

Hunting Trial Rules

Tolling Hunting Trial

Valid from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2031

General Rules for Shows, Trials, Competitions and Descriptions

The rules below apply to official (studbook-registered) shows, trials, competitions and descriptions, and, where applicable, also to unofficial (non-studbook-registered) events organised within the SKK (Swedish Kennel Club) organisation.

In addition, and where applicable, SKK's statutes and laws (e.g. the Animal Welfare Act, the Act on the Supervision of Dogs and Cats) and regulations issued by public authorities (e.g. the Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations) apply.

Introduction

Bringing together dogs, people and dog owners for shows, trials, competitions and descriptions places high demands on organisers, officials and participants alike. The purpose of the general rules is to ensure fair conditions, prevent the spread of contagious diseases and injuries, and to protect both people and animals.

The dog's welfare must always come first at all events within the SKK organisation. Violence against animals, as well as neglect of animals, is strictly prohibited.

Every individual who takes part, regardless of role, is expected to act responsibly, respectfully and in accordance with SKK's rules, policies and guidelines. It is everyone's responsibility to help create a safe, fair and pleasant environment — for the dogs' sake, but also for each other's.

All results from official shows, trials, competitions and descriptions are registered by SKK. Championship titles can only be awarded to dogs registered with SKK.

Responsibility

To ensure that shows, trials, competitions and descriptions are conducted fairly and respectfully, participants and officials must:

- act or behave in a way that does not harm or work against SKK or its member organisations
- not act in a way that affects other dogs' chances of a fair assessment
- not make disparaging remarks about other dogs, officials or participants.

The organiser's responsibility

The organiser is responsible for ensuring that the show, trial, competition or description is conducted in accordance with the applicable rules and timeframes, and must be well acquainted with the current set of rules.

The organising club releases itself and its officials from all liability for damage or loss that may arise for dog owners in connection with a show, trial, competition or description. The same applies to damage caused by a dog during an ongoing show, trial, competition or description, unless the damage can be shown to have resulted from clearly inadequate organisation.

The organiser defines what is included in the area for the show, trial, competition or description.

The dog owner's/handler's responsibility

The Act on the Supervision of Dogs and Cats, and the responsibility it places on dog owners/handlers, always applies, including during a show, trial, competition or description.

The dog owner/handler is responsible for knowing the current rules for the activity they are entering.

Participating dogs must be available for examination and sampling when checks are carried out for doping and other prohibited measures.

Membership requirements

Membership requirements for entering a show, trial, competition or description are

regulated in the respective set of rules. The person entering is responsible for knowing the requirements for what they are entering.

Vaccinations

Recommendation

For animal-welfare reasons, puppies should receive a primary vaccination against distemper, parvovirus and infectious hepatitis at six to eight (6–8) weeks of age and again at twelve to sixteen (12–16) weeks of age.

A revaccination to complete the primary protection should be given at six to twelve (6–12) months of age and thereafter every three (3) years.

SKK further recommends that participating dogs also be vaccinated against kennel cough at least three (3) weeks, but no more than twelve (12) months, before taking part in a show, trial, competition or description.

Rules

Dogs participating in a show, trial, competition or description, as well as other dogs permitted to be present in the area, **must** be vaccinated against distemper, parvovirus and infectious hepatitis as follows:

- The first vaccination must have been given at least fourteen (14) days before the day of the show, trial, competition and/or description.
- A dog under twelve (12) months of age must have been vaccinated at no younger than twelve (12) weeks of age.
- A dog over twelve (12) months of age must have been vaccinated at no younger than six (6) months of age, and the vaccination must not have been given more than three (3) years earlier.
- A dog that was vaccinated at no younger than six (6) months of age and that a veterinarian has assessed should not be vaccinated again for medical reasons may be allowed to participate if the following requirements are met: a written veterinary certificate stating the reason why the dog should not be vaccinated must be brought. The veterinarian must also certify that the dog has antibodies against distemper, parvovirus and infectious hepatitis. The veterinarian must also attach a relevant test result from a titer test performed using an accredited method. The certificate and test result are valid for three (3) years from the date of sampling.

Participating foreign dogs must have been brought into Sweden in accordance with the Swedish Board of Agriculture's applicable import regulations for dogs.

