



**National Association of Canine Scent Work, LLC<sup>®</sup>**  
**(NACSW<sup>™</sup>)**  
**OFFICIAL RULE BOOK**  
**THE SPORT OF**  
**K9 NOSE WORK<sup>®</sup>**

Version 7.2 March 22, 2013

**NACSW™**  
**K9 NOSE WORK® RULE BOOK**  
Version 7.2: March 22, 2013

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## PREFACE

### **What is K9 Nose Work®?**

The sport of K9 Nose Work®, created by the founders of NACSW™, was inspired by detection style training for working K9s and has elements that are founded in that type of training and work. *K9 Nose Work®* is the term that specifically defines this detection-inspired sport that is governed and sanctioned by the National Association of Canine Scent Work, LLC®.

One of the many challenges faced by working K9s and their handlers is encountering new environments and scenarios daily. This challenge will be reflected in the sport through differing search environments and requirements of each location. Additionally, the environment may change throughout the day due to uncontrollable factors such as weather. **Therefore the general rules and guidelines will apply, but handlers and dogs may encounter variations at each trial.**

### **K9 Nose Work® Trials:**

Trials may be held for the purpose of competition, titling, or both. Only NACSW™ sanctioned trials however may award the official nose work titles (NW1™, NW2™, NW3™). Additionally, the trials and prerequisite Odor Recognition Testing must be sanctioned by an NACSW™ Certifying Official with an NACSW™ approved judge.

## **National Association of Canine Scent Work, LLC® (NACSW™)**

The National Association of Canine Scent Work, LLC® (NACSW™) sets the standards governing the sport of K9 Nose Work®. NACSW™ is the only official organizing body for K9 Nose Work® titles and instructor certification (CNWI™). NACSW™ sanctioned events are open to any participant who is a current NACSW™ member in good standing.

### **Mission of NACSW™:**

The mission of the NACSW™ is to make the activity and sport of K9 Nose Work® safe, fun and fair for virtually every dog and dog lover through the sanctioning of all K9 Nose Work® activities, the training of all Certified Nose Work Instructors, and the officiating of all K9 Nose Work® Odor Recognition Tests and K9 Nose Work® Trials.

### **Contact Information:**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE SCENT WORK, LLC®

7510 Sunset Blvd., #1180

Los Angeles, CA 90046

Email:

For information about  
[membership@nacsw.net](mailto:membership@nacsw.net)

[trial@nacsw.net](mailto:trial@nacsw.net)

[ort@nacsw.net](mailto:ort@nacsw.net)

For general information please visit the website:

[www.NACSW.net](http://www.NACSW.net)

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## **Score Books & Rule Books:**

Official score books and rule books for the sport of K9 Nose Work® are maintained and made available through NACSW™. Please contact us for details at [membership@nacswnet](mailto:membership@nacswnet). Score books are not required for official documentation of records, but are available as a personal record of competition events.

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NACSW™ welcomes input in the development of this rulebook. Please email any questions, comments or corrections to [trial@nacsw.net](mailto:trial@nacsw.net) with the subject heading, "NACSW™ RULE BOOK."

## **NACSW™ Rule Book Version Number System**

The numbering system for identifying the edition of the NACSW™ rule book is as follows:

- If there are significant changes to trial structure, scoring, or title definitions, then a new numbered edition of the rulebook will be issued (i.e. 5.0, 6.0, 7.0).
- If there are only small language changes, typos, changes to the guidelines, wording clarifications, or other changes that do not affect titling or training the version number will be added under the existing version (i.e. 6.1, 6.2, 6.3).
- Major revisions to the rule book especially those that affect training will be announced with consideration for the time allotment for training adjustments. Other revisions will be published no later than the trial entry open date.

## **REQUIREMENTS & ELIGIBILITY**

### **For Odor Recognition Tests (ORTS) and Trials**

#### **Age & Health Requirements of Dogs**

Dogs participating in an Odor Recognition Test (ORT) must be at least six months of age. Dogs participating in a trial must be at least one year of age. All dogs must appear to be healthy on the event day and should be current on all vaccinations required by law. Any questions about medical or health conditions should be cleared by your veterinarian in order to participate.

#### **Age & Physical Requirements of Handlers, Volunteers and Spectators:**

Minimum age requirement for handlers is thirteen (13) years of age. An adult must accompany all handlers under the age of 16 at all times at official events. This adult may not be participating in the trial with another dog.

For minors who are not handling a dog, but will be attending an event, either as volunteers or spectators, the following policy applies.

- Volunteers must be at least 13 years of age.
- Anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- All minors must have a waiver signed by their legal parent or guardian. Adults supervising minors at the trial are responsible for the actions of the minor.
- Anyone aged 16-18 is not required to be supervised by an adult, however must have a waiver signed by their legal parent or guardian.

Trials frequently require covering extensive distances to get to and from the parking area to each of the search areas and movements are frequently done across natural, uneven surfaces depending on the trial location. Handlers and dogs therefore should be prepared for the physical demands and must be able to navigate the terrain accordingly. Participants should expect to spend most of the day outside or in their vehicles as there are rarely indoor crating options at ORTs or trials.

#### **NACSW™ Membership:**

Handlers must be current members of NACSW™ in order to compete in an NACSW™ sanctioned trial or ORT event and must have registered their dogs with NACSW. Registration is available online at <http://www.nacsw.net>.

*Note: Organizers wishing to sponsor an NACSW™ sanctioned event should contact the organization directly to review location parameters, testing requirements and Certifying Officials for all trials and ORTs. Please visit our website at: <http://www.nacsw.net> for more information.*

#### **Purpose of the ORT:**

The ORT verifies the dog's recognition of the odor used in trial and the handler's ability to correctly call the location of the source of odor. In order to enter a trial, a dog must have passed the ORT (Odor Recognition Test) required for that particular trial and/or title level according to NACSW™ specifications. The NACSW™ will verify ORT and title completion for each trial entry. Titles will not be granted to any dog that has not previously passed the ORT designated for the particular title level. Titles must also be achieved in succession, NW1™, NW2™, and NW3™, etc. ORT records will be kept on file with NACSW™ and may be confirmed in advance by contacting NACSW™ directly.

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**Trial Readiness:**

The ORT is not necessarily a measure of trial readiness. Though a dog still fairly new to training may pass the odor recognition test, they may not be ready for the rigors of a trial. The trial takes place over the course of a full day and may present many environmental challenges to the team. The average time frame for training to trial readiness is about one year. Most handlers and dogs by that time have learned all of the elements of competition and have practiced those elements in many locations, under time pressure with the guidance of an instructor. The NACSW™ offers this guideline in the hopes that handlers will provide a long enough training period for the dog. This will allow for both dog and handler to have a more enjoyable and successful experience at trial.

## **ODOR RECOGNITION TEST (ORT)**

**ORT – Overview**

Trial entry requires that handler/dog teams must have passed the appropriate Odor Recognition Test (ORT) in advance of the trial. All handler/dog teams should have met the eligibility requirements and read this rulebook which applies to both trials and ORTs. The purpose of the ORT is to verify that the dog knows the target odor (scent) used in competition. Please note that the ORT is not a measurement of trial readiness but rather only recognition of the odor to be used at trial. Successfully passing an ORT requires a dog to identify the location of the target odor and the handler to correctly call an alert (or equivalent) within a three-minute time period. The Odor Recognition Test must be evaluated by an NACSW™ appointed judge and sanctioned by an NACSW™ Certifying Official. The test may be conducted indoors or outdoors as approved by the NACSW™, but should be stated on the entry premium.

