

Approved changes to the 2022 WT Manual for 2024

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1	Add expectation for distractions from the general public.	5	Dogs and handlers are expected to perform in a natural environment, which may include wind, rain, sun glare, tides and currents, and distractions from the general public.
2	Clarify that restrictions on the handler touching the dog in working and above do not apply during the warm-up.	6	At the Working, Courier, and Master Water Dog levels, the handler must control the dog without physical guidance of any kind both during and between exercises, however, this does not apply to the 3-minute warm-up period.
3	Clarify that the steward splashes the float line in Apprentice. Remove the sentence that states "at no time during any exercise may the handler splash or put their hand in the water...".	6, 7	page 6: 13. The handler or the steward may not, at any time, in any exercise, splash the water to draw attention to the handler or to an object. or for any other reason The exception is the Apprentice Float Line Retrieve From Shore exercise when a boat steward will splash the float line from the back of the boat. Page 7: 5. The handler may not assist the dog in locating articles by throwing other objects. At no time during any exercise may the handler splash or otherwise put their hand in the water except to receive an object from the dog.
4	Add option for steward to throw fender from shore when judge determines that it is unsafe for boat steward to throw due to weather or wave conditions.	7	Retrieving/Carrying Exercises Generally 1. Either the handler or a steward may throw the article unless noted otherwise. If the judge determines that a throw is inadequate, he/she will stop the exercise. The article will be recovered by the steward and the exercise will be restarted. If the handler elects to throw the second time and the throw is still inadequate, the third and any subsequent throws will be made by the steward. In boat exercises, when the Handler and the boat Steward are unable to complete the throw, the Judge may direct a Steward on land to throw the article. The Judge need not wait for inadequate throws before allowing a Steward to throw an article.
5	Remove automatic failure.	8	If a dog leaves the water without the article it was sent to retrieve, the dog fails that exercise.
6	Add that dogs that pass the Junior level test be awarded a title beginning in 2024, that it is an optional title, that dogs who have earned a Junior Certificate previously will be considered as having earned a title, and that no new title certificates will be issued.	10	The Junior Water Dog title is an optional title and if desired, may be earned before or after earning the Apprentice Water Dog title and after higher-level titles. Junior certificates earned prior to 2024 are considered a title, although no new title certificate will be issued. A dog may enter the Apprentice Water Dog titling level without having a Junior Water Dog title Certificate if it is at least 12 months of age on the day of the trial (or as outlined in the second paragraph of this section).
7	Add consistent wording throughout manual regarding WWDX as an optional title.	10	A dog must have earned an Apprentice Water Dog title in order to be eligible to enter the Working Water Dog level. A dog must have earned a Working Water Dog title to be eligible to enter the Courier Water Dog level. The Working Water Dog Excellent title is an optional title and if desired, may be earned before or after earning the Courier Water Dog Title and after higher-level titles. A dog must have earned a Courier Water Dog Excellent title to be eligible to enter the Master level.
8	Remove duplicate wording about regular and non-regular entries in the first part of the manual that is included in the second part.	48	Information about regular and non-regular entries is now in one place in the manual beginning on page 48.

