

search

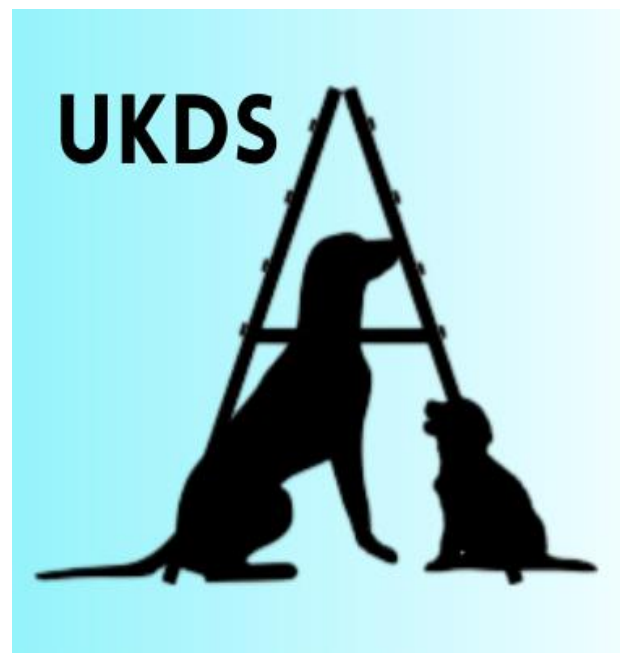
sendaway

UK DOG SPORT Regulations & Guidance 2026

heelwork

recall

retrieve



speak

agility

stay

assistance

Some useful links:

UKDS website

<https://ukdogsport.co.uk>

email:

info@ukdogsport.co.uk

membership:

<https://ukdogsport.co.uk/index.php/membership>

UKDS Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/254502432630348>



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Introduction

This 2026 version comes into effect from 1st March 2026 and includes changes (herein shown in green text) to the following:

- Heelwork pace in Foundation

General Regulations

Organisers of any UKDS event, must first submit an event application form which can be found on the UKDS website. Those holding an event, training activity, meeting or seminar must ensure that both the venue and the event have been properly risk assessed, and all necessary steps have been taken to ensure the safety of all those attending, their dogs and their vehicles.

Running a UKDS Event

Minimum facilities to put on an event are as follows:

- Adequate parking off the highway
- Toilet / hand washing facilities
- Secure fencing / gates

However, any additional comforts such as seating, refreshments, or cover, would be a welcome bonus. All those hosting an event will be responsible for providing a suitable venue as above, inviting suitably qualified judge/s and helpers and ensuring that there is sufficient help available. They will also set their own level of entry fees to cover anticipated expenses, but they should not be excessive.

Entries may be received by email or online or however the organiser wishes, but they must ensure that competitors are kept fully informed of all the details of their event.

Event entry forms should allow competitors to declare any impairments e.g. hard of hearing, uses a walking aid etc. so that adequate provisions can be made where possible.

Those hosting events must give thought to numbers and what can be accommodated and restrict entries to that number. This can be done on a first come first served or an anonymous ballot, either of which must be made clear at time of entry.

Organisers must ensure that insurance cover is in place for their event. UKDS Trainers are expected to have their own insurance in place.

Organisers of events may host as many or as few levels as they can accommodate, there must be a minimum entry of three competitors to each level.

Organisers must ensure they have sufficient help to run the event. Helpers may be paid all reasonable expenses from the proceeds of entries, and this should be considered when setting entry fees. However, it is anticipated that these events will try to ensure that judges and helpers do not have too far to travel, so accommodation expenses can be avoided or kept to a minimum.

Judges may provide their own stewards or liaise with the organisers if this is not possible.

Eligibility

Foundation Level - Open to dogs and handlers that have not competed in any competitive dog sport or club competition. Dogs and handlers may remain at this level unless they qualify Beginners or above in UKDS

Beginner Level - Open to dogs and handlers that have not competed in any competitive dog sport - UKDS foundation level and club competitions exempt. Dogs and handlers may remain at this level unless they qualify Novice or above in UKDS.

The first two levels are designed to encourage participation by those with no experience of dog sport and should be within the capabilities of any breed.

