# GENERAL RULES WDA OFFICERS:

President: Brian Peterson

Vice President: Tom Cawood

Secretary: Cindy Reed, 2280 Louis Avenue, Oroville, CA 95966; (530) 534-5678 Treasurer: Jenny Clark

1. The WDA registry will keep records of all trials/events and titles for WDA registered dogs.
2. WDA personnel will maintain a website for information and advertisement.
3. WDA officers will maintain the rules and titles.
4. WDA reserves the right to make corrections or changes to our rules at any time.
5. WDA officers will oversee the appointment of all judges and decoys.

# WDA BOARD TO EVALUATE AND CERTIFY JUDGES:

Brian Peterson – Oroville, CA

Cindy Reed – Oroville, CA

Tom Cawood – Hixson, Tennessee

Trace Sims - Snellville, Ga

**WDA BOARD TO EVALUATE AND CERTIFY DECOYS (**This board will be re-evaluated and updated annually). Anyone interested in becoming a decoy for WDA can contact these key people for more information:

Brian Peterson – Oroville, California brian@petersonprovideo.com

Jim Reed – Oroville, California [james@truehaus.com](mailto:james@truehaus.com)

Barry Vradenburgh – Chattanooga, Tennessee [7dolls1bro@bellsouth.net](mailto:7dolls1bro@bellsouth.net)

Tom Cawood – Hixson, Tennessee [goldpointdanes@comcast.net](mailto:goldpointdanes@comcast.net)

Trace Sims - Snellville, Ga [bikerus28@yahoo.com](mailto:bikerus28@yahoo.com)

To become certified, you first must travel to an existing WDA training group that is working under a decoy certifying board member.  In most cases, you should not expect to become certified after attending just one supervised training session. You will be introduced to WDA decoy principles and methods which must be later practiced to become proficient. Certification will ultimately depend on:

1. Your knowledge of the Working Dogs of America sport.
2. Your ability to catch a dog safely.
3. Your ability to bring a credible threat to the dog.

Certification requires the approval of two people comprised of either 2 decoy board members or 1 board member and 1 judge.

**All Decoys:** To remain a certified trial WDA helper/decoy, you must maintain proficiency by ONE of the following every two years:

1. Work a minimum of one WDA trial, or;
2. Attend an WDA helper/decoy seminar, or;
3. Handle a dog at a WDA trial during a protection phase, or:
4. Request to be re-certified by a member of the WDA certifying board.

**Honors Decoy:** An honors decoy must be certified to a level III and have received a trial score of 90 or above in mechanics & threats in upper-level titles from two judges. At that time, they may submit a video to the decoy board to be considered for an "honors" rating.

Honor helper/decoy status must also be maintained by earning a judge’s assessment score of 87 or greater at one trial every two years.

**All Protection titles**: The decoy is expected to attack in a very adversarial and direct manner using verbal and physical threats. This includes escapes and re-attacks. Once the dog has engaged the decoy, the decoy will challenge the dog with an attack style form of driving with verbal and physical threats and/or contact where required.

**Gun Firing:** Before the dog makes contact the firing of the gun should be forward in the direction of the approaching dog. During the drive the decoy should try to fire at the top and bottom of the arm swing to avoid firing too close to the dog’s ears. While firing at any point in the arc of the arm swing is not faulty, it should be done approximately the same way for all dogs. The gun must be a starter pistol with a muzzle plug using blanks no larger than .22 cal. A functional pistol may NEVER be used even if loaded with blanks.

