

## **Regulations for the Tolling Huntingtest (TJP) or Tolling Test (TT)**

### **Introduction**

The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever (hereafter Toller) is a Retriever which has been bred originally for the hunt on waterfowl (ducks and geese). The Retriever is during a hunting day a necessary helper to the hunter. The Toller is the only Retriever which also has to work before the shot accordingly his original task. The work before the shot during a tolling hunt is defined as "Tolling". "Tolling" is a Middle English word and means "luring game". For the hunter it means to attract the waterbirds within shooting distance by means of the playful behaviour of a tolling dog, and this in the same way as a fox would lure ducks closer to the bank.

In the traditional tolling hunt, the Toller is used to attract or lure water birds, which are resting on the water, closer to the shore to make them swim within shooting range. The hunter is positioned behind a hide along the shore and remains out of sight to the waterbirds. The dog is send repeatedly along the water sides to fetch a tolling object which is thrown by the hunter. When the birds swim towards the shore, the dog is kept calm behind the hide. When the birds hesitate again, the dog will be send out again to do the tolling. It is crucial that the hunter can observe the waterfowl without giving to much attention to his dog.

If the waterbirds have moved within shooting range they will be flushed and shot by the hunter. Afterwards it is the task of the Toller to retrieve and find the shot birds on land and in water.

The dog must be capable to switch smoothly from the animated retrieving and the playful behaviour during the tolling to the Retriever tasks he has to do after the birds have been shot.

Besides the traditional tolling hunt, the Toller should also be capable to work as any other Retriever on different forms of hunts on small and remaining game and waterfowl.

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## **§1. Classes<sup>1&2</sup>**

### ***Junior class***

For dogs which turn 12 months old in the month of the Tolling Huntingtest and which are not older than 21 months on the day of the Tolling Huntingtest. The dog should have no or very limited experience on a Tolling Huntingtest.

### ***Beginner class***

For dogs which are on the day of the Tolling Huntingtest minimum 12 months old. A dog which has received the qualification Excellent (U) in Beginner class earlier is allowed to start in this class for the remaining of this and next calendar year, but needs to give way to dogs which have not yet received an Excellent (U) in this class. In case a dog has received two (2) times the qualification Excellent (U) it cannot start in Beginner class anymore the next calendar year. Dogs which registered in Novice class before cannot start in Beginner class anymore.

### ***Novice class***

For dogs which have received an Excellent (U) in Beginner class or registered in Novice class and have not yet received two times and Excellent (U) in this class. When a dog has received two (2) times an Excellent (U) in Novice class, it cannot start in this class anymore.

### ***Open class***

For dogs which have received two (2) times an Excellent (U) in Novice.

### ***Veteran class***

For dogs which are minimum 9 years old on the day of the Tolling Huntingtest and which have received two (2) times an Excellent (U) in Novice class.

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<sup>1</sup> The organisation can decide for which classes a test is open

<sup>2</sup> A '1st Prize' qualification on an official tolling hunting test abroad has the same value as an Excellent "U" in Belgium and these results always need to be taken into account for selecting the correct entry class

## §2. The procedure

The regulations intend to offer sufficient freedom to allow optimal variation in the Tolling Huntingtest.

The test leader will aim together with the judge to set a Tolling Huntingtest which is as equal as possible to a practical tolling hunt. This means that the different parts of the Tolling Huntingtest will be ideally performed in this order:

1. Approach to the hide near the shore
2. Tolling
3. Marked retrieve(s) in deep water.

Afterwards in random order:

- Marked retrieve(s)
- Blind retrieves (Novice, Open and Veteran class)
- Free search

The entire Tolling Huntingtest should be done without lead. It is desirable that all parts are done within a limited distance from the hide.

### ***Junior class***

The Tolling Huntingtest in Junior class is set up in the same way as Beginner class, though this class may present less difficulties and challenges. In this class it is preferred that each retrieved is 'seen' for the dog and blind retrieves are not allowed. With the 'free search' at least a shot should be given.