Smaller dogs will have the clear jump reduced (see Agility section) and no qualification is required to enter these two levels, but it is expected that dogs will be of good temperament and under control.

It is possible that dogs and handlers may never progress beyond this level of competition, and this is the reason why two comparatively basic levels are offered so that they may continue to compete within their capabilities.

Novice Level - Open to dogs and/or handlers who have trained in other disciplines e.g. agility, flyball, scentwork, rally, obedience, hoopers. Open to all dogs that have not qualified at Intermediate level or above in UKDS, or equivalent level in another discipline.

Intermediate Level - Open to all dogs that have not qualified at Advanced level or above in UKDS or worked higher in another discipline.

Advanced Level - Open to dogs that have qualified Intermediate level in UKDS or have worked at a similar level in another discipline. Both the Intermediate and Advanced Levels are set at a progressively higher standard to encourage participation by serious dog sport enthusiasts.

Expert Level - Open to Dogs that have qualified Advanced level UKDS. Qualification at this level will not affect entry into Advanced. However, if both Advanced and Expert are offered at an event those with an Expert qualification must enter Expert.

It is envisaged that this level will prove that working dogs are useful dogs and provide handlers with something new to teach their dogs.

Competing in an Event

Dogs/Bitches under 12 months of age, in season or suffering from* any ill health, injury or lameness are not eligible to take part at any level. (*other than those certified as fit to compete by a Vet).

Any dog displaying any sign of aggression, or any handler using punitive correction may be disqualified from the event or training session and asked to leave the venue.

Dogs may not compete at more than one level at any UKDS event, but handlers may work more than one dog. There is no requirement for dogs to be KC registered.

Dogs must be worked in a suitable collar for the breed of dog which should be worn throughout all tests.

For on lead work the lead must be a clip-on type of suitable length so as not to hinder the natural movement of the dog.

‘Not for competition’ or ‘training rounds’ will not be permitted at any level. However, if a handler decides during their work to help their dog and forfeit their marks for a particular exercise that is their choice. They are nevertheless expected to start the test with the intention of completing all exercises according to the Regulations.

UKDS Qualifications

Certificates will be awarded to competitors at all levels that reach the required qualifying marks as follows:

Qualifications	Qualifying Marks
FOUNDATION Foundation Dog Qualified (FDQ) Foundation Dog Excellent (FDEX)	FOUNDATION - Total max 100 75-85 FDQ 86-100 FDEX
BEGINNER Beginner Dog Qualified (BDQ) Beginner Dog Excellent (BDEX)	BEGINNER - Total max 100 75-85 BDQ 86-100 BDEX
NOVICE Novice Dog Qualified (NDQ) Novice Dog Excellent (NDEX)	NOVICE - Total max 110 85-95 NDQ 96-110 NDEX
INTERMEDIATE Intermediate Dog Qualified (IDQ) Intermediate Dog Excellent (IDEX)	INTERMEDIATE - Total max 110 85-95 IDQ 96-110 IDEX
ADVANCED Advanced Dog Qualified (ADQ) Advanced Dog Excellent (ADEX)	ADVANCED - Total max 110 85-95 ADQ 96-110 ADEX
EXPERT Expert Dog Qualified (EDQ) Expert Dog Excellent (EDEX)	EXPERT - Total max 125 95 -105 EDQ 106-125 EDEX

DESCRIPTION OF LEVELS

Foundation Level

Toys may be carried, and play is allowed but should be brief and not hold up the round unduly. Food may be given to the dog as a reward between exercises, with care to prevent fouling of the ground for subsequent competitors. Extra commands, encouragement and praise may be given.

