

Canine Team Swim Work
(1) Qualifying Team Swim Merit Entry Level

Task Summary:

The handler shall remain in the starter's box with the dog for a timed 30 second duration. The team shall then move together into the water to the 35 foot line. The handler shall stop at or beyond the 35 foot marker and face the judge. The handler will then cue the dog to circle the handler. When the dog has made a full circle the team (dog & handler) shall swim to the beginning of the marked swim course on the 60 foot line. The team shall then swim a weave pattern between four water markers and return to the starter's box.

Time limit: None

Time Requirements: None.

Team Equipment: Canine Life Jacket Required

Site Equipment:

One water marker, in line with the starter's box, positioned 35 feet out into the water from the shoreline. Four swim markers, anchored separately, about twenty feet apart, set in a row that appears parallel to the shoreline. The row of markers shall be positioned at or about 60 feet from the shoreline.

Classification of Standards: None.

Prescripts:

The handler may gently restrain the dog by the life jacket before entering the starter's box. Upon entering the box the handler shall place the dog in a static position, such as sit, down or stand, and the dog shall remain in that position for a duration of 30 seconds. The handler may move within the box. The timing shall begin once the dog is placed. Upon entering the box the handler shall not deliberately touch the dog until the end of the task. Upon leaving the box the handler shall walk forward, facing the water, and shall walk or swim forward toward the water until the handler stops at or beyond the 35 foot line near the 35 foot marker. The dog shall remain within a 6 ft radius of the handler at all times. The dog shall not paw, climb on or interfere with the handler's movement during any portion of the swim. After stopping at or beyond the 35 foot line the handler shall make every effort to remain in the same place, facing the judge, while the dog completes the swim around the handler. The handler must swim with the dog when the team leaves the 35 foot line stop over. All travel by the handler, on the waterward side of the 35ft line shall be by swimming. The handler may stop swimming at any time, but all travel motions shall be through swimming, not wading when on the waterward side of the 45 ft line. The handler may wade or walk on the shore side of the 35 ft line. The team may enter the marked swim course from either end, but must enter and pass the first marker from the waterward side, the side furthest from shore. The swim pattern between the four markers shall require the team to enter and swim together toward shore between the 1st and 2nd marker, then swim between the 2nd and 3rd markers going away from shore and then between the 3rd and 4th marker going back toward shore. The dog shall not deviate from the weave pattern and shall not grab or mouth a marker. The dog may not enter the swim markers before the handler initiates the pattern and once the team starts the pattern they shall complete it before going to shore.

Task:

- Upon signal from the judge, the team shall enter the starter's box to begin a 30 second stay.
- Upon signal from the judge, the team shall leave the box and walk or swim out into the water, the handler shall stop at or beyond the 35 ft marker line, turn and face the shore.
- Without further direction from the judge the handler shall cue the dog to complete a full circle around the handler.
- The dog shall immediately swim a complete circle around the handler while the handler remains standing or treading water in the same spot.
- Upon completion of the circle, as acknowledged by the judge, the team (handler & dog) shall swim casually, together, to the beginning of the marked swim course.
- The team shall then swim a zigzag or weave pattern between the markers.
- Upon completion of the weave course the team shall swim casually back to shore and enter the starter's box together.
- The task ends upon the judge's signal.