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Section 1. Eligibility

1.1 General Eligibility for Water Events:

- Handlers shall be eighteen years of age.
- Bitches and dogs shall be registered with Canine Water Sports and have received a Canine Water Sports registration number.
- All dogs shall be in good health and fit for water work. A judge shall excuse any dog the judge deems unfit for water work.
- Blindness or deafness shall not preclude a canine from eligibility if the handler has developed a means of communicating directions to the dog without deviation from regulation equipment.
- No dog belonging entirely or in part to a water judge may enter a water event in which said judge is officiating.

1.2 Eligibility for Single Tasks

• Team Swim:

Bitches not in season and six (6) months old or older
Dogs six (6) months old or older.

• Tasks described as NOVICE in Retrieve, Delivery, Underwater, and Tow:

Bitches not in season and six (6) months old or older
Dogs six (6) months old or older.
Team Swim Merit or Certificate required.

• Retrieve, Delivery, Underwater, and Scent Work Certificate:

Bitches not in season and nine (9) months old or older.
Dogs nine (9) months old or older.
Team Swim Merit or Certificate required.

• Tow and Boat Work Divisions:

Bitches not in season and eighteen (18) months old or older.
Dogs eighteen (18) months old or older.
Team Swim Merit or Certificate required.

1.3 Eligibility for Water Competition Games

- Bitches not in season and twenty-four (24) months old or older.
- Dogs twenty-four (24) months old or older.
- Team Swim Merit or Certificate required.

1.4 Eligibility for Water Service Trials

- Bitches not in season and three (3) years old or older.
- Dogs three years old or older.
- Team Swim Certificate and a single merit in each task division required.
- Bitches and dogs shall have earned a minimum of five merits in any of the water work divisions.

1.5 Eligibility for Water Scent Trials:

Bitches and dogs shall have earned an submerged scent Merit from shore in Water Scent Work as one of their minimum required merits.

Section 2. Classification of Standards

2.1 Classification of Standards for Merit Tasks & Games

The standard of performance required for dogs classified by the Canine Water Sports registry as Giant, Large, Standard and Medium shall be called "Group 1". The standard of performance required for dogs classified by the Canine Water Sports registry as Miniature, Toy, Small, or Dwarf shall be called "Group 2".

2.2 Classification of Standards for Service Trials

Trial standards are based on realistic and useful water work. There is no division of the standards at this level.

Section 3. Number of Judges

3.1 Judges:

Only Canine Water Sports sanctioned Judges may judge water tasks, games and trials. Canine Water Sports shall supply Hosts with a list of eligible judges. The Host Event Committee shall select one or more approved Judges to evaluate teams competing in an approved water event.

3.2 Water Merits

There shall be one sanctioned Judge empowered to evaluate and score a water work merit task. The judge shall evaluate each team's performance and determine if the team has met the standards for a water work merit.

3.3 Games

There shall be one sanctioned Judge empowered to evaluate and score a water game. The judge shall evaluate each team's performance and determine if the team has met the standards for a water game merit.

3.4 Water Service Trials

There shall be two sanctioned judges empowered to evaluate and score a Water Service Trial. Each judge shall evaluate each team's performance and determine if the team has met the standards for a title. A team shall earn passing evaluations from both judges to qualify.

Section 4. Criteria for Qualifying

4.1 Criteria for Qualifying for a Water Merit

To qualify for a water work **Merit** a team shall be required to complete, to the satisfaction of a Judge, both the *Technical* and the *Presentational* aspect of a task.

PART 1

The Technical Aspect demonstrates the team's ability to comply with and complete the physical and mental requirements of a task as set forth in the event's regulations.

A water work judge shall evaluate a team's performance and deem it technically correct or incomplete. If a judge feels a team should not qualify the judge shall include the reason(s) for the incomplete performance on the judge's evaluation form.

PART 2

The Presentational Aspect demonstrates the team's ability to produce an esthetically pleasing and inspiring performance.

The **Canine** shall be judged for enthusiasm, attitude & confidence, harmony of performance and coordination of effort. The judge shall then record a written critique of the dog's presentation under each category. The judge may consider the following while preparing a critique:

- **Enthusiasm** includes, but is not limited to: the dog is willing and eager to work; the dog is focused and happy; and the dog radiates a sense of joy and freedom while working.
- **Attitude & Confidence** includes, but is not limited to: the dog behaves in a controlled and attentive manner; the dog responds quickly to handler direction; the dog is at ease and self-assured working away from the handler; the dog recovers quickly from frustration or distressing situations; and the dog exhibits a degree of persistence and determination.
- **Harmony of Performance** includes, but is not limited to: the dog's performance is smooth, flowing and

natural; the dog is comfortable performing its work; the dog's performance is aesthetically pleasing to the judge.

- **Coordination of Effort** includes, but is not limited to: the dog responds appropriately to the handler's leadership; the dog is focused and attentive to the handler and the environment; the dog knows its job; the dog is persistent in productive work; and the dog appropriately uses its natural abilities, instincts or the environment to get the job done easier, faster or with less effort.