### ***Beginner class***

During the Tolling Huntingtest the dog will be offered minimum seven (7) retrieves, from which at least two (2) from deep water. At least three (3) shots are fired during the Tolling Huntingtest. The Tolling Huntingtest should be arranged in such a way that a good evaluation can be made of the approach to the hide, tolling, ability to mark, free search and co-operation with the handler.

### ***Novice class***

The test area contains more difficulties, especially in the water. During the Tolling Huntingtest, the dog gets at least ten (10) retrieves, of which at least four (4) are in deep water. At least four (4) shots are fired during the Tolling Huntingtest. The Tolling Huntingtest must be arranged in such a way that a good evaluation can be made of the approach towards the hide, tolling, ability to mark, free search, handling and cooperation with the handler.

### ***Open class***

The Tolling Huntingtest in Open class is arranged in the same way as Novice class, but offers more difficulties and challenges. These difficulties and challenges can be the use of two different hides, distractions in the water during the tolling, more difficult area, longer distances, more challenging marked and blind retrieves and invisible drop spots.

English translation of the regulations approved by the Statutaire Vergadering of Sectie 2A on 08.02.2020

***Veteran class***

The Tolling Huntingtest in Veteran class is arranged in the same way as Open class, possibly with less hard obstacles and physical challenges.

### **§3. Criteria**

The main purpose of a Tolling Huntingtest is to assess the dog's ability to lure, to find and to retrieve waterfowl from land and deep water.

A Tolling Huntingtest should therefore consist of two main parts: the work before the shot e.g. the tolling and the work after the shot, when the dog needs to retrieve from water or in the area near the shore. The judge attaches great importance to the first part, the approach to the hide and the tolling, as this is breed specific.

#### ***The main qualities which should be prior to the judge in the evaluation of the dogs:***

- Playful and efficient tolling
- Natural ability and initiative to find game
- Calm and rest behind the hide, on post and during the heelwork
- Good nose
- Ability to mark and remember the drop area
- Perseverance, initiative and hunting intelligence
- Style during the retrieve and obedience
- Efficiency of the retrieve
- Show "Will to please"
- Take cover and obstacles
- Waterwork
- Discrete handling
- A smooth delivery of the game

#### ***Eliminating faults (Eliminé):***

- Swopping game
- Aggressive behaviour
- Hard in mouth
- Each form of behaviour that would scare the waterfowl during the tolling
- Shot sensitive and shot shy
- Get out of hand, pursue game and continue hunting with game in mouth
- Refuse to enter water
- Refusal to retrieve
- Physical punishment of the dog

#### ***Faults which give the judge to end the Tolling Huntingtest (Not classified):***

- Inefficient tolling
- Whining
- Running in
- Touching the dog

#### ***Major faults:***

- Unnecessarily awaiting the commands of the handler
- To be dependent on the handler

- Ineffective/inefficient search
- Loud handling
- Lack of calmness on post or at heel (dog needs to much attention)
- Moderate control over the dog and unnecessarily disturb the area
- Inadequate ability to mark and/or memory of the drop area
- Inadequate heelwork
- Sloppy retrieve, work without drive and/or without initiative
- Lay the game down and release it

If a dog makes a major fault, the judge may decide not to let the dog continue the Tolling Huntingtest. In addition, the dog cannot receive the qualification Excellent “U” and can only qualify for the qualification Very Good “ZG” or Good “G” if he has performed well for the remaining parts of the Tolling Huntingtest.

Dogs that have not performed sufficiently and have committed a major fault are not qualified (“NC”).

The judge will be more tolerant in judging the faults made by dogs in Junior and Beginner class.

In Junior and Beginner class, a performance which does not lead to a qualification, is no reason to end the Tolling Huntingtest.

The following qualities (with the exception of Tolerance) should always be evaluated:

- Will to please
- Tolling
- Free search
- Speed
- Endurance
- Nose
- Handling
- Ability to mark
- Reaction to shot
- Steadiness
- Pick-up of game
- Grip on game
- Swimming
- Water passion
- Tolerance

## **§4. Qualifications**

In each class of a Tolling Huntingtest, the dogs are evaluated based on individual quality and not based on competition. In this way, several dogs can get the same qualification but there will be no ranking.

