



Scent Sports Association of New Zealand (SSANZ):  
Rules and Guidelines – **November 2023**  
[www.scentsports.org.nz](http://www.scentsports.org.nz)

## SSANZ DEFINITION OF NOSEWORK

Nosework was created for the purpose of allowing any dog to use their natural olfactory abilities to work in partnership with their handler and to respond to specific target odours.

Nosework is an uninterrupted performance by a dog and handler to demonstrate working as a team and can be easily performed in a wide variety of locations.

Each trialling team will be evaluated on their ability to search for, locate, and respond to target odours.

The arrangement of the searches that are found in Nosework competitions are modelled on those of traditional working detection dogs. The overall performance should convey an image of fun, enthusiasm, and the ability of the team to work in partnership,

Our aim is to provide a safe and enriching environment that promotes a trusting and lasting relationship. Harsh handling will not be tolerated and may result in the immediate disqualification of the dog and handler from participating any further on that day by order of the officiating Judge.

The primary focus is achieving a qualifying score. Performance/competitive targets may be included at the discretion of the Organisers when providing prizes and awards.

### 1 SSANZ LEVEL REQUIREMENTS – AWARDS

Objective for Novice is to demonstrate the ability of the dog to detect a single target odour in four different search areas.

#### 1.1 SSANZ NOVICE NOSEWORK TITLE

Requirements to be granted the 'Novice Nosework Title':

- a) Handler must be a **financial** member of SSANZ.
- b) Dog must attain a minimum of two 'SSANZ Novice Qualifying Trial' certificates **to achieve their title**. Criteria outlined in 1.2.
- c) **A dog can continue trialling in Novice up to** a maximum of five 'SSANZ Novice Qualifying Trial' certificates.
- d) **When a dog trials at a double trial and** already has four qualifying certificates, a sixth one can then be obtained if the dog qualifies on the first day of the trial.
- e) **Once a dog has a "qualifying certificate" at the level above which the dog is titled at, the dog can no longer trial at the lower level on a competitive basis.**

#### 1.2 To attain a Novice Qualifying Certificate

- a) Complete all four Novice searches, at a single trial, in their respective allocated times.
- b) Each search element is worth 25 points.
- c) A minimum score of 90 points over the four searches is required to contribute to an overall qualification.
- d) Only 'one incorrect alert' in total over the four Novice searches is allowed. Once a false continue is called by the Judge, the odour still needs to be found.
- e) The dog must meet any other relevant criteria outlined in the SSANZ rules.



### 1.3 SSANZ INTERMEDIATE NOSEWORK TITLE

Objective for Intermediate is to demonstrate the ability of the dog to detect a single target odour in four different search areas.

Requirements to be granted the 'Intermediate Nosework Title':

- a) Handler must be a **financial** member of SSANZ.
- b) Dog must attain a minimum of two 'SSANZ Intermediate Qualifying Trial' certificates under a minimum of 2 Judges at 2 different locations **to achieve their title**. Criteria outlined in 1.4.
- c) **A dog can continue trialling in Intermediate up to** a maximum of five 'SSANZ Intermediate Qualifying Trial' certificates.
- d) **When a dog trials at a double trial and** already has four qualifying certificates, a sixth one can then be obtained if the dog qualifies on the first day of the trial.
- e) **Once a dog has a "qualifying certificate" at the level above which the dog is titled at, the dog can no longer trial at the lower level on a competitive basis.**

### 1.4 To attain an Intermediate Qualifying Certificate

- a) Complete all four Intermediate searches, at a single trial, in the respective allocated time.
- b) Each search element is worth 25 points.
- c) A minimum score of 90 points over the four searches is required to contribute to an overall qualification.
- d) There may be no incorrect calls over the four Intermediate searches.
- e) The dog must meet any other relevant criteria outlined in the SSANZ rules.