The **Handler** shall be judged for leadership and sportsmanship. Then the judge shall record a written critique of the handler's presentation under each category. The judge may consider the following while preparing a critique:

- **Leadership** includes, but is not limited to: the handler inspires canine trust and the desire to follow or comply; the handler uses praise and encouragement; the handler effectively uses timing, training, directions, planning and organization to communicate with and guide the dog; and the handler is safety conscious and uses good judgment to reduce the risk of an injury to the dog or others.
- **Sportsmanship** includes, but is not limited to: the handler acts in a respectful, generous and fair manner toward fellow enthusiasts, judges, host officials, and dogs; the handler complies with the Canine Water Sports regulations; the handler strives to keep his dog's trust, treasuring a healthy relationship above the pursuit of sports recognition and awards.

Based on the judge's assessment and critique the judge shall either qualify the team for presenting an inspiring performance or shall find it lacking and declare the team's performance incomplete. If a judge feels a team should not qualify the judge shall include the reason(s) for the non qualifying performance on the Judge's evaluation form.

At the end of the team's judging the judge shall review the completed evaluation form with the handler. The judge may also provide a copy of the evaluation form to the handler.

4.2 Criteria for Qualifying in Water Games

A team must be the first team to complete the game or have the fastest time to qualify for a win point. When a group of handler/dog teams wins each dog on the winning team earns a point. When there are group divisions in the games the winner from each division shall earn a game point.

4.3 Criteria for Qualifying in Water Service Trials

To qualify for a water work **Title** a team shall be required to complete, to the satisfaction of two Judges, both the *Technical* and the *Presentational* aspect of each task in a trial.

PART 1

The Technical Aspect demonstrates the team's ability to comply with and complete the physical and mental requirements of a task as set forth in the event's regulations.

A water work judge shall evaluate a team's performance and deem it technically correct or incomplete. If a judge feels a team should not qualify the judge shall include the reason(s) for the incomplete performance on the judge's evaluation form.

PART 2

The Presentational Aspect demonstrates the team's ability to produce an esthetically pleasing and inspiring performance.

The **Canine** shall be judged for enthusiasm, attitude & confidence, harmony of performance and coordination of effort. The judge shall then record a written critique of the dog's presentation under each category. The judge may consider the following while preparing a critique:

- **Enthusiasm** includes, but is not limited to: the dog is willing and eager to work; the dog is focused and happy; and the dog radiates a sense of joy and freedom while working.
- **Attitude & Confidence** includes, but is not limited to: the dog behaves in a controlled and attentive manner; the dog responds quickly to handler direction; the dog is at ease and self-assured working away from the handler; the dog recovers quickly from frustration or distressing situations; and the dog exhibits a degree

of persistence and determination.

- **Harmony of Performance** includes, but is not limited to: the dog's performance is smooth, flowing and natural; the dog is comfortable performing its work; the dog's performance is aesthetically pleasing to the judge.
- **Coordination of Effort** includes, but is not limited to: the dog responds appropriately to the handler's leadership; the dog is focused and attentive to the handler and the environment; the dog knows its job; the dog is persistent in productive work; and the dog appropriately uses its natural abilities, instincts or the environment to get the job done easier, faster or with less effort.

The **Handler** shall be judged for leadership and sportsmanship. Then the judge shall record a written critique of the handler's presentation under each category. The judge may consider the following while preparing a critique:

- **Leadership** includes, but is not limited to: the handler inspires canine trust and the desire to follow or comply; the handler uses praise and encouragement; the handler effectively uses timing, training, directions, planning and organization to communicate with and guide the dog; and the handler is safety conscious and uses good judgment to reduce the risk of an injury to the dog or others.
- **Sportsmanship** includes, but is not limited to: the handler acts in a respectful, generous and fair manner toward fellow enthusiasts, judges, event officials, and dogs; the handler complies with the Canine Water Sports regulations; the handler strives to keep his dog's trust, treasuring a healthy relationship above the pursuit of sports recognition and awards.

Based on the judge's assessment and critique the judge shall either pass the team for presenting an inspiring performance or shall find it lacking and declare the team's performance incomplete. If a judge feels a team should not qualify the judge shall include the reason(s) for the incomplete performance on the Judge's evaluation form.

At the end of the team's judging the judge shall review the completed evaluation form with the handler. The judge may also provide a copy of the evaluation form to the handler.

