



RING SPORT DECOY GUIDEBOOK

Revision A

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CHAPTER 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Definition

- 1.1.1 The trial decoy is a skilled individual who wears a protective costume designed to limit the effect of the bites of a dog that a handler presents for competition in a protection sport.
- 1.1.2 The decoy is the judge's assistant. He or she must follow the judge's directives. The decoy's work is the responsibility of the judge; he or she must work according to the judge's instructions in order to permit the judge to differentiate between the competitors. The decoy's role is not to measure himself or herself against the dog, but to help the judge by highlighting the dog's qualities and weaknesses.
- 1.1.3 A decoy is never authorized to work his or her own dog in a trial, regardless of handler.

1.2 Costume

- 1.2.1 Both the arms and the legs of the decoy's costume must provide a biting surface at least 7 centimeters in depth and 3 centimeters in thickness. The costume must conform to the conditions established by the Groupes de Travails in collaboration with the CUN-CBG. The materials from which the costume is made must not be unusual in such a way that they present an unsafe condition for the dog. Similarly, any closures used must be sufficiently covered by protective material to limit the likelihood of them causing injury to the dog.
- 1.2.2 The judge must verify that the decoys' costumes conform to these regulations prior to the start of the trial.

1.3 Baton

- 1.3.1 The only authorized baton is the regulation baton approved by the GTR which is specified as follows:
 - Bamboo split into 6 sections over three-quarters of its length.
 - Diameter: between 20 and 25 millimeters.
 - Length: between 65 and 80 centimeters.
 - The end of the baton must spread out *at least* 20 centimeters during the barrage.
 - The baton must not have any sharp edges, i.e. the edges of the split sections **MUST** be smoothed by some means.
- 1.3.2 The judge must verify that the batons conform to regulations prior to the start of the trial.

1.4 Qualifications

- 1.4.1 The role of the decoy may not be improvised. A NARA member who wishes to officiate in a trial as a decoy must first obtain his or her certification in a NARA-recognized decoy selection.
- 1.4.2 Anyone wishing to become a NARA decoy must be a NARA member at least 16 years of age, a citizen of the USA or its territories, or must have established permanent residence therein (proof required), **AND** must be a member of a NARA-recognized club. A NARA decoy must certify/recertify in the United States of America or its territories.
- 1.4.3 All applicants for a decoy selection (regardless of level) *must* present an original doctor's health certificate no more than 30 days old indicating that the applicant is eligible to participate in violent sports and documentation of current Tetanus vaccination.

- 1.4.4 After a successful selection, the decoy must send a copy of the health certificate and Tetanus shot documentation to the NARA DOD.
- 1.4.5 All applicants for a Level 2 or Level 3 selection must present a valid NARA-recognized decoy book.
- 1.4.6 Decoys must arrange for the use of a dog capable of performing at Brevet and Ring 3 for the Level 1 selection and two dogs capable of performing at Ring 3 for Level 2 or the Decoy Super Selection (DSS). For the DSS, the candidate will work one of the dogs with which he or she registers (familiar dog), and the other dog will be included in a drawing from which all the candidates randomly draw the second dog (randomly drawn dog). It is not the Hosting Club's or NARA's responsibility to supply dogs for any decoy selection.
- 1.4.7 Decoy candidates must be able to comply with the conditions imposed by the organizer of the selection (schedules, order of passage, accompanying dogs, costume, revolver, bullets).
- 1.4.8 All selected decoys **MUST** send a copy of the inside cover of their Decoy Book and all trials in which the decoy participates each year to the NARA DOD, without which, they will not be considered to be "active" decoys, and will not be allowed to decoy any trials. Certified decoys under the age of 18 years may not officiate at NARA-sanctioned trials.
- 1.4.9 The organizer of a decoy selection must send the results of the selection to the NARA Secretary or DOD.

