

JAKTPROVSREGLER FÖR TOLLINGJAKTPROV (B), gällande från 2017-01-01 till 2021-12-31 / RULES FOR TOLLING FIELD TRIALS, valid from 2017-01-01 to 2021-12-31

These rules falls under "SKK:s allmänna bestämmelser" (Regulations from The Swedish Kennel Club).

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Please note that this is a work in progress. If you need further explanations or have suggestions for better translations, please submit them to jakttolling@ssrk.se

Official rules for Tolling field trial (B)

Introduction.

The Nova Scotia duck tolling retriever is a retriever specialized for duck and goose hunting. In the traditional tolling hunt the Toller is used to attract and lure birds, resting on the water, to move closer to the shore and within shooting range. The hunter is staying behind a blind on the shore, not visible to the birds. The dog is sent out over and over again on the shore to fetch a thrown tolling object.

The dog must be able to quickly switch between playful tolling work and calm quiet rest behind the blind. The playful tolling catches the interest of the birds, and when the dog is kept calm behind the blind, the birds will move closer. When the birds hesitate, the dog is once again sent tolling. When the birds have moved within shooting range and the hunter has flushed the birds and fired the gun, the Toller's task is to retrieve the felled birds on water or on land.

The dog must thus be able to switch between the more playful fetching and playing in the tolling, and the tasks given to a retriever after the gun has been fired.

The Toller should also be able to work as a retriever in other forms of duck and goose hunting.

§1. Purpose

The purpose of tolling trials is to evaluate the hunting dog's skills and abilities in guidance to the breeding of fine hunting dogs.

§2 Organisation

The official trials according to these regulations are organised by SSRK (The Swedish Spaniel and Retriever club). The event, the date and the judge should be approved and decided by the board of SSRK, and reported to SKK.

Commissioner and marshall should be appointed at all SSRK approved trials.

- a. The judge is responsible for the trial carried out according to the official regulations. The judge has the right to change the setup of the trial. The judge must be a member of SSRK or equal foreign club.
- b. The commissioner is responsible for catalogue and prize lists, and the handling of protests.
- c. The marshall is responsible for security at the trial and, in consultation with the judge, the setup of the trial.
- d. The trial can only be postponed after approval from the board of SSRK.

§3 Right to participate

The tolling trials are only open to dogs of the Nova scotia duck tolling retriever breed. A dog may only enter one time per announced trial. The dog must have the required merits for the class when it's entered. The organisers may, if the trial isn't full, allow a dog which has qualified for a higher class at the trial, to start in this class later the same day.

Membership

The dog owner must be member of SSRK or equal foreign club.

The handler must be member of any club within the SKK (The Swedish Kennel Club) organisation or equal foreign club.

Registration

Swedish dogs must when entered be registered by SKK. Swedish dogs born before 2001-01-01 may be registered in Norway. When entering a foreign dog a copy of its registration must be presented. If the requirements above aren't fulfilled results will automatically be annulled.

Results received at an official tolling trial are noted by SKK. Only registered dogs can be appointed champion titles.

Cryptorchid dog

If a cryptorchid dog is entered this should be noted in catalogue and prize list.

Limited trials and toss

When the number of participating dogs is limited, this information must be noted when the trial is announced. The number of dogs are decided by the organisers, and if too many dogs are entered, a toss must be made immediately after last day of entry. The toss should be open and public. No consideration should be made regarding the handler's club affiliation.

If there are more entries than the limits is's recommended for the organisers to name substitute dogs. These dogs have the precedence to start, if there are vacancies, while dogs which have qualified for a higher class at the trial must stand back.

The following dogs may not enter the trial:

- a. Dog owned by acting marshall or commissioner.
- b. Dog owned by acting judge or acting aspirant judge. A judge or aspirant judge may enter with his/her dog in other classes than the class where he/she acted.
- c. Dog owned by, handled by, or exclusively trained by acting judge or acting aspirant judge during the last six months.
- d. Dog owned by person within the acting judge's household may not enter in the class where the judge has his/her service.
- e. Bitch in full heat.

§4 Entry and fees

Entry and payment of the entry fee should be made according to the set rules.