### 1.5 SSANZ ADVANCED NOSEWORK TITLE

Objective for Advanced is to demonstrate the ability of the dog to detect two target odours in four different search areas.

Requirements to be granted the 'Advanced Nosework Title':

- a) Handler must be a **financial** member of SSANZ.
- b) Dog must attain a minimum of three 'SSANZ Advanced Qualifying Trial' certificates under a minimum of 2 different Judges at 2 different locations **to achieve their title**. Criteria outlined in 1.6.

### 1.6 To attain an Advanced Qualifying Certificate

- a) Complete all four Advanced searches, at a single trial, in the respective allocated time.
- b) Each search element is worth 25 points. Each hide/odour source has equal value.
- c) A minimum score of 90 over the four searches is required to contribute to an overall qualification.
- d) There may be no incorrect calls over the four Advanced searches.
- e) The dog must meet any other relevant criteria outlined in the SSANZ rules.



## 2 SET UP OF SEARCH AREAS – GENERAL

- 2.1 Odour can be put inside either a plastic or metal container and shall be known as the source or hide.
- 2.2 Hides will be a maximum of 50ml capacity with ventilation to allow the scent to be released into the area.
- 2.3 Hides may be fastened to a surface or placed securely in a larger container.
- 2.4 The hide will be placed by the Judge or designated official a minimum of 15 minutes before the first team commences searching.
- 2.5 The hide must not be visible to the team in the normal course of the search.
- 2.6 The hide should not be fully accessible to the dog so that there is no risk of ingestion.
- 2.7 Additional hides or containers must be available in case of contamination or visible damage.
- 2.8 The search area should be clean and safe but does not need to be sterile.
- 2.9 The search area should be clearly defined by either; walls, fences, other markers such as cones or temporary fencing.
- 2.10 There must be a clearly defined 'start line'.

### 2.11 CONTAINER SEARCH – GENERAL

- a) All containers used in this search will be in a clean condition.
  - i) No obvious signs of contamination from foodstuffs or strong-smelling substances.
  - ii) Containers must be closed but have holes or other visible ventilation points for the odours to escape. Vents shall be no wider than 2.5 centimetres (25mm).
  - iii) This search may be conducted indoors or outdoors.
- b) The start line should be no less than 1 metre from the first container.
- c) Additional containers will be pre-cooked, and blank containers will be on stand-by in case any have to be replaced if damaged.
- d) Refer to **Set up of search areas** for trial, level, specific criteria.

### 2.12 INTERIOR SEARCH – GENERAL

- a) This search will be conducted inside a building or room.
- b) This area may be an individual room or defined within a larger area.
- c) The interior can be as it was found or staged at the Organiser or Judge's discretion.
- d) The Judge or a designated official will be available for questions relating to search area parameters prior to their search commencing.
- e) Refer to **Set up of search areas** for trial, level, specific criteria.

### 2.13 EXTERIOR SEARCH – GENERAL

- a) Exterior areas may be enclosed on some edges but should have at least one perimeter side open.
- b) The exterior area can be as it was found or staged at the Organiser or Judge's discretion.
- c) The exterior search area must be identified in some way; flags, cones, rope, pegs or natural visual landmarks to identify the search area perimeter.
- d) The Judge or a designated official will be available for questions relating to search area parameters prior to their search commencing.
- e) Refer to **Set up of search areas** for trial, level, specific criteria.

### 2.14 VEHICLE SEARCH – GENERAL

- a) The first vehicle must be no less than 3m and no more than 10m from the starting line.
- b) There must be clear access to all sides of the vehicle.
- c) Hides will not be inside any vehicle.
- d) Refer to **Set up of search areas** for trial, level, specific criteria.



