

The USA Standard of Performance

Junior Division Water-dog

BASIC CONTROL

Basic Control will be performed off lead in a ring about 40 x 50 feet. There are three parts to the Basic Control: Controlled Walking, a Recall, and a One-Minute Down. The only sit required in Basic Control is at the start of the Recall exercise. The dog may be guided gently by the collar between exercises. Extra hand signals, verbal commands, and other encouragement are allowed on the motion exercises.

If a Test Committee schedules the Basic Control Exercise on the day preceding the water exercises, it must also offer Basic Control on the day of the Water test for anyone who is unable to attend the previous day.

Controlled Walking

The dog must walk with the handler in response to the commands given and should remain within arm's reach of the handler at all times. The handler must not touch the dog but may command and encourage the dog. The dog is not required to remain in any particular position but should remain within arm's reach. The dog does not have to sit at any time during this exercise; however, before the exercise begins handlers may GENTLY push the dog into a sit if they so choose.

During this exercise one judge will call commands, but both judges will score. The Commands from the judge will include: forward, left turn, right turn, about turn, halt, and exercise finished. It is the judge's option in what order he calls the commands, but the calling judge will call the same pattern for each dog and handler.

Recall

The recall is performed the full length of the ring. The judge will instruct the handler to "Sit your dog" (handler may GENTLY push dog into a sit) and will ask "Are you ready?" The judge will then instruct the handler to "Leave your dog". The handler must give only one stay command. The stay command can be given by both voice and hand simultaneously. The dog must stay until called by the handler. The handler will walk to the opposite side of the ring, turn, face the dog, and remain in place until the exercise is finished. The judge will instruct the handler by voice or hand signal to call the dog. A signal, verbal command, or simultaneous commands may be used to call the dog. Extra hand signals and vocal commands are allowed after the dog begins to move. The dog must respond within 10 seconds. The dog will come close enough to be touched by the handler and should sit, but is not required to sit, facing the handler. The judge's commands to the handler are "Sit your dog", "Leave your dog", "Call your dog", and "Exercise finished". (the dog is not required to finish).

One Minute Down

The One Minute Down is a group exercise performed with the handlers across the width of the ring. The judges will keep each group to a maximum of ten (10) dogs. The handlers and their dogs (on lead) will enter the ring in catalog order (except for bitches in season and handlers with more than one entry) and line up along one side as instructed by the judge. The handlers will remove the leads and place them behind their dogs. When in position, the judge will ask "Are you ready?" and will then say "Down your dogs". The handlers may manually put their dogs down. Dogs do not have to sit before lying down. The judge will instruct the handlers to "Leave your dogs" and starts the timing. Handlers will give one (1) command to stay. The stay command may be a verbal command, hand signal, or a simultaneous verbal and hand signal. The handlers will walk to the opposite side of the ring, turn, and face their dogs. After one minute, the judge will say "Return to your dogs". The handlers will walk around the dog and return to heel position. The dog must remain down until the handler returns to the heel position. The handlers will not release their dogs until the judge says, "Exercise finished".

SINGLE RETRIEVE

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The dog and handler wait on shore facing the water. The judge will ask the handler, "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler, "You may begin". At this point, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The handler will throw the bumper at least thirty (30) feet out from shore and into swimming depth water for the dog. The bumper may have a short line attached to facilitate throwing. Anticipation is allowed. The dog swims out to the bumper, retrieves it, and brings it to the handler on the shore. The dog must deliver the bumper to hand. The dog need not sit to deliver the bumper to the handler. A "finish" is not required.

If the throw is not of adequate distance, the judges will instruct the handler to throw the bumper again. The test committee will appoint a steward to serve as a designated thrower in the event one should be needed.

The dog may bring the bumper to the closest point of land; in which case, the handler may move along the shore to that point to receive the article without stepping into the water. The point of land at which the dog delivers the bumper may be outside the marked test area. If the dog fails to retrieve on the first command, it may be redirected by the handler to retrieve the bumper. The judges will signal completion of the exercise when the dog has delivered the bumper to hand, or when the dog has failed the exercise.

DROP RETRIEVE

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The dog and handler wait on shore facing the water. Stewards will paddle in a canoe or kayak across the test site approximately fifty (50) feet from shore. Upon a signal from a judge, a steward will quietly drop the entrant's life jacket or boat cushion in the water on the seaward side of the watercraft, making no effort to attract the dog's attention to the drop. The judges will select the article the morning of the test, and it will be the same for all dogs. After the watercraft has cleared the area, a judge will ask the handler, "Are you ready?" and then instruct the handler, "You may begin". At this point, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The handler will send the dog in the direction of the floating article. The dog swims out to the article, retrieves it, and returns

it to the handler on shore. The dog must deliver the article to hand. The dog may bring the article to the closest point of land; in which case, the handler may move along the shore to that point to receive the article without stepping into the water. The closest point of land may be outside the marked test site. No sit or finish is required. The judges will signal completion of the exercise when the dog delivers to hand, or when the judges indicate the dog has failed.

