



Recommendations for Affiliates Conducting Obedience, Rally O, Tracking, Track & Search and Endurance Tests

~ For use in a COVID-19 environment ~

The following recommendations have been developed by DOGS NSW Obedience and Tracking Committee for use in a COVID-19 environment.

These recommendations apply to the use of the grounds at Orchard Hills which are managed by DOGS NSW and are also the minimum requirements to be met by any Affiliated Club conducting an ANKC event.

In some instances Local Councils may require additional requirements to these recommendations and also Affiliates may wish to add individual requirements.

As we return to competitions affiliates should ensure that measures are put in place to provide the safest possible environment for all.

In our sport there are many contact areas for Judges and Stewards, where there could be a risk of cross contamination when handling dogs and equipment.

It is suggested affiliates should familiarise themselves with the Government guideline re safety and hygiene procedures when operating in a COVID – 19 environment.

Although our competitions are not specifically outlined in any sporting recommendations the following two sites do offer suggestions which could be transferred to our environment.

- AIS Guideline for Rebooting Sport in a COVID_19 Environment (in particular the Checklist for Small Sporting Organisations
<https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19>
- COVID – 19 information for Workplaces / Safe Work Australia
<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces>

Recommendations for Affiliates

General

Compile a list of everyone attending the event together with phone number. This is a Government requirement.

Entries should be completed on line and ring number emailed to competitors. Competitors would print their own cards.

Consideration should be given how qualifying certificates and prizes will be prepared and presented.

It is suggested dogs are catalogued in jump heights to save unnecessary handling of equipment.

Provide a separate table for handler's gear.

Consideration will need to be given to the area for the out of sight stays to ensure social distancing.

Trial Schedule to include:- This trial will be conducted in accordance with the recommendations of DOGS NSW in relation to obedience, Rally, Tracking, Track and Search and Endurance and any additional requirements of this Club which will be available on the Club's website, Face Book etc.

All officials, competitors and attendees agree to abide by the recommendations relating to the conduct of the trial and agree to follow the directions of Club Officials in relation to enforcing the requirements.

Equipment

Hand sanitiser / gloves must be used by the judge and steward after handling all equipment, including jumps. If gloves are used they must be disposed of after handling any equipment.

Rings

A cone will denote the waiting point for the next competitor to allow movement in and out of the ring at an appropriate distance.

Cleaning

Individual bowls of water, soap, paper handtowels, sanitiser and gloves should be provided by the affiliate and be available at the ring for all personnel. If people wash hands the water should be changed after each dog, so some system of bottle / bucket would be required for this.

Soap and paper hand towels/ sanitiser should be available in the toilets.

Care should be taken to ensure the sanitiser is not perfumed as this could affect a dog's work, in particular scent work.

After each competitor, the judge's table and competitor's table must be cleaned.

The judge and steward should have their own dedicated set of tongs and sanitise after each dog.

To ensure uniformity for competitors across competitions the following is strongly recommended.

Handlers to bring any equipment in a plastic box which would be placed on a table near the ring rope. All gear would be taken from this container and returned. The handler would be responsible for sanitising their equipment at home. After the competitor has left the ring the equipment table should be sanitised in readiness for next competitor.

Consideration needs to be given to how meals will be provided for various personnel.

Clubs should consider if they will run a canteen or advise competitors to bring their own requirements for the competition.

OBEDIENCE

1. CCD

Lead - see temporary amendment to ANKC Rule

Figure 8 - see temporary amendment to ANKC Rule.

Stand for Examination. Min length of the lead is 750mm. See temporary amendment to ANKC Rule

Stays – leads to be retained by handler

2. CD

Lead - see temporary amendment to ANKC Rule

Figure 8 - see temporary amendment to ANKC Rule

Retrieve Dumbbell. - The handler to bring equipment in a plastic box. Handler to collect dumbbell before start of exercise. At the end of the exercise the dumbbell should be returned to the box or kept on their person out of sight.

Stays – leads to be retained by handler

3. CDX

Handlers to bring their equipment in a plastic box.

Lead - see temporary amendment to ANKC Rule

Retrieve Dumbbell. The handler to bring equipment in a plastic box. Handler to collect dumbbell before start of exercise. At the end of the exercise the dumbbell should be returned to the box or kept on their person out of sight.

Gloves for CDX. Clean, aired gloves should be presented by handler. These should be flat in the handler's equipment tub and the steward would place them out using tongs.

Jumps for CDX. Sanitiser or gloves to be used before and after each setup

Stays – leads to be retained by handler

4. UD

Seek Back – Judge uses tongs already. These should be sanitised for each dog.

Scent Discrimination - Steward to use gloves to handle container and then place articles without the glove. The articles should be clean and aired before the trial. At the end of the exercise the steward would collect articles with gloves. Handler to place the returned articles in their pocket and at the end of the exercise place them in their equipment box.

Food – Rather than the steward bringing food to judge, the judge should collect it from the table and be the only person handling this.

Gloves. The gloves should be clean and aired. These should be flat in the handler's equipment box and the steward would place them out using tongs.

Jumps -Sanitiser or gloves to be used before and after each setup

Stays – leads to be retained by handler

5. UDX

Seek Back With Decoy. Judge has scented article in tongs. Tongs should be sanitised after each dog.

Steward would need to scent article and then sanitise hands after this exercise.

Scent Discrimination Judges Scent **Cloths must be clean.** Steward to place cloths by hand.

Handler may use gloves or tongs to take cloth from Judge.

Multiple Retrieve Steward to use tongs to place articles on ground.

Judges and Stewards

The affiliate will provide individual bowls of water, soap, paper handtowels, sanitiser and gloves which will be available at the ring for all personnel.

Judges and stewards should wear gloves or sanitise / wash their hands after each dog.

To eliminate steward handling Judge's score card, the Judge should place their card on the ground for Stand for Examination and then read the scores out to the steward at the end of each dog's performance, to be noted on board.

As some Judges may prefer to bring their own lunch etc during these times, consideration should be given to discussing this at the time of contracting them.

Competitors' Responsibilities

At all times adhere to the Government regulations re hygiene and social distancing.

Competitors should not attend if they are unwell

Competitors should have their own sanitiser.

All necessary equipment should be brought to ring in a plastic box which would be placed on a designated table near the ring rope. The equipment in the box should be easily accessible to the steward.

All equipment, especially, gloves, scent articles and cloths are **clean and aired** – this will assist in eliminating any cross contamination. The Judge may not accept unwashed cloths, gloves, or articles.

Gloves should be flat in equipment box, so steward can pick up with tongs.

Rally

Hand sanitiser/ gloves must be used by the judge and steward after handling all equipment, including jumps, cones and signs. If gloves are used they must be disposed of after handling any equipment.

Lead to be retained by handler.

Walk-throughs

Currently up to 25 at one time for 10 minutes; suggested it be reduced in number to allow for social distancing to be maintained, suggest maximum of 20.

See Judges/ Stewards and Competitors Above

Tracking and Track & Search

Hand sanitiser must be used by Judge, Steward/s and Tracklayer after handling of any equipment. Handler may choose to pick up indicated articles; if they do they must sanitise their hands after returning articles to the Tracklayer.

Endurance

Hand sanitiser must be used by Judge, Steward/s and Pacemaker after handling of any equipment. This also applies to vet and vet assistants.

Distance between stations to be increased to say 5 metres to enable social distancing to be maintained during breaks. Also distance between competitors to be increased to also allow for social distancing to be maintained.