**HANDLER REQUIREMENTS**

1. All participants for any/all WDA titles must be in good standing with WDA.
2. All junior handlers (under 18) must have a parent or legal guardian’s signature approving participation.
3. Handlers must present themselves in an orderly manner concerning dress and conduct. The judge or trial chairman will be responsible for enforcement.
4. All exercises start and finish in the basic position: standing with both arms at your side and dog sitting on your left side.
5. All recalls require: Handler’s arm and hands to hang naturally at the side until the dog has sat in front or sat in the basic position.
6. You must only use one command to initiate your dog’s behavior. This may be a verbal command or hand signal but not both. Any additional verbal or physical encouragement such as extra words, phrases, or physical cues such as hand, arm or body gestures will be counted as extra commands. The only exception to this is found in the FO rules where limited verbal or physical encouragement is allowed.
7. With the exception of restrained praise between exercises, any intentional touching or physical manipulation of your dog while on the trial field will result in the loss of all points for that exercise. If the touching or manipulation is significant you will be disqualified from the remainder of the trial.

**Handling:**

1. Each phase of a title requires a TEAM (Dog & Handler). Because the title belongs to the dog not the handler it is ok to have different people handle the dog in the different phases of a title.
2. Outs: Only 3 out commands are allowed per gripping exercise (escape with reattack would be two separate grips so would allow 3 commands each). If handlers do not run the name and command immediately together, the name may also count as a separate command.
3. If the dog does not release the grip on the third command, the Judge shall instruct the handler to quickly go to and control the dog. If after handles reaches dog and gives another command to out and dog will not release the decoy should remove the sleeve or suit. The handler will then take the dog off the field.

# Use of Leash

All dogs must be kept on a leash except when on the trial field. The handler must carry a leash throughout the entire course of the trial. During off-leash exercises, the leash must be carried out of sight or hung around the body in such a way that the catch is on the side of the body opposite the dog or in a left to right fashion across the body.

1. Handling and heel position

The leash is to be held in the left hand when heeling in obedience; in addition, the handler should walk freely with both arms moving freely as if the dog wasn’t there. The dog should always heel close to the left knee of the handler and the shoulder blade of the dog should be aligned next to the handler’s knee. The dog must not forge ahead, move to the side or lag to the rear. Dogs that demonstrate positive, energetic and attentive attention to the handler are very desirable for awarding full points.

a. Dogs may heel on the right side of handler if trained to this side. Leash would be held in right hand. All titles past the FO would require the about turns to be performed as right about-turns. All other requirements for heeling sill apply.

1. Dragging of leash end on ground when heeling is a **major** fault.
2. Praise

When reporting to all assigned areas, teams are required to maintain formal heeling with mild praise permissible once arriving at the start position for the next exercise.

1. Commands
   1. The dog’s name may be used once immediately before any verbal command. The dog’s name given immediately before a command will not be considered as an additional command, but a dog that responds to its name without waiting for the verbal command will be scored as having anticipated the command. Voice commands in all phases are to be given **clearly and audibly.** Handlers may use their own language.
   2. Each change of pace allows the handler to give a single heel command

# DOG REQUIREMENTS

1. All dogs **must be registered** with the WDA Registry to **compete** at any trial. (Registration can be accomplished by filling out a form on the WDA website or by contacting the WDA secretary, Cindy Reed at (530) 534-5678. It can take up to a week to complete registration.
2. Once a dog is added to our database it cannot be removed.
3. As of 12-30-2023 WDA will not send out paper registration certificates.
4. All dogs must demonstrate that they are in good health and up to the task.
5. WDA welcomes all breeds of dogs; however, each dog must demonstrate proper temperament for the trial steward to inspect the dog/handler team’s equipment prior to entering the field.
6. **Giant Breeds**- The requirements for the giant breeds are the same as other dogs for all titles except protection. The judge may ask for a pre-trial evaluation of the dog prior to performing protection. The pre-trial evaluation would require the dog to be back tied and then stimulated with a possible grip being given by a decoy.

# Minimum age to trial:

* 9 months - Family Obedience, Tracking 1, Tracking 2, Master Track, Police Dog Tracking 1 (PDT1).
* 12 Months - Obedience (only) titles (OB1/PSOB1), Protection 1 (P1), Protection Sport Dog 1(PS1), Police Dog Tracking 2 (PDT2)
* 15 Months - Obedience (only) titles (OB2/PSOB2-OB3/PSOB3), Police Dog Tracking 3 (PDT3).