Section 5. General Rules

5.1 Water Sports Etiquette:

1. Only non-aggressive well mannered dogs are welcome at Canine Water Sports events.
2. Dog owners are responsible for their dog's behavior and safety at all times.
3. Dogs who are not actively competing in a water event shall be confined or kept on a leash no longer than six feet in length.
4. Dogs shall not create disruptive noises such as continuous howling, whining or barking.
5. Dogs shall eliminate in designated areas only, or well outside the event area. Handlers shall pay particular attention to avoid inappropriate canine elimination or marking, especially near judging areas. Handlers shall clean up after their dog, disposing of all materials in a waste container.
6. Poorly supervised children and rambunctious puppies can quickly become a major distraction for teams. If guardians are unable or unwilling to set reasonable and respectful limits a steward may ask that the offender be removed from the immediate area.
7. Spectators and their dogs are not to enter the water while teams are being judged.
8. Only participating officials and dog/handler teams called for judging shall be permitted in water judging areas. Water judging areas shall be restricted from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. or until the end of judging during event dates.
9. Food & toys are prohibited inside or within ten feet of the designated judging areas.
10. Spectators shall not interfere, assist or communicate with teams who are inside a judging area.
11. Reporters, photographers, film makers and videographers shall be permitted to record a team's performance. However, they must have prior permission from each individual team and shall not enter a judging area.
12. Directives issued by the event secretary, judges, stewards or other event officials shall be obeyed.
13. Harsh handling of animals will not be tolerated. Any person deemed by an event official to be abusing or neglecting an animal shall be subject to expulsion from the event grounds.
14. Any person or animal engaging in conduct that an event official deems to be disruptive, offensive, abusive, reckless or dangerous may be expelled from the event grounds.

5.2 Environmental Protection

Our continued enjoyment of the great outdoors and canine water sports is dependent upon our efforts to preserve our living world. Help protect Nature by following these simple acts of respect and kindness:

- Obey all posted Municipal and State rules governing parks and public lands. They are guidelines for sharing and preserving nature.
- Prohibit dogs and children from chasing or threatening wild animals. Distressing or panicking an animal can make it vulnerable to injury and disease.
- Remove all garbage, including smoking materials and canine waste and dispose of it promptly and properly in waste containers.
- Restrict fires to regulated and or appropriate areas. Never leave a fire unattended.
- Shred and properly dispose of all plastic products that can entangle and kill wildlife.
- Stay on designated nature paths to avoid trampling delicate flora or snapping branches and saplings.
- Keep water play to designated areas and beaches to avoid silt disturbances. Silt kills water plants and small water creatures.
- Avoid walks over marsh grasses and sand dunes - marsh grass takes years to regenerate.
- Watch your foot fall - many aquatic birds build camouflaged nests on the ground.

5.3 Safety

1. No person shall leave an animal unattended and exposed to conditions which may create a risk of injury or death. Canine confinement means a time for rest in a safe place. To keep it a safe place, canine care providers shall pay particular attention to temperature changes, sun exposure, ventilation and the duration of confinement.
2. No smoking in or around judging areas or on designated beaches. Proper disposal of all smoking materials is essential to fire prevention and to avoid toxic tobacco ingestion by animals.
3. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited
4. Glass containers are restricted to designated picnic areas and are prohibited within 60 ft of the water.
5. Dogs shall wear either a canine life jacket or a water durable, non restrictive sports harness when in the water. Collars, clothing, leads, tags or other such restrictions shall be removed prior to the team entering a judging area.
6. Any person entering the water or boarding a boat shall wear a government approved full body support personal flotation device and protective water shoes and shall possess an easily accessible water sports whistle.
7. Boats shall only be used for official event activity. No person shall stand on a boat platform while the boat is floating.
8. Dogs jumping from a boat shall do so off the stern working platform and shall only jump from the rear at the widest edge of the platform. The dog shall not jump from a corner or a short side of the platform.
9. If a water practice area has been designated for participating teams, there shall be at least two adults present when a dog or person is in the water.
10. A handler may withdraw from an event at any time for health, safety or other reasons; however, such decision shall immediately be brought to the attention of the presiding judge or the event secretary.
11. A Judge or Event Secretary may excuse a person or dog from an event for medical, safety or public welfare reasons.

5.4 Risk

1. Persons entering a water sport event do so at their own risk and agree to assume responsibility for any damage or injury caused to or by them or to or by their dogs. Entrants shall agree to and sign a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement.
2. Owners and Handlers are responsible for the health, fitness and safety of their dog. It is the sole responsibility of the owner and or handler to decide whether to compete in a water sport event. Handlers shall not compete or continue to compete if they or their dog is at risk of injury.
3. Owners and handlers agree to abide by the Canine Water Sports Event Regulations.

5.5 Handling

1. **Acclimate to site:** Each handler shall be permitted two minutes to acclimate the dog to the site once the team enters the judging area. Entered teams may warm up or practice only in a separate designated water or land area anytime before their judging.
2. **Anticipation:** Dogs shall not anticipate the handler's command. Unless otherwise defined in a task, anticipation shall mean the dog, before commanded to do so, leaves a starter's box, platform or boat.
3. **Assisting:** Unless specifically permitted by a task definition, handlers may not physically lead, guide, restrain or deliberately touch the dog after entering the starter's box, until the completion of the task. A handler may physically assist a dog in boarding a boat or platform and may prevent the dog from falling off a boat. A handler may offer physical affection after the completion of a task.