The entry fee is repaid:

- a. If a trial is cancelled by SSRK.
- b. If a dog lost out in the toss at a limited trial.
- c. If a dog before the trial becomes sick, is injured or passes away - required veterinary testimonials must be presented to the organisers within eight (8) days after the trial.
- d. If a bitch goes in heat – a written testimonial from veterinary or other by SSRK reputed person must be presented to the organisers within eight (8) days after the trial.

e. If a dog, after entering has received merits from another trial, which stops it from entering in the class. The owner should inform the organisers within four (4) days after the merit was rewarded, and no less than two (2) days before the current trial.

f. Note. If an entry fee should be repaid, the organisers have the right to keep a decided portion of the fee to cover administrative costs.

Force majeure

See "SKKs Allmänna bestämmelser" for more information.

§5 Classes

Beginner's class (Nkl)

For dogs at least 9 months old on the first day of the trial. A dog which has previously been awarded a 1st prize in Nkl can still start in this class for the rest of the calendar year, but must stand back if the trial is full and there are dogs, which hasn't yet been awarded a 1st prize. Once a dog has started in Ökl, it can't be go back to Nkl.

Open class (Ökl)

For dogs that have been awarded a 1st prize in Nkl at an official tolling trial, or have previously started in Ökl at an official tolling trial and not yet received two 1st prizes in this class. A 1st prize awarded in Beginner's class (or equal level) at an official tolling trial with cold game in another country, also entitles the dog to start in Ökl in Sweden. When a dog has received two 1st prizes in Ökl, it can't start in this class anymore.

Elite class (Ekl)

For dogs that have been awarded two 1st prizes in Ökl at official tolling trials. One of these 1st prizes can be from an official tolling trial with cold game in another country - in Open class (or equal level).

Practical trial

For dogs that have been awarded two 1st prizes or more in Ekl at official tolling trials.

§6 Conditions

In the planning of a tolling trial the available terrain should be used to give the judge the best possible opportunity to evaluate the dog's abilities and skills on both land and water. The evaluation of the tolling work is especially important.

A tolling trial should be similar to a tolling hunt. A hunter and his/her dog has spotted birds resting on the water close to the blind. They have sneaked into the blind without disturbing the birds. The tolling work lures the birds within shooting range. Shots are fired and game is retrieved.

The water in the trial area should preferably have sufficient water vegetation, so that falling birds aren't always visible to the dog from the shore. The water vegetation should allow the judge to see most of the dog's water work.

During the trial, different situations that can occur during a hunt, will be repeated. Sometimes birds are shot and the dog sees the falling birds – at the trial this is repeated with shots fired and birds thrown (marks – "markering"). Sometimes the hunter knows where the bird fell, but the dog didn't

see it fall – at the trial this is repeated when the handler is asked to send the dog to a specific place to retrieve a bird (blind retrieves – ”dirigering”). Sometimes neither hunter or dog has seen where the birds fell and the dog must independently search a larger area (field search – ”sök”). The field search in a tolling trial should preferably be on both land and water. During the trial the dog’s ability to stay calm and quiet during stressing situations – waiting, shots or falling birds – should also be tested.

Shotguns are used in duck and goose hunting and thus the distance to falling birds are usually within 50 meters. The distances can change due to trial conditions.

The judge must prior to the start of the trial inform the handler about the procedure of the trial. This is usually for all handlers before the first dog in the class is started.

The judge decides where and when the handler can move about during the trial, and if the birds in a double mark should be retrieved in a special order.

The dog works throughout the whole trial without a leash, unless the judge decides otherwise.

The judge should be given the possibility to observe the dog’s obedience and ”will to please” in different trial situations. He or she should also evaluate the dog’s ability to search a specified area of the terrain, and to be sent to specific places in the terrain.

The marks should be thrown, so that the dog doesn’t always see the bird on the ground or the water from its starting position. The shooter should be positioned, so the marks fall within shooting range. The shot should attract the dogs attention.

The dog’s water and land work should be evaluated in one stretch by one judge. The division of the trial in different parts or different terrains should be avoided.

The procedure of the trial depends on the natural conditions in the terrain. It’s the responsibility of the head marshall, in cooperation with the judge, to make sure the trial is suitable for the terrain at hand.

The game

In tolling trials, only cold game is used. The head marshall should make sure that the birds are in good condition, similar to fresh game. Gutted or frozen game is not allowed.

The judge must make sure that the game is in good quality and that it’s kept in a correct way during the whole trial.

Only ducks (mallard, teal, wigeon, or other dabbling ducks of the Anatinae subfamily) and geese can be used at a tolling trial. All other birds, rabbits, hares etc. are excluded from these trials. Goose is only allowed in Ökl and Ekl.