### **3 SET UP OF SEARCH AREAS – LEVEL SPECIFIC**

#### **3.1 NOVICE SEARCH CRITERIA, IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL CRITERIA.**

- a) One source/hide per search element.
- b) Oil of Clove Bud (*Eugenia Caryophyllata*) will be the odour used in SSANZ Novice trials.
- c) No TFR (Trained Final Response) is required for Novice for the handler to call an 'alert'.
  - i) In order for the Judge to determine a YES/FALSE, three things should be observed by them 1) dog shows a change of behaviour when they come into odour, 2) dog works odour and follows up to source, 3) dog commits to odour and communicates to the handler that they believe that that is the source of the odour. It is at the discretion of the Judge whether they call a YES or FALSE.

#### **3.2 Novice Container search**

- a) Search time limit 2 minutes.
- b) Conducted indoors or outdoors.
- c) 10-15 containers set in a geometrical configuration.
- d) Containers must be made of the same material and be either cardboard or plastic.
- e) The containers will be uniform size with a minimum width of 240mm and maximum width of 600mm.
- f) The containers shall be no more than 400mm in height.
- g) All containers are placed at ground level.
- h) Spacing minimum of 750mm between containers.
- i) Containers can be weighted to reduce accidental movement by the dog.

#### **3.3 Novice Interior search**

- a) Search time limit 3 minutes.
- b) Area will be between 60 - 100 sqm.
- c) Odour maximum height 650mm from the ground.

#### **3.4 Novice Exterior search**

- a) Search time limit 3 minutes.
- b) Area will be between 75 - 200 sqm.
- c) Odour maximum height 650mm from the ground.

#### **3.5 Novice Vehicle search**

- a) Search time limit 3 minutes.
- b) One passenger vehicle, either a car, ute or minivan.
  - i) Clear access all sides.
- c) Odour maximum height 650mm.
- d) Maximum depth under vehicle 100mm.



#### **4. INTERMEDIATE SEARCH CRITERIA, IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL CRITERIA ABOVE**

- a) One source/hide per search element
- b) Oil of Sweet Birch (*Betula Lenta*), will be the odour used in SSANZ Intermediate trials
- c) No TFR is required for Intermediate for the handler to call an 'alert'
  - i) In order for the Judge to determine a YES/FALSE, three things should be observed by them 1) dog shows a change of behaviour when they come into odour, 2) dog works odour and follows up to source, 3) dog commits to odour and communicates to the handler that they believe that that is the source of the odour. It is at the discretion of the Judge whether they call a YES or FALSE.
- d) In Intermediate there will be no allowances made for false alert calls.

##### **4.1 Intermediate Container search**

- a) Search time limit 2 minutes.
- b) Conducted indoors or outdoors.
- c) 12-18 containers set in a geometrical configuration.
- d) Containers **must** be random size and be either cardboard or plastic. However, all containers must be made of the same material.
- e) The containers shall be no more than 400mm in height.
- f) All containers are placed at ground level.
- g) Spacing minimum of 750mm between containers.
- h) Containers can be weighted to reduce accidental movement by the dog.

##### **4.2 Intermediate Interior search**

- a) Search time limit 3 minutes.
- b) Area will be between 60 - 140 sqm.
- c) Odour maximum height 650mm from the ground.

##### **4.3 Intermediate Exterior search**

- a) Search time limit 4 minutes.
- b) Area will be between 100 - 300 sqm.
- c) Odour maximum height 650mm from the ground.

##### **4.4 Intermediate Vehicle search**

- a) Search time limit 3 minutes.
- b) Two vehicles of any sort.
  - i) Clear access to both vehicles on all sides, with a minimum distance of 2 metres between them.
- c) Odour maximum height 650mm.
- d) Maximum depth under vehicle 100mm.



## 5 ADVANCED SEARCH CRITERIA, IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL CRITERIA.

- a) Two source/hides.
- b) **There will be one distraction in the container search, placed inside the container.**
- c) Oil of Clove Bud and/or Sweet Birch, will be the odour used in SSANZ Advanced trials.
- d) No TFR is required for Advanced for the handler to call an 'alert'.
- e) Handlers are required to call the two alerts and finish (after the Judge confirms that the find is correct). If Finish is not called the maximum time for the search will be recorded.
  - i) In order for the Judge to determine a YES/FALSE, three things should be observed by them 1) dog shows a change of behaviour when they come into odour, 2) dog works odour and follows up to source, 3) dog commits to odour and communicates to the handler that they believe that that is the source of the odour. It is at the discretion of the Judge whether they call a YES or FALSE.