The ORT is a pass or miss test within the time limit. No scoring, faults, placements or times are recorded as they would be for trials.

**ORT – Test Specifications**

The Odor Recognition Test is a type of container search exercise. The ORT requires 12 closed cardboard boxes set up in a pattern of one or two rows with each box set a minimum distance of 48” apart from box edge to box edge. The NACSW™ official may approve adjustments depending on space and location limitations. The ORT is to be conducted on leash and no deliberate distractors should be included. One of the boxes will be the ‘target box’, which will contain the target odor being tested. If multiple odors are being tested at an event, each odor will be tested individually. All of the other boxes should be reasonably new, and uncontaminated by odor, food, or other distracting smells. The target box should contain scented cotton swabs that are not visible to the handler and are secured to the inside of the box. Handlers should prepare for variation in strength and quantity of cotton swabs. The test uses three, half-swabs scented with the target odor. The recommended standard box should not exceed 6” in height, but may otherwise have variation of the dimensions.

The target box shall remain in the same place for all of the dogs participating in the ORT for that particular odor, except for handlers running a second dog where allowed, or ORT events where multiple odors are being tested. The ORT shall be conducted out of sight of all entered dogs and handlers who have not yet tested. Once all handlers/dogs have completed the ORT, handlers may run a second dog on the ORT after the target box has been moved to a new position. The same applies to ORTs for the second and third odors to be tested. There may be lingering odor in the case of multi-dog or multi-odor tests depending on space limitations. The Certifying Official will make the best effort to eliminate or minimize these conditions, but handlers should be aware that the possibility exists. The number of dogs per handler per odor is set by the ORT host based on location and time restrictions.

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People approved to be in the testing area during an ORT include NACSW™ officials, approved NACSW™ guests, approved ORT staff, adults accompanying a minor, approved CNWI/ANWI for training purposes, or immediate family members/friends of the dog/handler team being tested. Participants in an ORT may not be spectators for other participants regardless of relationship. Any other spectators must be approved in advance by the NACSW™. The ORT Certifying Official has the right to limit spectators at their discretion. ORT participants may have a friend or family member video/photograph their test. **ORT participants may not video/photograph one another.** ORT hosts are not obligated to provide someone to video/photograph.

The NACSW™ Certifying Official will provide a 'handler's briefing' to review the test and location parameters. A start line (threshold) will be indicated, and the handler may take up to 10 seconds at the start line before beginning their search. The time starts when the dog's nose crosses the start line. The dog must enter the search area by crossing the start line. The handler and dog may pass up and down the rows in any pattern as many times as they choose. Handlers may direct the dog to the boxes, but may not touch the boxes. When the dog indicates the target box the handler should signal the judge by saying "ALERT" loudly and clearly. Once the judge has confirmed that the alert is correct, the handler may then reward the dog and the dog will pass the ORT. If the alert is not correct, the judge will direct the handler to the correct box\* for the dog's success. In this case the dog will not pass the ORT for that target odor. Dogs that do not pass must wait until the following day to retest. ORTs are scheduled as needed by NACSW™ and trial organizers.

The test may be stopped at the discretion of the judge or Certifying Official if at any time the judge deems the dog to be under undue stress.

*\*The goal of directing the dog to the correct box quickly is to avoid any possible stress for any dog due to prolonged searching in the event they either don't know the odor, or are having difficulty that day and to help maintain the integrity of the search area.*

### ORT – Summary

- 3-minute test
- On leash (any length leash)
- Equipment: flat collar or harness
- *No chokes, pinch collars, electronic collars, muzzles, or head halters during the actual search*
- 12 closed cardboard boxes in a line-type pattern (*minimal variation may be necessary due to location specs*)  
(11-1/8" x 8-3/4" x 4 is a typical size)
- Boxes may not be touched by handlers during the test
- 1 target odor per test
- Each additional odor at the test event will be a separate test
- Handlers with a second dog will have a separate test
- Time begins when the dog's nose crosses the start line
- No formal, final response is required, only the handler's ability to read the dog's indication.
- The time will stop when the Handler calls 'Alert', indicating their dog has located the box with the target odor.
- Handler may reward the dog when the judge has confirmed the correct target box. Handler should reward next to the box to minimize contamination, and should minimize food dropped on the floor or toys disturbing the search area.

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## **ORT – Required odor for trial entry**

The ORTs may be achieved in any order and may also be done on the same testing day in separate tests if so organized by the host. If, however, a handler wishes to compete for a title, they must achieve the ORT for the first title level, NW1™, which is Birch, since the titles must be achieved in succession. The results may be recorded in the dog's score book for the handler's records and a record of their test will be kept on file with NACSW™.

**ORT (Birch):** Must pass the ORT for Odor #1; required for NW1™ eligibility

**ORT (Anise):** Must pass the ORT for Odor #2; required for NW2™ eligibility

**ORT (Clove):** Must pass the ORT for Odor #3; required for NW3™ eligibility

## **NACSW™ ORT & TRIAL REGULATIONS**

**Prior to participating in a NACSW™ event, it is the responsibility of each competitor to read and understand the current NACSW™ Rule book.**

Sportsman-like behavior is expected from all attendees, towards each other, and towards the judges and trial organizers. NACSW™ rules are in effect during the entire trial or ORT from the time you arrive until the time you leave the trial grounds at the end of the trial day.

Minor rule additions or adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances may apply on the day of the event. Handlers will be notified of any day-of changes at the handler's briefing before the start of each trial

Any questions or concerns regarding anything that happens at a trial, such as dismissal or disciplinary action, should be directed to the Certifying Official on trial day, or to the Trial Committee at: [trialCommittee@nacsw.net](mailto:trialCommittee@nacsw.net) after the event. An incident report may be filed, if applicable, with the NACSW™ by the Certifying Official or the Trial Committee.

- Details of the event must be clearly stated - date, location, extenuating circumstances, necessary contact information, etc.
- The Trial Committee will respond to appeals in writing within 15 business days
- The decision to uphold, reject, or modify the dismissal or disciplinary action will be final

**No entry fees will be refunded if the trial or ORT cannot open or be completed by reason of riots, civil disturbances, fire, Act of God, public emergency, act of a public enemy, strike or any other cause beyond the control of the organizers.**

### **Search Area Regulations:**

- Handlers must be current members in good standing with NACSW™.
- The same handler must handle the dog for all the elements in a single trial. At an ORT, a single handler must handle a dog for a single test. Each odor is an additional test and you may utilize a different handler for another test.
- Each handler/dog team should be on deck before their turn for each search element or test.
- Handlers may talk to and/or communicate with their dog throughout the competition or test.
- Any questions for the judge or concerns about the search should be addressed in the handler's briefing. Once the trial or ORT has begun, the handler should direct questions to the judge's steward at the time of the search or NACSW™ Certifying Official after the search. The judge may step in to clarify any questions.
- The time starts when the dog's nose crosses the start line or threshold. Handlers may take up to 10 seconds to stand at the start line or threshold before beginning the search. If the start line

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includes a closed door, they may open the door as part of the 10-second window. The dog must enter the search area by crossing the start line.