§7 The trial procedure

a. Beginner's class (Nkl)

The trial should give the dog at least six (6) retrieves, with at least two (2) of them on swimming deep water. At least three (3) shots should be fired during the trial. The trial should enable a good evaluation of the approach, tolling, marking, free search, and cooperation with the handler.

b. Open class (Ökl)

The trial area should offer more difficulties, especially on water. The trial should give the dog at least nine (9) retrieves, with at least four (4) of them on swimming deep water. At least four (4) shots should be fired during the trial. The trial should enable a good evaluation of the approach, tolling, marking, free search, blind retrieves, and cooperation with handler.

c. Elite class (Ekl)

The Ekl is arranged in the same way as Ökl, but with more challenges and difficulties. To achieve this, it is possible to use two different blinds, disturbances from the water during the tolling, more difficult terrain, longer distances on water, more challenging markings and blind retrieves, and hidden drop sites.

d. Practical tolling trial

In the practical tolling trial, both the dog's ability to successfully attract live birds, and to retrieve warm game, should be tested. The trial should be similar to a tolling hunt where a hunter with dog carefully approaches the blind on the shore and then with the dog working lures the birds within shooting range. The birds are flushed, shots are fired and felled birds retrieved.

At a practical tolling field, the handler or the judge may shoot the birds. Another shooter may also be used.

For the dog to pass the practical trial, there should be two tolling works where the dog lures birds within shooting range, and at least one retrieve of a newly felled bird.

§8 Criteria

The main object of the tolling trial is to evaluate the dog's ability to attract birds and to willingly find and retrieve both wounded and shot birds on land and water.

The following criteria should always be evaluated.

a. Will to please

"Will to please" (or "will to cooperate") sums up how easy the dog is handled in different trial situations. The dog's "will to please" is evaluated throughout the whole trial. It's expected from a toller to remain calm, quiet and observant, while it follows the hunter in the terrain.

Repeated commands or corrections from the handler to keep the dog steady affects the prize level.

If the dog goes totally out of hand, this is seen as a disqualifying fault and entitles the judge to round off the trial.

b. Tolling

Every tolling trial should start with tolling. The leash is taken off before the approach starts. The shooter doesn't participate in the approach.

The tolling should attract swimming ducks and geese from up to 300 metres. When the birds are moving towards the shore, the dog stays behind the blind. When the birds hesitate, the dog starts tolling again. In the trial the judge decides these intervals and tells the handler when the dog should work. When required the dog should stay calm and quiet behind the blind. The judge should alert the handler that shots will soon be fired. When the shot (shots) are fired the dog should still be in the blind, but on the side and able to mark the falling birds.

In the trial, tolling paths or areas should be cleared on both sides of the blind. The handler throws a tolling object (stick, ball, small dummy, etc) along the tolling paths, according to the judge's instructions, and the dog should in good speed and in an animated and playful style fetch the object. The tolling should be done with small signs and few commands.

Playfulness, which doesn't set down the pace and speed of the tolling, is valuable. In Ökl and Ekl the dog should fetch and bring back the tolling object without commands from the handler. The tolling should be done along the tolling paths, but in Nkl some diversions can be allowed.

Ineffective tolling is a serious fault, which entitles the judge to round off the trial.

In Nkl there is no more tolling after the first shot is fired. In Ökl or Ekl tolling can be resumed after the first bird/birds have been retrieved.

c. Free search

Before the dog is sent, the judge should inform the handler about the limits and size of the search area. This area should include both land and water. The dog should cover the whole area in all parts effectively and without wasting too much time. When required by the judge, the dog should be directed to search a particular part of the area.

An ineffective search is seen as a disadvantage. A totally insufficient search entitles the judge to round off the trial.

d. Speed

The dog should work in good speed, as long as this doesn't affect the dogs' game finding abilities.

Working with low speed is seen as a disadvantage.

e. Endurance

The dog should show good stamina and endurance until all tasks have been solved, or the trial has stopped.

Lack of endurance is seen as a disadvantage.

f. Nose

The dog should use its nose well, and it should effectively find the game with regard to current wind and scent conditions.

Insufficient use of the nose is a serious fault, but the scent and wind in the terrain can be hard to determine.

g. Blind retrieves / handling

The dog should, when required, quickly and willingly be sent and directed to certain spots in the area. These can be both on land and on water. The handler uses commands, whistle and hand signals to direct the dog to these blind retrieves.