When the judge makes his final decision on the qualification, he bases this on his overall impression of dog's work and efficiency, the dog's qualities and the skills as a hunting dog in different situations.

The approach to the hide at the start of the test and the tolling determine the highest qualification that can be awarded at the Tolling Huntingtest. I.e. if a dog received a qualification Very Good "ZG" for the Tolling, this dog cannot qualify for an Excellent "U" anymore at the end of the Tolling Huntingtest.

In Beginner, Novice, Open and Veteran class a dog can receive the qualification Excellent (U), Very Good (ZG) and Good (G). A very exceptional achievement can be judged by a "U" with distinction (U/O). This qualification can be awarded in any of the above-mentioned classes.

In Junior class a dog can receive the qualification Very Promising (VB) or Promising (B).

Other results in any class can be Elimination (EL), Not classified (NC) or Withdrawal (RET).

### **U (EXCELLENT):**

The qualification "U" is awarded to dogs from which the judged work is of very high standard, very close to the ideal and only deviates from the standard with small imperfections and without major faults. The dog has to have a very favourable evaluation on all applicable criteria listed under §3.

### **ZG (VERY GOOD):**

The qualification "ZG" is awarded to dogs from which the judged work is of very high standard, very close to the ideal, however differs from the standard by the number or degree of imperfections or by maximum one major fault. The dog has to have a favourable evaluation on all applicable criteria listed under §3.

### **G (GOOD):**

The qualification "G" is awarded to dogs from which the judged work is of a decent level, but differs from the ideal standard by the number or degree of imperfections or by one major fault and imperfections, either deviates too far from the ideal standard by a lack of high quality to obtain a higher qualification. The dog has to have an adequate evaluation on all applicable criteria listed under §3.

### **VB (VERY PROMISING):**

The qualification "VB" is awarded to dogs from which the judged work is of very high standard, very close to the ideal and only deviates from the standard with small



imperfections and without major faults, taking into account the age and inexperience of the dog. The dog has to have a favourable evaluation on all applicable criteria listed under §3.

**B (PROMISING):**

The qualification "B" is awarded to dogs from which the judged work is of a decent level, but differs from the ideal standard by the number or degree of imperfections or by one major fault and imperfections, either deviates too far from the ideal standard by a lack of high quality to obtain a higher qualification. For the judging, the age and inexperience of the dog is taken into account. The dog has to have an adequate evaluation on all applicable criteria listed under §3.

**EL (Elimination):**

“EL” is given to dogs which are disqualified for making an eliminating fault as defined in §3 B of these regulations.

**NC (Not classified):**

“NC” is given to dogs from which the judged work is not sufficient to obtain a qualification or to dogs that have made at least one major fault.

**RET (Withdrawal):**

“RET” is given to dogs that are withdrawn by the handler, for sportive reasons, on his own initiative and before the end of the test. This also includes the refusal of the handler to perform a particular part of the test. This is done in agreement with the judge.

## **§5. Tolling Test (TT)**

The Tolling Test applies the same rules as the Tolling Huntingtest, only dummies are used instead of game.

# **GUIDELINES**

## **A. Purpose**

The purpose of the Tolling Huntingtest has two main parts.

First, the Tolling Huntingtest is organized to assess the skills and natural aptitude of the Toller as a hunting dog and to support the breeding of qualitative hunting dogs. The goal of the Tolling Huntingtest is to select the best dogs that can later, as a breeding animal, make an important contribution to improving the breed. The judges search for the dogs who have good game finding capabilities, have good temperament, mark well, have a good nose and take the necessary independent initiative. Tollers must be soft in grip. Calm on post and at heel. The "handling" must be considered as an indispensable addition to these qualities.

Second, the Tolling Huntingtest also has a social goal. The organizing club wants to offer the owners of a Toller the opportunity to participate in a breed-specific test with their dogs and to get in touch with other handlers. In these ways, handlers can share experience and knowledge regarding working with the Toller.

## **B. Circumstances**

The hunter has noticed waterfowl. He/she sneaks up with his/her dog to the hide near the shore without disturbing the birds.

The tolling lures the birds within shooting distance.

After the birds have been shot, they are retrieved.