- The timer may be instructed to give a 30 second (time remaining) warning for all levels – NW1/NW2/NW3™ and at ORTs. Additionally at the NW3™ level the timer may be instructed to give a 10 second (time remaining) warning. When this is the case, the timer will make every effort to give this warning, but situations may occur where the warning is not given.
- Handlers may carry the dog's reward with them at all times (food, toys, etc). Handlers should take care not to contaminate the search areas with their rewards. At a trial, faults may be assessed at the judges' discretion if the handler has compromised the search area. See the Scoring Section for more details.

### Equipment for Dogs and Handlers:

- **Handlers:** Handlers should wear comfortable clothing with safety in mind, which includes rubber-soled, closed-toe shoes unless they obtain a waiver in advance that special clothing is required for medical reasons. Handlers may also wear special training clothing and equipment, i.e. vests, hats, bait bags, etc. Handlers may wear head cameras at ORTs, but no video is permissible at a trial.
- **Dogs:** Flat collars, martingale collars, limited slip, harnesses and leashes (any length as well as Flexi) are the only permitted equipment during the search. No electronic or remote training devices may be used at any time. Dogs may not wear cameras during ORT or trial searches.
- Accessories for dogs are allowed if they are deemed to be for the wellbeing, comfort, or safety of the dog – for example boots, jackets, sweaters, hair pins. If the Certifying Official or Judge deems that the equipment interferes with the search, is a safety concern, or exhibits inappropriate advertising, you may be asked to remove the accessory from the dog before the search begins. Accessories that emit an odor (for example DAP collars) are not permitted in the search area. Muzzles are not permitted to be worn on trial grounds. If you have a specific concern or question about a particular piece of equipment, email [trial@nacsww.net](mailto:trial@nacsww.net) at least 14 days prior to the trial date.
- Panties are required on bitches in season. Handlers wishing to have their dog wear panties for medical reasons may submit a request to [trial@nacsww.net](mailto:trial@nacsww.net) at least 14 days prior to the trial date. Requests must be submitted for each ORT or trial. Approval for one event does not guarantee approval for future events. If the request is approved, a note from a veterinarian confirming the medical condition will be required on the day of the event.

### Dismissals and Disciplinary Action:

At an NACSW™ Sanctioned event (including, but, not limited to, K9 Nose Work® Trial or Odor Recognition Test), the Certifying Official, Trial Representative, or Event Host has the right to ask any person, whether they are entered in the event or not, to leave the event grounds, without any expectation of refund of any fees associated with the event (Request to Leave). Such Request to Leave can be for any just cause, such as where the handler and/or dog is behaving in a manner that is against the rules of the Host or NACSW™, or for other reasons that may cause a safety hazard.

The just causes for which a Request to Leave may be issued to a person on the trial grounds include, but are not limited to:

- Abuse towards another person or dog
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Acting in a manner that could endanger another person or dog, including not having control of their dog(s)
- Dog(s) acting in a manner that could endanger another person or dog
- Acting in a manner that could cause the loss of an event site or hotel
- Not following NACSW™ rules or event rules set forth in the premium

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Any aggressive act by a dog towards a person or another dog may result in the offending dog being dismissed from the event at the Certifying Official's or Trial Representative's discretion. Any physical contact made by the offending dog to a dog or human may result in dismissal from all future events.

If a dog or handler is dismissed from the event, the Certifying Official or Trial Representative will fill out an "Incident Report Form" and the handler or dismissed person will receive a copy of the form. The Certifying Official will notify the NACSW™ of the incident with 48 hours and a copy of the incident report form will also be submitted to the NACSW™ within 7 days of the incident. If the person leaves prior to receiving a copy of the form, the form will be sent via email to the email address on record for membership with the NACSW™.

Severe or repeated aggression may result in the dog being permanently barred from entering any future NACSW™ sanctioned events.

## **Safety & Location Regulations:**

- There should be no training or non-official use of odor on trial or ORT grounds during the event.
- Alcohol is not permitted on trial grounds.
- Smoking may be restricted or prohibited based on location restrictions. Please show consideration to other participants if smoking is allowed at a location.
- Dogs should use the designated potty area only so as not to interfere with any search areas and respect the requirements of the trial location.
- Handlers are responsible for cleaning up after their dog and may be dismissed if they do not.
- Handlers should ensure that their dog keeps a safe distance (minimum of eight feet) from any other dog unless there is express consent from both handlers that the dogs may interact.
- Dogs must be on leash at all times unless they are conducting an official off leash search as part of the event. Dogs must be on a 6' or shorter leash when not in the competition search area. Flexi leashes are not permitted except during ORT or trial searches. This applies to event participants, trial organizers, volunteers, and spectators. Note: If changing leashes or other equipment before starting an on leash search, you must keep your dog under physical control at all times. This means keeping a hold of your dog by a leash or collar while switching gear.
- No dogs may be left unattended except when properly kenneled or in secured vehicles.
- In the event of extreme weather conditions, participants should be prepared to keep their dog adequately warm or cool in their vehicles or in crates adjacent to their vehicles. In the case of high air temperatures, dogs must be crated with adequate shade, ventilation and access to water. Dogs may not be loose in vehicles with open windows, or tied to a vehicle or other stationary object. Competitors should expect to keep their dogs confined when not competing. The logistics of a trial typically do not allow for dogs to hang out on leash in between searches. Competitors should plan to provide their own shade using canopies or shade cloths.
- It is the handler's responsibility to ensure the safety of their dogs working in the search areas. There will be no deliberately dangerous obstacles, but NACSW™ is not responsible for unforeseen hazards. It is up to the handler to determine if they feel it is safe for their dog. No refunds will be offered if a handler chooses to withdraw from a trial or ORT.
- Bitches in season are allowed to compete in NACSW™ trials. Bitches in season may be allowed at ORTs depending on location logistics. Please check with the ORT host if this will apply to you. They will run as last dog of the element at a trial, and as last dog of the day at an ORT. They will also be required to wear panties. Handlers of bitches in season will keep the dog confined in their car and out of the general crating/parking area until their turn as the location permits. They will also potty the dog out of the vicinity of the other dogs when the trial location allows for a secondary potty area.

## **Multiple Dogs:**

- At this time, a handler may not handle multiple dogs in the same trial. Handlers may be permitted to enter multiple dogs on different trial days of a multiple day event if the trial host is offering that

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option. Owners may enter multiple dogs in the same trial provided there is a different handler for each dog. **All handlers must be current NACSW™ members and all dogs must be registered with the NACSW™.**

- ORTs may offer a second dog per handler option depending on location and time constraints. Please check with the ORT host to see if this applies for each individual ORT.

## **Video Taping and Photography:**

Videos and photos of trial competition or trial competition areas are not allowed except by NACSW™ approved photographers/videographers. No portion of any event may be videotaped or photographed for commercial or other purposes without written authorization from NACSW™. All photographs, video broadcast, and telecast rights for NACSW™ events are the exclusive property of NACSW™.