Checks may be carried out to verify compliance with applicable import and vaccination regulations.

ID Marking

A dog must be ID-marked in order to participate in a show, trial, competition or description. ID marking may be done by tattoo or by implantation of a microchip that meets the applicable ISO standard.

Checks of ID marking may be carried out.

Veterinary Certificates

For a veterinary certificate to be valid, it must include the following information: breed, name, registration number or competition licence number, chip number, description of the injury and whether it is acquired, what the procedure concerns, the measure taken, the reason for the measure, and, if a body part (including teeth) has been removed, a comment on its appearance before the procedure. The certificate must be signed by the responsible veterinarian, with their name printed and contact details included.

A certified copy counts as an original. The organiser has the right to copy veterinary

Force Majeure

The organiser is not obliged to refund the entry fee if the event is cancelled due to force majeure.

SKK or its member organisation is not liable for damage or direct or indirect costs caused by an event not taking place. Nor is any elected official, employee or officer of SKK or its member organisation who made the relevant decision liable for damage or direct or indirect costs.

Grounds for Exclusion from Participation

Contagious disease

A dog suffering from a contagious disease or infestation may not participate in a show, trial, competition or description.

A dog that has had, or is suspected of having had, kennel cough may not participate until it has been free of symptoms for at least two (2) weeks. A dog that has had, or is suspected of having had, distemper, parvovirus infection or infectious hepatitis may not participate until it has been free of symptoms for at least four (4) weeks. The same rules apply to a dog that has been kept together with a dog that has had any of these diseases.

A dog subject to a home-isolation order may not participate until at least two (2) months after the home isolation has ended.

Pregnant bitch — before and after whelping

A pregnant bitch may not participate in a show, trial, competition or description during the 30 days before whelping, calculated from 63 days after the first mating, nor may she participate until 75 days after whelping, regardless of the outcome of the whelping. When calculating days, day one (1) is **the first day after** mating/whelping.

To ensure that a bitch that failed to conceive is in fact not pregnant, at least two (2) weeks should have passed after the calculated due date before she participates in a show, trial, competition or description.

For a mental description (BPH, MH) or mental test (MT), a mated bitch may not participate at any point between mating and whelping. See the respective set of rules for further details.

Puppies

For reasons of disease control and animal welfare, puppies under four (4) months of age must **not** participate in a show, trial, competition or description, nor may they be present in the area. It is the organiser's responsibility to define what constitutes the area.

Dogs with cropped ears

Shows

A dog with cropped ears may **not** participate in a show or conformation description.

Trials, competitions and descriptions

A dog with cropped ears, born in a country where ear cropping was not permitted at the time it was performed, may **not** participate in a trial, competition or description.

A dog with cropped ears, born in a country where ear cropping was permitted at the time it was performed, **may** participate in a trial, competition or description.

Dogs with docked/amputated tails and dogs not born with a natural full-length tail

In this context, dogs with amputated tails are treated the same as dogs with docked tails.

Shows

A dog with a docked tail may **not** participate in a show or conformation description. This applies regardless of the country in which the dog was born. Exceptions to this prohibition are specified in the Show Rules.

Trials, competitions and descriptions

A dog with a docked tail, born in a country where tail docking was not permitted at the time it was performed, may **not** participate in a trial, competition or description.

A dog with a docked tail, born in a country where tail docking was permitted at the time it was performed, or that has been tail-docked for veterinary medical reasons, or that was not born with a natural full-length tail, **may** participate in a trial, competition or description.

Decisions by public authorities or by SKK

A person may not enter, handle or have someone else handle a dog at a show, trial, competition or description, nor participate in a show with a breeding or breeder group, if that person:

- is, by decision of a public authority, prohibited from handling or keeping animals
- has been expelled from the SKK organisation by SKK's Disciplinary Committee
- has been suspended from the right to enter, handle or have someone else handle a dog at a show, trial, competition or description by SKK's Disciplinary Committee, SKK's Central Board, another Nordic kennel club or the FCI
- has chosen to withdraw from the SKK organisation while an investigation by SKK's Disciplinary Committee is ongoing.