### ***The practical tolling hunt***

The practical tolling hunt mainly occurs along the banks of a lake, coastline or other large water area with waterfowl. The success of a tolling hunt lies in the lure of the waterfowl and the retrieving of the shot game. The Toller must therefore be a powerful swimmer who can accomplish both tasks successfully.

### ***The area***

The area must include sufficient water as the waterwork is crucial to the Tolling Huntingtest. There must be sufficient vegetation in the water and/or on the bank so that fallen game is not always visible to the dog on the bank. However, the water vegetation must not prevent the judge from seeing and evaluating the dog's work sufficiently.

The design of the Tolling Huntingtest depends on the natural conditions of the area. It is the responsibility of the test leader, together with the judge, to ensure that the tests are appropriate for the available terrain.

Participants are considered to respect the available area and to follow the guidelines of the organization. Participants are at all times responsible for the damage they incur to the area.

### ***The Tolling Huntingtest***

When setting up a Tolling Huntingtest, the available area must be used in such a way that the judge is given the best opportunity to evaluate the skills and aptitude of the dog both on land and in water. Mainly the evaluation of the tolling work is very important.

A Tolling Huntingtest must be set up similar to a practical Tolling hunt. The test will preferably approach the hunting practices as close as possible, taking into account the terrain to show the scenes as naturally as possible, this all in function of the practical Tolling hunt.

The judge will ensure that the conditions in which the dogs work, as far as possible, are in favour of the dogs. They will look for dogs that need the least handling and make the best impression on the hunting point of view.

During the Tolling Hunting Test, situations that often occur on hunting are offered repeatedly:

- Game is shot where the hunter and dog have the opportunity to see everything - (marked retrieve)
- Game is shot where the hunter knows the drop area without the dog having seen it (blind retrieve)

- Game is shot where neither the hunter nor the dog knows the exact location. The dog must work here independently (lost retrieve).  
The area for the 'free search' during a Tolling Huntingtest should include both land and water

The difficulty level will be progressive. The assignments in the Junior and Beginner class will be less challenging than the assignments for the Novice, Open and Veteran class. In the Junior and Beginner class, handling (direction work) is not necessarily required. Attention will be paid to this when setting up the test. For blind retrieves a shot is optional in the Novice, Open and Veteran class, but mandatory in the Beginner class. The 'free search' usually happens without a shot. In Junior class, blind retrieves should be avoided and at least a shot will be given at the 'free search'.

The assignments in the test are not known in advance. As during the hunt, the situation must be assessed and evaluated by the handler.

The judge will take account of this situation, for example, attach less importance to the number of commands given, but generally look at the quality of the performance, speed and efficiency of the retrieve. The test will be explained on site to all participants. Usually this explanation occurs in the presence of all participants before the first dog in the class has begun.

The judge indicates where and when the handler should be posted and, if necessary the order in which the game is to be retrieved.

The dog works without lead throughout the test unless the judge decides otherwise.

The judge pays attention to the dog's 'obedience' and 'will to please' during the whole Tolling Huntingtest. The judge also evaluates the ability of the dog to search for a particular area, whether or not in a specific place designated by the judge.

The land and water work of the dog is evaluated by one and the same judge. The division of the Tolling Huntingtest into multiple locations on the site should be avoided.

### ***The game***

During a duck or geese hunt, a shotgun is used where the shot birds would fall averaging 50 meters far from the hunter. The distance may change depending on the conditions during the Tolling Huntingtest. When the game is thrown with a shot, the shot will always advance the throwing of the game, with the gun removed no more than  $\pm 40$  m from the thrower.

The game must be thrown in such a way that the drop area is not always visible to the dog. The gun should be positioned such that the game always falls within the logic shooting range. The shot should draw the dog's attention.

During a Tolling Huntingtest, only cold wild game is used. The test leader is responsible for the good quality of the game. Damaged or frozen game is not allowed.

The judge and test leader are responsible for the quality and conservation of the game during the Tolling Huntingtest.

Preferably ducks and geese (the species that may be hunted by the law at the time of the test) are used during a Tolling Huntingtest. Other hunt-able wildlife may be used, but preferably to a limited extent and exclusively on land.