Search - (30 marks - 16 to qualify)

15 paces x 15 paces square with four articles. Articles will be placed by steward with dog and handler watching. Articles which must be of suitable size and material for beginner dogs and the terrain (socks tied in a knot, lids, toilet roll middles, length of rope, hosepipe, piece of wood for example). Articles should be delivered to hand. Dogs may be on a long line in the interests of safety. (5 mins - 30 marks - 6 for each article and 6 for style)

Control - (50 marks - 35 to qualify)

Heelwork on lead: At normal pace. On steward's commands, the lead must not be used as correction but extra commands, praise and encouragement by means of voice or sight of the carried toy, or food, are allowed. To include turns and halts where the dog must sit by handler's side **(10 marks)**

Recall on Lead: Dog left in a sit, handler walks to length of lead, turns and on Steward's command calls the dog to sit in front. Lead must not be used to assist. **(10 marks)**

Retrieve: Handler's own article. Dogs to sit by handler's left side and wait (may be held) while article is thrown and then on Stewards' command go and fetch the article and return to handler and sit in front. Article must be delivered to hand. (Dog may be on a line for security but not to assist the exercise, any line used must be a minimum of 20ft). **(10 marks)**

Sendaway: Handler's own toy, mat or marker at a minimum distance of 15 yards. Dogs must remain at the start point either in a wait or held but may watch the item put out by the steward. Dog to be sent, stopped and wait and on steward's command handlers may if they choose, go up and reward their dog at the spot or call their dog back. Either way the dog can be rewarded with its toy or food at the end of the exercise. (Dog may be on a line for security but not to assist the exercise, any line used must be a minimum of 20ft). **(10 marks)**

Stays - A Sit Stay for 30 seconds with dog beside handler, on a loose lead (if required by handler). Carried out individually or in a group, at the judge's discretion. **(10 marks)**

Agility - (20 marks - 14 to qualify)

Dogs may be kept on a lead or line for security, and handler can remain close to them, but the lead or line must not be used to assist and must not impede the dog's progress over or through the obstacles in any way.

Clear jump 2ft - Dogs under 15ins jump 1ft- Dogs to be under control and sent over on handler's command and then remain on the other side in a stationary position until steward's command of exercise over. **(5 marks)**

Tunnel - Dogs to be under control and sent through on handler's command and then remain on the other side in a stationary position until steward's command of exercise over. **(5 marks)**

A Frame - Dogs to be under control and sent over on handler's command and remain on other side in a stationary position until steward's command of exercise over. **(10 marks)**

100 marks overall - 75 to qualify

Handler notes

Beginner Level

Toys may be carried, and play is allowed but should be brief and not hold up the round unduly. Food may be given to the dog as a reward between exercises, with care to prevent fouling of the ground for subsequent competitors. Extra commands, encouragement and praise may be given.

Search - (30 marks - 16 to qualify)

20 paces x 20 paces square with four articles. Articles will be placed by steward with dog and handler watching. Articles must be of suitable size and material for beginner dogs and the terrain. Articles should be delivered to hand. Dogs may be on a long line in the interests of safety, but the line must not be held. (5 mins - 30 marks - 6 for each article and 6 for style).

Control - (50 marks - 35 to qualify)

Heelwork on lead: At normal pace. On steward's commands to include turns and halts where the dog must sit at the handler's side. The lead must not be used as correction, but extra commands, praise and encouragement by means of voice or sight of the carried toy, or food, are allowed. **(10 marks)**

Recall: Dog left in a sit off lead, handler walks 10 paces turns and calls the dog on steward's command, dog to sit in front of handler. **(10 marks)**

Retrieve: Handler's own article. Dog to sit on handler's left-hand side off the lead and wait (may be held by the collar) while article is thrown, then on steward's command, go and fetch the article, return to handler and sit in front. Article must be delivered to hand. Dogs may be on a long line in the interests of safety, but the line must not be held. **(10 marks)**

Sendaway: Handler's own toy, mat or marker at a minimum distance of 20 yards. Dogs must remain at the start point either in a wait or held but may watch the item put out by the steward. Dog to be sent, stopped and wait until steward's command. At this point the handler may if they choose, go up and reward their dog at the spot, or call their dog back. Either way the dog can be rewarded with its toy or food at the end of the exercise. **(10 marks)**

Stays - A Sit Stay for 1 minute with handler 2 paces away from dog. Dog can be on a loose lead (if required by handler) or off lead. Carried out individually or in a group, at the judge's discretion. **(10 marks)**

Agility - (20 marks - 14 to qualify)

Handlers may send their dogs over or through the obstacles in their own time. Obstacles will be done in the order specified by the judge, and when each obstacle is completed, the steward will instruct the handler to join their dog and inform them when the exercise is over.