The dog owner is responsible for ensuring that, at a show, trial, competition or description, the dog is not handled by a person who, by decision of a public authority, is prohibited from handling or keeping animals, or who has been expelled, suspended, or has withdrawn from the SKK organisation while an investigation by SKK's Disciplinary Committee is ongoing.

A dog may not participate if, during the six (6) months prior to the relevant show, trial, competition or description, it was owned by a person who has been expelled by SKK's Disciplinary Committee or who has been prohibited from entering, handling or having someone else handle a dog at a show, trial, competition or description.

A person who has been given an access ban by SKK's Central Board in accordance with § 9 of SKK's statutes does not have the right to access a show, trial, competition or description, or any other club event.

Doping and Other Prohibited Influence

A participating dog must not be injured or ill. Nor may it be influenced in a prohibited manner, meaning it must not be subjected to any measure that can affect its appearance, performance, reaction, or the manifestation of an injury or illness.

It is the responsibility of the person in charge of the dog to ascertain, before any treatment or other measure, what implications this may have for the dog's right to participate in a show, trial, competition or description.

Doping

Doping of dogs is regulated by the Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations and general guidelines on training and competing with animals. Detailed rules on which treatments and measures are prohibited within the SKK organisation are set out in the *National Doping Regulations for Dogs*. These also contain rules for applying for an exemption from the SKK organisation's doping regulations.

When the show committee/trial management/competition management has decided that samples are to be taken to investigate possible doping or other prohibited measures, the person responsible for the dog is obliged to make the dog available for

sampling and for any further examinations this may lead to. Manipulation of a sample intended for doping analysis is prohibited.

Prohibited aids

Aids that affect a dog's appearance, performance, reaction, or the manifestation of an injury or illness are not permitted during ongoing judging/description at a show, trial, competition or description. Examples of such aids include coats, bandages, protective gear and supports.

Muzzles are not permitted within the area defined by the organiser for an ongoing show, trial, competition or description.

Where a specific aid is permitted, this is regulated in the relevant set of rules, and may in some cases require an approved application for exemption.

Neutered male dogs/spayed bitches

A male dog that has been surgically castrated, regardless of the reason, is not granted an exemption to participate in a show or conformation description. If a surgically castrated male dog participates in a show or conformation description, it must be given a Disqualified rating or an Ej godkänd (Not Approved) rating, respectively.

A male dog that has been surgically castrated is granted a general exemption to participate in a trial, competition or description. At international trials and competitions, specific requirements regarding testicular status may apply — for information on this, *see the specific set of rules concerned*.

A male dog that has been castrated through medical treatment is not granted an exemption to participate in a show, conformation description, trial, competition or description, due to the behavioural effects of the treatment.

A bitch that has been spayed, whether surgically or through continuous medical treatment, is granted a general exemption to participate in a show, conformation description, trial, competition and description. *See further the National Doping Regulations for Dogs.*

Responsibility Regarding the Housing of Dogs

Participants at a show, trial, competition or description are responsible for ensuring that the dog is housed and handled in a safe and secure manner so that it cannot injure itself or others. Housing in a car, crate, tent or similar is permitted provided that the dog is comfortable and under no circumstances at risk of being harmed.

If the dog owner/handler houses a dog in breach of the above during a show, trial, competition, description or club-organised activity, this must be reported to SKK by the officiating official in accordance with applicable procedures.

Examples of officials include: *judges, describers, show committees, stewards, attending veterinarians, trial, test or competition leaders, ring secretaries, instructors, decoys/helpers at trials, etc.*

Disqualified or Zero Points with Reference to Temperament

The officiating judge has, in all forms of shows, trials, competitions and descriptions, the right to award a Disqualified rating or zero points with reference to temperament if the judge assesses that the dog, in light of the conditions of the relevant show, trial, competition or description, displays aggression, clear flight behaviour, or other inappropriate behaviour linked to temperament.

A dog that has, on three (3) occasions, been awarded a Disqualified rating or zero points with reference to temperament may **not** participate in a show, trial, competition or description.

