

## 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 300 lbs. 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 on top of or 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. 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:** Markers used in the water test site for a distance mark, shall be made from 3" or 4" diameter PVC Pipe and when floating upright in the water shall have a visible surface area of 12" or more above the surface of the water. Markers shall be independently anchored. Distance markers are set at 35', 60' and 100' from the shoreline during a water event. Distance markers shall bear a red and white striping pattern visible from the shoreline at 100 ft out.

**Markers, Slalom:** Used for swim patterns, depth marking, zone marking and course markings, Slalom markers shall be made from PVC pipe and may be made from 2", 3" or 4" diameter pipe. When floating upright these markers shall have a visible surface area of 12" or more about the surface. The markers shall be independently anchored. Slalom markers may be any color other than red or red and white striped.

**Markers, Land or shallow water:** Any commercially produced sports or traffic cones brightly colored or patterned for high visibility or any PVC marker such as a Slalom Marker.

**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. **Weave markers** may be constructed of 2 inch diameter pipe or larger.

**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 dog's 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.

**Platforms:** Swim Platforms shall be removed from the swim zone when not in use for a skill. The size of, height of and placement depth of the platform shall allow the dog to swim to and board the platform without assistance. The platform top shall be of sufficient size to safely support and allow any size dog to stand, sit and turn around on the platform.

**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 inhibit 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)

**Tow-Line for Shoreline Skills:** The tow-line shall be no shorter than the length of the dog plus 1 foot and no longer than six feet.

**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.