There is no specific distance from which the dogs must be sent forward to negotiate the obstacles, but handlers are expected to judge what is safe for their dogs. Handlers must not go beyond the start of the obstacle until instructed to do so by the steward.

Clear jump 2ft - Dogs under 15ins jump 1ft - Dogs to be under control and sent over on handler's command and then remain on the other side in a stationary position until joined by the handler on steward's command. **(5 marks)**

Tunnel - Dogs to be under control and sent through on handler's command and then remain on the other side in a stationary position until joined by the handler on steward's command. **(5 marks)**

A Frame - Dogs to be under control and sent over on handler's command and remain on other side in a stationary position until joined by the handler on steward's command. **(10 marks)**

100 marks overall - 75 to qualify

Handler notes

Novice Level

A toy may be carried out of sight of dog and only used to reward between exercises or at the end of test. However, play should be brief and not hold up the round unduly. Food can be carried, in a sealed container out of sight, and given to the dog between exercises or at the end of the test, with care to prevent fouling of the ground for subsequent competitors. Extra commands, encouragement and praise may be given.

Search - (30 marks - 16 to qualify)

20 paces x 20 paces square, 4 articles. Articles placed by steward with dog and handler present. Articles should be a suitable for the terrain and for all breeds at Novice level. Articles should be delivered to hand (5 minutes - 6 for each article and 6 for style).

Control - (60 marks - 45 to qualify)

Heel on lead and Heel Free: - To include halts with dog to sit by handler's left side, all three turns (left, right and about) and one change of pace from a halt, as directed by steward. The lead should be loose during heel on lead, and the steward will instruct the handler at what point to remove the lead, approximately halfway through the round from a halt. Extra commands and encouragement by voice are allowed. **(15 marks)**

The object of this exercise is to introduce off lead heelwork so the amount of combined heelwork will not be excessive.

Recall: Dogs to be left in a sit. Handler will leave dog on steward's command and walk a minimum of 15 paces as directed and turn and face the dog. The dog will be recalled on steward's command to sit in front of handler and then finish to heel. **(10 marks)**

Retrieve: Dogs to sit by handler's left side and wait, while the dumbbell is thrown by the handler to a distance indicated by the steward, and then on steward's command will be sent to fetch and return with the dumbbell and sit in front of the handler still holding the dumbbell. The steward will direct the handler to take the dumbbell and send the dog to heel. **(10 marks)**

Sendaway: The Dog will be sent according to the steward's instructions to a point which will have some sort of marker (Minimum 30 yards) where it will be stopped and must remain until steward indicates that the test is finished. At this point the handler will call their dog back. The dog can be rewarded with a toy or food at the end of the exercise. **(10 marks)**

Speak: Dog will be on the lead at Handlers' side and will be required to "speak" on one command. Three barks are required. **(5 marks)**

Stay: A Down Stay for 2 minutes with handler 5 paces away from dog. Dog to be off lead. Carried out individually or in a group, at the judge's discretion. **(10 marks)**

Agility - (20 marks -14 to qualify)

Handlers may send their dogs over or through the obstacles in their own time. Obstacles will be done in the order specified by the judge, and when each obstacle is completed, the steward will instruct the handler to join their dog and inform them when the exercise is over.

There is no specific distance from which the dogs must be sent forward to negotiate the obstacles, but handlers are expected to judge what is safe for their dogs.

Handlers must not go beyond the start of the obstacle until instructed to do so by the steward.

Clear jump 2ft - Dogs under 15ins jump 1ft - Dogs to be under control and sent over on handler's command and then remain on the other side in a stationary position until joined by the handler on steward's command. **(5 marks)**

Tunnel - Dogs to be under control and sent through on handler's command and then remain on the other side in a stationary position until joined by the handler on steward's command. **(5 marks)**

A Frame - Dogs to be under control and sent over on handler's command and remain on other side in a stationary position until joined by the handler on steward's command. **(10 marks)**

110 marks overall - 85 to qualify

Handler notes

Intermediate Level

No food or toys to be given or carried. Minimal extra commands will be allowed. Stays require a last command. Constant encouragement or any handling of the dog will be penalised.

