



## Scent Sports Association of New Zealand (SSANZ): Rules and Guidelines - Buried Hides – May 2026

### SSANZ DEFINITION OF NOSEWORK

Nosework was created for the purpose of allowing dogs to use their natural olfactory abilities to work in partnership with their handler and to locate specific target odours.

Nosework is an uninterrupted performance by a dog and handler to demonstrate working as a team and can easily be performed in a wide variety of locations.

Each participating team will be evaluated on their ability to search for and locate target odour/s.

The arrangement of the searches in Nosework trials are modelled on those of traditional working detection dogs.

The overall performance should convey an image of fun, enthusiasm, and highlight how naturally and effectively the team works together.

Our aim is to provide a safe and enriching environment that promotes a trusting and lasting relationship. Harsh handling will not be tolerated and may result in immediate disqualification and the handler not permitted to participate in any further searches on that day.

The primary focus of the trial is to achieve a qualifying score. Performance/competitive targets may be included at the discretion of the organisers when providing prizes and awards.

Buried Hide Trials are separate and distinct from Nosework Trials.

### 1. SSANZ LEVEL REQUIREMENTS – Buried Hide Trial AWARDS

#### 1.1 SSANZ NOVICE Buried Hides (BHNov) TITLE

Objective for Novice Buried Hide is to demonstrate the ability of the team to correctly identify a single target odour.

Requirements to be granted the Novice Buried Hide Title:

- a) Handler must be a current financial member of SSANZ
- b) A dog must attain eight SSANZ Novice Buried Hide qualifying certificates, consisting of a minimum of four in the Water searches, and four in the Sand searches under a minimum of two different judges at two different locations. See section 14, Definitions. Further criteria is outlined in 1.2.

#### 1.2 TO ATTAIN A NOVICE Buried Hide QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE

To attain a Novice Buried Hide qualifying certificate:

- a) The team must successfully complete a Buried Hide search in the allocated time.
- b) A minimum score of 21 points out of a maximum of 25 is required.
- c) The team must meet any other relevant criteria outlined in the SSANZ Buried Hide rules.



### 1.3 SSANZ INTERMEDIATE Buried Hide (BHInt) TITLE

Objective for Intermediate Buried Hide is to demonstrate the ability of the team to correctly identify two target odours in two different containers.

Requirements to be granted the Intermediate Nose work Title:

- a) Handler must be a current financial member of SSANZ.
- b) A dog must attain eight SSANZ Intermediate Buried Hide qualifying trial certificates, consisting of four in the water searches and four in the sand searches under a minimum of two different judges at two different locations. See section 14, Definitions. Further criteria is outlined in 1.4.

### 1.4 TO ATTAIN AN INTERMEDIATE Buried Hide QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE

To attain an Intermediate Buried Hide qualifying certificate the team must successfully complete a Buried Hide search in the allocated time.

- a) An Intermediate Buried Hide search is worth 50 points. Each hide has equal value.
- b) A minimum score of 46 is required.
- c) The team must meet any other relevant criteria outlined in the SSANZ rules.

### 1.5 SSANZ ADVANCED Buried Hide (BHAdv) TITLE

Objective for Advanced Buried Hides is to demonstrate the ability of the team to correctly identify three target odours in one search that consists of a combination of an equal number of Water containers and Sand containers.

Requirements to be granted the Advanced Buried Hide Title:

- a) Handler must be a current financial member of SSANZ
- b) A dog must attain six SSANZ Advanced Buried Hides qualifying trial certificates under a minimum of two different judges at two different locations. See section 14, Definitions. Further criteria is outlined in 1.6

### 1.6 TO ATTAIN AN ADVANCED Buried Hide QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE

To attain an Advanced Buried Hide qualifying certificate:

- a) The team must successfully complete a Buried Hide search and locate all odours within the allocated time
- b) An Advanced Buried Hide is worth 75 points. Each hide has equal value.
- c) A minimum score of 71 is required.
- d) The team must meet any other relevant criteria outlined in the SSANZ rules.

## 1.7 SSANZ EXCELLENT Buried Hide (BHExc) TITLE

Objective for Excellent Buried Hides is to demonstrate the ability of the team to correctly identify all target odours present. There will be between zero and five hides, the total number unknown to the handler on the day.