The use of geese and other wildlife other than ducks is only allowed in Novice, Open and Veteran class.

## **B. Qualities to be judged**

The following qualities always should be evaluated:

### ***a. Will to please***

”Will to please” (or ”will to cooperate”) is the way the dog and the handler work together and to what extent the dog can be handled. The will to please is evaluated throughout the whole Tolling Huntintest. A Toller should be calm, quiet and alert when the handler moves through the test area. If the handler repeatedly has to correct or command the dog to be steady, this has a negative effect on the qualification. When the dog is out of hand, this will be considered a disqualifying fault and the judge will stop the Tolling Huntingtest.

### ***b. Tolling***

The tolling should be able to attract waterfowl from a distance of 300 meters. When the birds swim closer to the shore, the dog will stay behind the hide. When the birds hesitate, the dog will start with the tolling.

The tolling consists of three components: approach to the hide, tolling activity and tolling passivity.

During the approach towards the hide along the shore, the dog should be attentive and completely quiet. The dog is off lead and all the handler’s command must be discreet and do not disturb the waterfowl. In the Open and Veteran class there may be a move to another hide after the first tolling work. This transport should be as discreet as the approach to the first hide.

During a Tolling Huntingtest, the judge determines the intervals of the tolling activity and passivity, and communicates to the handler when the dog has to work and when it has to stay behind the hide. The tolling happens with little gestures and few commands.

During the passivity, the dog must wait behind the hide and keep calm and quiet so that the waterfowl is not disturbed.

During the activity, the dog must retrieve the tolling object on a to the waterfowl attractive way. The handler throws a tolling object (stick, ball, small dummy, etc.) along the tolling zone, according to the judge's instructions, with the dog being able to fetch the item at a good speed and in an animated and playful manner. Playfulness that does not adversely affect the speed and smoothness of the tolling is valuable. In the Novice, Open and Veteran class, the dog has to retrieve the item and return it without commands from the handler. During the Tolling Huntingtest, the area should be freed on both sides of the hide as well as possible to make tolling possible. The judge will indicate the tolling paths, but in Junior or Beginner class minor deviations could be allowed.

Ineffective tolling is a major fault, which allows the judge to terminate the test.

Steadiness during the tolling can also be assessed in Open and Veteran class. This can be done by moving from the first hide to another hide. Another possibility is to give



distractions in the water during the tolling (simulates birds landing on water) or to let two dogs work together in the Tolling Huntingtest.

The recommended number of tolling repetitions is:

Junior/Beginner - 10 tolling repetitions during the test.

Novice - 20 tolling repetitions during the test.

Open - 25 tolling repetitions during the test.

Veteran - 15 tolling repetitions during the test.

In Junior and Beginner class there will be no more tolling after the first shot has been fired. In Novice, Open and Veteran class tolling could be re-commenced after the first game has been retrieved.

The judge indicates when shots will be fired. When the shots are fired, the dog must stay behind the hide, but the handler may place the dog in a position along the hide so that it has the ability to mark the thrown game.

***c. Free search***

Before the dog is sent to search, the judge will indicate the search area.

This search area includes both water and land and is proportional in size according to the class. The dog should search the entire area in an effective and efficient way. The judge may ask the handler to direct the dog to a particular part of the search area. Ineffective search has a negative impact on the qualification. In case of complete ineffective search, the judge may terminate the Tolling Hunting Test.

***d. Speed***

The dog has to work at an efficient speed, where game finding is the prime objective.

Working at a slow pace is considered a disadvantage. For dogs in the Veteran class, speed will be judged less strictly.

***e. Endurance***

The dog must show a good and balanced drive and endurance until the end of the test. Lack of stamina is a disadvantage. For dogs in the Veteran class, endurance will be judged less strictly.

***f. Nose***

The dog should use his nose well and find the game efficiently taking into account the wind and conditions of the area. Inadequate use of the nose is considered a disadvantage.

***g. Handling***

The dog must be sent efficiently to a particular area in the area. This can be either on land or in water. The handler uses commands, whistle signals and/or hand gestures. Ineffective handling on blind retrieves has a negative effect on the qualification. When the dog is "out of hand" or refuses to obey, the judge will terminate the Tolling Huntingtest.