1.5 Level 1 Selections

- 1.5.1 Level 1 selections may be offered upon request by NARA clubs provided a qualified NARA-recognized judge is scheduled to preside.
- 1.5.2 A Level 1 decoy candidate may attempt a selection at any NARA-sanctioned event. In the case of a failure to select, the Level 1 decoy candidate may not attempt another selection for at least 2 weeks.
- 1.5.3 The duration of a Level 1 selection is 4 years.
- 1.5.4 There is a possibility of the decoy's certification being renewed for four years without passing another selection under the following conditions:
 - 1.5.4.1 Must have officiated in at least four trials at Ring I or above, under three different judges, with favorable reports, during the two years preceding the request for renewal.
 - 1.5.4.2 Must make a written request to the DOD before the expiration date of his or her current selection. The request must include copies of the inside pages of the decoy book, a copy of a medical certificate less than one year old authorizing the practice of violent sports, a copy of his or her current membership card, and a stamped envelope for the reply.
- 1.5.5 A Level 1 decoy may officiate in club trials comprised of Brevet, Ring I, Ring II and Ring III. A Level 1 decoy may officiate at Regional Championships provided a Level 2 decoy is also officiating at Ring III. A Level 1 decoy may not officiate at the NARA Championship trial. A Level 1 decoy may not officiate outside the United States or its territories.

1.6 Level 2 Selections

- 1.6.1 Level 2 selections may be offered upon request by NARA clubs provided a qualified NARA-recognized judge is scheduled to preside.

- 1.6.2 Level 2 selections are open to any NARA-recognized Level 1 decoy who has officiated in at least four trials (excluding Brevet) under three different judges with favorable reports, and having officiated in Ring II or Ring III in at least three of those trials.
- 1.6.3 A decoy selected as Level 2 is expected and considered to have attained the level of *complete* competence. This means that:
 - 1.6.3.1 The decoy has the knowledge of the rules to respond quickly and appropriately to the actions of the dog to assist the judge effectively in the assessing of the penalties for the exercise.
 - 1.6.3.2 The decoy has sufficient physical stamina to effectively officiate in trials where there may be numerous dogs of high level.
 - 1.6.3.3 The decoy is sufficiently skilled in opposing the dog *within the limitations of the rules* that he or she can effectively assist the judge in identifying the flaws within each exercise.
 - 1.6.3.4 Above all, the decoy must demonstrate that he or she has the safety of the dog as his or her primary concern, and must never resort to brutality or main force to achieve his or her objective.
- 1.6.4 The duration of a Level 2 selection is four years.
- 1.6.5 There is a possibility of the decoy's certification being renewed for four years without passing another selection under the following conditions:
 - 1.6.5.1 Must have officiated in at least four trials at Ring II or above under at least three different judges, with favorable reports, during the two years preceding the request for renewal.
 - 1.6.5.2 Must make a written request to the DOD before the expiration date of his or her current selection. The request must include copies of the inside pages of the decoy book, a copy of a medical certificate less than one year old authorizing the practice of violent sports, a copy of his or her current membership card, and a stamped envelope for the reply.
- 1.6.6 The Level 2 decoy may officiate in club trials comprised of Brevet, Ring I, Ring II and Ring III. The Level 2 decoy may officiate at Regional Championships and Championship trials. The Level 2 decoy may officiate outside the country and for other organizations with the approval of the NARA DOD.