Search - (30 marks - 16 to qualify)

25 x 25 paces square, 4 articles. Articles placed by steward out of sight of dog and handler. Articles must be suitable for all breeds. Articles should be delivered to hand (5 minutes allowed 6 for each article and 6 for style)

Control - (60 marks - 45 to qualify)

Heel Free at all three paces (normal, slow and fast) with all three turns (right, left and about) as directed by steward. Change of pace will be from the halt. **(15 marks)**

Recall: Dogs to sit and wait and handler will leave dog on steward's command and walk a minimum of 15 paces as directed and turn and face the dog. The dog will be recalled on steward's command to sit in front of handler and then finish to heel. **(10 marks)**

Retrieve: Dog to sit and wait by the handler's left-hand side, while the dumbbell is thrown by the handler to a distance indicated by the steward, and then on steward's command will be sent to fetch and return with the dumbbell and sit in front of the handler still holding the dumbbell. The steward will direct the handler to take the dumbbell and send the dog to heel. **(10 marks)**

Sendaway: The Dog will be sent according to the steward's instructions to a point (minimum 50 yards) which may or may not have a marker, where it will be stopped and must remain until steward indicates that the test is finished. The dog will be called back when directed. **(10 marks)**

Speak: Dog will be at handler's side off the lead. The handler will command the dog to speak. Five barks on one command and a Quiet are required. **(5 marks)**

Stay: A Down Stay for 3 minutes with handler 10 paces away from dog. Dog to be off lead. Carried out individually or in a group, at the judge's discretion.

During the 3 minutes a distraction will be provided by the handler, at the steward's instruction. Distractions will be visual and must not scare or unsettle the dogs. Distractions will not include anything noise based.

List of possible distractions: handlers asked to turn 360 degrees on the spot; handlers gather into a group (if group stay); handler bends over forward (e.g. touching their knees). The distraction will be the same for all handlers whether the stay is carried out individually or in a group. **(10 marks)**

Agility - (20 marks -14 to qualify)

Handlers may send their dogs over or through the obstacles in their own time. Obstacles will be done in the order specified by the judge, and when each obstacle is completed, the steward will instruct the handler to join their dog and inform them when the exercise is over.

There is no specific distance from which the dogs must be sent forward to negotiate the obstacles, but handlers are expected to judge what is safe for their dogs. Handlers must not go beyond the start of the obstacle until instructed to do so by the steward.

Clear jump 2ft - Dogs under 15ins jump 1ft - Dogs to be under control and sent over on handler's command and then remain on the other side in a stationary position until joined by the handler on steward's command. **(5 marks)**

Tunnel - Dogs to be under control and sent through on handler's command and then remain on the other side in a stationary position until joined by the handler on steward's command. **(5 marks)**

A Frame - Dog to be under control and sent over on handler's command and then wait on other side in a stationary position until joined by the handler on steward's command. **(10 marks)**

110 marks overall - 85 to qualify

Handler notes

Advanced Level

No food or toys to be given or carried. No extra commands in any exercise other than the search.

Search (30 marks - 16 to qualify)

25 pace x 25 pace square, 4 articles. Articles placed by steward out of sight of dog and handler. Articles must be of suitable size for the terrain and for all breeds but within that remit may be more challenging than those in Intermediate.

Articles should be delivered to hand (5 minutes allowed - 6 for each article and 6 for style)

Control (60 marks - 45 to qualify)

Heel Free - at all three paces (normal, slow and fast) with all three turns (right, left and about) as directed by steward, and change of pace from either the halt or on the move. **(15 marks)**

Recall: Handler will leave their dog in a position of their choice, and on steward's instruction will walk where directed to include at least one turn. The handler will then be told to call their dog to heel and will continue with heelwork as directed until instructed to halt. **(10 marks)**

Retrieve: The Retrieve article to be supplied by the judge. The dog will be commanded to wait while the article is thrown by the handler to a distance indicated by the steward, and then on steward's command will be sent to fetch and return to sit in front of the handler still holding the article. The steward will direct the handler to take the article and send the dog to heel. Article will be suitable for all breeds and non-injurious. **(10 marks)**

Sendaway and Redirect: The Dog will be sent according to the steward's instructions to a point (minimum 70 yards) where it will be stopped and must remain until redirected according to Judge's instructions.