As a condition of entering a trial or ORT, handlers agree to allow NACSW™, or their agents, to video both the handler and their dog, during the entirety of the NACSW™ event. These videos are the property of NACSW™. All competitors, through entry at any NACSW™ event, waive any and all rights relative to video broadcast or photography of such event.

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**TITLE DESIGNATIONS**  
**LEVELS OF THE WORKING TITLES**

**Prequalifier for Title Trial Entry:**

ORT #1 (Birch) for NW1™  
ORT #2 (Anise) for NW2™  
ORT #3 (Clove) for NW3™

**Trial Titles:**

**NW1™**

*(Birch)*

**NW2™**

*(Birch, Anise)*

**NW3™**

*(Birch, Anise, Clove)*

*For the NW1™, NW2™, and NW3™ titles, the team must qualify in all four elements (Container, Interior, Exterior and Vehicle) at the same trial*

**NW3™ Element Titles:**

**NW3-C** *(NW3™ Container search)*

**NW3-I** *(NW3™ Interior search)*

**NW3-E** *(NW3™ Exterior search)*

**NW3-V** *(NW3™ Vehicle search)*

*These titles are for successfully passing an NW3™ element at three different trials. They are not the equivalent of the NW3™ title, which requires all four elements to be successfully passed at one trial. NW3™ Element titles may be achieved individually and/or before achieving the NW3™ title.*

**NW3 ELITE**

*This title is awarded for successfully passing the NW3™ title at three different trials.  
(Birch, Anise, Clove)*

**\*PRONOUNCED**

*(not a title, but see designation explanation on next page)*

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## **NACSW™ TITLES**

Titles may only be achieved at NACSW™ sanctioned events. A NACSW™ Certifying Official must be present at every trial and sanctioned events must be judged by NACSW™ appointed judges. The title requirements described in this edition of the rulebook are subject to change and will naturally evolve with competition. Competitors should make sure they have the most current version of the rulebook before trialing. The rule book is available on the NACSW™ website at: <http://www.nacsw.net>.

Eligibility for each title level is determined by a successfully completed ORT and other entry requirements. Those trialing for a title level must achieve full points for each element, must not exceed the time limit of the element, and not earn more than 3 faults overall in order to earn the title. At this time, the NW1™, NW2™ and NW3™ titles each require only one qualifying performance for that title. The NW3 Elite, and NW3-V, NW3-E, NW3-I, NW3-C all require three qualifying performances for title achievement. Only one title level, (NW1™, NW2™, NW3™), may be granted at any given trial and these titles must be achieved in succession.

Competitors must wait a minimum of 14 days before entering another trial for the next title level. Multiple titles per dog are not possible during one trial weekend.

Scorebooks are not required for official records and are optional for the participant. Trial participants' scores may be posted in their individual score book by the score room and signed by the Certifying Official and a judge.

The titles are awarded to the dog, but the handler/dog team is judged overall in the competition. Each level of ORT and title may include a different handler as long as the handler is a member of NACSW™. Trial organizers however may require waivers for handling dogs not owned by the handler.

## **PRONOUNCED**

The judges may 'Pronounce' handler/dog teams demonstrating exceptional technique and/or teamwork at each trial and title level. This is not part of the title, but rather an acknowledgement of exceptional teamwork on that particular trial day.

The judges will evaluate the following elements in the teamwork:

Professionalism, handler and dog safety, observational skills, leash handling technique, off leash control, speed and efficiency, accuracy, stamina, enthusiasm, clarity of alert, odor obedience. Pronouncement will be solely at the discretion of the judge(s) for that trial.

The '*pronounced*' term requires a 100 point score but is not automatically awarded due to the score or comments. The nature of NACSW™ trials include the participation of several judges, each with their own interpretation and opinion on the teamwork they view in the element they are judging. Judges will note a "P" on element score sheets when they wish to recognize the technique and/or teamwork for that team, so that handlers may receive feedback and have understanding about areas of their searches that were most notable to that judge. At the trial end, all of the score sheets will be reviewed. Any handler/dog receiving a "P" on all 4 elements and having earned a 100 point score will receive the 'pronounced' designation for the trial. The 'P' is not considered part of your title. \*\*The score book will indicate a 'pronounced' designation with a 'P' but the title will be NW1™, NW2™, or NW3™.

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## TRIAL OVERVIEW

### **Trial Logistics and Guidelines:** (Preceding the start of competition)

- Handlers must check in with the check in/registration desk to confirm their entry and running order as applicable before the handler walk-through begins.
- There will be a handler's briefing to review rule updates for the trial location and search areas.
- There may be a walk through (without the dog) which provides the handler an opportunity to assess the search area for start lines and search boundaries. Competition search areas are meant to mimic real life situations. We will remove gross hazards that we are aware of (for example: rat poison); however the environment may not be pristine and there may be unidentified hazards. It is the handler's responsibility to determine how to safely navigate each environment with their dog. No refunds will be offered if a handler chooses to withdraw from a trial.
- A warm-up area will be designated with at least one identified hide. One handler/dog team at a time may use this area. Dogs on deck will have priority. This will also serve as a recovery area for dogs post-search.
- The number of hides per area or search will be specified during the walk through if applicable for that title level. Exceptions would include those that are competing for higher title levels which may require areas to be cleared or finished.
- Handlers will be informed of the total time for each search area element and point allotment at the handler's briefing.
- A running order will be posted in the handler staging area.
- Handlers may not observe other participants runs on the same trial day.

### **General Trial Regulations:**

- There should be no training or non-official use of odor on trial grounds.
- Handlers must receive permission from the judge to move items/objects/furniture in the search area.
- Handlers may not touch items/objects/furniture/vehicles in the search area without the judge's permission or unless other circumstances are specified by the CO at the handler's briefing.
- Most searches will be conducted on leash. The Interior search is the element most likely to offer an off leash option. If other elements include an off leash search, the location will dictate the circumstances for the dog's safety.
- At NW1™ the time will stop when the handler calls the alert by saying 'Alert'. At NW2™ the time will stop when the handler calls the final alert for the search area. For NW3™ the time will stop when the handler calls 'Finish' or 'Clear'. The 'Finish' or 'Clear' call must be made before time expires.
- The time does not stop between hides when there are multiple hides in a given search area.
- For NW2™ and NW3™, each interior search area will have its own time limit. The time for each area is independent of the times for the other areas. The time does not continue running as you move from one interior search area to another. The interior score will be a total of the multiple search area times.
- If the dog alerts (by offering an indication) it is not valid until the handler calls alert.
- An alternate way to call the alert may be defined by the Certifying Official on trial day if the conditions or do not make it conducive to hearing the word 'Alert' or if there are other mitigating circumstances.
- The official time will be based on the time displayed on the timing device and not based on the timer verbally indicating that time has expired.
- The handler may not call 'alert' in reference to a location that the dog is not currently indicating.
- Search Area etiquette: Faults may be given at the judges' discretion if the team has compromised the search area. Compromising the search area includes, but is not limited to: contaminating or damaging/destroying boxes or other items in the environment, dropping/leaving food/toy rewards in search areas, urinating/defecating, moving or touching objects without permission, etc.