Requirements to be granted the Excellent Buried Hide Title:

- a) Handler must be a current financial member of SSANZ
- b) A dog must attain six SSANZ Excellent Buried Hides qualifying trial certificates under a minimum of two different judges at two different locations. See section 14, Definitions. Further criteria is outlined in 1.8

## 1.8 TO ATTAIN AN EXCELLENT Buried Hide QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE

To attain an Excellent Buried Hide Qualifying certificate:

- a) The team must complete a buried hide search and locate all odours within the allocated time.
- b) An Excellent Buried Search is worth 100 points.
- c) A minimum score of 96 is required
- d) The dog must meet any other relevant criteria outlined in the SSANZ rules.

## 2. SETUP OF BURIED SEARCHES GENERAL

- 2.1 The hot containers will be placed by the judge or designated official a minimum of 15 minutes before the first team commences searching.
- 2.2 The hide must not be identifiable to the team in the normal course of the search.
- 2.3 The search area should be clean and safe.
- 2.4 The search area will be clearly defined by boundary markers, structures, or walls.
- 2.5 The containers must be placed a minimum of one and half metres from any boundary.
- 2.6 There must be a clearly defined start line no less than three metres from the nearest container/s.
- 2.7 All containers used will be clean with no contamination from foodstuffs or strong smelling substances.
- 2.8 For each substrate, containers must be identical – uniform in size and type – and be made of plastic.
- 2.9 Containers may be:
  - Ten-litre round containers no deeper than 260mm
  - Square containers with a minimum width of 250mm and a maximum width of 300mm, with a minimum depth of 160mm and a maximum depth of 300mm
  - Rectangle containers with a minimum length of 300mm and a maximum length of 500mm, a minimum width of 200mm and a maximum width of 350mm, with a minimum depth of 160mm and a maximum depth of 300mm
- 2.10 Containers must be completely covered with a metal grid to prevent the dogs from making contact with the substrate. **The grid must be secured to the container.**
- 2.11 All containers must be placed at ground level.
- 2.12 Spacing: a minimum of one and half metres and a maximum of three meters between one edge of a container and the edge of another container.
- 2.13 Searches may be conducted indoors or outdoors.
- 2.14 Additional hot containers and blank containers will be on standby in case any have to be replaced.
- 2.15 Also refer to Set up of Search Area – level specific and substrate specific.

## 2.2 SET UP OF BURIED SEARCHES – SUBSTRATE SPECIFIC

### SAND

- a) Only use purchased river sand **which must be dry.**
- b) **2 x scented Q-tips will be placed inside the scent vessel.**
- c) The scent vessel **must be a round stainless steel mesh tea ball/tea infuser** with a maximum diameter of 50mm.
- d) **The scent vessel must be placed at the bottom of the container.**
- e) **There must be 25mm of sand covering the scent vessel.**

### WATER

- a) Water must be potable (drinking quality) water.
- b) **2 x scented Q-tips will be placed loose in the “hot” container(s).**
- c) **Each “cold” (blank) water container will have 2 unscented Q-tips placed loose so all containers look the same.**
- d) **Q-tips must have paper shafts, not bamboo.**
- e) All water containers must be filled with 100mm of water.

## 3 SET UP OF BURIED SEARCH AREAS – LEVEL SPECIFIC

### 3.1 NOVICE BURIED WATER SEARCH CRITERIA, IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL CRITERIA ABOVE.

- a) One hide per search
- b) Oil of Clove Bud (*Syzygium aromaticum* syn. *Eugenia caryophyllata*) will be the odour used in SSANZ Buried Hide Novice trials
- c) Eight containers placed in two parallel rows of four, with no offset.
- d) **Containers must be identical – uniform in size and type – and be made of plastic.**
- e) No formal indication or trained final response is required for the handler to call alert
- f) The judge should observe a change of behaviour from the dog.
- g) Search time is two minutes.

### 3.2 NOVICE BURIED SAND SEARCH CRITERIA, IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL CRITERIA ABOVE.

- a) One hide per search
- b) Oil of Clove Bud (*Syzygium aromaticum* syn. *Eugenia caryophyllata*) will be the odour used in SSANZ Buried Hide Novice trials
- c) Eight containers placed in two parallel rows of four, with no offset.
- d) **Containers must be identical – uniform in size and type – and be made of plastic.**
- e) No formal indication or trained final response is required for the handler to call alert
- f) The judge should observe a change of behaviour from the dog
- g) Search time is two minutes.