***h. Ability to mark***

The ability of the dog to mark and remember shot game where it will be assessed whether the dog can efficiently find it. Lack of concentration and inability to accurately mark game is negative to the qualification.

Good marking with smooth pick-up and fast return are essential. Dogs that show good ability to mark and initiative should get a better evaluation than the dogs that need to be handled.

In Junior and Beginner class only single marked retrieves are allowed.

In Novice class, double marked retrieves are allowed.

In Open and Veteran class, triple marked retrieves are allowed.

***i. Reaction to shot***

A dog must be shot-proof and must only retrieve on command.

Shot-shyness, uncontrollable agitation or noise when shots are fired are factors which will cause the judge to end the Tolling Huntingtest.

***j. Steadiness***

A dog must heel calmly. During the Tolling Huntingtest, the behaviour on post will also be evaluated. It is important that the dog stays calm during the different situations in the test.

The dog must be steady and quiet throughout the whole Tolling Huntingtest. Barks or beeps are not allowed. The dog should be steady and quiet when he gets the command to stay in a designated place. In Novice, Open and Veteran class, the dog must be able to switch smoothly between playful tolling and retriever work after the shot. Spontaneous steadiness without command from the handler is an advantage.

***k. Pick-up of game***

The dog must pick up and deliver all the game spontaneously and without hesitation or command from its handler. When picking-up and returning, the dog will not be penalized when he releases the game with the intention of getting a better grip. However, this should not be confused with messy retrieving. Hesitations or additional support needed by the dog or additional commands given by the handler is a major fault, allowing the judge to end the Tolling Huntingtest. Refusal to pick-up game is an eliminating fault, which will cause the judge to stop the Tolling Huntingtest.

During the Tolling Huntingtest, the judge will pay attention to the following:

- Willingness to pick-up the found game
- Willingness to retrieve the found game efficiently and fast to the handler

***l. Grip***

The game must be properly retrieved - the grip must be firm and soft, does not interfere with the dog's movement and must not damage the game. The game must be delivered to hand in Novice, Open and Veteran class. In Junior and Beginner class, it is allowed to release the game in the immediate reach of the handler.

If a dog has a grip that damages the game, the Tolling Huntingtest will be stopped.

During the Tolling Huntingtest, the judge will pay attention to the following matters:

- Correct and natural grip

- Soft grip
- Delivery

The grip is not judged during the tolling where the dog retrieves or plays with the tolling object.

***m. Swimming***

The dog should swim efficiently without disturbing the area.

***n. Water passion***

The dog must go smoothly into the water and must go fearless into water vegetation. Lack of water passion can adversely affect the qualification. With totally refusing to enter the water, the judge will stop the Tolling Huntingtest.

***o. Tolerance***

A dog may not disturb the work of other dogs during the Tolling Huntingtest. Also, the work or presence of other dogs may not disturb the dog. Aggression against other dogs is an eliminating fault which will cause the judge to stop the Tolling Huntingtest.

In Junior, Beginner and Novice class, this part will not be assessed, as there will never be two dogs evaluated at the same time.

In the Open and Veteran class the judge may decide to have two dogs simultaneously run the Tolling Huntingtest. Hereby the dogs will work alternately and it is important that the dogs respect each other's work and remain calm and quiet when not in turn.

## **C. Evaluation**

The judge makes a statement on his opinion regarding the performed work of the dog in accordance with the regulations. The judge will give verbal feedback to the handler and the public after the dog has finished the Tolling Huntingtest. Afterwards, a written report of his evaluation (see §3) will be delivered to the handler. Both are also applicable if the dog has not obtained a qualification or if the test has been terminated early.

The decision of the judge is final.

The test leader will indicate whether the verbal feedback will be given immediately after each dog or when a class has finished or at the end of the day. The written reports will be distributed during the prizing ceremony.

Ratings awarded on an official Tollerjagtprove in Denmark or Sweden should always be taken into account for the selection of the class during a Tolling Huntingtest.