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- The NACSW™ does not support visits to official trial locations prior to the trial date. Most trials are held on private property and we need to show respect to the property owners. Even when a location is public property, the NACSW™ does not condone practice at the trial location within 6 months of the trial date. The purpose of a K9 Nose Work® trial is for a dog to walk into a novel situation and search. Additionally, practice at the trial site will result in contamination that may adversely affect the competition.

## TRIAL ELEMENTS

Following are the elements that must be included in any K9 Nose Work® competition for title purposes. Each of the elements will be worth 25 points for a total possible 100 points overall. At each trial, there will be a maximum time limit set for each element. That time limit for the search cannot be exceeded if points are to be awarded. The elements may be presented in any order. The location of all hides will remain in the same spot for all competitors to allow for no total time differences in the search.

Note: for most trials, the time limit for each search area is typically between two and five minutes.

### ELEMENTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

(100-point total score)

- ◆ CONTAINER SEARCH
- ◆ EXTERIOR AREA SEARCH
- ◆ INTERIOR BUILDING SEARCH
- ◆ VEHICLE SEARCH

### CONTAINER SEARCH

The Container Search element of the competition is similar to the ORT that is required for trial entry. The NW1™ level typically includes a group of boxes set in any pattern (typically around 20 boxes). The container search may however include any shape or size box at the NW1™ level. Containers and/or luggage (or combination thereof) may be included at the NW2™ and NW3™ level and may be set in any arrangement with no minimum spacing distances. Additionally, the container search for NW2™ and NW3™ may also include distractor odors, such as but not limited to food, toys, and animal smells. Only one box (or container) will contain odor at the NW1™ level. NW2™ and NW3™ may include multiple or combination odors. The odor used will correspond to the title level requirement. Additional 'pre-cooked' and blank containers will be on stand-by for replacement should any of the containers be damaged. The search is conducted on leash, but any length leash may be used. Handlers are not permitted to touch the containers. Dogs may walk on the containers; however the judge may award a fault if they feel the dog is compromising the environment. The container search may be conducted indoors or outdoors. For NW1™, containers will be cardboard boxes of any shape or size. Containers at NW2™ and NW3™ may be cardboard boxes of any shape or size, luggage, paint cans, plastic bins, shoeboxes, or any similar type of actual container which may collect the scent.

### EXTERIOR AREA SEARCH

Each competition includes an outdoor search area. Examples of areas previously used include the exterior of a building, a parking lot, grassy field, courtyard, etc. This can be an especially difficult element because the competitors must train for a variety of distractions that are encountered outdoors. Dogs may have to search while coming across doggie odors, other animal smells (cats, gophers, rodents and other critters), litter, food trash, and simply the smells of the great outdoors. Additionally the dogs will have to search under all weather and wind conditions on trial day. The search may be conducted on or off leash and is set by the Certifying Official based on safety, and experience level of the dogs. The off leash option

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is rarely offered and would only occur if the search took place in a secured area (Like a fenced in tennis court for example). The exterior search area will be clearly identified by flags, cones, tape or other identifiers marking the perimeter of the search area. The hides will only be within the designated search area. However, dogs and handlers may move outside of those areas as part of their search pattern. Handlers may choose to enter the search area from any angle after the dog has crossed the designated start line, but the clock will begin once they cross the designated start. The search area and search time limit will be determined on a number of factors including, size, weather conditions, complexity, distractors and title level and will change with each trial location.

### **INTERIOR BUILDING SEARCH**

Each competition includes an interior building search that may include from one to three search areas depending on the title level. These are typically room-sized environments such as a kitchen, bathroom, conference room, office, or warehouse space. A single search area may include contiguous 'rooms' (For example: a master bedroom with adjoining bathroom). Often this portion of the competition is not open to spectators because the search areas may be small such as bathrooms and kitchens. The building could be any type of building such as a warehouse, school, church, restaurant, house, etc. The search may have on and off leash areas, depending on the particular trial requirements. The only search at a trial that may contain a blank area (a search area without odor) is the Interior Search at the NW3<sup>™</sup> level only.

### **VEHICLE SEARCH**

There may be up to five vehicles in the vehicle search, depending on the title level. Any type of vehicle may be used (car, motorcycle, truck, trailer, semi, etc). The search is of the exterior of the vehicles. Handlers may be assessed a fault if their dog excessively paws or damages the vehicle at the judge's discretion or if the safety of the dog is compromised. (for example if the dog disappears from view under the car). The handler will never need to open a vehicle door for their dog to locate the hide.

## TITLE REQUIREMENTS

### NW1™ Title Requirements

Each title is based on a perfect score of 100 points and no more than 3 faults. The maximum time for each element, as determined by the specific competition, must not be exceeded. Times for each NW1™ element are typically about three minutes, but generally do not exceed 5 minutes.

**NW1™ (Nose Work 1):** *Requires one qualifying trial of 100 points score with no more than 3 faults. All hides must be located.*

#### NW1™ Requirements & Parameters:

- Proficient in one odor: (*Birch*); must have ORT on file with NACSW™. Only odor #1, Birch, will be included for this title.
- One hide per element at this level. Only Birch may be used in each element.
- Element Specifications:
  - **Container Search:**
    - On leash
    - No intentional distractors
    - Container search will be boxes set in any arrangement with no distance specifications
    - Please see “Trial Elements” for more detail
  - **Interior Building Search:**
    - May be on or off leash as designated by the Certifying Official
    - No blank areas. (Search areas without odor that must be searched and deemed clear.)
    - Please see “Trial Elements” for more detail
  - **Exterior Area Search:**
    - On leash; may be off leash option but only if area is secure
    - Please see “Trial Elements” for more detail
  - **Vehicle Search:**
    - On leash
    - Up to three vehicles
    - Please see “Trial Elements” for more detail
- Alerts: Handler must call the alert, The dog is not required to exhibit any specific alert behavior for the alert to be valid. The judge however will be looking for a change in behavior from the dog.
- Height and accessibility of hides: Should be no more than approximately four (4) feet high. The source will be accessible to the dog (but may require the handler’s help to get close to the hide in some cases).

*A note about height: The height parameter is a general guideline provided for training purposes. No trial location will ever be the same. If a kitchen counter were 3 inches taller than the specified guideline, it would still be used for a hide location as long as the dog would be able to gain access to it with the handler’s help.*

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**NW2™ TITLE REQUIREMENTS**

Each title is based on a perfect score of 100 points and no more than 3 faults. The maximum time for each element, as determined by the specific competition, must not be exceeded. Times for each NW2™ area generally do not exceed 5 minutes.