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9	Remove ambiguity regarding the placement of the markers when setting up the site to allow the minimum swim distance of 40'.	11, 12	<p>page 11: In setting up the test site, the Host Club will be responsible for making sure that the dogs will be at swimming depth 45' 20' from the 3' line, and that dogs will swim at least 40' when swimming in a direction perpendicular to shore to an imaginary line between the markers. after leaving shore in a direct line to the 60' markers. A required swim of 40-42' must be made to that 60' marker. Drought, tides, and other climatic conditions can alter test sites drastically. It is the responsibility of the Host Club to make sure that the swimming exercises are not compromised at these locations. If this means further retrieves because swimming distances cannot be met within that 60' boundary, then so be it. Shallow sites require the marker be moved out as far as necessary to provide the minimum swim distance. The other alternative is to change the test site.</p> <p>page 12: 3. The depth of the site must allow for the minimum of 40 to 42 feet that the dog is required to swim (not walk). Shallow sites would require the markers be moved out as far as necessary to allow for the minimum swim distance.</p>
10	Widen minimum entry for test area from 15' to 20' to accomodate Master level boats that start 20' apart.	11	From the land test area there shall be a "water area entrance" at a place where the water deepens gradually. The water area entrance shall be at least 15' 20' wide to allow teams and boats access to the water test area.
11	Simplify dummy description while keeping minimum and maximum dimensions. Add dimension tolerance statement for all equipment.	16	<p>A one-piece commercial retrieving dummy, made of canvas, neoprene or plastic material that is cylindrical or hexagonal and uniform in shape throughout its length, symetrical and uniform in shape throughout its length, with a minimum diameter of 2", maximum diameter of 4", minimum length of 8" and maximum length of 15". A line of up to 18" may be attached to facilitate throwing.</p> <p>All equipment measurements allow a +/- 10% dimensional tolerance except where noted.</p>
12	Remove "A0" in description of buoy ball, because it is incorrect (too small).	17	A spherical floating buoy (such as a standard A0 marine buoy) between 10" and 18" in diameter, with a 6"-18" line (of any diameter) attached.
13	Add that if a handle and/or line is attached it must remain secured to bag when in use.	17	Any smooth-sided bag of flexible material (fabric and/or mesh) that is large enough to hold the retrieving dummy, floating line, and buoy ball. It may have a handle and/or a tow line of up to 4' attached. (10% ± line length tolerance.) If a handle and/or line is attached, it must remain secured to the bag during use except when the handler has the bag open to insert or remove articles, or when the bag and line and/or handle are stowed in the boat and not being used.
14	Remove instructions for how to make a pouch from the manual.	17	The pouch can be made by cutting a flat piece of Styrofoam to size, placing it inside a plastic zip-closure baggy, and covering the baggy with sturdy nylon pack cloth.

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15	Use boat capacity measurement of lbs. (persons, motor, and gear) instead of persons to describe minimum boat size. Add a formula for old boats without capacity plates. This does not change the minimum size of the boat required. New boats have the same design, dimensions, and total weight capacity for persons, motor and gear (439lbs) as old boats that have been used successfully for over 15 years, however, the information on the capacity plate has changed on new boats from 3 persons before to 2 persons now. Boats manufactured prior to 1972 do not have capacity plates.	18	A non-motorized boat with oars that is USCG rated for a minimum of three persons has a USCG maximum weight limit rating for persons, motor and gear of at least 439 lbs. For older boats without a capacity plate, the boat must have a score of at least 2.5 when this formula is applied: Length (in feet) x Width (in feet) divided by 15. (example: 10.25 x 3.75 / 15 = 2.56)
16	Add that handlers may be more than 6' away from dog while dog completes the swim requirement.	21, 25	(Junior) The dog must continue swimming within six feet of the handler during the one-minute swimming portion of this exercise. The dog must remain within close proximity (six feet) of the handler when entering the water to swimming depth, and again when finishing the swim portion of the exercise until the team crosses the three-foot line together at the conclusion of the exercise. at all times including entering the water and when returning to shore and crossing the three-foot line. (Apprentice) The dog must continue swimming within six feet of the handler during the two-minute swimming portion of this exercise. The dog must be in close proximity (six feet) of the handler when beginning the swim after the recall, and again when finishing the swim portion of the exercise until the team crosses the three-foot line together at the conclusion of the exercise. The dog must remain within close proximity (six feet) at all times including when returning to shore and crossing the three-foot line.
17	Change the word "object" to "article" in the underwater retrieve exercise to be consistent.	22	Demonstrates the dog's ability to retrieve and deliver an underwater object article . In the process of retrieving the object article , the dog's full face must be submerged to include the eyes. Equipment There are three objects allowed. One of three articles will be used: bait bucket, wiffle ball, or three-handled fetch toy.
18	Add "for a total of 3 drops" for underwater retrieve for clarity.	22	The handler may re-drop the object up to a total of two times (for a total of three drops) within the time allowed
19	Remove confusing wording about the team boarding boat for the Apprentice boat ride.	23	The dummy must be delivered to hand either near the stern, or on the platform. The handler passes the dummy to the steward. Depending on the point of delivery, the team or the handler boards the boat. Boat ride begins as soon as the team is in position (team is in position when the handler is seated on the platform and the dog is under control on the platform).