### 5.1 Advanced Container search

- a) Search time limit 3 minutes.
- b) Conducted indoors or outdoors.
- c) 18-20 containers can be set in a geometrical configuration, or a circle or a U.
- d) The containers **must** be random size **and be cardboard, plastic, or metal**. There can be a mixture of different types of containers.
- e) The containers shall be a minimum height of 80mm.
- f) All containers are placed at ground level.
- g) Spacing minimum of 300mm between containers and 900mm between rows if used.
- h) Containers can be weighted to reduce accidental movement by the dog.
- i) There will be a **non-food distraction inside one container**.

### 5.2 Advanced Interior search

- a) Search time will be set by the Judge, 1-3min per search area.
- b) The interior search will be two rooms/areas adjacent to each other.
- c) The two rooms/areas will total between 120-400 sqm.
- d) Odour maximum height 900mm from the ground.

### 5.3 Advanced Exterior Search

- a) Search time will be set by the Judge with a 3–5-minute timespan.
- b) Area will be between 150-400sqm.
- c) Odour maximum height 900mm from the ground.

### 5.4 Advanced Vehicle search

- a) Search time will be set by the Judge with a 4-5minutes timespan.
- b) Three-four vehicles of any sort and in any configuration.
  - i) Clear access to all vehicles on all sides,
  - ii) Hides must be on different vehicles.
- c) Odour maximum height 650mm.
- d) Maximum depth under vehicle 100mm.



## 6 ODOUR PREPARATION

- 6.1 3 to 5 drops of essential oil are to be placed on a cotton make up remover pad at the base of a sealable glass jar. Scent sample carriers are then added to the jar. Acceptable Scent sample carriers are Q-tips/cotton buds, cotton balls or cotton make up remover pads. The jar is then sealed with an airtight lid. Scent sample carriers must be prepared 24-72 hours before use.
- 6.2 The maximum scent sample carriers that can be put into a hide container is either 2 Q-tips or 1 cotton ball or 1 cotton makeup remover pad.

## 7 SEARCH RULES – GENERAL

- 7.1 The location of the hide will not be visible or known to the handler.
- 7.2 Each search time starts when the dog's nose crosses the start line.
- a) Once over the start line the team can enter the search area from any angle.
- 7.3 There is no penalty applied to handlers using verbal and/or physical signals to encourage and support their dogs while searching.
- 7.4 Handlers must indicate verbally and visually, **calling Alert** while raising a hand above their head. **Both** signals are required to indicate the handler thinks the dog has found the 'source'.
- a) If **at Novice level the alert called is deemed to be not correct the Judge will say 'False – Continue' on the first incorrect call.**
- b) **In Advanced if the alert called is on a hide already found the Judge will say 'Already found – Continue' and faults will given. (See Section 8.3). If the handler calls the same hide the third time the search will finish.**
- c) A Judge may ask **"Where?"** for further clarification after the alert is called and timing is stopped. If the handler is unable to adequately describe or point to the location of the odour hide to the Judge's satisfaction, then that is considered a false alert.
- d) **In Novice and Intermediate levels** timing concludes when the Judge has identified the call as **'Correct'**.
- e) **In Advanced level timing concludes when the handler calls "finish".**
- 7.5 Handlers are allowed to take their reinforcers into the search area.
- a) Reinforcers may be visible.
- b) Reinforcers **may be used to reward the dog after each hide is found.**
- c) Reinforcers must stay on the handler unless in use.
- d) Handlers must not contaminate the search area with their reinforcer.
- i) If, in the Judge's opinion, the search area has been contaminated a major fault will be deducted.
- e) Handlers must not damage the search area when reinforcing their dog.
- i) If, in the Judge's opinion, the search area has been damaged a major fault will be deducted.