\*18 Months - Protection 2 (P2), Protection Sport Dog2 (PS2), Protection 3 (P3), Protection Sport Dog 3 (PS3), Police Dog 1-3 (PD1-PD3).

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# Titles

The age requirement of the dog is to be taken into consideration. Dogs can repeat their current level title or one level lower as many times as the handler chooses.

Title Sequence **(**All titles are sequential) WDA titles are divided into several divisions.

They are:

Obedience Division:

Family Obedience FO

Obedience 1/ Protection Sport Obedience 1 OB1/PSOB1

Obedience 2/ Protection Sport Obedience 2 OB2/ PSOB2

Obedience 3/ Protection Sport Obedience 3 OB3/PSOB3

Protection Division:

Protection 1 P1 - decoy in a bite suite

Protection 2 P2 - decoy in a bite suite

Protection 3 P3 - decoy in a bite suite

Protection Sport Division:

Protection Sport 1 PS1- decoy using a bite sleeve

Protection Sport 2 PS2 - decoy using a bite sleeve

Protection Sport 3 PS3- decoy using a bite sleeve

Police Dog Division:

Police Dog 1 PD1- decoy in a bite suit

Police Dog 2 PD2- decoy in a bite suit

Police Dog 3 PD3- decoy in a bite suite, muzzle work with

decoy in street clothes

Tracking Division:

Tracking 1 T1

Tracking 2 T2

Master Track TM

Police Dog Tracking Division:

Police Dog tracking 1 PDT1

Police Dog Tracking 2 PDT2

Police Dog Tracking 3 PDT3

**Honor Title only offered at regional and championship trials:**

Dogs that receive a score of 90 or higher may qualify for an honors title if all the following criteria are met:

1. All trial decoys that work the dog in the protection phase are Level III Honors decoys.
2. The dog has not worked with any of the trial decoys during any training or trials within the last six months.
3. The dog does not belong wholly or in part, to any trial decoys, or any member of decoy's household, training group working or competing at a given trial.
4. If all requirements above are met, you must **note on the entry form** that you are competing for an honor title.

If qualified, a "Certificate of Achievement" will be issued, and a gold “HONOR” seal will be placed by the score. The title will be listed with an (H) following the normal title lettering on the results page and web site.

1. An honor seal will be given at the trial, but the title is unofficial until results of the trial have been approved by WDA board and posted to trial results page on our web site. If honor criteria were not met honors will not be awarded

**Protection and Obedience**

Each title is a separate entry and requires a fee to trial. WDA allows for an obedience title and a protection/gripping title to be earned each day at a trial. This would require two fees and 3 trips to the field. Example: To earn an OB1 and P1 at the same trial would require the dog doing 2 obedience routines and 1 protection routine.

* All dogs must earn a Family Obedience title prior to any protection or obedience title.

1. Gripping titles must be earned in order. For example: A Protection 1 (P1) must be earned to trial for a P2 and P2 must be earned to trial for a P3. Likewise, a Police Dog (PD1) must be earned before trialing for a PD2 and PD2 before a PD3.
2. Only one gripping/protection title may be entered/earned each day at the same trial. If a trial is multiple days and is offering the opportunity for multiple protection titles to be entered/earned, any dog entered for multiple protection titles would be required to completed obedience & protection phases the same day per title.

If you are trialing in protection divisions P1-P3, PS1-PS3 or PD1-PD2 and you pass your obedience phase but fail the protection, you will still earn the corresponding obedience title (OB1/PSOB1, OB2/PSOB2 or OB3/PSOB3). The PD3, however, requires you to pass both obedience and protection.

If not receiving a passing score in one phase of the title, the handler has the option of stopping or continuing in the rest of the phases as long as the judge does not consider the dog DQ **“out of control.”**

**Jumping:**

Older dogs over 7 or any dog with a physical problem may opt to jump the medium height jumps. This option will cost them a 2-point deduction. This option should be made on the entry form or no later than before the start of a trial. The trial secretary will mark the deduction on score sheet before the judging starts.

# EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

**\*** Handler/dog teams will report to specified area for trial inspector or steward to examine equipment for safety before entering the field. The handler may report with the dog in a wire muzzle, or the Steward may ask the handler to place a muzzle on the dog prior to inspecting. Muzzles will be provided if needed. WDA will have approved equipment for loan if any equipment is not acceptable. The purpose for a muzzle is for safety and to make handlers aware of wire basket muzzles. The inspecting Steward may request any dog going for a protection title to be muzzled prior to inspection.

* Any time it is requiring a dog to be on leash the leash will be no longer than six feet and no shorter than three feet.
* The Protection 1 title allows for the use of two collars during the protection routines; collars can be a flat collar, fur saver on dead ring, choke collar on dead ring or a pinch collar on dead ring.
* Only one collar, a flat collar or retracting collar on dead ring must be used for all FO, OB1-OB3, PSOB1-PSOB3, P1-P3, PS1-PS3 obedience titles. Pinch collars or electric collars are not allowed.
* PD classes:
  1. PD1 One collar is allowed on the dog for the OB phase. Single collars include the following: flat, choke chain, fur saver or similar types of slip collars, all used on a dead ring. The protection phase allows for the use of two collars; one collar can be a flat collar, fur savor on dead ring, choke collar on dead ring, or a pinch collar on dead ring.
  2. PD2 & PD3 Only one collar, a flat collar or retracting collar on dead ring must be used for all phases. Pinch collars or electric collars are not allowed.
* All PD titles for police officers an e-collar is allowed to be worn, transmitter will be given to steward or judge at the start of exercise. E-collars will be allowed ONLY on certified and active-duty police K9s being handled by their assigned law enforcement handler.
* The tab can be any length up to 24 inches with no knots or loops, but it may not be so long as to interfere with the dogs walking or running. Keep in mind that a tab that is too short may result in a judge assessing a tight leash penalty.
* For all Police Dog titles, the decoy must wear a full bite suit.
* Tracking and Search equipment requirements are specified in the rules for those titles.
* FO While performing the obedience, during the transition from heeling and long down field portions to the practical’s, a handler may change from a shorter leash to a longer one (6-foot or less).
* Training vests are allowed to be worn by handler, but no aprons, bait bags etc.
* **For Protection Sport titles**: Sleeve covers will be made of jute.

# TITLE REQUIREMENTS FOR WDA TRACKING & POLICE DOG TRACKING TITLES

**\*** All dogs may participate in Tracking titles without any other titles.

* A team may also earn a single Tracking title each day of a WDA Trial when tracking is offered.

# HOSTING A WDA TRIAL/EVENT

Anyone (trainer, training facility, club, interested person, etc.) can hold an WDA trial/event.