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20	Add that the handler may take no more than one step from the starting position during gear bag retrieve.	26	On the judge's signal, the handler will send the dog to retrieve the gear bag. The dog may pull or carry the bag, and must deliver it to the handler. The handler may take no more than one step from the starting position when sending the dog until receiving the bag from the dog.
21	Add the word "steward" to the 2nd working exercise to be consistent with other retrieve exercises.	27	On the judge's signal, the handler or steward throws the dummy into the water approximately 50' from the stern of the boat and as parallel to shore as possible.
22	Identify judge of record in 3 places regarding provisional judging.	29,33, 34	If a Provisional Judge is judging the trial, the Supervisory Judge is considered the judge of record.
23	Add that steward may hold the dog's harness to unhook and attach courier pouch.	30	After receiving the first pouch, the steward directs the dog to take or attaches the second courier pouch; the dog returns to handler and delivers the pouch. The steward may hold the harness to steady the dog while removing the first pouch and/or attaching the second pouch, but may not steer the dog in any way.
24	Add that if dog on platform drops pouch, the dog may be directed to pick it up, and if the pouch was dropped in the water and dog can reach it while remaining on the boat, the exercise can continue.	31	Neither the handler nor the steward may throw the pouch into the water and command the dog to take it. Once the handler or steward has given a pouch to the dog, they may not touch the pouch again. A dog that drops the pouch while still on the platform, either on to the platform or in to the water, may be redirected to pick it up, but the dog may not enter the water to do so.
25	Add detail to how the Courier net retrieve exercise is set up, and what the steward can and cannot do.	32	Steward with fishing net is in the second boat which is at the opposite 60' marker from the handler's boat. On the judge's signal, the handler sends the dog to the steward's boat to retrieve the fishing net. The steward may hand the net to the dog, or the dog may retrieve the net as it floats in the water. When the dog reaches the steward's boat, the steward directs the dog to take the floating line end of the fishing net in its mouth. Note: The net may be placed on the platform as the dog is returning to the handler's boat in the previous exercise. Up to three feet of the floating line end of the fishing net may hang over the stern of the steward's boat and may be in the water. The net may be held by the steward and may be in the steward's lap, but may not be held up in the air. Once the net is placed in position, the steward may not move their hands, adjust the position of the net, or physically signal or speak to the dog until the dog reaches half way from handler's boat to steward's boat. After the dog reaches half way, the steward may handle the net and may signal and speak to the dog. The steward may not physically signal or speak to the dog before it reaches the half way mark. Two to three feet of the floating line end of the fishing net may hang over the stern of the steward's boat and be visible to the dog as the dog approaches.
26	Add details that describe an improperly thrown dummy during the Master net retrieve that causes automatic failure.	37	If the handler fails to toss the dummy before the dog reaches the halfway point or if the dummy is thrown behind the dog or in line with the boats (rather than as half of a double-directed retrieve), it will be an automatic failure.
27	Reduce the time to apply to host a water trial from 4 months to 3 months.	42	At least three months in advance of a proposed water trial, a completed Water Trial Application, along with proof of insurance and a non-refundable fee of \$25.00 per trial (payable to the PWDCC) must be submitted to the PWDCC WTC Chairperson.