## 8 FAULTS

8.1 Faults are given at the Judge's discretion and are final.

### 8.2 Element failure incurs a score of 0 for that element.

- a) If the time for the search element has run out, the team will only gain points for the hide/s found. If no hides are found the team will lose all the points for that element.
- b) If the handler requests further help, at any time, then the search is forfeited. The team will lose all their points for that element.
- c) Fouling. The dog vomits, urinates, or defecates at any time while in the search area.
- d) A Judge may at their discretion allow a team to finish a search after "Time" is called.
  - i) Extra time allowed to be 2 minutes maximum.

8.3 Faults are deducted according to three categories of fault type – incorrect alert call, major and minor.

#### a) Incorrect Alert Call

- i) **At Novice level** an Incorrect Alert Call will incur a deduction of 6 faults.
- ii) At Novice **level** the Judge will call "false continue" and the team may continue the search.
- iii) At Intermediate level an incorrect call will incur Element failure.
- iv) At Advanced **level** an incorrect call will end the search but if a hide is found before the incorrect call the team will gain the points for that hide.
- v) **At Advanced level calling alert on an already found hide will incur a deduction of 6 faults each time this occurs.**
- vi) **At Advanced level the Judge will call "Already found – continue" and the team may continue the search. If the hide is called for the third time the search will end and incur a further 6 faults.**

#### b) Major faults incur a deduction of 5 points for each occurrence.

- i) Damage to the search area – such as caused by excessive pawing or digging which require the replacement of equipment, odour or container.
- ii) Compromising the search area - The Judge deems that handler reward delivery may have jeopardized the integrity of the search area by damage or possible contamination.
- iii) Dropping food or rewards at any time during the search will be faulted on each occasion.
- iv) The dog damages or interferes with the hide placement in such a way that this might give a visual clue to subsequent competitors.
- v) Leaving the Search Area. The team (handler and dog) leave the search area during a search.
- vi) Inappropriate fouling outside of the search area.
- vii) Safety issues or other infractions at the Judge's discretion, including but not limited to:
  - I) Taking the dog off leash in a leash only search area.
  - II) Allowing your dog to go under the vehicle and out of sight of the handler.
  - III) Placing your dog in an unsafe situation.

#### c) Minor Faults incur a deduction of 2 points on each occurrence.

- i) Faults will be given for:
  - I) Tangling the line.
  - II) Dropping the line.
  - III) Handling errors.

**THE JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL AND NO CHALLENGE OR ARGUMENT WILL BE TOLERATED FROM THE COMPETITOR.**

*(NOTE: provisions for Elite/Master levels are currently being finalised and will be added to these regulations in due course).*





## TRIAL ENTRY CRITERIA

8.4 All entry criteria must be met for a team to participate in a SSANZ trial.

### 8.5 General entry requirements

- a) All trials must advertise a closing date and entries must be kept open until that date has arrived.
- b) Only once the trial entries have closed can ballots (if required) be carried out.
- c) On the closing date for entries, team spots for Novice will be accepted in the following order:
  - i) SSANZ members whose dogs have less than 2 'Novice qualifying certificates.
  - ii) SSANZ members, whose dogs have between 2 and 5 Novice qualifying certificates.
  - iii) Non SSANZ members whose dogs have less than 2 Novice qualifying certificates.
  - iv) Non SSANZ members whose dogs have between 2 and 5 Novice qualifying certificates.