#### **4. INTERMEDIATE BURIED WATER SEARCH CRITERIA, IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL CRITERIA ABOVE**

- a) Two hides in two separate containers per search, one of each odour
- b) Oil of Clove Bud (*Syzygium aromaticum* syn. *Eugenia caryophyllata*) and oil of Sweet Birch (*Betula lenta*), will be the odours used in SSANZ Buried Hide Intermediate trials
- c) Twelve containers placed in any pattern
- d) Containers must be identical – uniform in size and type – and be made of plastic.
- e) No formal indication or trained final response is required for the handler to call alert
- f) The judge should observe a change of behaviour from the dog at each hide called
- g) Search time is three minutes.

#### **4.1 INTERMEDIATE BURIED SAND SEARCH CRITERIA, IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL CRITERIA ABOVE**

- a) Two hides in two separate containers per search, one of each odour
- b) Oil of Clove Bud (*Syzygium aromaticum* syn. *Eugenia caryophyllata*) and oil of Sweet Birch (*Betula lenta*), will be the odours used in SSANZ Buried Hide Intermediate trials
- c) Twelve containers placed in any pattern
- d) Containers must be identical – uniform in size and type – and be made of plastic.
- e) No formal indication or trained final response is required for the handler to call alert
- f) The judge should observe a change of behaviour from the dog at each hide called
- g) Search time is three minutes.

#### **5. ADVANCED BURIED SEARCH CRITERIA, IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL CRITERIA ABOVE**

- a) Three hides in three separate containers per search element, one of each odour
- b) Oil of Clove Bud (*Syzygium aromaticum* syn. *Eugenia caryophyllata*) oil of Sweet Birch (*Betula lenta*), and oil of Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) will be the odours used in SSANZ Advanced trials
- c) Fourteen containers placed in any pattern. Seven identical containers must be filled with sand, and seven identical containers must be filled with water. The sand and water containers may, but are not required to, be identical.
- d) No formal indication or trained final response is required for the handler to call alert
- e) The judge should observe a change of behaviour from the dog at each hide called
- f) Search time is four minutes.

## 6 EXCELLENT BURIED SEARCH CRITERIA, IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL CRITERIA ABOVE

- a) Number of hides from 0 to five, unknown to the handler
- b) The odour used in each hide is at the discretion of the judge
- c) Oil of Clove Bud (*Syzygium aromaticum* syn. *Eugenia caryophyllata*), oil of Sweet Birch (*Betula lenta*), and oil of Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) will be the odours used in SSANZ Buried Hide Excellent trials
- d) Eighteen containers placed in any pattern. Nine identical containers must be filled with sand, and nine identical containers must be filled with water. The sand and water containers may, but are not required to be identical.
- e) No formal indication or trained final response is required for the handler to call alert
- f) A change of behaviour should be observed by the judge at each hide called
- g) Handlers are required to call alerts, and “finish” once they determine all hides have been found (either before or after the Judge confirms that the find is correct).
- h) If “finish” is not called, a major fault will be incurred and the team will time out..
- i) Search time limit is four minutes.

## 7 ODOUR PREPARATION FOR BURIED HIDES

- 7.1 **Specific for Buried Hides:** Q-tips (must have paper shafts) are to be prepared with one drop of essential oil applied directly to the Q-tip no less than 24 and no more than 72 hours before use and then stored in a glass jar with an airtight lid before being used.
- 7.2 Two Q-tips are to be used in each container.