**NW2™ (Nose Work 2) Requires one qualifying trial of 100 points score with no more than 3 faults. All hides must be located.**

NW2™ Requirements & Parameters:

- Proficient in two odors: (*Birch, Anise*); must have ORT on file with NACSW™. Only odors #1, Birch, and #2, Anise, will be included for this title. Each search area may contain odor #1 (Birch) and/or odor #2 (Anise), two of the same odor (Birch or Anise), or a combination odor of Anise/Birch.
- Number of hides will be stated on all elements. This information will be communicated to the handlers at the briefing. There will be one or two hides in each search area.
- If at any time a handler makes an incorrect call ('Alert'), they will not be given the opportunity to continue searching for additional hides in that element. NOTE: In the interior search, the competitor will not be allowed to continue searching the current interior search area, but they will be allowed to move on to any remaining interior search areas). They will keep the points for hides correctly located in that element prior to the incorrect call. The time awarded will be the time limit for that element or interior search area.
- Elements specifications:
  - **Container Search:**
    - Always on leash
    - At least one distractor\* (i.e. food, toys). Distractors will be within the containers used for the container search.
    - Containers may be boxes, luggage, or containers set in any arrangement.
    - Any combination of boxes, luggage and containers may be used.
    - The handler is required to identify the container containing the hide, they are not required to identify the specific location of the hide in the container.
    - Please see "Trial Elements" for more detail on container search areas
  - **Interior Building Search:**
    - May be on or off leash as designated by the Certifying Official
    - Two search areas
    - Please see "Trial Elements" for more detail on interior search areas
    - No blank areas. (Areas without odor that must be searched and deemed clear.)
  - **Exterior Area Search:**
    - On leash; may be off leash option but only if area is secure
    - Please see "Trial Elements" for more detail on exterior search areas
  - **Vehicle Search:**
    - On leash
    - Up to four vehicles. There may be multiple odors on vehicles.
    - Please see "Trial Elements" for more detail on vehicle search areas
- Alerts: Handler must call 'Alert' when the dog has communicated that he has found a hide. The judge however will be looking for a change in behavior in the dog. The judge may opt to consider the dog's final response behavior when considering a team for the 'Pronounced' designation.

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- Height & Accessibility of hides: Should be no more than approximately four (4) feet high. The odor will be accessible to the dog, but the source may not be. For example, the hide may be located in a file cabinet drawer.

*A note about height: The height parameter is a general guideline provided for training purposes. No trial location will ever be the same. If a kitchen counter were 3 inches taller than the specified guideline, it would still be used for a hide location.*

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**NW3™ TITLE REQUIREMENTS**

Each title is based on a perfect score of 100 points and no more than 3 faults. The maximum time for each element, as determined by the specific competition, must not be exceeded.

**NW3™ (Nose Work 3) Requires one qualifying trial of 100 points score and no more than 3 faults. All hides must be located, and all calls must be made.**

NW3™ Requirements & Parameters:

- Proficient in three odors: (*Birch, Anise, Clove*); must have ORT on file with NACSW™. All odors #1, Birch, and #2, Anise, and #3, Clove will be included for this title. Each search area may contain odor #1 (Birch) and/or odor #2 (Anise) and/or odor #3 (Clove) or a combination odor of any of the three odors or multiples of the same odor.
- Number of hides will not be stated on any of the elements. There may be one, two or three hides in the Container search, Vehicle, or Exterior. On the Interior, there may be zero, one, two or three hides in each interior area, but only one interior area has the possibility of zero hides (also known as the blank area).
- In each area the handler must locate all hides and correctly call 'Finish' before the time runs out. In the case handlers encounter a blank area, they must call 'Clear' (Note: If a handler calls 'Finish' instead of 'Clear' in a blank area, the call is still valid) before the time stops to achieve the points for that area. Warnings on remaining time may be issued by the time keeper. If at any time a handler makes an incorrect call ('Alert', 'Clear', or 'Finish'), they will not be given the opportunity to continue searching for additional hides in that element. NOTE: In the interior search, the competitor will not be allowed to continue searching the current interior search area, but they will be allowed to move on to any remaining interior search areas). They will keep the points for hides correctly located in that element prior to the incorrect call. The time awarded will be the time limit for that element or interior search area.
- Elements specifications:
  - **Container Search:**
    - Always on leash
    - There may be multiple distractors (i.e. food, toy, etc). Distractors will be within the containers used for the container search.
    - Any type of containers may be used (different types of boxes, luggage, etc). The spacing or height of the containers may vary.
    - The handler is required to identify the container containing the hide, they are not required to identify the specific location of the hide in the container.
    - Please see "Trial Elements" for more detail on container search areas
  - **Interior Building Search:**
    - May be on or off leash as designated by the Certifying Official
    - Three interior areas. One of the interior areas may be a blank area.
    - Blank Areas: Handlers may encounter a room or area that is blank (not containing any odor). Handlers must, in this case, declare an area 'Clear' or 'Finish'.
    - Please see "Trial Elements" for more detail on interior search areas
  - **Exterior Area Search:** (on leash; may be off leash option)
    - If an off leash option is available, it is up to the competitor to determine if the area is secure and the situation is appropriate for their particular dog to be off leash.
    - Please see "Trial Elements" for more detail on interior search areas
  - **Vehicle Search:**
    - On leash

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- Up to five vehicles
  - There may be multiple odors on vehicles and a variety of vehicles may be included.
  - Please see “Trial Elements” for more detail on vehicle search areas
- 
- The NW3™ score will be calculated by the number of **calls** that must be made, not just the number of hides. Each search will require the handler to state: ‘alert,’ and ‘finish’ or ‘clear’ in the case of a blank area. The dog must locate every hide and the handler must make every call to receive the full number of points. “Finish called correctly” means that the handler must have correctly located all hides in the area prior to calling ‘finish’ to receive full points for the hides plus the finish call.
  - Alerts: Handler must call ‘Alert’ when the dog has communicated that he has found a hide. The judge however will be looking for a change in behavior in the dog. The judge may opt to consider the dog’s final response behavior when considering a team for the ‘Pronounced’ designation.
  - Height & Accessibility of hides: Should be no more than approximately six (6) feet high. The odor will be accessible to the dog, but the source may not be. For example, the hide may be located in a file cabinet drawer.

*A note about height: The height parameter is a general guideline provided for training purposes. No trial location will ever be the same. If a kitchen counter were 3 inches taller than the specified guideline, it would still be used for a hide location.*

## NW3 ELEMENT TITLE REQUIREMENTS

**Requires three of the same qualifying NW3 element of 25 points score and no more than 3 faults.**

The NW3™ Element titles are awarded to competitors who have successfully passed the same NW3™ Element three times. For example, a competitor who has passed the NW3™ Vehicle element three times, even if they did not successfully achieve the NW3™ title, shall be awarded the NW3-V (NW3 Vehicle Title).

The titles are as follows:

<b>NW3-C</b>	NW3 Container Search Title
<b>NW3-V</b>	NW3 Vehicle Search Title
<b>NW3-I</b>	NW3 Interior Search Title
<b>NW3-E</b>	NW3 Exterior Search Title

## NW3 ELITE

The highest title achievement, the NW3 Elite title is awarded to competitors who have successfully passed the NW3™ title level three times.

**Requires three qualifying trials of 100 points score and no more than 3 faults per qualifying trial.**

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## TRIAL SCORING

K9 Nose Work® trials will be based on several elements combined for a total of 100 points. Each element will be worth 25 points. Competitors will earn their title if they have a score of 100 points and no more than 3 faults. All titling events must include the four elements: container search, interior building search, vehicle search, and exterior area search on the same trial day. All trials will complete all four elements on a single day. The titles will be awarded based on achieving the minimum scoring criteria for that title within the allotted time. Ribbons shall be awarded for titles achieved and for individual element placements of the trial (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Container, Exterior, Interior and Vehicle).