The sendaway and redirection points may or may not be marked, but the handler will inform the judge when they are satisfied with the dog's position, and the judge will indicate when they are happy for the dog to move on. At the end of the exercise the dog will be called back. **(10 marks)**

Speak: According to Judge's instruction. **(5 marks)**

Stay: A Down Stay for 3 minutes with handler 20 paces away from dog. Dog to be off lead. Carried out individually or in a group, at the judge's discretion.

During the 3 minutes a distraction will be provided by the steward.

Distractions will be visual and must not scare or unsettle the dogs.
Distractions will not include anything noise based.

List of possible distractions:

Steward approaches handler and hands them a small visible item (e.g. playing card, plastic lid, piece of rope, toilet roll middle) which remains in sight of the dog for the duration of the stay.

Steward gives a command such as: handlers asked to place their hands on their head; sit on a chair and open a book; place an item on the floor; fold or stack a chair; other movement at judge's discretion taking into consideration handlers abilities for jumping, crouching, bending down etc.
(10 marks)

Agility (20 marks -14 to qualify)

Handlers may send their dogs over or through the obstacles in their own time but will be directed by the steward when to recall them. Obstacles will be done in the order specified by the judge, and when each obstacle is completed, the steward will instruct the handler to join their dog and inform them when the exercise is over.

There is no specific distance from which the dogs must be sent forward to negotiate the obstacles, but handlers are expected to judge what is safe for their dogs. Handlers must not go beyond the start of the obstacle until instructed to do so by the steward.

Clear jump 2ft - Dogs under 15ins jump 1ft - Dogs to be under control and wait while handler throws their own dumbbell over the jump. Dog to be sent over the jump to retrieve the dumbbell on steward's command, handler may recall the dog who should return over the jump and deliver the dumbbell to hand. Steward will instruct handler to take the dumbbell and then the exercise is over. **(5 marks)**

Tunnel - Dogs to be under control and sent through the tunnel and then wait in a stationary position until handler recalls back through the tunnel on Steward's command. Exercise is finished when dog reaches handler. **(5 marks)**

A frame - Dog to go over on command, wait in a stationary position until recalled over by the handler on steward's command. **(10 marks)**

110 marks overall - 85 to qualify

Expert Level

Control (60 marks - 45 to qualify)

No food or toys to be given or carried. No extra commands in any exercise.

Heel Free - at all three paces with all three turns as directed by steward. (15 marks)

Recall: Handler will leave their dog in a position of their choice, and on steward's instruction will walk where directed to include at least one turn. The handler will then be told to call their dog to heel and will continue with heelwork as directed until instructed to halt. (10 marks)

Retrieve: The Retrieve article to be supplied by the judge. The dog will be commanded to wait while the article is thrown by the handler to a distance indicated by the steward, and then on steward's command will be sent to fetch and return to sit in front of the handler still holding the article.

The steward will direct the handler to take the article and send the dog to heel. Article will be suitable for all breeds and non-injurious. (10 marks)

Sendaway and Redirect: The Dog will be sent according to the steward's instructions to a point (minimum 70 yards) where it will be stopped and must remain until redirected according to Judge's instructions. The dog will then be called back. (10 marks)

Speak: According to Judge's instruction. (5 marks)

Stay: A Stay for 3 minutes, the judge will choose a Sit Stay or Down Stay and it will be the same for each dog. Dog to be off lead. Carried out individually.

The dog is set up for their stay and handler walks out 20 paces in front of the dog and remains facing away from dog for the duration of the stay.

During the 3 minutes the steward will place an item, of the judge's choice, halfway between the handler and the dog. To serve as a visual distraction the item must be visible to the dog.

Distractions will not include anything noise based.

Choice of possible visual distractions will depend on how the length of grass affects the visibility of the item and must be chosen in agreement with the event organiser.

Possibilities to consider: a shoe, a bowl, a chair, a bag, a bucket, a cone, etc. This is a combined distraction of the item being placed, and movement from the steward placing the item. (10 marks)

Assistance Dog Section

Agility: (35 marks - 25 to qualify)

Handlers will provide their own three articles for this test which should consist of:

Bunch of keys; The bunch of keys should be a minimum of three keys on a plain fob with no other attachments.