Unacceptable Behaviour

A dog that, during a show, trial, competition, description or club-organised activity, displays aggression in an unacceptable manner, lunges, or otherwise behaves threateningly towards people and/or other dogs or domestic animals, must be

reported to SKK by the officiating official in accordance with applicable procedures. The officiating official has a specific duty to report unacceptable behaviour as described above. This duty applies even if the officiating official did not personally witness the incident in question. It is the organiser's responsibility to ensure that reporting is possible at all events and club-organised activities. **Examples of officials include:** judges, describers, show committees, stewards, attending veterinarians, trial, test or competition leaders, ring secretaries, instructors, decoys/helpers, etc. It should be borne in mind that a dog undergoing a mental description or mental test is in a test situation. A report of unacceptable behaviour should therefore be considered with particular care. A dog that has been reported may be removed from the area.

Hunting Trial Rules for Tolling Hunting Trials

Established by SKK to apply to the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever at tolling hunting trials from 2027-01-01 to 2031-12-31.

Introduction

The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever has been developed as a dedicated duck- and goose-hunting specialist. In characteristic tolling hunting, the Toller lures waterfowl resting on the water, which are within sight of the hunter but out of shooting range, by running along the shoreline. This is done by the hunter, sitting in a blind, throwing a so-called tolling retrieve object, which the dog must fetch and bring back.

This tolling work arouses the birds' curiosity and draws them closer to the shore and the blind. During the work, the dog alternates between playful tolling and calm waiting, between activity and passivity. To arouse the birds' curiosity, the hunter lets the dog work along the shore, and when the birds swim closer, the dog is kept back in the blind.

Once the birds have been lured within shooting range and the hunter has fired, the Toller must retrieve the birds that have been shot. The dog must therefore switch between the more playful retrieving of the tolling work and the working tasks of a retriever.

§ 1 Purpose

The purpose of hunting trials is to assess, under huntsman-like conditions, the hunting qualities of participating dogs to guide breeding work.

§ 2 Organisation and Approval

Official hunting trials under these rules are organised by the branches and breed clubs of the Swedish Spaniel and Retriever Club (SSRK). The judge, the form of the trial, and the time and place of the trial must be approved and established by SSRK's Main Board.

A trial leader must be appointed at all trials approved by SSRK. A steward may be appointed but is not required.

- a) The judge is responsible for ensuring that the trial is conducted in accordance with the applicable rules. The judge has the right to change the layout of the trial. The judge must be a member of SSRK or of an equivalent foreign club.
- b) The trial leader handles any protests, unless a steward has been appointed.
- c) The trial leader is responsible for the safety of the trial and, in consultation with the judge, for the layout of the trial.
- d) A trial may not be cancelled without the approval of the Main Board. See the Guidelines for Tolling Hunting Trials.

§ 3 Right to Participate

The hunting trial is open to dogs of the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever breed. A dog may only be entered for one start per class and day for each trial occasion. At the time of entry, the dog must have obtained the qualifications required to start in the class for which the entry is made. However, if the organiser allows it and reserves have not been drawn, a dog that has qualified for a higher class during the trial may also be permitted to start in the higher class on the following day.

Membership Requirements

The dog owner must be a member of an SSRK branch, or of an equivalent foreign club.

The handler must be a member of some part of the SKK organisation, or of an equivalent foreign club.

Registration Requirements

A dog that is Swedish-owned or co-owned must be registered with SKK by the closing date for entries.

For a foreign-owned dog, registration in SKK's database must take place before entry, in accordance with SKK's procedures.

Where the above requirements are not met, results obtained will be annulled. Results obtained in an official class are registered with SKK.

Restricted Trials and Draws

If the number of participants must be restricted, this must be announced when the trial is advertised. The number of participants is determined by the organising branch in consultation with the judge, and a draw must take place as soon as possible after the closing date for entries if the trial is full. In connection with an oversubscribed trial, the organiser may appoint reserves. At the trial, these reserves take precedence over dogs that have qualified for a higher class during the course of the trial.

The draw takes place in accordance with decisions of SSRK's Main Board. See the Guidelines for Tolling Hunting Trials.

At breed championships and similar events, SSRK's Main Board may decide on amended restriction and draw rules.