1.7 Level 3 Selections (Decoy Super Selection)

- 1.7.1 Level 3 status may only be obtained through successful participation in the Decoy Super Selection (DSS) conducted annually at the NARA Championship trial.
- 1.7.2 Level 3 selections are offered to any decoy of Level 2 or 3. Level 2 and 3 decoys may present as often as they wish for a Level 3 selection. A NARA Level 1 decoy may not participate in the DSS to obtain Level 2 status, nor may a new decoy candidate may attempt a Level 1 selection as part of the DSS.
- 1.7.3 The duration of the Level 3 selection is two seasons. In the event of a successful Level 3 selection, the decoy is automatically renewed for four years at Level 2. A decoy who earns Level 2 status at the DSS is certified at Level 2 for four years.
- 1.7.4 *All* decoys who wish to participate in the NARA DSS must notify the NARA DOD prior to the selection.
- 1.7.5 A Level 3 decoy is authorized for the same activities as a Level 2 decoy. Level 3 decoys will be given priority, according to placement, for invitation to NARA prestige events including Regional Championships, the NARA Championship trial and international competitions, beginning with the most recent DSS followed by the previous year's DSS. The next order of priority for officiating in these events shall go to DSS participants who scored in the Level 2 range, first in the most recent DSS, followed by the previous year's DSS.
- 1.7.6 The Level 3 selection protection exercises require the candidate to provide two dogs, one of which will be used by the candidate, the other selected by random drawing by the candidate. The candidate is responsible to register for the selection with two dogs. In the event of a withdrawal, the candidate is responsible to provide a replacement dog. The same dog may be registered with a maximum of two decoys per selection. A decoy who does not present himself or herself with two dogs will not be able to participate in the selection.

1.8 Protocol of Level 1 & 2 Selections

- 1.8.1 Written exam
 - 1.8.1.1 Candidates for NARA Level 1 and Level 2 decoy status must pass a written exam comprised of 20 questions pertaining to the rules. The candidates have 15 minutes to complete the exam, and must score at least 14 points (1 point per question) to pass.
 - 1.8.1.2 Other questions may be posed verbally thereafter at the judge's discretion throughout the remainder of the selection.
- 1.8.2 Physical Tests
 - 1.8.2.1 Candidates who obtain at least 14 points on the written exam are eligible to advance to the physical tests, which consist of four exercises: running, slalom, hurdles and flexibility.
 - 1.8.2.2 The minimum passing score for the physical tests is an average of 14 points $((\text{running score} + \text{slalom score} + \text{hurdle score} + \text{flexibility score})/4 = 14 \text{ or higher})$ in order to be eligible to advance to the protection exercises.
 - 1.8.2.3 A candidate is required to complete all of the physical exercises, even if he or she has earned the required points prior to completing all the exercises as it is possible to earn negative points in the hurdle and flexibility exercises.

1.8.2.9 Scale of points for physical tests:

Physical Tests for Level 1, 2 Selections					
Running		Slalom		Hurdles / Flexibility	
Time (minutes)	Points	Time (minutes)	Points	Time (minutes)	Points
3:05	20	1:35	20	0:30	20
3:15	19	1:36	19	0:31	19
3:25	18	1:37	18	0:33	18
3:35	17	1:38	17	0:35	17
3:45	16	1:39	16	0:37	16
3:55	15	1:40	15	0:39	15
4:05	14	1:41	14	0:41	14
4:15	13	1:42	13	0:43	13
4:25	12	1:43	12	0:45	12
4:35	11	1:44	11	0:47	11
4:45	10	1:45	10	0:49	10
4:55	9	1:46	9	0:51	9
5:05	8	1:47	8	0:53	8
5:15	7	1:48	7	0:55	7
5:25	6	1:49	6	0:57	6
5:35	5	1:50	5	1:00	5
5:45	4	1:51	4	1:02	4
5:55	3	1:52	3	1:04	3
6:05	2	1:53	2	1:06	2
6:15	1	1:54	1	1:08	1

1.8.3 Protection Exercises

1.8.3.1 Test of technique for Level 1:

With a dog capable of working at Ring I level or higher:

- Defense of Handler and Face Attack (Brevet)
- Attack with Revolver and Flee Attack (Ring I)

With a dog capable of working at Ring III:

- Attack with Revolver, Defense of Handler, Flee Attack, Search and Escort, Face Attack, Guard of Object and Stopped Attack (Ring III)

1.8.3.2 Test of technique for Level 2:

With a dog capable of working at Ring II or higher:

- Defense of Handler and Face Attack (Brevet)
- Face Attack, Search and Escort and Attack with Revolver (Ring II)

With a dog capable of working at Ring III:

- Attack with Revolver, Defense of Handler, Flee Attack, Search and Escort, Face Attack, Guard of Object and Stopped Attack (Ring III)