# SCHEDULING /HOSTING A TRIAL:

1. Contact the WDA secretary for authorization for requesting proposed dates for a trial.
2. Anyone that wishes to hold an WDA trial must apply on a WDA form for permission to hold a trial.
3. Trial dates must be posted to WDA website 30 days prior to trial date. Information posted must include name of Judge and Decoys. If the trial is not posted to the WDA website on time, all scores and ratings will be null and void.
4. A certified WDA judge must judge all WDA trials. Judge’s fee is by private treaty.
5. The number of judges invited is up to the trial host. Each judge may only judge up to a maximum of 36 individual phases per day. (It takes about 30 minutes to run a set of FO's and about 20 minutes to run the P titles OB portion) Keep in mind that you have critiques and field set up as well as lunch and breaks for the judge.
   1. WDA has a 3-day limit for a judge to work in a row. We ask that everyone holding trails to please consider our judges and their time when asking them to work a trial.  Most of our judges work at a job and use their vacation time to help our sport. Standing on a field all day concentrating and making tough decisions is not an easy job. So, we need to limit our days and our entries in order to not over work our judges.  Beside the limits we have listed above, our judges can also set a limit of less entries at a trial if they feel the need. A day on the field should never exceed 8 hours from start to finish, paperwork and all.
6. How often a group/club can use the same judges:
7. A WDA judge not affiliated with the group/club can only be used to judge two trials in row, Obedience only trials are exempted from this.
8. A WDA judge can only judge one trial a year of the group/club that he/she is affiliated with, FO only trials are exempted from this. The optics of a WDA judge judging events continuously for the same group or club in which they are affiliated with does not look good for the Working Dogs of America organization.
9. Regional trials are exempt from this ruling. This is because of the need for two or three judges to run a regional. Regional trials will not count as a judge working for a group/club.
10. WDA Championship trials are exempt because it is hosted by the organization.
11. Certified WDA decoys must be used at all WDA trials. Decoy’s fee is by private treaty.
12. Entry form:
    1. For an entry to be acceptable, it must:
    2. Be submitted on an entry form, (there is a sample form on our website, or you can make your own. Be sure to include a release clause and every contestant **must sign** the form) with the required entry fee.
    3. Entry form must be signed by the owner or their duly authorized agent.
    4. Event host must keep the entry form or a copy on file for 1 year.
    5. Entry fees are non-refundable unless a trail is canceled. But the trail host can refund if they want to.
13. The trial host sets the trial times and field line up however they choose.
14. A trial can run with one decoy.
15. The trial host can use more than a day to run a trial. Obedience & protection do not have to be performed on the same day. If a trial is multiple days and is offering the opportunity for multiple protection titles to be earned, any dog entered for multiple protection titles would be required to completed obedience & protection phases the same day per title.
16. Trial host not responsible for mailing awards, certificates etc. after at trial. It is up to the contestant to arrange to pick up or have mailed.
17. The judge oversees your trialandhas the say on all maters on the field. He/she will check the field set up and paint the field.

# TRIAL GUIDELINES:

**Types of Trials –** Combination of obedience, protection, tracking

Specialty trials – obedience only, tracking only or searching

Regional Trials

Championship Trial

1. Only WDA certified judges can judge at WDA trials and issue WDA titles.
2. Only WDA certified decoys can work at a WDA trial.
3. All WDA trials will be run under WDA rules.
4. Facilities hosting a WDA Dog Sport event must be approved by WDA.
5. All WDA Dog Sport events must be scheduled through the WDA Secretary.
6. All results must be filed with the WDA Secretary on WDA forms within 10 days of the event (2280 Louis Ave, Oroville, Ca 95966). A $75.00 late fee will be charged if paperwork and fee are not received with in the 10 period. If later than 30 days, the host will not be allowed to host or participated in WDA trials.
7. Trial Secretary/Chairman will be responsible for all activities, paperwork requirements, assisting the judge concerning any trial matter and the person to intervene for discussing and problems or disputes that may occur. In addition, it will be the direct responsibility of the Trial Chairman to make sure that all paperwork requirements and fees are sent back to the WDA Secretary in a timely manner.
8. Trial Secretary will be responsible to check WDA web site to be sure dog entered in a class is eligible to do the class. Checking age & any required titles.
9. A Trial Steward is necessary for all trials. The Steward’s job is to assist the judge as needed. The steward will have no role or input on rules clarification, judging or scoring. See more under Trial Steward duties.
10. Regional trial information and map please refer to our main rule page for a link.
11. Obedience titles are one phase (one trip to the field)
12. Protection Titles are two phase (two trips to the field)
13. When counting your 36 trips to the field allowed to be judged at a trial, please remember that even though FO’s count as 1 they take more time, and you may need to limit them to no more than 25 at a one-day trial. Be sure to check with your judge on how many trips to a field they feel they can handle each day. The judge has the final say on this.

