



# SSANZ Photography Guidelines

In principle, photographers and videographers are welcome at SSANZ trials, however there are a few things that should be taken into account for the safety and well-being of all.

## Recording of Event - Handler

This is covered under Regulation 13.11. The onus is on you to ensure that you adhere to these regulations and it is courteous to confirm with the judge that they are happy for you to record your search.

It may also be OK for a friend who has either completed their search or is not running a dog later in that trial, to come through with you to take photos / video on your behalf. You should always ask the presiding judge if they are happy with this. Please do not assume it is OK.

Photographers are required to remain outside the search area and should ask the judge where they would like them to stand for the duration of the search. Your request to bring someone else in may be declined if the space is crowded or not conducive to recording for any reason, for example an interior space where the start line is just through a doorway. In the event that a judge declines or asks your friend to leave, they must comply immediately without further discussion.

## Recording of Event - Organisation

The remainder of this document is dedicated to official photographers that have a prior agreement with the host organisation to either photograph or video parts of the trial. This is also covered under regulation 13.11 which states:

- a) An organisation may provide a photographer / videographer for some searches.
- b) If any recording is to occur at a trial, this must be advised by the Organisation at the time of trial entry, or at the briefing.
- c) Handlers must be given the choice, at the time of trial entry, to agree or refuse any photos or video being taken of them, their dog, and/or their searches.
- d) With permission from the handler, photos or video taken may be used by the Organisation for purposes of sharing on social media, future advertising, and/or with sponsors, and must be made available to the handler in question on request.

- e) If a professional photographer is at the venue, photos and/or video may be available to purchase and may only be shared with the permission of the subject of the photo or video.
- f) Organisations are not responsible for recording each and every search.
- g) Only the videographer(s) arranged by the Organisation may take photos or video of handlers, dogs and searches at the trial venue.
- h) The handler, Judge, or designated official reserves the right to ask the videographer to leave if they believe that is appropriate.

Official photographers have a responsibility to the trialing teams not to interfere with the search, distract the dog or handler, or provide any clue as to the location of any hide(s).

Recommended best practice would include:

1. Ask the organisation in advance if any teams have indicated on their entry that they do not wish to be photographed / recorded. Ideally, have a copy of the running order so that you can keep track of when they are due in any search that you are covering.
2. Liaise with the judges before the trial briefing to check that they are OK for you to a) be present, and b) confirm where they would like you to locate yourself. While you may have some preference for best light and other factors, the judge's decision is final.
3. Ideally the dog and handler will be able to see you from the start line so there is no risk of them being startled.
4. Experiment with and finalise your lens and camera settings before any teams come through. A big zoom lens is generally best.
5. Disable any shutter noise so that there is no clicking to distract the teams, or even give them a clue that they are close to the hide location. Take a range of shots, not just targeting the hide location(s), especially as not all dogs will be successful and some like photos of their dog working.
6. Arrange with the organisation to attend the handler briefing with the judges to advise people which elements you will be covering and give handlers the opportunity to speak to you regarding any specific needs they or their dog have. Let them know how you will make photos available after the event.
7. Minimise movement and chatter in the search area especially when there are teams present. The judge and steward need to concentrate. Definitely don't commentate on the search or utter "call it" under your breath.
8. If a dog is distracted by you or your camera, slowly lower your camera, turning the lens away from them, and turn or lower your head to break any eye contact with the dog.

Note, they may bark, stare, or simply want to approach and sniff. Do not attempt to interact with the dog or handler at all.

9. If a team has indicated that their dog is reactive, but they would still like to have photos taken, you need to ensure that you will be safe. Make sure the handler is comfortable with where you are before starting their search, especially if they intend to complete the search off-lead. You may need to exit the area for safety so it is useful to have already identified an exit route that does not take you past the start line.
10. If you hope to move from one area to another while a trial is still running, you also need to have thought about your route in advance so that you minimise the risk of disrupting teams.
11. Never enter or walk through the search area without the express permission of the judge.
12. Always check with the handler concerned before using any image outside of what has previously been agreed with the organisation for sharing.