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28	Add detail to the requirement that regional club trials not conflict with a North American specialty and national specialty water trial practice day.	42	PWDCC sanctioned water trials may not conflict with any North American National Specialty. No other water trial may be held on the same day as a practice day of a PWDCC National Specialty Water Trial through the conclusion of a PWDCC National Specialty.
29	Add description of holding 2 trials in 1 day and 1 trial over two days.	42,43	In cases where very low or excessive entry numbers are anticipated, clubs may opt to schedule two trials in one day or split one trial across two days. All total judging time and entry number limits must be observed on a per-day basis (ie, 8 total hours/35 dogs.) In the 'two trials in one day' scenario, these entry limits include the case of a dog that moves up to a higher level in Trial 2 after qualifying in Trial 1. There must be adequate time in the schedule to accommodate such move-ups unless the premium list states that move-ups will not be allowed. In the case of one trial split over two days, total entry limits per day may not exceed the limit of 8 hours/35 dogs. These Trial schedule modifications must be noted in the Premium List. If entries are such that a club wants to change the schedule after the trial opens the club must submit a modified application, and if the modifications are approved, any dogs entered must be allowed to withdraw with a full refund if they do not wish to trial under the modified schedule. Premium List 1. Date and location of trial, and notification of modifications such as 2 trials in one day, or one trial split across 2 days.
30	Add words to clarify when extra events that use the water test area may be held.	43	A club may choose to hold any additional events along with their water trials. These events do not need the approval of the Water Trial Committee. If these events use the water trial test area after the test area has been set up for the trial, they may only be held on a practice day or, at the end of judging for the day.
31	Change "consecutive days" to "trials" regarding the limit that a judge may judge for one club in one year.	44	A club may use an individual judge for no more than three consecutive days trials per year.
32	Add that supervising a provisional judge does not count towards the 3 trial or judging in consecutive years limits.	44	A club may not use the same water trial judge in 2 consecutive years. A club may use an individual judge for no more than three consecutive days trials per year. Supervising a provisional judge does not count towards either of these two limits.
33	Add that a judge may not judge the National Specialty Water Trial in 2 consecutive years.	44	A judge may not judge at the National Specialty Water Trial in 2 consecutive years.
34	Add that a dog may be entered in only one level at the National Specialty Water Trial.	45	6. Statement of whether the host committee will allow a dog to have multiple entries at the same trial, such as allowing entries for both Junior and Apprentice or WWD and CWD for dogs that have already earned WWD but not WWDX. Note: A dog is only allowed to enter one test level at the National Specialty water trial.

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35	Clarify that the random draw does not change priority of entries.	48	All entries received during the draw period shall be accepted for the random draw and shall be treated equally without regard to date received, following the rules regarding priority of entries including those stated in the trial's Premium List. or any other criteria.
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36	Add consistent wording throughout manual regarding WWDX as a regular entry.	48, 49	<p>A dog may continue to be a regular entrant at the level of its highest title or certificate for 30 days after earning that title/certificate. However, if a dog is entered at or moved to a higher test level during the 30 days, it may not be a regular entrant again at the lower level where it earned the title/certificate, except dogs entered at the Working Water Dog level that have not yet earned the title of WWDX remain regular entries.</p> <p>The Host Committee for a National Specialty may permit a dog to be entered as an exhibition entry only at the level of the dog's highest title or certificate at the date of the trial, except that entries in Working by dogs that have not earned WWDX are considered regular entries and may enter Working at a National Specialty even if they have earned a higher title.</p>
37	Indicate that briefings should be brief.	53	<p>The judge will conduct a briefing for participants before the start of the judging at each test level. The briefing should summarize the test exercises at that level, explain to the extent possible any adaptations to be made in exercises because of site conditions The briefing should be a quick reminder of test exercises including adaptations resulting from trial site conditions, if any, and allow participants a chance to ask questions.</p>
38	Place the aggression forms on the PWDCC website with the other water trial forms, and remove them from the manual.		The forms are removed from the manual
39	Add expectations of club stewards to glossary.	63	It is expected that the Club Steward is capable of performing the duties required of that position (ex. throwing a dummy the distance needed for an exercise).