



*Newfoundland Club of America*

## Working Dog News

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June 2018

Sue Raney, Working Dog Committee Chair

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### New Stuff-Heads up!

Regulations for both water and draft tests, ALL event forms and the event agreement have been updated! New regulations can be found linked on the NCA Website. **New wording for the event agreement and all forms can be found on the NCA website in the event toolkits.** Please note that these changes do take place **for this summer** -- committees and judges, please make sure you are working from the current regulations and using the most current forms.

Water: [Water Test Regulations effective March 2018](#)

Draft: [Draft Regulations effective July 1, 2018](#)

Advanced Draft: [Advanced Draft Test Regulations effective July 1 2018](#)

Please make sure your event premiums now include this new wording for event agreements.  
[NCA Working Dog Event Agreement](#)

Some of the biggest changes are highlighted below and include:

- **Boat specifications** have been adjusted to clarify the best practices for maritime safety.
- There is additional information regarding **safety** included in the regulations
- **Draft Test Basic Control exercises** have been modified to be more aligned with basic control at water events. The need for a separate ring for basic control has been eliminated. Dogs will now move fluidly from a short controlled walking exercise, to a recall, to harnessing and hitching. This change should help with the flow of draft tests, and hopefully draft entrants will see a similar increase in success rates with basic control as seen in water events.

**Event committees please note!** The event agreement and event toolkit forms have been updated! Please do check the website and make sure you are downloading the most recent copies of forms.

## **More reminders about safety at events**

The Working Dog Committee wholeheartedly believes that events need to be safe for all dogs and people who attend them. Please review these reminders as they apply to your upcoming events.

Please continue to utilize the safety procedures that were enhanced last year. As your club finds additional ways that work well to enhance safety at events, please do send those ideas along to the WDC. As always, we are stronger together, and sharing ideas make for better policies. Here are the suggested safety procedures for your review: [Event Safety](#)

## **Suggested wording for Premiums and Catalogs**

To further clarify new guidelines for safety, the WDC suggests that all tests include the following statement in premiums and catalogs for all water and draft tests. If you have not yet printed both these items yet, please include this in your upcoming event materials. This text can also be used on a flyer that can be distributed to spectators and/or put on windshields of cars at your test site so you can spread the word about keeping dogs safe.

### **Waiver of Rights -- Animals In Distress**

The Newfoundland Club of America, Inc, and the regional club hosting this event reserves the right to remove any animal in distress from a parked vehicle or crate, and all persons attending this dog event hereby waives any claim for damages against the Club for such removal. The NCA regards the health, safety and life of any dog on the event grounds to be paramount to other property or privacy rights. If the owner cannot be found in a timely manner, we will take whatever action is necessary for the safety of the dog, which may include breaking windows to enter a vehicle. Dogs found in an unsafe environment, distress, or in harm's way (for example, left in a vehicle without proper ventilation) will be removed to safety. Exposing a dog to an unsafe environment, distress, or harms way is considered mistreatment and subject to appropriate discipline.

## Thank You, Tom Brant!

Tom Brant has been serving Newfoundlands through his work on the WDC for the past nine years and is stepping down this year from work on the committee, and from active judging. We want to take a minute to thank Tom for all the volunteer hours he has spent in forming policies, upholding regulations, supporting new owners through fair judging, and being the best of sports in all situations. Thank you, Tom, for sharing your love of the breed and your love of working events with all of us for so many years.

## Working Dog Forum Highlights

Each year, the Working Dog Committee hosts a forum at the National Specialty to discuss topics of interest from the fanciers of our working dog sports. This year, the discussion focused on the future of working events and the results of the NCA Steering Committee's survey. Please see this link for a [recap of our discussion](#). As the WDC continues to explore these ideas, we welcome your input and suggestions. The WDC encourages judges and test committees to explore ways to continue to provide welcoming, fun and inviting activities involving working with your dog to all levels of participants.

## Working Event Online Entry Update

Testing continues on the online entry system in development by NCA's TRAC Committee. Special thanks to all who are working so hard and so collaboratively on this endeavor! TRAC and the WDC are committed to providing a quality online registration service for working dog events. The use of an online service requires the coordination of many elements and we will be working with clubs in the near future to provide this service. We are fully confident that this service will be available for online registration as an option for regional clubs by the end of summer of 2018. It will be awesome!!

## Helpful Ideas from the WDC

These helpful hints, recommendations and clarifications come from items noted on event evaluations, judges evaluations, questions from exhibitors, and questions from judges for the past year. They are not replacements for any regulations, rather clarifications and information

sharing. Some do bear repeating, and some are new for the fall so please do review each of these once again. Thanks for your attention to upholding the regulations!

## **Making it Fun!**

One of the common themes you will see in the notes from the Forum is that working events should be fun, welcoming and inclusive. While spending time with your working canine is

always fun, please do explore how your next draft or water event can be enhanced to really resonate fun in all areas. Big shout out to Kathy Mitchell and the draft test committee for SCNC this spring, who's western theme ROCKED their event, and brought smiles to all involved. From promotional aspects in the premium, to themed favors, to festive decor and costumes, the theme of your event can make entrants relax, make people laugh and generally encourage everyone to enjoy a weekend in the sun with newf friends. Send us your fun photos so we can share the ways that newfs are having fun nationwide!



## **Questions? Call in to the WDC!**

The Working Dog Committee will be piloting call-in Q/A time for test committees and judges during the regular monthly meetings of the Working Dog Committee beginning in JULY. The WDC meets on the second Thursday of each month. Time will be set aside at 6:30 pm MT each month to allow you to call in with questions. Please email Sue Raney at [sue.raney11@gmail.com](mailto:sue.raney11@gmail.com) with the subject line: CALL IN



Briefly describe your question in the body of the email, and Sue will send you the info to join the call, chat and help answer event questions as needed. You can always email us with questions, and we'll be glad to get back to you with our best thinking. (same email) As questions arise, the WDC will be building an FAQ page with information also, so ask away!