l) In the event of more entries than spots a random draw from the last priority group of dogs will happen to fill the remaining spaces in the trial.
- d) All handlers of dogs at a SSANZ trial of Intermediate level and above must be financial members of SSANZ.
- e) To enter an Intermediate Trial a dog must have its Novice Nosework Title.
- f) On the closing date for entries, team spots for Intermediate will be accepted in the following order:
  - i) SSANZ members whose dogs have less than 2 Intermediate qualifying certificates.
  - ii) SSANZ members, whose dogs have between 2 and 5 Intermediate qualifying certificates.
  - iii) In the event of more entries than spots a random draw from the last priority group of dogs will happen to fill the remaining spaces in the trial.
- g) To enter an Advanced Trial a dog must have its Intermediate Nosework title.
- h) On the closing date for entries, team spots for Advanced will be accepted in the following order:
  - i) SSANZ members whose dogs have less than 3 'Advanced qualifying certificates.
  - ii) SSANZ members, whose dogs have between 3 and 5 Advanced qualifying certificates.
  - iii) In the event of more entries than spots a random draw from the last priority group of dogs will happen to fill the remaining spaces in the trial.
- i) Once a dog has a "qualifying certificate" at the level above which the dog is titled at, the dog can no longer trial at the lower level on a competitive basis.
- j) Handlers may only trial one dog at each level at a trial.
- k) A Judge at a trial may not enter a dog in the trial they are judging.
  - i) A Judge at a trial may enter a dog in another trial at the discretion of the Organiser.
  - ii) Dogs may trial with an alternate handler to their owner as follows:
  - iii) The alternate handler must stay the same for the entirety of the trial entered.
  - iv) The alternate handler must have already trialed, and qualified with their own dog to the level the team is entered or have trialed and titled the dog being handled, at the previous level if the team is entered in Intermediate or above.
- l) Organisers and officials may compete at a trial at the discretion of the Judge at the level they will be entering if:
  - i) The allowance to trial does not impede the running of the trial.
  - ii) The allowance to trial does not diminish the integrity of the hide.



## 8.6 Requirements of the handler

- a) Have not been banned or excluded from trialling with SSANZ.
- b) Enclosed, secure footwear must be always worn.
- c) Handlers should wear comfortable clothing with safety in mind.
  - i) A handler who presents with unsafe attire will be asked to rectify the problem, if no attempt is made to rectify, the handler may be asked to leave the trial.
- d) Training vests, bags, hats etc. may be worn during searches or at any time.
- e) A handler may wear and use visible head or chest mounted video equipment subject to Organisations/Judge's agreement (see rule 10.6) and that the use of such equipment does not delay the start of the search/es.

## 8.7 Requirements of the dog

- a) All dogs participating at Intermediate or above must be registered with SSANZ.
- b) Dogs over the age of 6 months may be entered in a trial provided all other entry criteria is met.
- c) Dogs attending the trial must be presented in a state of good general health and cleanliness.
  - i) Dogs who are excessively dirty will be excluded from trialling that day.
- d) A Veterinary Certificate giving a brief outline and stating a dog is fit to trial is required if an injury/disability/illness is present. Dogs must have a current vaccination record, officiated by a registered professional.
- e) Dogs must have a current registration with their local council.
- f) A dog that has been classified as menacing or dangerous under the Dog Control Act (1996) may compete at a SSANZ Trial at the discretion of the hosting organisation, who may require additional information and will be afforded full disclosure.
  - i) Additional information must be provided to the Organiser, this can include but is not limited to;
    - i) Owner name; ii) Owner address; iii) Dog name; iv) Dog breed; v) Dogs colour; vi) Type of classification.
  - ii) Dogs with a 'menacing' classification must be muzzled at all times and cannot compete off lead.
  - iii) A dog that has been classified as menacing or dangerous under the Dog Control Act(1996), and which has been granted an exemption under Clause 33E (5) of the Dog Control Act (1996) by the local territorial authority that has jurisdiction over the trial location, may not compete without a muzzle in a SSANZ Trial at that location
    - l) A copy of the exemption document must be provided with their entry form
- g) Bitches in season are NOT allowed to participate, nor permitted on the premises where the trial is held.
  - i) Notification is required at the earliest indication that a bitch may be in season at the time of the trial.

