

## Scent Work Rule Basics for Sanction Matches [SM] and Trials [SWT]

TVKC Board and Scent work committee is excited to announce plans to carry out fun matches and offer a Sanction match and trial in 2021. We encourage participation in the fun matches and informal Snif-n-goes that we plan to hold monthly on Sundays and Snout work classes on Tuesday afternoons.

This is a brief with some of the basics you should know before entering the Sanction match or trial. For snif-n-goes and fun matches it will be optional for you to know where the hide is or run it blind. The Sanction match will be run like trial with all the rules except club members will be acting as judges.

In AKC scent work there are five 'Elements': **Handler Discrimination [HD], Container [Contain.], Interior [Int.], Exterior [Ext.], Buried.**

Dogs that are  $\geq$  6mo of age and have an AKC/PAL/K9partners number may compete

**Difficulty Levels** are progressive: Novice [Nov.] A- no title (including Nose Work) in the element, no professional detection dog handlers. Novice B- any dog.

Then Advanced [Adv.], Excellent [Exc.], Master [Mas.], Detective [Det.]

Different from other venues includes dogs with previous titles may enter lower classes.

*Dogs may enter up to 2 difficulty levels in each element in each trial. Lower difficulty score will be eliminated regardless if ran or qualified in all levels entered. Dogs may enter only one **CLASS** (a difficulty level w/in that element), i.e. can enter Nov. and Adv. Int. but not Nov. Int. twice.*

*Handler can't run more than one dog in a Class except in HD (because you'd know where the hide was).*

### Odor Search Divisions

4 different levels [Nov. Adv., Exc., Mas.]

4 different Elements [Contain., Int., Ext., Buried (sand or water)]

Nov. Birch

Adv. Birch &/or Anise

Exc. Birch, Anise, &/or Clove

Mas. Birch, Anise, Clove, &/or Cypress

Nov. containers are cardboard boxes, sealed on the bottom, slit or opening on top to allow odor to escape. 10x8 inches and 3to8 tall. 10 boxes, 2 rows, 12" apart, 36" between rows, time is 2 minutes

Adv. Containers: 15 containers, in 3 rows, circle or U. 400 to 600 SF, 2 odors, non-food distraction.

Nov. Int.: a space of 100 to 200 SF, 1 hide (birch) no higher than 2 ft.

Adv. Int.: a bit larger space: 200 to 400 SF, 2 hides up to 3 Ft, 1 non-food distraction.

Nov. Ext.: larger than interior, 200 to 400 SF, still 1 hide, no higher than 2 ft.

Adv. Ext.: 400 to 800 SF, 2 target odors, 1 non-food distraction

Buried (may be conducted indoors or out): Tote boxes 16x11 x7 +/- 2 inches, play sand or water, metal grid top must latch. In sand the odor is in a steel tea ball. In water an opaque tubing is secured with a suction clip to the bottom.

Nov.: 6 in 2 rows of 3, 36 inches apart

Adv.: 8 in any arrangement

Handler Discrimination: you as the handler supplies cotton article in ziplock bag (Nov. sock or glove) that you have scented. For Adv. and higher levels, a cotton ball or swab. Steward places hide, not judge.

Nov. HD: 1 container per handler, not reused. 10 containers, 1 container is scented by judge.

At the match, there is a briefing by the judge. Only handlers, no dogs allowed, will be shown the search area (but not actually walk through it). You will be told and able to see what the boundaries are (may be marked off with flagging or cones or a solid wall) and where the start line is. When it is your turn, you will be briefed by the steward (how many hides, at what height, if there are distractions, how much time you have). Your time will start when you or the dog crosses the start line. In Novice it is 2 minutes and you are given a 30 second warning. You can reward with food at any time, you are encouraged to reward the dog at the source after you call "alert" and the judge confirms you are right. If there is more than one hide, you continue on to find the next one. After the last hide, you call "alert" and "finish" so the timer stops. If you call "alert" and are wrong, you are done, the judge will say no and you politely leave the area.

It is important to potty your dog in the designated area prior because if you dog fouls the search area, not only are you DQed but there is cleaning that must be done. It is also important for the dog not to disrupt the search area, move things/damage boxes or contaminate with food residue because you can lose points or be DQed.