**Safety Requirements for a trial:**

1. The trial host is to furnish a decoy hiding spot to be located at the discretion of the trial judge.   It should be located on the field so to allow the hidden decoy access to help if needed yet positioned at a location that it does not draw the dog towards potential on lookers. It should be behind the start line. If field is fenced it will be inside the fenced area. *(The required hiding spot could be as simple as another blind with a chair in it, or a pop-up tent with a couple of the sides blocked by curtains.)* Decoys waiting will be wearing protective equipment and ready to help if needed.

**Decoys:**

1. Decoys need the work the same spot in each routing for all dogs at the same trial.
2. When using multiple decoys and one of the decoys is trailing in a class, he/she should not work the other dogs in the class he/she is trailing in.
3. Decoy will bring the same threat level to the dogs at all title levels.

# Miscellaneous requirements for a trial:

* 1. Trial rules (can be printed from website).
  2. Proper size trial field set up with pattern marked.
  3. Regulation size A frame, window, solid and rail jump (dimensions on website);
  4. 4 cones for the figure 8.
  5. Dumbbell for P2, PS2, P3, PS3.
  6. Starter pistol with 22 cal. Blanks.
  7. 1 person for gunfire for obedience titles. The gun person should be no closer than 15 paces and no greater than 40 paces from the dog testing and in a safe location. Blanks should be discharged at approximately the same distance for each dog.
  8. 6 protection blinds if P3, PS3 or PD3 dogs entered.
  9. Certified WDA decoys that understand the rules and classifications.
  10. Hiding place for decoys when not working.

k) Proper trial sleeve, padded stick, trial pants and suit jacket for decoys.

1. Proper field layout to accommodate callouts, escapes, re-attacks, long bites.
2. Hospitality (drinks, snacks) for the attendees, workers, and most importantly, the judge and decoys.
3. Tracklayer(s) that knows how to lay all tracks required, if tracking is offered.
4. 5 cones or approved markers for protection call-off scenarios.

# Things required for a trial:

# Field Manager:

1. Before the trial:

For night competition, check field lighting and have back-up bulbs.

Make sure the field is cut and manicured.

Run an equipment check (make sure you have back-up).

Dumbbell, blinds, jumps, guns/blanks. Tape measure.

On-Site restroom(s)

1. Day of trial:

Spray paint field layout with help of judge.

Have help to set up jump and blinds, as needed.

Make sure decoys have enough water during the trial.

Secretary’s table for check-in.

# Trial Secretary - Mandatory

A WDA Trial Secretary should be a very organized person. It helps if they know a little about trialing. It is best if they are not showing a dog in the same trial. If they are going to trail the limit is two dogs. A second person can step in and handle the paperwork if needed. Trial secretaries should be able to answer general questions pertaining to trials and tend to the judge as needed.

# Items needed in advance from the WDA Office (or to print from the WDA website. All items may not apply to your trial):

**Trial Log Form** (obtain from the WDA Secretary prior to trial) must be signed by the Trial Secretary and the WDA Judge. Trial Log form is to record scores and be returned to WDA Secretary. Trial log form and a check for $10.00 per dog entered must be sent to WDA Secretary **within ten (10) days** after each trial.

**Certificate of Achievement** is required for each dog that passes, (for all titles earned) and is to be completed and signed by the Judge and presented to the handler. If a team is trialing in the P1-P3, PS1-PS3 or PD1-PD2 classes and they pass all phases they will earn the corresponding protection title and receive that certificate. If they pass the obedience phase but do not pass the protection phase, they will still earn the obedience title (OB1, OB2, and OB3) and receive that certificate.

**Badge of Honor (gold sticker, regional and Championship trials only)** is required for each dog that passes an honor title (see Honor Title section for details). It is affixed to the Certificate of Achievement. The trial judge should have these seals, please check with your judge before your trial if you have any dogs that have checked the box on the entry form saying they are eligible for honors.

**Judge’s Score Sheets for:** FO, OB1-OB3, PSOB1-PSOB3, P1, P2, P3, PS1, PS2, PS3, PD1, PD2, PD3, WDA Tracking and PDT1-3.