## 9 EQUIPMENT

- 9.1 Lead length and type is at the handler's discretion.
  - a) Leads can be attached to a suitable harness or collar for the searches as defined in these regulations.
  - b) Searches may be conducted off lead with permission by the Judge after consultation with the Organiser.
- 9.2 Check, choke, slip, prong, **citronella and E collars** are not permitted in the working search areas.
- 9.3 Correctly fitted non-restrictive harnesses are permitted for use in SSANZ trials.
  - a) Leads must be attached to the top (spine) of the harness during the searches.
- 9.4 Optional equipment worn by the dog such as coats, boots or muzzles other than those outlined above may be permitted at the discretion of the officiating Judge.



## 10 SSANZ TRIAL PROTOCOL

- 10.1 NO unofficial samples of odour may be brought anywhere onsite, other than in the confines of a private vehicle.
- 10.2 A briefing will be given before the trial starts and is mandatory for all handlers to attend.
- Out of bounds areas will be outlined at the trial briefing.
  - Search areas will be defined. Once defined it is the responsibility of the handlers to stay out of these areas unless specifically exempted by an official on the day.
  - Health and safety details for the venue will be advised.
  - General housekeeping and details of the trial will be covered.
- 10.3 If a handler has any concerns regarding the running of the trial or regarding any set up of search areas/judging matters, they must in the first instance bring up their concerns with the Organiser.
- 10.4 Search areas will be defined visually and may also be broadly outlined during the briefing.
- Handlers are NOT allowed in the search areas until it is their turn to trial unless authorised by the Judge or delegated official.
    - If a trialist enters the search area without authorisation they may be disqualified from the trial.
  - Handlers are also prohibited from discussing any detail in relation to the search or the operation of the search with any other competitor or spectator until ALL teams have concluded that search.
- 10.5 If, in the opinion of the Judge, harsh or intimidating handling has taken place they may deduct all points for that search.
- The Judge or Organiser may ask a trialist to leave if it is deemed necessary in the interests of safety, welfare of others, or due to bad sportsmanship.
- 10.6 The Organiser may provide a videographer for each search.
- When Videography is to occur, this should be advised by the Organiser at time of registration, prior to entry.
    - When advertised prior to entering a trial, by registering in that trial, handlers agree to allow video and photographs to be taken during the entirety of the event which may include them.
    - Copies may be made available to trialists on request.
    - The Organiser of the trial will become the owner of any media taken of their event.
    - Interested parties may apply in writing to acquire copies of media relevant to them.
    - The Organiser will gain permission from the subject before media can be used and will state the intended use.
    - ONLY persons granted permission from the Organiser will be permitted to record the searches at a SSANZ trial.
      - Any persons wishing to record a search at a SSANZ trial must obtain permission from the Organisers prior to the trial and at the discretion of the Judge.
      - Any person recording searches at a SSANZ trial must follow all directions given by the Judge or designated official.
      - The Judge reserves the right to ask a person recording searches to leave if they believe that is appropriate.
    - For general recording of events at a trial, the recorder is asked to gain permission from any person or from the owner/handler of any animal directly or inadvertently recorded before publishing the media.