Ineffective handling on blind retrieves is seen as a disadvantage.

If the dog is totally out of hand or totally uninterested of the task, the judge may round off the trial.

h. Marking

This sums up the dog's ability to observe and remember fallen birds and with concentration and speed quickly find them.

Bad marking or lack of concentration is seen as a disadvantage.

i. Reaction to the shot

Gun shyness, or uncontrollable agitation or noise when shots are fired, are reasons for the judge to round off the trial.

j. Steadiness

The dog should remain steady and quiet during the whole trial. It mustn't whine or bark. The dog should also stay steady and quiet when shots are fired, and when birds are thrown. When the dog is commanded to stay (standing, sitting, laying) it should remain steady and quiet on that spot. In Ökl and Ekl, the dog should with ease switch between the playful and spontaneous tolling and the more collected retriever work after the shot. Spontaneous steadiness without commands from the handler is beneficial.

If the dog goes out of control this is a serious fault and entitles the judge to round off the trial.

k. Pick up

The dog should spontaneous and without hesitation or commands from the handler pick up and deliver all game found during the trial.

Refusal to pick up found game is a serious fault and entitles the judge to round off the trial.

In the trial the judge should observe:

- Willingness to pick up found birds.
- Willingness to quickly and directly bring back the birds to the handler.

l. Mouth

The birds should be retrieved in a correct manner – the grip should be firm but soft, the dog's movements shouldn't be obstructed, and the birds should not be damaged. The game should be delivered in hand in Ökl and Ekl – in Nkl it's also acceptable if it's delivered in the immediate reach of the handler.

A grip which damages a bird gives reason to round off the trial.

In the trial the judge should observe:

- Correct grips.
- Soft grips.
- Delivery to the handler.

Grip and mouth is not evaluated in the tolling, when the dog fetches and/or plays with the tolling objects.

m. Swimming

The dog should swim efficiently. Ineffective and/or splashy swimming is seen as a disadvantage.

n. Water passion

The dog should willingly enter water and be undaunted when encountering water vegetation. Lack of water passion is seen as a disadvantage. Complete refusal to enter water gives reason to round off the trial.

o. Tolerance

The dog should during work not disturb or be disturbed by any other dogs present at the trial area. Aggressiveness towards other dogs is a serious fault, and gives reason to round off the trial.¹

§9 Termination of trial

If the dog does a totally insufficient work, the judge has the right to round off the trial.

Serious faults, which entitles the judge to terminate the trial, are:

Totally insufficient tolling, totally insufficient free search, dog completely out of hand, strong fear of shots, uncontrollable agitation, repeated refusal to pick up birds, grip and mouth that damages the retrieved bird, repeated refusal to enter the water, aggressiveness.

A performance that will not lead to a prize, is not a reason to round off the trial.

§10 Judgement

The judge states his or her opinion about the dog's work in accordance with the official rules. The judge should after the work is completed, give the handler and present audience both a verbal and a written summary of his/her evaluation (see §8a-o). This should also be done, even when a dog's not on prize level, or when the work has been terminated before the full trial.

Decisions based on the judge's view of the working dog is final.

§11 Prize levels

When the judge decides the final prize level he/she should base this on the total perception of the dog's work and properties, the dog's working efficiency, and its capability as a hunting dog in different situations.

The opening approach and tolling work determines the highest prize level that the dog can be awarded in the trial.

In all classes of tolling trials an evaluation of quality, not competition, is applied.

Thus several dogs can be awarded the same prize.

The dog can be awarded a 1st, 2nd, 3rd prize or no prize (0). To be awarded a 1st or 2nd prize the dog should have been approved or more in all criteria (see §8).

¹ In Swedish tolling trials dogs are always working individually – as in a true tolling hunt. Thus we don't test tolerance towards other dogs in the trial – and the dog doesn't have to show the judge that it can remain quiet and calm, while other dogs are working.

A truly remarkable dog can be awarded a 1st prize with honour (1 Hp). This can be awarded in all classes.

If the dog is injured during the trial and is unable to complete the trial, this is noted in the prize list as KEP (Can not be awarded a prize – Kan ej prissättas).

At a practical tolling trial, the only prize levels are Approved or Not approved.

If the dog is unable to complete the trial, due to injury or lack of retrievable birds, this is noted as KEB (Can not be evaluated – Kan ej bedömas).

a. Beginner's class - Nkl

In this class the main objective is to evaluate the dog's will to work and will to cooperate with the handler.