### TERMINOLOGY:

▪ **Alert : FULL POINTS AWARDED**

The dog has correctly indicated the source of the odor, the handler has called the alert and without question the judge can easily confirm both are correct. (or in the case of a blank area, the handler has correctly called 'Clear')

*In the event the judge asks "WHERE?" the handler should identify the location of the source by pointing to the location without touching the location. ("top drawer of the file cabinet," "right desk drawer," "kitchen sink," etc') If correctly identified FULL POINTS AND TIME WILL BE AWARDED. This scenario is most likely with a dog that has a subtle final response that is not as easily identifiable or if the judge wants confirmation that the handler knows the location based on the dogs change of behavior. NOTE: Once you say "Alert", if the judge asks "Where", you must respond promptly. This is not an opportunity to re-cue your dog to continue searching to clarify the hide location.*

- **Blank Area/Clear Area** – In the NW3™ interior search element, handlers may encounter a room or area that is blank (not containing any odor). Handlers must, in this case, declare an area 'clear.'
- **Clear** – Required only for NW3™ level for a 'BLANK AREA' of the interior search. Handler must say 'Clear' at the end of search for the area that they believe is clear of odor. In a blank area, it is sufficient to say 'Clear', it is not required to also say 'Finish'. If the handler neglects to call 'Clear' but instead calls 'Finish', the call will still be accepted.
- **Combo odor** – at the NW2™ and NW3™ levels, a hide may be a combination of the odors approved for that level. For example at NW3™, a single hide may have Birch, Anise, and Clove odor combined.
- **False Alert/Fringe:**  
A false alert or fringe may be one of the following two situations:
  1. The dog offers an indication, but does not correctly identify the location of the source and the handler calls the alert. The dog may be offering a false response or the handler may have inadvertently cued the dog.  
Ex. #1: Room A has no odor, but the dog offers an indication and the handler calls Alert.  
Ex. #2: Room A has odor at the door, but the dog indicates at the window, six feet away from the source and the handler calls Alert.  
**Note:** If the dog indicates but handler does not call it, it is not considered a false, and there is no deduction of points.
  2. The dog does not offer an indication but the handler misreads the dog and calls an alert.

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- **Faults:** Faults are given for various infractions and incorrect calls. A handler/dog team may accrue up to 3 faults and still earn their title **if they have a score of 100**. Faults will affect placements in the competition. Placements are ranked by score, then faults, then time. A team with no faults will place above a team with faults with the same score regardless of time. There are two categories of faults, qualifying and non-qualifying. Qualifying faults may affect a competitor's placement, but could still allow them to title as long as no more than 3 qualifying faults are accumulated. Non-qualifying faults automatically eliminate the possibility of titling that day.

### **Faults may be given for the following reasons:**

- **Handling Errors** – for example: correcting dog off odor. At this time faults will not be applied for minor poor handling choices such as blocking odor, tangling your leash, etc.
- **Damage to the search area** – such as excessive pawing or digging.
- **Compromising the search area** – A fault may be issued if the judge deems that your reward delivery may have jeopardized the integrity of the search area by damage or possible contamination.
- **Safety issues, rules violations and other infractions at the judge's discretion.** For example: taking your dog off leash in an on leash search, allowing your dog to go completely under a vehicle in the vehicle search, placing your dog in an unsafe situation, etc.

**Note:** Some faults are given in situations where you will not receive full points for an element. For example: a False Alert. In this situation, you will receive faults, and will not be allowed to continue searching the area. This means you will not be able to accumulate the full number of points for that element and therefore will not earn your title. These faults are given to ensure that the overall scoring ranks competitors in the appropriate order. These are called “Non-Qualifying Faults”.

### **Non Qualifying Faults may be given for the following reasons:**

- **False Alert/Fringe.** You will earn 2 faults and will not be allowed to continue searching the area after a false alert or fringe; therefore, full points for the element will not be possible.
  - **Excused** - This will result in 3 faults and 0 points for that element. Note: If a handler opts to stop the search for their dog's wellbeing, the search will be scored as 'Timed Out'. If the judge stops the search for the dog's wellbeing, then it is scored as "excused".
  - **Elimination during your search** - This will result in 3 faults and 0 points for that element
  - **Absent from your search** - This will result in 4 faults and 0 points for that element. This applies when you opt to not participate in an element.
- **Finish** – Required only for NW3™ level. Handler must say 'Finish' at the end of every search (with the exception of a 'BLANK AREA' in the interior where they should say 'clear') when they think their dog has found all of the hides. It is not just the word that counts as the call, but the correct finish call pertains to the handler/dog finding all of the hides, and then assessing they have covered the area thoroughly by calling finish. Thus, points for the 'Finish' call will only be given if all hides in the area were correctly located prior to the 'Finish' call.
  - **Timed Out:**  
The total time for the search element has run out and not all hides have been located (or 'Finish' or 'Clear' called at the NW3™ level). The competitor will not earn the points for hides not yet found and their time will be the full time of the element.
  - **Elimination: NO POINTS AWARDED**  
Any dog that eliminates (urinates or defecates) during a search will lose all points for that element and be given 3 faults

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- **Excused from an element: all points towards that element are lost and 3 faults are given.**
  - Dog is under undue stress during a search, subject to the judge's discretion
  - Dog is in obvious pain during a search, subject to the judge's discretion
  - Any dog that leaves the search area or is deemed to be out of control may be excused.

Note: If a handler opts to stop the search for their dog's wellbeing, the search will be scored as 'Timed Out'. If the judge stops the search, then it is scored as "Excused".

- **Dismissed: Dismissed from trial. Competitor will be asked to leave the trial grounds. No points awarded. The competitor will receive a DQ for the entire event.**
  - Any unprofessional conduct towards the judge, trial organizer, or other competitors.
  - Any aggressive act by a dog towards a person or another dog.
  - Any harsh corrections or undue pressure put upon the dog by the handler, subject to the judge's discretion.
  - Any handler confirmed to be cheating will be dismissed and suspended from NACSW™ events for one year.

## SCORING DETAILS

**100 points total for all combined elements if each element has a perfect score. Faults may be given. A handler/dog team may accrue up to 3 faults and still earn their title if they have earned 100 points.**

◆ 25 Points	CONTAINER SEARCH
◆ 25 Points	EXTERIOR AREA SEARCH
◆ 25 Points	INTERIOR BUILDING SEARCH
◆ 25 Points	VEHICLE SEARCH

**Points:** Points are accrued by correctly calling alert when your dog finds the hides and making correct clear and finish calls where appropriate in each search area. Points are assigned by taking the total number of hides, clear and finish calls in a given search element and dividing by the total number of points for that element.