## 11 ORGANISATION or HOST REQUIREMENTS

- 11.1 To host a SSANZ trial you must be a current **financial** SSANZ Organisational Member.  
Organisers must apply to have a trial recognised as a SSANZ trial by:
- Filing a completed 'application to hold a SSANZ trial' form with the SSANZ secretary.
  - Filing the application form for at least 3 months prior to the trial date.
  - Accompanying application by any necessary payment.
- 11.2 Upon approval trial advertising must state the following:
- "This trial is being conducted under the rules and regulations of the Scent Sports Association of New Zealand (SSANZ)."
  - All trials must advertise a closing date and entries must be kept open until that date has arrived.**
  - Judge/s for each search and/or level
  - Any competitive aspects
  - If there is going to be a videographer or photographer in attendance, this should be advertised on all trial fliers and registration forms.
- 11.3 Organisers are liable for any accident or injury occurring at their trial and acknowledge this is not the responsibility of SSANZ.
- 11.4 Organisers can order searches and levels at a trial to suit their requirements provided these meet the criteria outlined for each individual search.
- 11.5 The Organiser is responsible for contracting a SSANZ Judge/Judges, or SSANZ approved person/persons to judge.
- The Organiser and Judge are to communicate and decide on any monetary or other remuneration, this is not SSANZ responsibility.
- 11.6 Entry fees charged to enter a trial are set by the Organiser.
- Entry fees are the property of the Organiser.
  - Entry fees should be fair and reasonable to the trialist.
- 11.7 The Organiser is responsible for obtaining official SSANZ qualifier certificates.
- 11.8 Organisers at their own discretion may present additional participation certificates/awards.
- 11.9 The Organiser may set a competitive aspect to a trial if they wish for there to be one.
- The place getters of a trial will be awarded based on the following criteria:
    - Teams on no faults place above faulted teams.
  - Awards and prizes are the responsibility of the Organiser.
- 11.10 Organisers may hold additional novelty Scent events at SSANZ trials with the understanding they are conducted within appropriate criteria for SSANZ.
- 11.11 Organisers must forward a copy of all resulting scores and search times to the SSANZ Secretary within 21 days of the trial's conclusion.
- 11.12 Organisers must keep records of the trial for 12 months after the trial date including but not limited to
- 'Application to hold a SSANZ trial'
  - Entry forms
  - Menacing dog information and exemptions
  - Financial records
  - 'Recorder' applications
  - Media use applications



## DEFINITIONS

Alert:	A communication from the handler to the Judge that the dog has indicated the location of the odour.
Accessible hide:	A hide that the dog can get close enough to place his nose on but not pick up with his/her mouth.
Change of behaviour:	Behaviour by the dog which makes it clear to the Judge and/or handler that the dog has found the odour.
Event:	Several trials run in the same time frame at the same venue
Find:	A hide that has been located by the dog and called by the handler.
Finish:	The handler is required to call "Finish" when they believe all hides for a search area have been located and called in some levels. The "Finish" call stops the official search time. If "Finish" is not called maximum time will be allocated to that search and in some levels the points for calling finish will not be awarded.
Handler:	A person commissioned to work with a dog not necessarily their own but included
Inaccessible hide:	A hide that the dog is not able to place his nose on. A hide can either be "inaccessible to all dogs" (such as hidden inside a drawer or on the backside of a piece of furniture against a wall), or "inaccessible to some dogs" (such as a high hide that short dogs would not be able to reach).
Judge:	Official scorer at a trial, SSANZ approved Judges or SSANZ approved person
Level:	One specific level of a SSANZ trial or title e.g., Novice
Official:	A person commissioned by an Organiser to help run a trial
Organiser:	A person or group registered with SSANZ to hold events
Owner:	The registered owner of a dog
Search:	One element of a level e.g., container search
Start Line:	A clearly marked boundary through which the dog and handler need to cross for their time to start.
Team:	A dog and handler for a level at a trial
TFR:	Trained Final Response e.g. sit down or a stare, sustained nose touch
Trial:	One of each or some of the SSANZ levels being assessed in a group.
Vehicle:	At novice level the vehicle should be regular motor vehicle such as a car, ute or minivan. At the higher level's vehicles can include but are not limited to buses, trucks, trailers (car, truck, animal floats, caravans), tractors, motorbikes and 4 wheelers. If a trailer is connected to a vehicle that will be classified as "two vehicles"

These are based on a combined interpretation of rules from the USA and ACSW, modified following initial Novice tests conducted since February 2015 and adopted for SSANZ since July 2019.