4. A handler shall not direct or mark a location for a dog by throwing objects or by deliberately splashing.
5. With approval from the handler, a designated boater or swimmer may communicate with the dog when the dog is within 10 feet of the designated boater or swimmer.
6. Verbal encouragement, repeat commands and repeat signals are permitted during each task unless otherwise regulated by the task definition.
7. The handler shall not communicate with spectators after entering the judging area. All questions shall be directed to the judge and should be done prior to the start of the task.
8. **Boatwork:** Once a team has boarded a boat and the boat is underway, the team shall not leave the boat until directed by the judge or the task has ended.
9. Boaters may anchor their boats as needed for safety and securing a standardized distance or position for a task.
10. Handlers shall position themselves on the stern working platform or inside the boat when the boat is floating. Handlers shall not extend their torso or legs over the stern, bow or side gunnels of the boat during a task. Handlers may never stand on a boat platform while the boat is floating.
11. Handlers may extend only their arms over the gunnels of the boat to receive a delivery from a swimming dog. The handler shall not change his/her location while a delivery is imminent - the dog is expected to seek the handler.
12. Dogs jumping from a boat shall do so off the stern working platform and shall only jump from the rear at the widest edge of the platform. The dog shall not jump from a short side of the platform or side of the boat.
13. Dogs boarding a boat shall do so at the stern where they shall board and remain on the working platform until otherwise directed by the handler.
14. **Control:** Dogs shall be under the control of the handler at all times. A Judge may deem a dog to be out of control if, after entering the designated judging area, the dog **eliminates** anywhere, the dog **fails to respond** promptly to a comeback request from the handler, (*promptness* shall be based on the judge's assessment of the circumstances), the dog leaves the designated judging area to pursue or **chase an animal** or during a tow or delivery task the dog **climbs on a swimmer**. A dog so judged to be out of control shall not qualify.
15. **Equipment:** Handlers shall not bring food, inappropriate toys or training devices into the judging area. Only approved and regulation equipment is permitted in the judging area. See section 6 for equipment regulations.
16. Unless otherwise stated in the task, water articles may have an attachment of a short throw line for the purpose of tossing or pulling the article.
17. Handlers shall submit their equipment for inspection to the judge or the designated equipment steward at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled judging of the task, game or trial if they are unsure about its compliance to the regulations.
18. Handlers shall remove all collars, clothing, leashes, tags or other such restrictions from the dog before entering the judging area. The dog shall wear only a harness and or a canine life jacket.
19. **Judging:** The decision of Judges shall be final in all matters affecting the working of dogs and handlers and the evaluation of their performance.
20. The dog must complete the task or game within the **time limit** established for each task or game. The judge shall indicate the start and end of each task or game.
21. **Start Position:** Unless otherwise stated in the task definition, all tasks and games shall start with each team waiting inside a designated **starter's box** and the team shall not leave the starter's box until directed by the

judge. If the judge temporarily excuses a team from the starter's box the handler may gently hold the dog's harness or life jacket until the judge instructs them to return to the box. One paw or foot placed outside the boundary marks for the box shall constitute **leaving** the box. The term **returned** to the box requires the dog to have all four paws and the handler to have both feet inside the boundary marks for the box.

22. If a team does not qualify in a particular task, generally the task performance shall not be **rejudged**. However, if, in the judge's opinion, the dog's performance was prejudiced by unnatural, significantly unusual or dangerous circumstances, the judge may, at their discretion, rejudge the dog on a portion of or the entire task.
23. Teams are expected to perform in an environment which may be effected by human recreational activities and which is always defined by "Nature". A Natural environment may include, wind, rain, cool temperatures, heat, sun glare, water currents, wake action, water thermal changes, wildlife activity and other normal visual, auditory and olfactory distractions for the terrain. Dogs are expected to work with the presence of spectators including the sights, sounds and smells they bring to the perimeter of the judging area.
24. Reasons for **disqualification** of a team by a judge: Violation of the regulations. The team fails to report for judging when called by a steward. Team fails to complete the task according to the regulations and to the satisfaction of the judge. The dog is declared out of control. The dog is fearful of the handler. The dog aggressively growls, snaps at or bites any person or other animal during judging. The handler uses compulsion or intimidation to gain canine compliance at any time while in the test site.
25. A dog is **out of the water** when the dog's four paws are on land and no longer in contact with the water. A person shall have left the water when the person's two feet are on land and no longer in contact with the water.
- 26. Retrieve work:** Unless otherwise defined in a task, all retrieve articles shall be thrown, tossed or placed in the water by a steward.
27. If the judge is not satisfied with an article's landing/placement the judge may excuse the team from the starter's box while the article is recovered by a steward and made ready for another toss.
28. Unless otherwise defined in a task, dogs shall not be faulted for dropping an article. Handlers may command the dog to pick up the article to complete the task within the time limit.
29. Dogs shall deliver to hand when delivering to a person unless otherwise stated in the task. When delivering to hand the dog shall bring the article to the steward/handler and either deposit it in the steward or handler's hand on command or shall allow the steward/handler to remove the article from its mouth.