## **D. Guidelines for the handler**

Participants are deemed to be aware of these rules as well as the applicable selection criteria for participation in the Tolling Huntingtests.

The rules of the Tolling Huntingtest can be obtained on request at the secretariat of the organizing club.

It shows good ways if the judge's decisions are not questioned or not publicly criticized. Candidate participants have a general sportive attitude and show respect for the game, the area, the organization, the judges and other participants.

The participant may not carry any means of compulsion at all times during the Tolling Huntingtest. Training equipment that can be experienced by the dog as negative is not allowed. Physical punishment of the dog is prohibited. In such case, the handler will be excluded from the Tolling Huntingtest. It is the handler's ambition to show a dog who works with fun and passion. Commands and signals should be kept to a minimum and are discreet and not disturbing to the environment. Physical contact with the dog is not allowed during the Tolling Huntingtest.

Dogs are only released at the location designated by the organization. Any person who, during the Tolling Huntingtest, takes his dog free of lead without permission, may be asked to leave the grounds.

The dogs in turn are worked off lead and participants can only take their dogs on lead after being asked by the judge.

The participant may not let his dog retrieve before he is asked by the judge.

It is allowed to reward the dog in a discrete manner immediately after the retrieve.

The judge or test leader may ask participants to keep the dogs outside the test area.

## **E. Protest**

Any person who publicly criticizes the judge's decisions will be prompted to leave the test area immediately and may be the subject of a report sent to the responsible Section.

The decision of the judge may be amended in the following situations:

- a. If errors have been made of a technical nature.
- b. If a dog has participated without compliance with the rules

The judge's evaluation and decisions regarding the work of the dog cannot be a reason for protest.

The application for amendment of the decision of the judge may be accepted after:

- A protest is made by the handler who is involved in the error
- A complaint has been received from the organization or the judge

A protest against the judge's decision must be made in writing. It must be handed to the test secretary before the end of the Tolling Huntingtest where the decision of the judge was taken.

For each complaint, the amount payable on the spot must be paid to the test secretariat in proportion to the subscription fee. This amount will expire to the organizing club if the complaint is not accepted. If a particular complaint cannot be dealt immediately, the dog will take part in the contest with reservation. Any qualifications obtained by him will be retained until further notice. The test secretary will decide whether a protest can be considered admissible after the judge and test leader have been heard. If a protest is accepted, the result of the dog is removed and the protest fee will be refunded to the handler. If the complaint is well-founded, the handler loses any claim for the received qualification.

When a complaint is filed by a person who is not authorized to do so or when the particular protest fee is not paid, the protest must be rejected immediately. This decision is taken by the test secretary.

Changes in results can be made up to two (2) years after the Tolling Huntingtest.

## F. Organization

The Tolling Huntingtests according to these rules are organized by the Organizing Club. Hereinafter called organization.

A test leader and a test secretary must be appointed for each Tolling Huntingtest.

The organization can order more Tolling Huntingtests on the same day.

The organization designates a test leader who supervises the application of this regulation and supervises the Tolling Huntingtest. The test leader may be assisted by one or more commissioners and should be in possession of the applicable rules during the Tolling Huntingtest.

The judge is responsible for the implementation of the Tolling Huntingtest according to the applicable regulations. The judge is entitled to change the configuration of the Tolling Huntingtest.

The test secretary is responsible for the catalogue, the judge reports and the list of results and the handling of protests.

The test leader is responsible for the safety of the Tolling Huntingtest, the quality of the game and in consultation with the judge setting up the Tolling Huntingtest.

The maximum recommended number of participants per judge is as follows:

Junior or Beginner class: 16 dogs

Novice class: 12 dogs

Open or Veteran class: 8 dogs

If during a Tolling Huntingtest multiple classes are judged by the same judge, the test leader must indicate a reasonable number of participants per class.

The organization provides the judge reports. The organizers will list the results obtained on the catalogues and send it signed by the judge to the relevant authorities. It is forbidden to make any changes in these catalogues.

On the catalogue, the name of the organizing club, the by K.K.U.S.H. assigned number of the organizing club, date and place of the test and the category (test form<sup>3</sup>) will be mentioned. A catalogue will be made available to each participant before the start of the test.