## **Water Judges and Committees please note: Partner Judges can now judge WRDX**

All Water Test partner judges can now judge WRDX. Judging pairs still must also have a mentor judge for WRDX. Judges who are asked to judge any portion of a working event cannot also serve on that same event committee.

## Weather Delays in Draft OR Water Events

Recent tests have had concerns for exhibitor safety and what to do in case of storms. Please use the following guidelines from the National Weather Service for your basis on continuing a test or waiting for a storm to pass. Please remember SAFETY FIRST!

[https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/lightning3\\_050714.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/lightning3_050714.pdf)

## Anchoring for Water Test Exercises

Please remind your test committees and stewards that anchoring is mandatory for Senior level exercises and WRDX and stewards need to follow the anchoring process as described in the water regulations. Judges, please make sure that as you check the site the day prior to the test, you also check the anchoring system for the boat for Senior and WRDX exercises.

## Clarification of regulation regarding a failed dog

Judges should remain consistent with dogs who are failed because an owner grabs a dog to avert a “runaway” at water or draft events. Where permitted by the regulations, please note that if a dog **leaves** the test area, that dog should be marked as “DQ” and excused for the day. If a dog is **attempting to leave the area but the handler catches and stops the dog**, that dog should be then marked as “Failed” for that exercise and allowed to continue testing in which case judges have discretion to request the handler leash the dog. **Please make sure that exhibitors are reminded to have their dogs enter and exit test areas on leash.**

## Test Evaluations

Evaluations from exhibitors and judges are key pieces of information in supporting tests nationwide. Please encourage test entrants to send in their feedback. Also, should you care to fill the eval out electronically and skip paperwork all together, feel free to use these handy links below. Secretaries can email these links to their entrants and judges too, to help encourage timely feedback on working events.

-- [Entrant Evaluation - water test](#)

-- [Judges Evaluation water test](#)

-- [Entrant Evaluation - draft test](#)

-- [Judges Evaluation - draft test](#)

## Fun Ideas for Beginning Dogs -- Specialty Carting/Beginner Carting/Water Guppies!



Specialty Carting/"Tad-PULL"/Beginner events are great ways to help get people involved in working with their dogs. For draft, regional clubs who wish to offer Specialty Carting for beginners can allow dogs from 12 months of age and beyond to participate. See the NCA website for the suggested regulations. Clubs can create their own beginning carting tests or beginning water work tests for their members and give them local "awards" or certificates! Similar local events are held across the country for pre-water dogs as well,

and young newfs who become Tadpoles or Water Guppies are well started on the way to having a great time as Water Dogs. Encourage your club to have some fun and help welcome new people to the love of our sports! Your club can even get some fun medals and award them to all your beginners. ***Does your club do something like this? Send the WDC the format you use so we can share it with other clubs, and share the excitement that starting something new can bring!***

### Sportsmanship at events

The WDC supports good sportsmanship and promotes the values of friendly competition and sportsmanship as outlined in the AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Judges Ethics. The current process in place to address issues that may arise either from confusion, conflict or misinterpretation between exhibitors, event attendees or judges is the NCA Working Event Grievance Process which begins at the test committee level in most cases.

Event committees, please reach out if you have questions on the process and make sure you are prepared in case a need for a grievance arises at events. Judges, please don't forget to mention the NCA grievance process in your briefings with exhibitors, stewards and even spectators. The process is there to provide a framework for disputes, and to give due process to all sides.

In the case of any type of dog incident where a dog's teeth are placed on a dog or a human and results in a puncture, at any time on the grounds of your event, please do refer to the automatic grievance process. That process is designed to take the "in the moment" stress and deliberation away from a local club and provide a safe space for both the owner of the dog in question and the other party to have an impartial review of the facts. Aggressive dog incidents are sent directly to the Working Dog Committee.

## DDX

This new test continues to be challenging for competitors and test committees. While all partner and mentor judges are available to judge this level of advanced work, please reach out to any member of the Working Dog Committee if you have questions regarding course layout and markings. We are glad to help!

For the Driven Figure 8 (which is the most challenging of the exercises) please make sure exhibitors are clear on the expectations for when the handler enters the oval - the handler does not have to step behind the cart until the back of the cart enters the oval, and then the handler must remain behind the cart. The graphic in the regulations depicts an entrance and exit in the center of the oval, however the entrance and exit can be at any point on the oval as the regulations state, "the entry into and exit from the figure 8 must be on opposite sides but does not need to be centered, aligned with each other, or perpendicular to the oval." Entrance and exit areas should be discussed during the briefing.

Back through Adjustable Narrow - to help clarify this exercise further and to ensure consistent judging, please note that the expectations in the regulations are that the dog pulls through the narrows, and stops close to the end of the narrows. When the dogs stops, the front feet of the dog should remain between the two sides of the barrier although a small degree of flexibility (6 inches or so crossing the plane at the end of the narrows either in or out) is deemed to be acceptable. Judges who wish to mark the ground at the end of the narrows with a chalk line should make it clear to exhibitors that they do not need to stop ON a line to be successful, that any such marking is just for additional clarity.

*Thank you for your interest in working with your Newfoundland! Please volunteer at your local working events and keep the traditions alive!*

Let us know how we can help... [Contact the WDC](#)

**From your WDC: Tom Brant, Benita Edds, Dwight Gorsuch, John Jackman, Mark Iken, Cindi Kursner, Sue Marino, Patti Pigeon, Sue Raney, Deborah Rothwell, Pam Saunders, Sue Zientara**

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