The Following May Not Participate in the Trial

- a) A dog belonging to the officiating trial leader or steward.
- b) A dog belonging to the officiating judge, judge aspirant or judge trainee. However, a person who is officiating as a judge does have the right to handle a dog in a class other than the one for which they are or will be officiating.
- c) A dog that has been owned, handled or personally trained by the officiating judge or judge aspirant/trainee during the past six months.
- d) A dog owned by a member of the officiating judge's household does not have the right to participate in the class for which the judge has been appointed.
- e) A bitch in season.

§ 4 Entry and Fees

Entry for participation and payment of the entry fee must be made in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Tolling Hunting Trials.

§ 5 Classification — Novice Class (Nkl)

For dogs that have reached 12 months of age on the first day of the trial.

A dog that has been awarded an Excellent may remain in the class for the remainder of the current calendar year. In the event of oversubscription, it must give way to a dog that has not yet been awarded an Excellent. A dog that has started in a higher class does not have the right to return to this class.

Game must be used in this class.

Open Class (Ökl)

For dogs that have been awarded an Excellent (or a 1st prize before 1 January 2022) in Novice Class at an official tolling hunting trial, or that have previously started in Open Class and have not been awarded two Excellents (or 1st prizes before 1 January 2022) in the class. An Excellent or equivalent award obtained in another country in Nkl or an equivalent class at an official tolling hunting trial with Game also qualifies for a start in Ökl. If official tolling hunting trials in that country are only arranged with a

dummy in Nkl, a dog registered in that country that has been awarded an Excellent or equivalent is entitled to start in Ökl.

A dog that has started in a higher class does not have the right to return to this class.

Game must be used in this class.

Elite Class (Ekl)

For dogs that have been awarded two Excellents (or 1st prizes before 1 January 2022) in Open Class at a tolling hunting trial. The prizes may have been obtained in another country in Ökl or an equivalent class at an official tolling hunting trial with Game.

A dog that has been awarded three Excellents (or 1st prizes before 1 January 2022) in Ekl may remain in the class. In the event of oversubscription, it must give way to a dog that has not yet been awarded three Excellents (or 1st prizes before 1 January 2022).

Dummies must be used in this class.

Practical Hunting Trial

For dogs that have been awarded at least two Excellents (or 1st prizes before 1 January 2022) in Elite Class at a tolling hunting trial in Sweden.

§ 6 General Layout of the Trial

The trial is laid out with regard to the available trial grounds, so that the judge is able, in the best possible way, to assess the dogs' hunting qualities both on land and in water. Great importance must be placed on the judge's ability to assess the tolling work.

A shooter and a luring-dog team are assumed to have scanned a body of water for resting waterfowl. Having located the birds, they move, huntsman-like, to a blind. Through tolling, a number of waterfowl are lured within shooting range. Shots are fired and Game falls.

The trial site should preferably offer sufficient aquatic vegetation that the retrieving Game is concealed, but preferably also be open enough that the dog can be seen by the judge for most of the work.

During the trial, the downing of some Game is simulated by shots and throws, and the dog is given the opportunity to mark. For some of the Game, the shooter is assumed to know the exact point of fall, and the dog must then be able to be directed there.

For some of the Game, neither the dog nor the handler knows where the point of fall is, and the dog must then independently search the designated area. The search work may with advantage be partly carried out in water. In addition, an opportunity must be given to assess the dog's ability to remain calm and quiet in stressful situations, while waiting, in connection with shooting, or when Game falls.

Since the Toller is a dog that must also work after the shot when hunting with a shotgun, retrieving distances should be realistic from a hunting perspective. Distances must be adapted to the prevailing external circumstances.

Before the start, the judge must inform the participants of the trial's layout. The judge decides on the handler's freedom of movement and whether the Game must be retrieved in a particular order or whether the handler may decide the order themselves. The dog must be handled off-lead throughout the trial unless the judge states otherwise.

The judge must be given the opportunity to assess the dog's controllability and obedience in various trial situations, as well as its ability to search independently within the designated area. Markings must be carried out so that the dog cannot too clearly see the Game after it falls from the starting point. The shooter must be positioned so that the marking, if possible, falls within shooting range.

The shot must draw the dog's attention.

The layout of the hunting trial varies depending on the natural opportunities offered by the trial grounds. The trial leader, in consultation with the judge, is responsible for ensuring that the trial has a suitable level of difficulty within the framework of the available trial grounds.

