

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

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

Shoreline Skills Rules:

59. The team shall always begin and end in the Starter's Box.
60. Handlers may wade or swim when in the water.
61. Unless otherwise regulated by a skill description, swim skills shall be performed at or beyond a parallel line in the water, which is set 15 ft from the shoreline.
62. Unless otherwise specified, all retrieve and delivery articles shall be provided by the handler. Such articles shall be inspected for safety and appropriateness and approved by the judge.
63. Dogs shall not unnecessarily deviate (judge's call) from a direct path when given a water course direction.
64. Unless otherwise regulated by a skill description, the dog shall swim while working or traveling along side the handler at or beyond the 15 ft. line from shore.

65. The dog may only return to shore when and where specified in the skill's description.
66. The dog shall maintain a proximity to the handler no further than an arms length away once the team enters the water.
67. The handler shall not physically touch the dog nor the dog's jacket to gain control or compliance during a test; however, the handler may signal, hand-lure and speak to the dog as needed throughout the test. The dog may not climb on or inhibit the handler's movement.
68. Once the dog begins a weave or figure-8 pattern they may not deviate from that pattern until it is completed.
69. Platforms shall be placed at a depth that allows the dog to swim and board the platform without assistance. Platforms shall be removed from the swim zone when not in use for a skill.
70. Tagging: Tagging shall be when the dog moves to and touches the handler's fingers or palm with her nose, muzzle or chin. The handler shall not reach out to touch the dog, the hand shall be presented as target for which the dog has a choice to touch or follow. The handler may use hand tagging or luring to guide the dog during travel or to guide the dog into a different proximity or position.
71. The handler may hand deliver food to the dog when the team has completed their skill and are in the starter's box. The handler may carry food on their person during the test, but it shall be stored so as not to appear as a lure and shall be secured against any accidental release during the test.
72. Destination targets. The dog must have all four paws on the platform or inside the starter's box for dog to be considered at the destination target.
73. Whenever a skill requires a team to travel to or past the center marker the team shall pass the marker on the waterward side.
74. Time limits. The general time limit for a shoreline skill performance shall be two minutes; however, the judge shall have discretion as to qualifying a team. If the dog has remained focused and working on the task, but test conditions or unusual circumstance, as determined by the judge, has interfered with the dog's completion within the two minute limit, the judge may afford the team extra time.