience

- IPO 1 will report in to the judge on leash. IPO2 & 3 remove the leash before entering the field and report in off leash.
- Heeling pattern now has 2 about turns, 2 rights and 2 lefts. *The easiest way to do this is move the group slightly upfield ( on the center line 5-10 paces up from the basic position) then the handler/dog team will pass the group and make a left to the basic position and then another left up field into the group*
- What is correct heeling, what is faulty “prancing”. *Correct heeling is a happy and attentive, focused dog that moves with the Handler in the correct position , parallel to the handler with the shoulder in line with the handlers knee and not bouncing or jumping. Prancing or bouncing is determined by the movement of the topline, not by the way the dog throws there legs out in movement. It is faulty if the topline (back) is bouncing up and down excessively)*
- In all OB exercises that the Handler returns to the dog, the handler only goes 15 paces from the dog. In exercises that the dog is recalled the handler goes 30 paces away.
- BH the sit out of motion Handler is now allowed a slight pause at the command sit.

## FAQ's / Protection

- All Handlers report in to the Judge at all levels. At Championship event a designated “Judge/Official” will be assigned at the entry of the field to avoid having to walk the full field to report in. IPO1 reports on lead and proceeds to the midline position before removing the lead. IPO2 reports in on lead and then removes the lead and free heels to the midline position, IPO3 reports in off lead.
- Guarding must be powerful, attentive and focused intensity to the helper. An active (barking) or silent guard are correct as long as there is intensity. All Guarding phases will be about 5 sec. Guarding in the blind (Hold and Bark) must be active barking.
- Escape Exercise, at the same time as the Helper moves to attempt a escape the Handler must give a release command to the dog to go. Failure to give a command by the handler is a mandatory point deduction. In the Escape the fullness of the grip is not as important and the power in the grip.
- Attack on Dog out of Motion (Long Attack, Courage Test) for all levels the Handler / Dog Team are positioned at the end of the field between blinds 1 and 2. For IPO1 the Helper must run down field and the dog is released at about 30 -40 paces from the Helper. IPO2 the dog is released at about 40-50paces from the Helper. IPO 3 the dog is released about full field after the Helper has turned and threatened the dog.