- **NW1:** Each hide will be worth 25 points. Since there is only one hide in each area and there is no requirement to make a finish call.
- **NW2:** If there is one hide in the element, the hide will be worth 25 points. If there are two hides, each hide will be worth 12.5 points. In the case of the interior search element, the combined total number of hides will be equally divided by 25 points.
- **NW3:** If there is one hide in the element, the hide will be worth 12.5 points and the 'Finish' call will be worth 12.5 points. In the case of the interior search element, the total number of hides and calls in all 3 search areas will be equally divided by 25 points. For example: The first interior search area had 2 hides plus the finish call, the second area was a blank room and had only the clear call, the third area had 3 hides plus the finish call. There are 8 total alerts and finish/clear calls to be made. Each alert/finish/clear call would be worth 3.125 points. Note: the points for the finish call are only given if all hides in the area are correctly located prior to calling finish.

**Note:** At the NW3™ level, competitors will not know how many points each hide is worth as they do not know the number of hides in advance. This information is provided to help them understand the score assigned to them after they complete the competition.

**Faults:** Faults are given for various infractions and incorrect calls. A handler/dog team may accrue up to 3 faults and still earn their title if they have earned 100 points. Note: Some faults are given in situations where it is not possible to earn 100 points (such as a false alert). Please see previous section for more details on faults. Faults may be given for the following reasons:

- False Alert/Fringe

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- Handling Errors
- Damage to the search area
- Compromising the search area - A fault may be issued if the judge deems that your reward delivery may have jeopardized the integrity of the search area by damage or possible contamination.
- Elimination
- Excused
- Absent
- **Safety issues, rules violations and other infractions at the judge's discretion.** For example: taking your dog off leash in an on leash search, allowing your dog to go completely under a vehicle in the vehicle search, placing your dog in an unsafe situation, etc.

**False Alert/Fringe:** The competitor will earn 2 faults and will lose the opportunity to continue searching for additional hides in that element. This means that full points for that element are not possible after a False Alert or Fringe so a title cannot be earned in this situation. (NOTE: In the interior search at NW2™ and NW3™, the competitor will only lose the opportunity to continue searching the current interior search area. They may be allowed to move on to any remaining interior search areas). They will keep the points for hides correctly located in that element prior to their False Alert or Fringe. The time awarded will be the time limit for that element or interior search area.

**Timed Out:** The competitor will keep the points earned for hides located. The time awarded will be the time limit for that element or interior search area.

**Elimination:** 0 points for that element and 3 faults. (Note: this refers to urination or defecation in the search area)

**Excused:** 0 points for that element and 3 faults.

**Dismissed:** 0 points for entire trial.

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## Scoring Matrix

This matrix is provided as a guide to show you how rankings are determined and how placements are affected by various conditions.

Ranking Order	Scoring Conditions	Points	Time	Faults applied
1	All hides with no faults	Points earned*	Time earned	0
2	All hides with faults	Points earned*	Time earned	Faults earned (other faults, i.e. Pawing, contamination, etc)
3	Timed Out	Points earned*	Total time limit for element or search area for NW2/NW3	0 Faults + any other Faults earned
4	False Alert/Fringe	Points earned* prior to false alert or fringe	Total time limit for element or search area for NW2/NW3	2 Faults + any other Faults earned
5	Elimination/Excused	0 points	Total time limit for element	3 + any other Faults earned
6	Absent	0 points	Total time limit for element	4 faults
7	Dismissal	DQ for the whole trial	-	-

\*Points earned:

- At NW1™ the points earned can only be 25 or 0 because there is only one hide.
- NW2™ and NW3™ – Refer to the “Points” in “Scoring details” for more information.

At NW2™ or NW3™, where there are multiple hides, points are earned for the hides found up to the point of a time out, false alert/fringe, excusal, or elimination.

- If more than 3 faults overall are earned, then the title is not earned.
- You will not earn more than one fault per element for each type of handling error, damage to the search area, compromising the search area, each type of safety issue, each type of rule violation, and each type of other infractions at the judge’s discretion. For example, if the dog damages 5 boxes in the container search, only one fault may be given. However if the dog damages a box and the handler drops food, then two faults may be given.
- False Alert/Fringe – only one false alert or fringe per search area may be earned. Once a team false alerts or fringes, they are generally not allowed to continue to search for additional hides, except in the interior search for NW2™ and NW3™ where there may be a false alert/fault per room.

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## HARRY AWARD

A long time nose work dog, Harry, passed away just days before the Inaugural nose work trial in August of 2008. The Harry Award was established in loving memory and honor of Harry, the Beauceron, one of our earliest nose work dogs that showed tremendous enthusiasm and promise. The first Harry award was presented at the Inaugural Nose Work Competition, August 9, 2008.

The Harry award is given to the most outstanding rescue dog that demonstrates extraordinary ability and spirit in nose work. A rescue dog may be defined as a dog that was not purchased from a breeder, private party or store. The dog may have been adopted from a shelter, rescued from the street, fostered with a rescue organization, etc.

The five highest scoring rescue dogs at each NW1™ trial will be considered for the Harry Award when available. A dog may only receive this award one time. Rescue designation is taken from your NACSW™ dog registration information. If you are unclear if your dog is a rescue, please email: [membership@nacsw.net](mailto:membership@nacsw.net).

## TRIAL JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The following are descriptions of the roles for NACSW™ officials and volunteers at NACSW™ trials.

### NACSW™ Appointed Roles

- **Trial Judge** (also referred to as Element Judge) – The NACSW™ appoints approved judges to each trial. Judges are typically professional detection handlers approved by the NACSW™ or have received specialized judge's training from the NACSW™. A judge may be responsible for judging an individual element, or multiple elements. The judge determines if the handler/dog team has correctly made all the calls for that element.
- **Certifying Official** – The NACSW™ appoints an approved Certifying Official to each trial. The Certifying Official is responsible for determining and setting hide locations for each element. They are responsible for ensuring that the trial is being run according to the NACSW™ rules and standards. The Certifying Official also confers with and works closely with the judges throughout the trial.
- **Score Room Lead** – Responsible for taking the results from the score cards and entering them into the scoring system. Also generates final results and placements after verifying data.

### Trial Host Appointed Roles (typically filled by volunteers)

- **Judge's steward** –The steward is responsible for ushering each competitor into the area where the search will take place. They answer any questions from the competitor and ensure that the judge has the proper score sheet. After the competitor has completed their search, the judge's steward directs the handler/dog team out of the search area and also ensures that the score sheet has been completed. The judge's steward also assists in the search area as needed and fields any competitor questions on behalf of the judge.
- **Timer** – The timer is responsible for recording the official time as they compete on an element.
- **Gate Steward** – Gate stewards help get handler/dog teams on deck prior to their turn at an element. The gate steward also directs traffic from staging areas to each element. Gate

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stewards are responsible for keeping competitors calm and keeping the flow moving while not adding undue stress to reactive dogs and nervous competitors.

- **Score Runner** - Take 2-3 completed score sheets at a time from an element to the score keepers
- **Videographer** - Video tape each competitor's run of an element, moving as directed to capture the footage while staying out of the way of the competitor and judge and not distracting the dog.
- **Volunteer Coordinator** – Person responsible for coordinating all the volunteers. Assigns each volunteer to a role. Gives direction to each volunteer as to their duties and where their assignments are physically located. Ensures all required roles are filled and running smoothly.