## 8 SEARCH RULES – GENERAL

- 8.1 All Buried Hide Searches are to be completed on leash.
- 8.2 The location of the hide/s must not be known to the handler.
- 8.3 The team is expected to start the search by crossing the start line. If neither the dog nor the handler crosses the start line, the team will incur a minor fault
- 8.4 Time begins when any part of the team enters the search area.
- 8.5 Once over the start line the team can search the containers in any pattern and from any angle.
- 8.6 At any time during the search the handler may use verbal and/or physical interaction, use food or a toy, to encourage and support their dogs while searching.
- 8.7 Handlers need to indicate verbally and/or visually by calling “alert” and/or raising a hand above their head, to communicate to the judge that the handler believes the dog has found the hide, and the judge will respond accordingly.
  - a) In Intermediate and above, if the alert called is on a hide already found the Judge will say “Already found – Continue” and a fault will be given. (See Section 9). If the handler calls an already-found hide a third time the search will finish.
  - b) A judge may ask “Where?” for further clarification after the alert is called. If the handler is unable to indicate the correct container, then it is considered a false alert.
  - c) Timing concludes when the judge has identified the call as “correct” in Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced, or when the handler calls “Finish” in Excellent level.
- 8.8 Handlers may take reinforcers into the search area or leave them on an elevated platform outside of the search area specified by the judge, which will be the same for all participants.
  - a) Reinforcers (food or toys) may be visible
  - b) Food must either be contained in a pocket/treat pouch if carried, or in a closed container outside the search area at the place specified by the judge.
  - c) If the reinforcers/rewards are left outside the search area, the dog must leave the search area under control and may not be sent ahead of the handler.
  - d) If, in the judge’s opinion, the dog has not left the search area in a controlled manner, a major fault may be applied.
  - e) Reinforcers may be used at any point during the search.
  - f) Handlers must not contaminate the search area with their reinforcer. No food or toys should be thrown or dropped within or adjacent to the search area
  - g) If, in the judge’s opinion, the search area has been contaminated a major fault will be deducted
  - h) Handlers must not damage the search area or anything within the search area when reinforcing their dog

## 9 FAULTS

**Faults are applied based on the following regulations/criteria**

### 9.1 Trial failure incurs a score of 0 and applies for:

- a) If the time for the search element has run out, points will be gained only for found hides in Intermediate levels and above. If no hides are found the team will lose all the points for that trial.
- b) If the handler requests help from the judge **or aborts the search, the team will lose all points for that search.**
- c) Fouling: The dog vomits, urinates, or defecates at any time **while searching.**
- d) Handler fails to call alert in the allocated time.
- e) Working the dog off lead.
- f) **If, in the opinion of the judge, harsh or intimidating handling has taken place they may deduct all points for that search.**

### 9.2 Faults are deducted according to categories of fault type - incorrect alert call, major and minor.

#### a) **Incorrect alert call**

- i) An incorrect alert call (**false alert**) will be a non-qualifying score.
- ii) At Intermediate level and above, calling alert on an already found hide will incur a deduction of three points the first time it happens.
- iii) At Intermediate level and above, the judge will call "Already found - continue" and the team may continue the search. If the hide is called for a third time the search will end and will be a non-qualifying score.

#### b) **Major faults incur a deduction of 3 points and are as follows:**

- i) Damage to the search area: including, but not limited to excessive pawing, digging, or interacting with the containers which require the replacement of one or more containers or grill covers
- ii) Interacting with containers which results in spillage of contents.
- iii) Compromising the search area: handler's reward delivery has jeopardized the integrity of the search area by damage or contamination from toys or food
- iv) Dropping food or toy rewards at any time during the search
- v) Leaving the search area. The team (both handler and dog) leaves the search area during a search.
- vi) Inappropriate fouling in the immediate vicinity of the search area: including but not limited to marking on nearby trees, defecating in the vicinity.
- vii) Scattering or throwing of food or toys in the immediate vicinity of the search area.
- viii) Safety issues or other infractions that **may place the dog, handler, judge, or stewards in a potentially dangerous situation.**
- ix) **Failing to call finish in Excellent level.**

#### c) **Minor Faults incur a deduction of 2 points**

- i) Faults will be given for:
  - a) Tangling the line.
  - b) Dropping the line.
  - c) Handler errors.
  - d) **Neither the handler nor the dog crosses the start line.**

**The judge's decision is final. No challenge or argument directly with the judge will be tolerated.**



## 10 TRIAL ENTRY CRITERIA

All entry criteria must be met for a team to participate in a SSANZ Buried Hide trial.