TAKE A LINE

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The dog and handler wait on shore facing the water. The land steward will give the handler one end of the line. Before the exercise begins, the calling steward, on the direction of the judge, will walk up to the dog, pet it briefly and ask its name. The steward will swim away from shore into position at the center and fifty (50) foot mark. When the steward is in position, a judge will ask the handler, "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler, "You may begin" while simultaneously signaling the steward to begin calling. At this point, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The steward will use the dog's name and must use the same manner of calling or each dog.

After the judge says, "You may begin", the handler gives the dog one end of a seventy-five (75) foot floating line. The line may be knotted at one end to facilitate carrying. The handler may gently place the line in the dog's mouth, entice the dog to take the line, or command the dog to take the line. The line may not be tossed into the water for the dog to grab. If the line is dropped prior to the dog committing to the water, the handler may pick it up and start again. If the dog drops the line on shore but commits to the water the handler may pick up the line and hand it to the dog as long as the dog does not leave the water with more than two (2) feet and the handler does not enter the water. If the dog commits to the water and drops the line in the water the handler may command the dog to pick it up but may not touch the line. The dog will hold the line in its mouth and on the handler's command will enter the water and carry the line to the steward. The handler may play out the line to avoid entanglement but will keep one end on shore. The dog must bring the line close enough for the steward to reach it without changing his/her location in the water. The dog must hold the line in his/her mouth until the steward can grasp it, but the dog does not have

to relinquish the line to the steward. The dog must have the line in his/her mouth when the steward takes hold of the line. The steward will hold the line up for the judges to see. The exercise is finished when the steward has hold of the line, or when the judges indicate the dog has failed. The judges will signal completion of the exercise. The handler will then call the dog to shore. The dog may continue to hold the line in its mouth and accompany the steward to shore.

TOW A BOAT

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The dog will remain on shore with the handler. The handlers' 8-foot floating line with attached boat bumper will be placed in the boat by a steward. The stewards will be positioned in an approved rowboat fifty (50) feet from shore. The dog and handler will approach the water, and the judge will ask, "Are you ready? The judge will instruct the handler "You may begin". At this point, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. As soon as the judge signals the beginning of the exercise, a steward in the boat will attract the team's attention by calling the dog's name and splashing the bumper next to the boat. The dog should swim to the boat, take the bumper or line from the calling steward, and tow the boat to shore. The calling steward will splash the bumper close to the boat but may not throw it in front of the dog. If the calling steward accidentally falls out of the boat the exercise may not be completed and will have to be retested. The dog may hold either the bumper or the line adjacent to the bumper. The dog may bring the boat to the closest point of land, in which case, the handler may move along the shore to meet the dog. The handler will not enter the water until the dog is at wading depth for the dog. The dog must pull the boat until it touches the bottom, at which time the judges will signal completion of the exercise.

SWIM WITH HANDLER

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The dog and handler are on shore at a spot designated by the judges. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" and then will instruct the handler, "You may begin". At this time, the handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. Dog and handler will approach the water and wade out together to swimming depth for the dog. The dog and handler will swim together for twenty (20) feet. The prescribed distance is not judged until both the handler and the dog have begun swimming. The dog may swim in any position within a four-foot (4) radius of the handler. The dog may not swim on top of the handler nor otherwise impede the handler from reaching the prescribed distance. The handler may swim with any type of swimming stroke. A judge will signal when the required distance is reached. The handler will stop swimming and command the dog to turn toward shore. The handler may not physically turn the dog. The handler then holds onto the dog and encourages the dog to tow him to shore. The dog is to do so promptly, although one or two circles by the dog for orientation with the shoreline are allowed.

The dog may tow the handler by having the handler hold onto the dog or by

the dog holding the handler by the arm. If the dog holds the handler by the arm, some protection on the arm is permitted. This protection will be flush with the skin and there will be nothing dangling from it.

The handler must be free floating and allow him/herself to be towed by the dog. A small amount of motion by the handler for balance is allowed. Once the dog has reached wading depth, the handler may stand and walk to shore with his/her dog. The judges will signal completion as soon as the dog is walking.