At the practical trial, the dog's work on water and on land should be assessed together by one judge. A division into separate testing segments and unnecessary geographical spread should be avoided.

Retrieving game

The trial leader is responsible for ensuring that the Game is in such condition that it corresponds, as closely as possible, to freshly shot Game. Game that has not been fully thawed may not be used.

The judge must satisfy themselves, at the trial ground, as to the quality of the Game and that it is stored appropriately.

Only Game that can be lured (waterfowl, including geese) may be used as retrieving Game.

§ 7 Conduct of the Trial

a. Novice Class (Nkl) — Game must be used in this class

Six to eight retrieving opportunities must be given, of which at least two must be in swimming-depth and relatively open water. At least three shots must be fired per dog that completes the trial. The trial must be arranged so that it is possible, among other things, to assess stalking, tolling work, marking, willingness to cooperate and search work.

Open Class (Ökl) — Game must be used in this class

The trial area should, if possible, be comparable to difficult hunting terrain as regards the water areas. Nine to eleven retrieving opportunities must be given, of which at least four must be in water and at least two of these in swimming-depth water. At least four shots must be fired per dog that completes the trial.

The trial must be arranged so that it is possible to assess stalking, tolling work, marking, willingness to cooperate, direction, and search.

Elite Class (Ekl) — Dummies must be used in this class

Elite Class is arranged essentially as Open Class, but with an increased level of difficulty. Suitable difficulties include movement between blinds and/or disturbances during the tolling work, more difficult terrain, more difficult marking and directing tasks, hidden points of fall, and a larger search area.

Practical Hunting Trial

At the practical tolling hunting trial, both the dog's ability to carry out successful luring work on waterfowl, and the dog's retrieving and handling of freshly shot Game, must be assessed. The practical trial must be equivalent to a tolling hunt in which the hunter, together with the dog, stalks to a blind by a shore and then, with the help of the working dog, lures the birds resting on the water to come within shooting range. Shots must be fired and the Game that falls retrieved.

A dedicated retriever handler must be available in direct connection with the hunt.

The handler and/or judge may not act as the shooter.

At the practical trial, the handler, as well as everyone else taking part in the hunt, must hold a valid state hunting licence.

During the test, two luring exercises in which the dog successfully lures birds within shooting range, and at least one retrieve of freshly shot Game, must be carried out.

§ 8 Subjects for Assessment

The subjects for assessment are the dog's ability to lure birds and its willingness to find and retrieve injured or dead waterfowl, both on land and in water.

The following qualities of the dog must always be assessed:

Willingness to Cooperate

Willingness to cooperate with the handler is a summary expression of how easily the dog allows itself to be handled in varying situations. The dog's willingness to cooperate is assessed throughout the trial. A Toller is expected to follow its handler attentively and compliantly through the terrain.

Repeated commands and corrections from the handler to keep the dog in place count against the final scoring. If the dog is completely out of hand, this is a disqualifying fault that gives the judge the right to stop the trial.

Luring Work

The luring work (stalking and tolling work) always opens the trial. The dog is released before the stalk to the blind. The shooter does not take part in the stalk, but must be in position before the trial starts.

The tolling work must be such that resting ducks can be lured within shooting range. As long as the birds are moving towards the blind, the dog is kept concealed. When the birds hesitate, the dog is shown again. The tempo between activity and passivity during the trial is set by the judge.

When instructed to do so, the dog must wait calmly and quietly in the blind between periods of tolling work. When the shot is fired, the dog must be in or by the blind so that it is given the opportunity to mark falling Game or dummy. The judge may give a signal/sign to the handler before the shot is fired.

The tolling work must be carried out with the dog retrieving an object along the tolling path in a playful style and at good speed. Playfulness that does not adversely affect speed and tempo counts in the dog's favour. In Ökl and Ekl, the dog must retrieve the tolling object without a command from the handler. The work must take place along the water.

The luring work in Novice Class ends when the first shot is fired.

Ineffective tolling is a serious fault that gives the judge the right to stop the trial.