### 10.1 General entry requirements

- a) All handlers at a SSANZ Buried Hide Trial must be current financial members of SSANZ.
- b) **Handlers under the age of 16 are considered youth handlers (See addendum 1)**
- c) To enter an Intermediate Buried Hide Trial a dog must have a Novice Buried Hide Title.
- d) To enter an Advanced Buried Hide Trial a dog must have an Intermediate Buried Hide Title.
- e) To enter an Excellent Buried Hide Trial a dog must have an Advanced Buried Hide Title.
- f) Once a dog has a title at any particular Buried Hide level, the dog can no longer trial at that level, Exceptions are:
  - i. **Excellent level, where a team can continue to trial after gaining their title.**
  - ii. **When a dog is entered on both days at a double trial and qualifies on the first day at the trial to receive their title they are permitted to run at the same level on the second day.**
  - iii. **When a dog has entered a trial and after entries have closed they qualify out of their current level, they may trial at the level for which they have already entered.**
  - iv. **However, if the Organisation is also offering the next level up the handler may request to trial at the higher level. The decision will rest with the Organisation as to whether they can accommodate the request.**
- g) Handlers may only enter one dog at each level at a trial
- h) A judge may not enter a dog in the specific trial they are judging.
- i) A judge who is judging a trial may handle a dog in another trial at the same event at the discretion of the organiser.
- j) Dogs may trial with an alternate handler to their owner and any qualifying certificates achieved will count towards the dog's title.
- k) Organisers and officials may participate in a trial at the discretion of the organisation provided it does not impede the smooth running of the trial. The handler must not have been involved in the preparation of the search area in any capacity.

### 10.2 Requirements for the Handler

- a) Have not been banned or excluded from trialling with SSANZ
- b) Enclosed, secure footwear must be worn at all times. A handler who presents with insecure footwear will be asked to rectify the problem. If no attempt is made to rectify, the handler may be asked to leave the trial
- c) Training vests, bags, hats etc., may be worn during searches

### 10.3 Requirements for the dog

- a) All dogs participating in SSANZ Buried Hide trials must be registered with SSANZ.
- b) Over the age of six months
- c) Dogs attending the trial **should be clean. Dogs who are excessively dirty will be excluded from trialling that day.**
- d) **Dogs who raise health concerns for the judge may be excluded if a veterinary certificate is not available.**
- e) **A veterinary certificate giving a brief outline and stating that a dog is fit to trial is required if any injury/disability/illness is obvious. A vet release form is available from SSANZ on the [scentsports.nz](https://scentsports.nz) website for completion prior to the trial.**
- f) Dogs must have a current vaccination record, **issued by a registered professional.**
- g) Dogs must have a current registration with their Local Authority
- h) **Bitches in season are not allowed to participate, nor permitted at the venue where the trial is held.**
- i) **Notification is required to be given to the organisation at the earliest indication that a bitch may be in season at the time of the trial.**

#### 10.4 Menacing dogs

- a) A dog that has been classified as menacing or dangerous under the Dog Control Act (1996), may participate in a SSANZ Trial at the discretion of the hosting organisation.
- b) Additional information must be provided to the organiser **on request**. This can include, but is not limited to:
  - (i) Owner name;
  - (ii) Owner address;
  - (iii) Dog name;
  - (iv) Dog breed;
  - (v) Dog colour;
  - (vi) Type of classification.
- c) A copy of the exemption document must be provided with the entry form.
- d) A dog that has been classified as menacing under the Dog Control Act (1996), and which has been granted an exemption under Section 33E (5) of the Dog Control Act (1996) by the local territorial authority that has jurisdiction over the trial location, may participate at a SSANZ Trial within the parameters of the exemption.
- e) SSANZ organisations may require dogs with a menacing classification to be muzzled at all times, even if they have an exemption.

#### 11 EQUIPMENT

- a) Lead length and type is at the handler's discretion.
- b) Leads can be attached to a suitable harness or collar for the searches as defined in these regulations. Correctly fitted non-restrictive harnesses are permitted for use in SSANZ trials.
- c) If the line is to be attached to the harness it must be affixed to the top (spine), not to any front clip that may be present.
- d) Check, choke, slip, prong, citronella collars, **head halters, and E collars** are not permitted in the search areas.
- e) Optional equipment worn by the dog such as coats, boots, or muzzles other than those outlined above, may be permitted at the discretion of the judge, **and permission will not be unreasonably withheld.**
- f) **Belly bands or incontinence nappies are permitted. If a dog lifts its hind leg or squats as if to pee while searching it will still be faulted as a fouling incident.**