**Awards** are optional. It is up to the trial sponsor if they want to do placement awards for first, second, etc., high in trial, high in protection, etc. When giving awards to break a tie, we suggest:

1. In FO obedience use the highest score from the obedience portion to break the tie. If you still have a tie, give two awards for that placement, or do a runoff.
2. In a protection class use the protection portion score to break the tie. If you still have a tie, give two awards for that placement, or do a runoff.
3. In OB1-OB3 take out the agility score and use the highest total from the obedience portion. If you still have a tie, give two awards for that placement or do a runoff.

**Trial Steward duties:**

1. Must give verbal exercise directions unless they can clearly see the handler is looking at them.
2. Must coordinate all field directions to handlers with the judge and only start an exercise when they are sure the judge is ready.
3. Must remain a respectful distance from the team working so as to not interfere or influence the performance.
4. Must know the rules for the titles they are stewarding.
5. Must call exercise starts and finishes at the proper place.
6. Must carry a clip board for safety. The performing handler(s) blank score sheet(s) are a good idea to have at the ready.
7. Should alert the judge if they see a harsh correction or safety issues happening on the field so the judge can watch closely and/or take appropriate action. The steward may not inform the judge for missed non-harsh corrections/safety issues (like a dog getting up from a long down).
8. Must check equipment for safety and exercise-appropriateness PRIOR to beginning obedience and protection phases. If the wrong equipment is discovered, it is allowed to remain only up to the point where the handler acknowledges their readiness to begin the first exercise. It must be corrected IMMEDIATELY after this acknowledgment and BEFORE starting the first exercise. The steward will inform the judge of any incorrect equipment usage. If no steward is being used (as is the preference of some judges during protection phases) this check becomes the responsibility of the judge.
9. Be sure you have someone ready to fire a blank pistol along with its usage and timing is coordinated with the judge if the class requires it.
10. Arrange for field help to change jumps if need.

# Food Manager (optional)

1. The food manager can either arrange to out-source the food to an independent food wagon or company or the host club can choose to do the food themselves.
2. If the host club chooses to go to a restaurant, make sure EVERYONE knows when and where.
3. If you are having a small trial, you could have a potluck and have all members contribute, but if you are planning a larger trial, we recommend:
   * 1. Decide on a menu and set prices.
     2. A sign should be made listing all food prices; and
     3. The person serving the food should have a list of those individuals that will eat free, i.e., judge, decoys.

# Tracking Manager if tracking is offered:

1. Tracking manager is responsible to locate and get permission for tracking fields.
2. The tracking manager should draw a map of how to get to the field from meeting place.
3. Tracking Manager should assign tracklayers.
4. Tracking manager is responsible to provide flags and articles on higher titles; and
5. Secretary will provide draw numbers on the track field.
6. When offering tracking if a high number of teams want to perform tracking a second judge will be needed.

**MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS**

**Standard of Perfection**

The Judge must carry a mental picture of the theoretically perfect performance for each exercise and score each dog and handler against this standard. This “perfect picture” must comply with these regulations and shall combine the utmost in willingness, enjoyment, and precision on the part of the dog with naturalness, gentleness, and smoothness on the part of the handler. Speed alone does not necessarily indicate willingness and enjoyment.

We expect our judges to judge all trials fairly and consistently, with the same perfect performance in mind regardless if it is a club/group trial, regional or the championship.

Teams are judged from the time they enter the field until the time they leave the field.

**Long down location:**

The long down area should be mid field on the opposite side of the field from the agility jumps. For FO if no jumps are on the field long down area should be mid field on either side of the field. Dogs should be facing the middle of the field when in the down.

**Honor Dog:**

Honor dogs may only wear equipment allowed for obedience routines. No pinch collars, e-collars, food or toys are allowed. The dog is not trialing so extra commands and minor handler help are allowed as long as they do not disturb the trialing dog.

# No Added Requirements

No judge will require any dog or handler to do anything nor penalize a dog or handler for failing to do anything that is not required by our rules.

# Abuse of Dogs

The trial committee will investigate and report of abuse of dogs on the grounds or premises of a trial.