Section 6. Equipment

6.1 General:

All equipment used in a CWS water event shall be inspected by a presiding judge or a judge's designee for safety and compliance with Canine Water Sports Regulations.

6.2 Equipment Defined:

Boat: Any wood, metal or molded non-motorized boat, propelled by oars, measuring no longer than 14 ft. in length and having a government approved capacity rating for four or more people. Both Jon boat and Utility boat styles are acceptable. The bow may have a clip or snap on the bow eye to secure tow lines. The stern shall have a canine work platform secured over the gunnels. Boats shall be supplied by the host sponsoring the water event.

Boat Platform: A solid working base affixed to and on top of the boat's stern. The platform shall be free of any protruding objects and shall be covered with a skid resistant material or a heavy non skid matting suitable for jumping dogs. The platform shall be at least as wide as the boat, gunnel to gunnel. However, it shall not occupy more than one third of the total length of the boat. 00 A step may be attached to the platform, off the stern side, for the purpose of aiding a swimming dog in boarding the boat.

Harness, Water Sports Harness: A commercially produced, nonrestrictive, water durable canine harness. Nonrestrictive means it does not restrict the dog's use of the neck, shoulders, legs or chest muscles. A tracking style harness is acceptable.

Life-Ring: A commercially produced, non-flexible, ring shaped, government approved, throwable flotation device (USCG Type IV PFD) large enough in size to support an adult in the water. The life ring shall have a short tow line attached to the life ring's roping.

Long Line: A 100 ft. length of water durable, commercially produced floating line or line threaded with small commercial fish line type floats spaced to keep the line visible and near the surface. The towing end of the line may be knotted, taped or have a dummy attached.

Markers, Distance: Any commercially produce marine mooring float that is visible from a distance of 150 feet from shore or any handmade floating marker that floats a minimum of 12" above the water surface, does not appear to be a retrieve article and is visible 150 feet from shore. Capped, vertical standing 4" diameter PVC pipe is acceptable as a distance marker. Markers shall be independently anchored. Distance markers are set at 60' and 100' from the shoreline during a water event.

Markers, Land or shallow water: Any commercially produced sports or traffic cones brightly colored or patterned for high visibility.

Markers, Swim/Pattern: Swim markers shall be constructed of 3 or 4 inch diameter PVC pipe. The length shall ensure that at least 6" of the pipe appear above the surface of the water and that the marker stand as vertical as possible in the water when anchored. The markers shall be white or brightly patterned for visibility.

Paddle: A commercially produced three foot plastic, metal or wood water craft (like kayak or canoe) paddle. May have a short piece of line attached over or through the handle.

PFD or Life Jacket: A commercially produced government approved full body support **Personal Flotation Device**. The US Coast Guard PFD approved for calm waters is the Type III, a Flotation Aid (vest style). Inflatable PFDs shall not be used for canine water sports. CWS Safety regulations require any person who enters the water to wear a properly fitted PFD. **RETRIEVE ARTICLE:** PFDs used for retrieve/deliver work may be taped closed to reduce the risk of entanglement and shall include all size and shaped flotation devices, including a seat cushion. **A CANINE LIFE JACKET (CFD)** shall be any commercially produced, full body flotation device, that includes flotation around the dog's throat, back, and rib cage, with a handle on top capable of supporting the dogs weight during a full body lift and balanced so that the dog's head remains up when the dog is lifted by the handle. The jacket must also have a "D" ring for attaching lines/leads. The ring must be strong enough to support a person being water towed by a line attached to the "D" ring.

Retrieve Article: any object which the dog can carry or tow by mouth. Retrieve articles are subject to further definition or specifications by the task description.

Starter's Box: A designated area on land in which the dog and handler start their test. A starter's box shall be no larger than six feet wide by six feet long and shall be defined by markers, poles or lines that do not significantly interfere with the dog entering or leaving the box. A starter's box shall be set no closer than six feet from the water's edge. If small diameter PVC pipes are used to form the starter's box the pipes shall be weighted to prevent movement during a test.

Tow Line: A 10 ft to 15 ft length of floating marine line threaded with commercial line floats spaced to keep the line visible. The line may be knotted to keep the floats separate and secured on the line. The dog's end of the line may be knotted, taped or have a dummy attached to assist the dog. The other end of the line may have a ring, clip or snap to aid in a quick attachment to a tow article. (i.e. boat, life ring)

Underwater Article: Any toy or object that sinks immediately in water, i.e. a rubber dog toy or a pool diving article. An underwater article may include any floating object, which has been weighted so that it sinks immediately. The article does not have to lay flat when submerged.

Water Shoes: Water durable anti-slip footwear that provides protection against sharp objects and does not easily come off in the water. Thongs are not permitted, however commercially produced "water" sandals are permitted.