To be awarded a 1st prize, the dog should show excellent will to work, to retrieve, and to cooperate - without any major faults or deficits.

To be awarded a 2nd prize, the dog should show good will to work, to retrieve, and to cooperate - while minor faults or deficits can be accepted.

To be awarded a 3rd prize, the dog should show will to work and to retrieve – while faults or deficits can be accepted, if they can be explained by inexperience or youth.

b. Open class - Ökl

To be awarded a 1st prize, the dog should clear all tasks in the trial in a convincing style – and be evaluated as a good hunting dog.

To be awarded a 2nd prize, should do a commendable trial – even though some minor faults or deficits can be accepted.

To be awarded a 3rd prize, the dog should show good working abilities – while not committing major faults.

c. Elite class - Ekl

In elite class, high demands should be put on the dog's work in all parts and aspects of the trial.

To be awarded a 1st prize, the dog should pass the trial in a truly convincing style – and be evaluated as a very good hunting dog.

To be awarded a 2nd prize, the dog should do a very commendable trial – with only a few minor faults or deficits.

To be awarded a 3rd prize, the dog should do a good trial – without major faults.

d. Practical tolling trial

To be graded "Approved" in the trial, the dog must show the judge **two (2)** times that it can approach a blind on the shore, and work to get birds within shooting range, and retrieve at least one warm bird. The dog should toll and retrieve in a commendable way.

§12 Instructions for the handler

A handler should be aware of the trial regulations, but have the right to ask the judge before the trial starts about the coming trial.

It's seen as good manners not to discuss the decisions from the judge during the trial, or publically comment or criticize the decisions during or after the trial.

Physical correction of the dog is forbidden. If this is done, the handler is excluded from the trial.

The ambition of the handler should be to show a dog which works with joy and eagerness. Commands, directions and signals should be sparse and in a low tone and manner.

Physical contact with the dog in order to calm or correct it is not allowed during the trial. Training tools, which by the dog can be connected to aversion or punishment, are not allowed.

§13 Protest

The judge's decisions can be changed in these cases:

- a. If faults of a technical nature has occurred.
- b. If a dog entered the trial against the regulations in §11.

The judge's evaluation and decisions regarding the dog's work can not be reasons for a protest.

The question of a changed decision can be taken:

After a protest from a handler who has been affected by the decisions taken.

After a complaint from the arranging committee, or the judge.

After a decision from SSRK, if there was other reasons to bring up the matter.

A protest against a decision by the judge must be made in writing. It must be left to the commissioner (kommissarie) before the trial is ended on the day, as when the decision was pronounced. A protest fee equal to twice the entry fee must be presented to the commissioner.

If a protest is handled in by a person not entitled to protesting, or is not accompanied by the decided protest fee, the protest should immediately be rejected. This decision is taken by the commissioner.

The commissioner decides, after hearing the judge, if a protest can be seen as legit. If a protest is approved, the result of the dog should be removed from the results, and the protest fee and the entry fee returned to the handler.

Changes in the official results can be made up to two (2) years after the trial.

A protest rejected by the commissioner can be overruled, if a written complaint is sent to the board of SSRK within 14 days.

§14 Additional tolling trials (Särskilt tollingjaktprov)

Additional trials can be organised on shorter notice by a group of members and/or a judge, if they can provide a proper area for a trial. The trials are intended to give the members further chances to enter dogs and get them evaluated. At least five (5) dogs must be subject to evaluation. The trial is arranged according to the same regulations as ordinary tolling trials.

Terrain:

A member, that can provide proper terrain for a tolling trial, can inform his/her local club or the Toller club, and this can thus be noted in the trial calender by SSRK/Hs. The club can enter a specified time period (weeks xx-xx) when it's possible to arrange an additional trial. The club must inform SSRK/Hs no later than 14 days before the decided date about an upcoming trial. The club should also inform Hs about the place and acting judge.

Classes:

Additional tolling trials may include Beginner's class (nkl) and Open class (ökl).

Entry:

The entry should be sent to the organisers no later than three (3) days before the trial.

Entry fee:

The fee should be paid to the organisers before the trial. The fees are the same as in ordinary tolling trials.

Economy:

The organiser should make an agreement with the acting judge regarding his/her costs.

Results:

The organiser should provide result lists, which after the trial should be signed by the acting judge and sent in to SSRK/Hs.