# Disqualification

Should the judge notice temperament faults of the dog, un-sportsman like conduct of the handler (for example: alcohol consumption, carrying of motivational objects and/or food), offense against the moral code then the team is to be disqualified from the remainder of the trial.

# Pulling a dog from the trial

1. A handler has the right to not trial his/her dog in one or all phases of the trial.
2. If the dog is injured during the trial or if its performance capacity is diminished, the trial judge has the right to terminate the dog’s trial performance even against the wishes of the handler.

# Bitches in Season

Bitches may participate in all events.

# Soiling the field is a mandatory 5-point deduction.

**Staff can enter a trial**

1. A judge is allowed to trial at a trial he/she is judging if there is another judge to take over.
2. A decoy is allowed to trial at a trial he/she is working in if there is another decoy to work his/her dog.
3. A steward is allowed trial at a trial he/she is working if there is someone else to fill in for him/her.
4. A secretary is allowed trial at a trial he/she is working if there is someone else to fill in for him/her.

**WDA Code of Conduct:**

While WDA does not have a traditional club-based organizational structure, handlers, certified decoys, trial hosts, secretaries, and judges all will be held to the following minimum Code of Conduct while acting in any direct or indirect association with WDA:

Hate speech, threats or incitement of violence, harassment, encouragement of illegal behavior and actions that jeopardize the integrity of Working Dogs of America on social media, print, other electronic media or in person, may become grounds for disciplinary action based on the frequency, severity, actual or potential harm to individuals and the public image of WDA.  The consumption of and/or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs is not allowed by handlers, decoys, trial host, trial secretary and judge during an active WDA trial. The active phase of a trial is considered over once the last team on the trial field has concluded their routine. Good sportsmanship is expected at all times while acting in association with WDA. This broadly encompasses all behavior expected of rational adults which includes but is not limited to; following all local, state and federal laws, accepting a judge’s decision as final, caring for the health and well-being of our canines, avoiding abusive, demeaning or slanderous language and generally being considerate of others.

The WDA board reserves the right to take action against Individuals violating this code that can vary from warnings to permanent suspension from participation in WDA trials. Decoys, trial hosts and judges will be held to stricter compliance of this code and will be held responsible for their actions.

**Complaints**

Any complaints of misconduct of judges, decoys, contestants, and spectators should be directed to the WDA Secretary.

Anyone not in compliance with WDA rules will be subject to actions by the board.

# LIABILITIES

BY PARTICIPATING IN ANY WDA DOG SPORT TRIAL, THE PARTICIPANT AGREES TO AND MUST:

**\*** Be willing to take full responsibility for all actions and liabilities concerning their dog’s behavior while participating or attending WDA trial or activity.

* Understand that participating in any WDA Dog Sport trial or activities can be physically and mentally intense. The handler must be and agrees to be totally responsible for injuries to himself/herself and all third parties and must assume all known and unknown risks arising from the negligence of the organization hosting the trial.
* On behalf of handler’s heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, hereby releases and holds harmless Working Dogs of America, their officers, employees, officials and representatives with respect to any and all injury, disability, death or loss or damage to person or property.

**\*** For junior handlers, (under the age of 18), the parents or legal guardian are totally responsible for the actions or injuries of the minor. A parent or legal guardian must sign an entry form and assume all liabilities for a junior to participate.

\* WDA Rights to Videos and Pictures at WDA trials: WDA reserves the right to use any video or picture that are created from an WDA trial.

While WDA events are open to the public, we must also respect the wishes of some participants to limit their unedited performances a potentially world-wide audience on the Internet. Therefore, livestreaming of WDA trials is strictly prohibited. Anyone found to be livestreaming an event will be asked to stop and/or required to leave the event.

# In Summary

Participants of WDA trials must abide by all rules and guidelines of Working Dogs of America. Requirements and guidelines may be added or changed from time to time. Participants are responsible to exercise diligence and check for such changes periodically.