



## **RULES & REGULATIONS**

V1.0 - 01 Mar 2023

Scent Work is a fast growing dog sport in Western Australia. It involves harnessing a dog's natural ability to smell. The goal of Canine Association of Scent Sports Australia, hereinafter referred to as CASSA is to create a fun, friendly & relaxed competition for dogs of all ages and breeds, that emphasizes inclusivity, skills development and fun. All hides will be 90cm or under. The Competition will encourage competitors to progress through a unique titling system. Titles are provided for each Class once 4 passes are achieved in this class.

There will, at times, be bonus Novelty classes for those wishing to compete in novel challenges.

### **LEVELS**

Junior – for the beginner competitor.

Senior – dogs are eligible for this level once they have achieved 4 qualifying rounds at Junior level in that class.

Pro dogs – are eligible for this level once they have achieved 4 qualifying rounds at Senior level in that class.

Elite dogs – are eligible for this level once they have achieved 4 qualifying rounds at Pro level in that class.

### **CLASS SUMMARY**

- **Independence**  
Challenge – for the team to work away from each other.
- **Endurance**  
Challenge – for the team to find as many hides as possible during the timeframe.
- **Clusters**  
Challenge – for the team to find the hide within clusters of containers.
- **The Big D**  
Challenge – for the team to work through a variety & numerous distractions.
- **Novelty Challenges** - at various times throughout the year, additional novelty searches will be offered. These will be run independently of the above 4 classes and they will not form part of any titling process. Classes for novelty challenges will vary.

All classes may be held inside or outside.

### **TITLES**

All qualifying passes will be presented with a qualifying ribbon. There will be no placings available as times will not be recorded.

Class titles will be gained when the dog achieves four passes of a class at one level. All classes are independent of each other and each class has its own title (there is no accumulated "Junior title").

For example, once a team achieves 4 passes in Junior Independence then the dog will automatically achieve their Junior Independence Title and they are then eligible to enter the Senior Independence Class. Or remain in Junior Independence Classes and work towards their Junior Independence 'Expert' Title.

At the completion of the fourth pass in that class the title rosette will be given to the handler at the presentation.

### ***Expert Titles***

Dogs may remain at any level indefinitely. There is no requirement to move up to the next level. Should you wish to remain in a specific level and class and achieve 10 PASSES in that level you will automatically qualify for your Junior 'Class' Expert Title and receive a special rosette in recognition of your accomplishment.

Teams will not need to apply for titles and there will not be any associated fees to competitors to receive their titles.

### **CLASSES**

**Each class will have a distinct challenge for the Scent Work team that can complement existing Scent Work training and trialling.**

### **Independence – To develop the dogs confidence to search independently**

The Search Area will consist of a rectangular search area with start line at one end and the hide(s) at the other end

Off lead only class - at all levels. Dogs are to be under control of the handler at all times. The judge reserves the right to stop the search if concerned about the safety of the judge or stewards.

Junior: Time limit 2 minutes. Search area max 6m x 6m  
1 hide. 4 metres from the start line to hide.

Senior: Time limit 2 minutes. Search area max 10m x 10m  
1 hide. 8 metres from the start line to hide.

Pro: Time limit 3 minutes. Search area max 10m x 20m  
2 hides. 16 metres from the start line to hide.

Elite: Time limit 3 minutes. Search area max 10m x 35m  
2 hides. 32 metres from the start line to hide

### **Endurance – To develop the dogs search stamina, converging odour challenges and handler time management**

Junior: Time limit 2 minutes. Search area max 6m x 6m  
4 hides – must find 3 to qualify

Senior: Time limit 2 minutes. Search area max 10m x 10m  
6 hides – must find 4 to qualify

Pro: Time limit 3 minutes. Search area max 15m x 15m  
8 hides – must find 6 to qualify

Elite: Time limit 3 minutes. Search area max 20m x 20m  
10 hides – must find 8 to qualify

**Clusters – To develop the dogs ability to work to source and clear areas. Teams must clear each cluster before moving onto the next one (no going back to searched areas)**

Junior: Time limit 2 minutes. Search area max 6m x 6m  
1 hide – 4 clusters of 5 containers

Senior: Time limit 2 minutes. Search area max 10m x 10m  
2 hides – 6 clusters of 6 containers

Pro: Time limit 3 minutes. Search area max 15m x 15m  
3 hides – 7 clusters of 7 containers

Elite: Time limit 3 minutes. Search area max 20m x 20m  
4 hides – 8 clusters of 8 containers

Containers can be of any type at any level. The judge has discretion on the spacing used between containers and clusters however overall, spacing will decrease as the level increases.