Wiffle Ball: A commercially made hollow, white, plastic ball. All three sizes of Wiffle balls are permitted. The balls shall be weighted inside with pebbles or marbles and may have extra holes drilled into them to help them sink immediately in water. Three same size weighted Wiffle balls are used in an underwater task.

Section 7. Judge Duties

A water event judge shall :

- know the rules and regulations set forth in the Canine Water Sports Regulations Manual.
- possess a copy of the most recently revised or amended version of the Canine Water Sports Regulations Manual.
- be a member in good standing with Canine Water Sports.
- be sanctioned by Canine Water Sports to judge water tasks, games and or trials.

Before the start of the Water Event the judge shall:

- arrive early to greet the Event Secretary and Stewards and prepare for the day.
- ensure that judging forms and necessary supplies are present.
- inspect the judging site and host equipment to ensure the required conditions and equipment are present and fall within reasonable safety standards.
- determine if water and weather conditions are appropriate for a water event.
- delay or cancel the judging if at any time, in the opinion of the presiding judge the site appears unfit to hold or continue to hold a water event in the judge's site.
- personally inspect or ensure that a steward is in charge of and is properly inspecting all exhibitor equipment.

At the start of the judging the presiding judge shall:

- have a steward assemble the teams to be judged in the first task, game or trial and shall conduct a Team Briefing, which shall address site conditions and adaptations, quickly review the task, game or trial and answer any questions the handlers may have about the task, game or trial being judged. The judge shall conduct a briefing for each group of teams appearing for each different task, game or trial thereafter.
- have the steward call the first team for judging, and each team thereafter, to the water to permit the team two minutes to get acquainted with the site.
- when the warm up is over, direct the team to the start position.
- ask the handler if they are ready to begin their task. Upon an affirmative response, instruct the team to begin.

During judging the judge shall:

- evaluate each team's performance in a professional manner and shall refrain from warning, instructing or advising a team on performance improvement. But may do so after the team has been judged.
- without interfering with the team's work assume a position that provides adequate observation of each aspect of the task and the team's performance.
- avoid creating his or her own variations of a task and shall judge all teams as best as possible by the same applicable standards. However, judges may make minor adaptations in the pursuit of fairness and equality if wind conditions might or are dramatically effecting workloads and speeds between team performances.
- use a stop watch if time limits or requirements are required in a task and shall use such stop watch to determine time compliance.
- Observe and evaluate each team's performance to ensure compliance with classification standards and technical and or presentational requirements for the event being judged.

Reasons for disqualification of a team by a judge:

- Violation of the regulations
- The team fails to report for judging when called by a steward.
- Team fails to complete the task according to the regulations and to the satisfaction of the judge.
- The dog fails to return promptly when commanded or signaled by its handler. ("promptness" shall be based on the judge's assessment of the circumstances).
- The dog leaves the test area to pursue or chase an animal.
- The dog eliminates any time after the team enters the judging site.
- The dog is fearful of the handler.
- The dog aggressively growls, snaps at or bites any person or other animal during judging.
- The handler uses compulsion or intimidation to gain canine compliance.
- The dog climbs on the swimmer during the tow or delivery tasks.

Reasons for a task to be rejudged by a presiding judge:

- If, in a judge's opinion, an event official has interfered with a team's performance to such a degree that it is an obvious advantage or disadvantage to the team's qualification then the judge may order that the task be

redone.

- If a judge makes a ruling, in good faith, that effects the qualification of a team and later, during the event, discovers the ruling was made in error, the judge may order the task redone.
- Teams are expected to perform in an environment which may be effected by human recreational activities and which is always defined by "Nature". A Natural environment may include, wind, rain, cool temperatures, heat, sun glare, water currents, wake action, water thermal changes, wildlife activity and other normal visual, auditory and olfactory distractions for the terrain. Dogs are expected to work with the presence of spectators including the sights, sounds and smells they bring to the perimeter of the judging area. *However, if in a presiding Judge's opinion a team's performance was disrupted by an unusual or dangerous circumstance the judge may permit the team to be rejudged on the task.*

After judging a team the judge shall:

- clearly inform the team that the task is complete and whether they have qualified.
- record the reasons for a qualifying or disqualify performance on the team's evaluation.
- clearly record into the judge's catalog a status for each team scheduled to appear before the judge. Status marks shall appear next to the name of each handler and shall be one of the following: "Q" for Qualified, "NQ" for disqualified, "A" for absent, "E" excused, or "EXPL" for expelled.
- immediately review the evaluation with each team who was judged.

At the end of the day's judging the judge shall:

- turn over all judging reports and records to the Chief Steward or Event Secretary.