Purse /wallet; The purse or wallet does not need to contain money!

Mobile phone/remote control; The mobile phone or remote control shall have no loose parts or accessible batteries.

A seat will be placed three paces in front of each obstacle by the judge or steward. The handler's three articles will be given to the judge or steward to place one at the other side of each obstacle. All articles will be placed at the beginning of the test. The judge will decide where each article goes without handler's knowledge.

Handlers will be seated for each of the three obstacles. Handlers must send their dogs over or through the obstacles to retrieve their property from a controlled, stationary start.

Dogs should go through or over the obstacle, retrieve, return and deliver to hand without further command. Obstacles will be done in the order specified by the judge. 2 minutes are allowed for each obstacle and is complete when the article is delivered to hand.

Clear jump 2ft - Dogs under 15ins jump 1ft - Dog to be sent over the jump to retrieve the handler's article and return over the jump without further command, to deliver the article to hand. (10 marks)

Tunnel - Dogs to be sent through, to retrieve handler's article back through the tunnel with no extra command. (10 marks)

A frame - Dog to be sent over to retrieve handler's article and return over without further command. (15 marks)

Nosework (30 marks - 20 to qualify)

Property Search - A 10 x 10 pace search square, 1 article placed by the Steward. This should be a small practical article resembling lost property. (i.e. plastic ID/shopping card, key on a key ring, biro pen, pencil, small plastic money bag with a few coins, hair slide, comb).

The article will be placed by steward out of sight of dog and handler. Article should be delivered to hand. **(1 minute - 15 marks)**

Detection - In a marked area of 15 x 15 paces 12 terracotta flowerpots will be evenly spaced across the area. Dogs will be sent to find a tennis ball located under one of the flowerpots, and when the correct pot is located the dog will indicate so that the handler is able to inform the judge that the ball has been located, the handler will call the dog out and reward. The ball will be placed under the flowerpot out of sight of dog and handler by a steward, and the position of the correct pot will remain the same for all competitors, but the pot may be replaced if necessary. All pots will have been handled but the ball may only be handled by a gloved hand. **(1 minute to locate - 15 marks)**

125 marks overall - 95 to qualify

Handler notes

DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISES

Search Square - The area for the search will have been heavily walked over prior to the competition starting. If land is short, it may not be possible to give each dog a fresh search square although this would be the ideal. However, there must be enough space to move the square if any dog fouls it or it becomes poached, downtrodden or overused.

Articles must be suitable for the level being worked and the terrain, as well as appropriate for all breeds and sizes of dog, and non-injurious if swallowed.

There must be a separate clean set of articles for each dog, which must not include food or toys. Handlers are free to work their dogs as they wish, but must not enter the search area, and unnecessary or constant commands will be penalised.

In all search and the detection exercises the articles or article should be delivered to hand. Handlers will not be permitted to watch the detection exercise or any of the searches for either articles or the hidden person, of the level they are working prior to working their own dog. If a handler is working two dogs at the same level, the placement of articles/detection pots will be changed for one of them.

Heelwork - On or off lead: Dogs should walk close to the handler's left-hand side, at heel and sit when the handler halts. Dogs should be neat and attentive whilst remaining happy and natural, and Handlers should walk or run in a natural manner, following steward's commands as accurately as possible to give an overall impression of unison and teamwork.

Recall - Whether recalling to a front present or heel position the dog should come smartly without undue deviation. In the front present recall handlers will leave their dog in the sit position but in the Recall to heel exercise handlers may leave their dog in a position of their own choice and follow the steward's directions whilst maintaining the same pace both before and after calling the dog.

Retrieve - At all levels the object of this exercise is for the dog to bring the article to the handler, and this will carry the bulk of the marks. However, some marks will be deducted for lack of accuracy or precision.

Sendaway - Must always be practical, and while no maximum distance is stipulated dogs must be sent a realistic distance and stopped (there is a minimum distance for all levels). There may be one or two redirections but not multiples, and handlers should be allowed to work their dogs to achieve their marks. However, too many commands or commands that are ignored or misinterpreted should be penalised.

Speak - Perfection at all levels is for the dog to begin speaking on one command and continue until stopped, again on one command. It is not a stay exercise so change of position and minor movement will not be marked.