**The Big D – To develop the dogs ability to remain on task and work through various distractions**

Junior: Time limit 2 minutes. Search area max 6m x 6m  
1 hide – 5 non food distractions

Senior: Time limit 2 minutes. Search area max 10m x 10m  
1 hide – 10 non food distractions

Pro: Time limit 3 minutes. Search area max 15m x 15m  
2 hides – 15 non food and food distractions

Elite: Time limit 3 minutes. Search area max 20m x 20m  
2 hides – 20 non food and food distractions

**MEMBERSHIP**

All competitors will receive complimentary membership of CASSA until 30 June 2024. Effective 01/07/24 a \$10 per dog annual membership will apply for any dogs wishing to enter CASSA competitions. No human membership is required.

CASSA will retain and manage all entry data and results, to manage the titling process - no additional fees will apply to competitors for titles.

### **ODOURS & HIDES**

The maximum height of all hides will be 90cm

The odours used can be any of the following – Birch, Anise, Cypress and Clove

### **DOGS**

There is no requirement for dogs to be registered with any organisation (apart from CASSA from 01/07/2024).

There is no minimum age for dogs to compete.

### **TRAINING MODE**

At any stage of the competition, the team may advise the Judge they are switching to “training mode” and use their remaining time as a training scenario - food or toy may be used, however care should be exercised not to contaminate the search area. Once Training Mode is activated, the judge will cease judging and any potential PASS will be forfeited. At the completion of the time - the session finishes.

### **HANDLERS**

Handlers must not move or touch any object in the search area.

All handlers are to be kind, supportive and respectful to Judges, Stewards and other Competitors.

Bullying of any nature as deemed “bullying” by the organizers, will result in offenders being asked to leave the event immediately with no refund available. The trials are a safe, fun place for competitors of all abilities.

Junior Handlers must be over 8 yrs of age with a parent/guardian present outside of the search area. Junior handlers must have full control over their dog at all times.

### **TOY/FOOD REWARDS**

Food and Toys can be used as rewards only AFTER the dog has found a correct hide.

Food rewards must be given directly to the dog and care must be taken not to drop food in the search area.

For toy rewards the Handler must always have the toy in his/her hand.

Excessive dropped food or intentional toy throws will result in disqualification.

**ENTRIES**

All Entries and Payments must be entered online using the preferred CASSA provider.

Refunds are only available prior to entries closing.

**QUALIFYING/PASS**

To qualify and receive a pass in the class, your dog must successfully meet the requirements for that level and class (described above).

Qualifying searches will receive a qualifying ribbon.

**CODE OF CONDUCT/GENERAL RULES**

- HAVE FUN WITH YOUR DOGS.
- Be supportive to handlers, judges, stewards, spectators and dogs.
- No placings issued as results are not dependent on time.
- No abuse / bullying of any sort.
- There is no minimum age for dogs
- All dogs are eligible to enter regardless of being registered/sterilised/unsterilised
- Bitches in season are not eligible to enter
- Dogs at all times must be kept on lead and kept under control. The only time the dog should be off lead is in the search area if the judge allows this. Give other dogs space.
- Nuisance dogs may be asked to leave the trial at the discretion of the trial organizers.
- Dogs are only permitted inside the search area wearing a flat collar with no dangling tags.
- Flat collars or harnesses can be used.
- Should your dog pee or poo at any time within the search area it will result in disqualification.
- Dogs at any CASSA event MUST NOT wear a prong collar, E-collar or Check chains - if sighted they will be asked to remove the collar and to be replaced with a flat collar.
- Trial organizers retain the right to refuse and refund entries without reason.
- CASSA retains the right to update and/or amend rules at any time.