Section 8. Event Secretary Duties:

Any established Dog Club or Organization who is a member of Canine Water Sports may apply to Canine Water Sports to host a CWS Water Event. Such Club or Organization shall appoint an Event Secretary who shall be responsible for specific duties , which shall include:

- read and agree to abide by the Canine Water Sports Regulations.
- chair a committee who shall select the water trial judge(s) from list of approved CWS judges and shall plan, organize, direct and do the work needed to host a Canine Water Sports Event. (See Host Guidelines)
- create, publish, and distribute a Premium List that includes a Canine Water Sports Entry Form. Send a copy of this Premium to Canine Water Sports.
- process entry applications and collect fees.
- ensure each dog listed on an entry form is registered with CWS and has an H2O number
- acknowledge each entry application with a written response:
 - a.) Explain why the entry is not acceptable, OR
 - b.) Welcome the team with a letter (Internet or USPS) confirming all pertinent information about the accepted entry including, date(s) and location of event, entry level(s), accepted handler(s) and dog(s), Canine CWS registration number(s) and host assigned team entry number(s).
- create and publish a water event catalog to be distributed on the day of the water event.
- ensure there are printed directions to local emergency services for human and canine available at the event.
- ensure there is cell phone reception or a land line phone available during Event hours.
- ensure the access road to the event site remains safe for travel even during inclement weather.
- ensure that the judge(s) have appropriate judging forms and materials needed to perform their job.
- collect and maintain a copy of all entries, all completed judging forms and a scored catalog for a minimum of six months.
- investigate and attempt to mediate all complaints and protests by participants. If after mediation the participant is still unsatisfied the Secretary shall advise the participant to submit a written complaint to the Secretary within seven days of the conclusion of the water event.
- to expel, if necessary, from the event grounds any person or dog who is found in violation and or refuses to comply with Canine Water Sport Regulations or Federal, State or Municipal laws.
- compile and send an event report with required fees and any protests to Canine Water Sport within ten days of the conclusion of the event activities.

Section 9: Steward Duties

9.1 Chief Steward:

A Chief Steward shall be appointed by the Event Secretary and shall serve the Judge and the Event Secretary in the furtherance of a water sports event.

Chief Steward duties include:

- Read and agree to abide by the Canine Water Sports Regulations.
- Appoint an adequate number of capable stewards to serve as assistants in the production and presentation of a water sports event.
- Ensure that stewards are properly trained and prepared for stewardship.
- Assemble the necessary equipment and boats for the judging site(s)
- Plan, organize and supervise the set up and clean up of the event grounds and judging sites.
- Assign stewards to their duties and hours of service.
- Ensure that all equipment, host and handler, is safe to use and is in compliance with regulations.
- Supervise stewards during the water sports event.
- Collect all water sports event materials and equipment at the end of the event.
- Deliver to the Secretary all judging forms, scored catalogs and registration paper work and supplies.

9.2 Steward Captains:

If an event has multiple active judging sites the Chief Steward may appoint a steward to be the Captain for each site. The Captain shall assist the Chief Steward as directed, implement orders by the site judge and provide steward leadership.

9.3 Stewards:

Stewards shall be appointed by the Chief Steward and shall serve the Judge and Chief Steward in the furtherance of a water sports event.

Steward duties include:

- Read and agree to abide by the Canine Water Sports Regulations.
- Comply with the direction of an Event Secretary, Chief Steward and/or any Judge.
- Posses and wear a full body support personal flotation device and protective water wear shoes when in the water.
- Assist in the set up and clean up of event grounds and judging sites.
- Organize a registration desk on the day of event.
- Record team arrivals and deliver catalog and event information.
- Inspect handler equipment to ensure safety, size standards and regulation compliance.
- Supervise the order in which handlers are prepped and called for judging.
- Participate in tasks under the direction of a judge, including portrayal of victims and delivery targets, rowing boats, swimming, throwing, placing or holding articles and equipment on land and in the water.
- Redirect spectators who violate etiquette rules.
- Keep unauthorized people/dogs out of the judging site.
- Direct questions concerning judging protocols, regulations & task procedures, violations, or evaluation scores to the judge.
- Direct questions concerning protests to the Event Secretary.
- Identify and post the names of the qualifying teams for public review.
- Record the judging results in two event catalogs.
- Collect the scored catalogs, completed judging forms, registration desk supplies & site equipment and deliver them to the Chief Steward.

Stewards shall not:

- Communicate with dogs being judged except when so directed by task regulations or a judge.
- Offer or provide handlers with counsel or performance instruction unless directed by a judge to do so.
- Bring food or toys into the judging site.

Section 10. Event Grounds & Judging Sites:

10.1 Permitted Locations:

- Canine Water Sports events shall be conducted adjacent to and on/in bodies of water covering eight (8) acres or more in size and shall be limited to fresh water lakes, large slow moving rivers, ponds, or reservoirs.
- The water quality shall be safe for human swimming.
- The water entrance for the test area shall be a minimum of 35 ft wide and shall have a gradual descent into the water. The entrance slope shall be firm and dense enough to provide safe human footing to a minimum depth of 35 inches.
- The water depth in the test area shall be a minimum of 35 inches deep at 35 ft. from shore.
- The land and water judging areas shall be clear of hazardous objects and debris, including hazardous plant over growth.
- The site shall be accessible to Rescue & Emergency Services, (Medical, Law Enforcement and Fire). The Event Secretary shall know the location of area hospitals, veterinary clinics and first aid stations and shall have printed directions to area emergency services for humans and canines on hand at the event.
- The site shall have phone or radio equipment for emergencies. The Event Secretary shall ensure there is cell phone reception or a land line phone available for general communication needs.
- The Event Secretary shall publish, post and or give verbal warning to all participants concerning any commonly known plant, insect or animal threats in the area.
- The site shall have bathrooms and changing areas for host officials, exhibitors and spectators. The host shall provide protection against wind, sun, and rain for event officials and such protection shall be inside or adjacent to the test area.