Special prizes can be awarded.

Every dog should best be given equal opportunities, with the factor luck being minimized. On a Tolling Huntingtest, the organization will always try to simulate realistic hunting situations as they are on a normal hunting day. They will also ensure that the tests are set up so that they allow good dog work, thus preventing the marking ability and demonstrating its natural working being disturbed.

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<sup>3</sup> Tolling Huntingtest or Tolling Test

## **G. Right of participation**

The Tolling Huntingtests are open to all dogs of the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever breed. A dog can only participate once in the same Tolling Huntingtest. The dog must have the necessary qualifications to participate in the class. The organization may, if the Tolling Huntingtest is not full, let a dog that qualifies on this Tolling Huntingtest to join a higher class, participate in this higher class on the same day.

### ***Membership***

The handler of the dog should be member of a KKUSH or FCI affiliated club.

### ***Registration***

Belgian dogs must be registered with the KMSH at the moment of the test.

When a foreign dog participates, a copy of his registration must be made available to the organization.

If the above requirements are not met, the registration will be automatically cancelled.

### ***Monorchid/Cryptorchid/Anorchid males***

If a monorchid / cryptorchide / anorchid male is registered, this should be noted in the catalogue and the results list.

### ***Limited participation***

When the number of participants is limited, this information must be available when opening the Tolling Huntingtest subscriptions. The number of participants is determined by the organization and the organization decides the closing date of the subscriptions and payment methods.

If there are more entries than places, the organization can designate reserve dogs. These dogs have priority to participate if places are released while dogs who are already qualified for a higher grade must give priority.

After the expiration of the registration time on the test, the test leader can call the reserve dog. Only the number of dogs originally identified and communicated by the organization can effectively participate in the Tolling Huntingtest. Reserve dog(s) can only participate in the absence of effectively enrolled dog(s). The 1st reserve is always required to sign up for the Tolling Huntingtest during the registration time.

The exclusion of a handler and the reason for this must be communicated immediately to the participant. A handler who does not sign in on time will be ruled out.

The owner of the area always has priority to participate in the Tolling Huntingtest.



## H. Subscription and payment

The registration and payment terms are determined by the organization.

Registrations must always be sent to the designated address before the intended closing date (preferably two weeks before the Tolling Huntingtest), indicating:

- The full name of the dog
- The date of birth of the dog
- Race and gender
- Tattoo number and / or Chip number
- Pedigree number
- Name of both parents
- Name and address of the owner
- The handler's name and address
- Previously achieved results on tests which should be taken into consideration when determining the class for participation in the Tolling Huntingtest

The undersigned participant agrees to accept the judge's statements and to pay the subscription fee, also when cancellation after the closing date. If there are any contradictions found, the dog may be excluded from the Tolling Huntingtest and the entry fee will expire to the organization.

The closing date is determined by the organization and is irrevocable.

Anyone who registers for a test is required to pay the entry fee if he / she can participate in the contest.

Failure to participate does not release the participant from the obligation to pay the entry fee. If the registration fee is not met, the organization has the opportunity to exclude the participant from other events until the payment is met.

If the organization decides to change the date of the test after the closing date, it should inform the participants. They are entitled to a refund of the entry fee in the event of a cancellation for that test. The registrations for which no cancellation has been requested remain valid for the newly set date.

The organization reserves the right to cancel the contests and to refund the entry fees.

The entry fee will be refunded in case<sup>4</sup>:

- the Tolling Huntingtest is cancelled by the organization.
- the dog gets ill, injured or dies before the start of the Tolling Huntingtest – a certificate from the veterinarian should be delivered to the organization at least eight (8) days after the Tolling Huntingtest.
- the dog, after subscription, received a result which causes the dog not to be able anymore to enter in the specific class. In this case, the organization investigates whether there is a possibility to enter the dog in a higher class. The handler should

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<sup>4</sup> In case the entry fee would be refunded, the organization van withhold a part to cover administrative or other costs

inform the organization within four (4) days after receiving the qualification and not later than two (2) days before the actual Tolling Huntingtest.