Search

The search must be such that the entire relevant ground, including more difficult parts of the terrain, is covered effectively and without unnecessary loss of time. If

requested, the dog must be able to search a designated area independently, without significant support from the handler. The search should also include work in water.

Ineffective searching counts against the dog. A completely inadequate search gives the judge the right to stop the trial.

Speed

The dog must work at good speed, but not to the extent that its ability to locate Game or dummy suffers. Slow work counts against the dog.

Endurance

The dog must show good endurance throughout the trial, or until the trial is stopped. Lack of endurance counts against the dog.

Nose

The dog must show good ability to pick up scent. Given the prevailing wind and

scenting conditions, it must be able to effectively locate Game or dummy. Shortcomings in this work are a serious fault, but caution should be exercised in the assessment, as scenting conditions can be difficult to judge.

Controllability

The dog must allow itself to be directed promptly and willingly, both on land and in water. Poor controllability counts against the dog.

Marking Ability

This refers to the assessment of the dog's ability to focus on falling Game or dummy, the dog's memory of the sequence of events, and how the dog subsequently, independently and quickly, locates and follows up on its impressions. Lack of concentration, memory and follow-up counts against the dog.

Reaction to Shot

The dog must be calm and attentive at the shot. Gun-shyness or poorly controlled excitement are serious faults that give the judge the right to stop the trial.

Steadiness

The dog must be able to switch between the tolling's spontaneous retrieving and retriever work after the shot. The dog must also remain calm and quiet on contact with Game or dummy, at the firing of the shot, and in the face of falling Game or dummy. When the dog is commanded to remain still (standing, sitting, lying down), it must remain calmly and quietly in place. Spontaneous steadiness without influence from the handler is viewed positively.

Poorly controlled excitement is a serious fault that gives the judge the right to stop the trial.

Willingness to Retrieve

The dog must, spontaneously and without hesitation, delay or persuasion from the handler, retrieve and deliver Game or dummy. A clear refusal to retrieve located Game or dummy is a serious fault that gives the judge the right to stop the trial.

The subjects for assessment must be:

Willingness to pick up Game or dummy.

Willingness to come in to the handler quickly and directly with the game or dummy.

Retrieving Grip

Game or dummy must be retrieved in such a way that it does not slip from the grip, that the dog's movements are not unnecessarily hindered, and that the Game is not damaged by the dog's teeth. Game or dummy must be delivered to hand in Ökl and Ekl. It is desirable that all Game or dummies be delivered to hand in Nkl as well.

The subjects for assessment must be:

The suitability of the grip. The softness of the grip. The delivery.

The retrieving grip is not assessed during the tolling work.

A retrieving grip that damages Game or dummy gives the judge the right to stop the trial.

Swimming Technique

The dog must have an effective way of swimming. An ineffective and/or splashing way of swimming counts against the dog.

Enjoyment of water and willingness to work in water

The dog must willingly enter water and show confidence in making its way through aquatic vegetation. A lack of confidence in water counts against the dog. A complete unwillingness to enter water gives the judge the right to stop the trial.

§ 9 Stopping the Trial

Faults that give the judge the right to stop the dog's further participation in the trial are:

Completely unsatisfactory tolling work, completely unsatisfactory search, the dog being completely out of hand, gun-shyness, poorly controlled excitement, clear refusal to retrieve, a retrieving grip that damages Game or dummy, complete unwillingness to enter water.

The fact that a dog's performance does not merit a prize is not grounds for stopping the trial.

A dog whose trial is stopped is given the rating Not Sufficient (NS).

§ 10 Assessment

The judge presents their assessment of the dog's work in relation to the trial rules.

After the assessment, the judge must give trial participants both verbal and written comments regarding the qualities tested (see §8 a–o). This also applies to a dog that has not been awarded a prize, or where the trial has been stopped.

A judge's decision based on their assessment of the dog's work is final.

§ 11 Awards

The decisive factor in awarding prizes must be the impression the judge has of the dog's work and qualities, the dog's efficiency, and the capacity it shows as a hunting dog in varying situations. For the Toller, this means that the luring work (§8 b) must be decisive for the highest prize the dog can receive.

A quality assessment is applied in all classes.