10.2 Defined:

Event Grounds are those areas that include and support the judging sites. These shall include spectator, crating, participant, picnic, parking, bathroom, canine elimination and concession areas.

Judging sites are those areas in which water work performances shall be evaluated by a judge(s). The site shall include a portion of land adjacent to a portion of water. The land area of the site shall include a work station for judges and stewards.

- The *land area* of a judging site shall include a minimum of 50 ft by 50 ft. of land measured from the shoreline, unless otherwise configured by task regulations. The land area shall be noticeably marked or roped off. The land test area shall include a Starter's Box. A starter's box shall be no larger than six feet wide by six feet long and shall be defined by markers or lines that do not significantly interfere with the dog entering or leaving the box. A starter's box shall be set no closer than six feet from the water's edge.
- The *water area* of a judging site shall include 150 ft by 150 ft of water space. This space shall be adjacent to the land portion of the judging area, measured from the shoreline out (See Glossary: shoreline) and along the parallel line with the land area of the judging site.

Practice sites may be established by an event host provided there is sufficient space. These areas shall be posted and used only by participating teams scheduled for judging.

Open Water Judging sites for the scent service title event shall be any section of a lake or pond designated by the trial host and the judge. This area may be marked with water markers.

Site Separation: All active sites, judging or practice, shall be separated from each other by a minimum of 50 ft. of space. Example: 350 ft of land/beach area would be required to operate two active sites.

10.3 Water Markers

Markers (see equipment definitions), shall be placed in judging areas for the purpose of establishing regulated points of distance or swim patterns.

- Water markers shall be individually anchored.
- At no time shall any kind of roping connect water markers to each other.

- Water markers, used to determine distances 60 ft. and 100 ft from the shoreline, shall be placed in the water prior to the start of the day's judging and shall remain in the water until the end of the sports event.
- Land markers and water pattern markers may be placed just before and removed after their purpose has been served in a task.

Section 11 Grievance Procedures

11.1 Complaints & Protests:

Complaints: Any person observing a violation of regulations or who is not satisfied with the manner in which a water event is being conducted, may bring their observations and concerns to the Event Secretary.

Protests: A handler dissatisfied with a judge's decision regarding the handler's performance or any act or lack of action by a Judge or Steward may seek an explanation or remedy from the presiding judge. If the handler is not satisfied with such explanation or remedy the handler may then bring verbal protest to the Event Secretary.

11.2 Resolutions:

The Event Secretary shall investigate all verbal complaints brought to the attention of the Secretary by a complainant. The Secretary shall take action to resolve the problem. The Secretary shall have the authority to mediate disputes, issue warnings, and or expel persons and dogs from the event grounds. If the complainant is not satisfied with the Secretary's handling of the matter the complainant shall be given the option to file a formal written complaint to Canine Water Sports.

Protests about a judge's ruling shall only be made by the handler effected by the judge's ruling. If such verbal protest is made, the Secretary shall review the facts and the regulations concerning the issue at hand. **Generally, all decision by a judge concerning the evaluation of a team's performance or working conditions shall be final.** However, if the Secretary finds the issue is clearly defined in the regulations and the judge was in error the Secretary shall respectfully bring the conflict to the attention of the judge. If the judge does not rescind the original ruling the handler shall be given the option to file a formal written protest.

11.3 Intent to File:

Complainants shall give verbal notice to the Secretary of their intent to file a formal written protest or complaint. The Secretary shall issue a complaint/protest form to the complainant and record the name, address and phone number of the complainant.

11.4 Formal Complaint/Protest:

A complainant who wishes to have their complaint or protest reviewed by Canine Water Sports shall deliver or mail their formal written complaint/protest to the Event Secretary within seven days. If the Secretary does not receive the complaint/protest within seven days of the water event the complaint/protest shall be considered invalid. Canine Water Sports shall not be obligated to investigate such invalid complaints/protests. All valid complaints and protests shall be attached to the Secretary's Event Report and forwarded to Canine Water Sport for further review and findings.

11.5 Canine Water Sports Review:

The Canine Water Sports Review Board shall acknowledge all valid complaints/protests within 21 days of receiving a complaint or protest. The Canine Water Sports Review Board shall review the complaint or protest and shall make a finding within a reasonable time. Complainants and all effected parties shall be notified of the Board's findings. All decisions by the Canine Water Sports review board shall be final.