However, other than speak on the move, marks will be deducted for dogs that do not remain in the vicinity of where they started.

Stays - Consideration must be given to safety when setting up a stay test and no test should be carried out in an area that has open exit points out of the venue. Handlers should be close enough to their dogs during this exercise to take charge in case of any problems.

Agility

A-Frame - It should be noted that all equipment must be in good condition and safe for dogs to use with a non-slip surface on any contact points.

The A-Frame ideal size in accordance with Agility regulations is a minimum 3ft (91.4m) wide, 9ft (2.74m) ramps and 5ft. 7in (1.7m) at the Apex.

Although on the A Frame strict adherence to contact points will not be required, dogs should go up one side and down the other, and not jump off the top, which will be considered a fault and marked accordingly.

Tunnel - Must be a minimum of 2ft (600mm) high and 9ft.10 (3m) long. However it is recognised there may be some slight variation to these according to what people have available, but common sense and avoidance of extremes is expected, and the minimum measurements must be adhered to.

The Tunnel should be held firmly in place by pegs, straps or sandbags and may be straight or with a bend according to the level being worked and the length of tunnel available.

Clear Jump - Height will be 2ft (60cm) with a reduction to 1ft (30cm) for dogs under 15 inches.

The clear jump or hurdle should be of standard type as used in working trials, with adjustable height and a solid lower bar. Where the dog is required to retrieve over the clear jump, if the dog knocks the top bar off but returns to the handler with the dumbbell, either over the lower bar of the jump or without jumping, some marks will be awarded accordingly.

For the Expert/Assistance Dog Agility the steward or judge will place a chair in front of each obstacle in which the handler must sit before sending the dog.

The seat must be placed 3 paces from the obstacle. Marks will be graduated with perfection being the dog that goes over or through the obstacle, retrieves their handler's article, returns over or through and delivers it to hand without extra commands.

Judging - Approval and Guidance

Judges may be invited to judge one or more levels by the organisers of the event. Criteria for judges at this point will be that they have judged at similar levels in working trials.

However, for the foundation and beginner levels a judge may be given their first appointment based on the organisers' knowledge of their experience in competition.

In the lower levels where a loose lead is allowed, if a handler is confident with their dog off lead it is allowed.

As the sport grows, judges may qualify to judge each level by having judged the level below at least twice. Judges should discuss their test with the organisers prior to the event.

Organisers will satisfy themselves that the judge's proposed test is achievable at the venue and suitable for the level being worked.

Judges will choose their articles according to the level being worked in agreement with the event organiser.

2nd attempts can be offered, at the judge's discretion. 2nd attempts will be marked out of a total of 50% of the original total marks (i.e. if max is 10 marks, 2nd attempt total max will be 5)

At all levels judging will be done based on an overall impression and not individually deducted marks. Judges may use lost marks to assist with their mental calculations, but their final award of marks will be based on the overall impression of the exercise being judged and must be fair to all with no bias.

Special awards may be awarded to non-qualifiers e.g. best nosework.

A dog may only be awarded zero marks for any exercise where it has done absolutely nothing.

Judges are required to ensure that the round they set at whatever level

they are judging has been properly risk assessed, and consideration has been given to the safety of all people and dogs involved.

Method of Handling

Handlers should, always, aim to work their dogs in as free and natural manner as possible, whilst maintaining a good working partnership and attention to detail.

There should be no exaggerated or unnatural movement from the handlers and no evasion or avoidance from the dog. Other than in any exercise where the dog is required to 'Speak' dogs should work silently and comply with the handler's instructions without undue resistance.

Marking individual exercises judges should be mindful of the method of handling as stated above in all exercises and apply these criteria to everything the dog and handler carries out.

Exercises are all designed to be practical, and this is how they should be judged, with the emphasis on the overall performance of the exercise, rather than focusing on individual faults.

There are no hard and fast rules about how judges award their marks, but it should be remembered that in UKDS the marks are awarded rather than deducted and it is the completion of the test that is of most importance.

However, nature calls sometimes! If it should happen in the search square a wee will be a deduction of 2 marks, and a poo will be a deduction of 4 marks from the possible 6 marks for style.