A dog is awarded Excellent (E), Very Good (VG), Good (G) or Not Sufficient (NS). A particularly outstanding dog with an Excellent may be awarded a prize of honour, Excellent with Honours. This applies in all classes except the practical hunting trial. In the event of an injury that prevents the dog from completing the trial, Cannot Be Judged (CBJ) is noted in the prize list.

At the practical hunting trial, only the ratings Approved or Not Approved are applied.

A dog that must stop the trial due to injury, if no huntable game is available at the trial site, or if the number of retrieving opportunities does not provide sufficient basis for assessment, is given the rating Cannot Be Judged (CBJ).

Novice Class

In this class, the dog's willingness to work and cooperate must above all be assessed. To receive an Excellent, the dog must show very good willingness to work, enjoyment of retrieving and willingness to cooperate, and must not display any more serious faults or shortcomings in its work.

For a Very Good, the dog must show good willingness to work and enjoyment of retrieving, while certain faults and shortcomings may be permitted.

For a Good, the dog must show willingness to work and good interest in retrieving, while even clear faults and shortcomings may be accepted if they can be attributed to youth and/or inexperience.

Open Class

To receive an Excellent, the dog must complete the trial in a convincing manner and

be considered by the judge to be a good hunting dog.

For a Very Good, the dog must perform commendable work, but certain faults and shortcomings may be accepted.

For a Good, the dog must perform work of such a standard that, despite its faults and shortcomings, it cannot be considered to be excluded from a prize.

Elite Class

In Elite Class, high demands must be placed on the dog's work in all respects.

To receive an Excellent, the dog must complete the trial in a particularly convincing manner and be considered by the judge to be a very good hunting dog.

For a Very Good, the dog must perform highly commendable work with only minor faults and shortcomings.

For a Good, the dog must perform good work without excessive shortcomings.

Practical Hunting Trial

For the dog to be approved, two luring exercises, in which the dog successfully lures a bird within shooting range, and at least one retrieve of freshly shot game, must be carried out.

The dog must perform commendable luring and retrieving work.

§ 12 Guidelines for Dog Handlers

Participation in a hunting trial places certain physical and mental demands on the handler. As far as possible, without affecting the dog's trial, the trial must be adapted so that handlers with disabilities can participate. Handlers may be permitted to use aids such as a cane, poles, crutches or similar upon presentation of a medical certificate. Dog handlers must be familiar with the hunting trial rules, but have the right to ask the judge questions before the start.

It is good practice not to discuss the judge's decisions with the officiating judge during an ongoing trial, or to publicly criticise the assessment during or after the trial.

It is forbidden to strike a dog. A breach of this results in exclusion from the trial. Dog handlers must strive to handle their dog so that it cooperates willingly.

Commands and signals must be given quietly and used sparingly.

Physical contact with the dog for the purpose of calming or correcting it is not permitted.

Training aids are not permitted during the trial.

§ 13 Protest

A judge's decision may be changed in the following cases:

- a. If an error of a technical nature has been made.
- b. If the dog did not have the right to participate under the applicable rules.

Participants may not, therefore, protest against the judge's assessment and personal opinion.

The question of changing a judge's decision is examined:

Following a protest from a trial participant whose rights are affected by the contested result. Following a report from the trial management or from the judge who made the decision.

Following a decision by SSRK to take up the question of changing a judge's decision for some other reason.

A protest against a judge's decision must be made in writing. It must be submitted to the trial leader before the trial ends on the same day that the contested decision was announced, and must be accompanied by a protest fee equal to double the entry fee.

If the protest is submitted by someone who is not entitled to do so, or if it is not

accompanied by the prescribed protest fee, the protest must be immediately dismissed. Such a decision is made by the trial leader or, where one has been appointed, the steward.

The trial leader decides, after hearing the judge, whether the protest can be considered justified. If the protest is upheld, the dog's prize is removed from the results, and the entry fee is refunded together with the protest fee. If the trial leader or steward rejects the protest, the appellant has the right to appeal to SSRK's Main Board within 10 days of the steward announcing their decision. If SSRK's Board rejects the appeal, the appellant has the right to appeal to SKK's Hunting Committee (JhK) within 30 days of SSRK's Board announcing its decision. Changes to the results list may be made within two years of the trial.