## 12 SSANZ TRIAL PROTOCOL

- 12.1 No unofficial odour may be brought anywhere onsite, other than in the confines of a private vehicle.
- 12.2 A briefing will be given before the trial starts and this is mandatory for all handlers to attend
  - a) Out of bounds areas will be outlined at the trial briefing
  - b) Search areas will be defined. Once defined, it is the responsibility of the handlers to stay out of these areas unless specifically exempted by an official on the day
  - c) Health and safety details for the venue will be advised
  - d) General housekeeping and details of the trial will be covered
- 12.3 Search areas will be defined visually and may also be broadly outlined during the briefing.
  - a) Handlers are not permitted to enter the search areas until it is their turn to trial, unless authorised by the judge or delegated official.
  - b) If a handler enters the search area without authorisation they may be disqualified from participating at the trial
- 12.4 Handlers are prohibited from discussing any detail in relation to the search or the operation of the search with any other participant or spectator until all the teams have concluded that search
- 12.5 If, in the opinion of the judge, harsh or intimidating handling has taken place, they may deduct all points for that search.
- 12.6 The judge or organiser may ask a trialist to leave if it is deemed necessary in the interests of the safety and welfare of other dogs, handlers, stewards and/or judges, or due to bad sportsmanship, including but not limited to disrespectful treatment of the venue, volunteers, officials, or fellow trialists, and intentional disclosure/knowledge of the hide locations.
- 12.7 If a handler has any concerns regarding the running of the trial or regarding any set up of a search area/judging matter, they must in the first instance bring up their concern with the Organiser. If the issue can not be resolved by the Organisation, members can complete a Feedback form which can be found on the SSANZ website and Facebook page.

12.8 Recording of the event is allowable under the following circumstances:

#### 12.8.1 Recording of event - Handler

- a) A handler may wear and use visible head or chest-mounted video equipment.
- b) Recordings of any search must not be shared with anyone until the search has finished.
- c) Recordings cannot be used to challenge the judge's decision.
- d) Use of any recording equipment must not delay the start of any search and the judge and organisation reserve the right to refuse set up of recording equipment .
- e) A handler may request permission to have a separate person record their search and the following will apply:
  - i) Permission will be granted at the discretion of the organisation and judge.
  - ii) Any person recording a search must follow all directions given by the judge or designated official.
  - iii) The judge or designation official reserves the right to ask a person recording searches to leave if they believe that is appropriate.

#### 12.8.2 Recording of event - Organisation

- a) An organisation may provide a videographer for each search.
- 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 may be used by the Organisation for the purpose 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 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) organised 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.

### 13 ORGANISATION or HOST REQUIREMENTS

- 13.1 To host a SSANZ trial you must be a current financial SSANZ Organisational member. Organisers must apply to have a trial recognised as a SSANZ trial by:
- a) **Emailing** a completed application to hold a SSANZ trial with the SSANZ Secretary
  - b) **Emailing** the application at least three months prior to the trial date
- 13.2 Organisations are responsible for providing the correct equipment and search areas as required by the SSANZ Buried Hide Regulations.
- 13.3 Upon approval, trial advertising must include the following information:
- a) "This trial is being conducted under the rules and regulations of the Scent Sports Association of New Zealand (SSANZ)"
  - b) All trials must advertise a closing date, **no less than 21 days prior to the trial date**, and entries must be kept open until that date.
  - c) Judge/s for each search and/or level
  - d) Any awards or prizes
  - e) If there is going to be a videographer or photographer in attendance, this should be advised on the **trial flyer or at the start of the trial**.
  - f) Only once the entries have closed can ballots (if required) be carried out.
  - h) On the closing date for entries, team spots will be accepted in the following order:
    - i) **Judges and stewards (see definition) of the event will be accepted first.**
    - ii) Dogs that have less than three Buried Hide qualifying certificates
    - iii) Dogs that have between three and **six (or more)** Buried Hide qualifying certificates
    - iv) In the event of the organisation receiving more entries than available spaces, a random draw from the all remaining dogs will be conducted to fill the remaining spaces in the trial.
    - v) **If there is a ballot, teams that do not receive a place will be added to a wait list. The wait list order will be emailed to those who were unsuccessful after the ballot. Should a team withdraw their entry, handlers on the wait list will be offered the empty slot in order of 13.3.h above.**
- 13.4 SSANZ will not be responsible or held liable for any accident or injury that may occur at a trial. SSANZ encourages all Organisations to hold public liability insurance for their trials.
- 13.5 Organisers may run searches and levels in any order at a trial to suit their requirements, provided these meet the criteria outlined for each individual search
- 13.6 The Organiser is responsible for contracting a SSANZ judge/judges.
- a) The Organiser and judge are to communicate between themselves directly and decide on any monetary or other remuneration. This is not a SSANZ responsibility.
- 13.7 **Organisations are responsible for providing the correct equipment and search areas as required by the SSANZ Regulations, including odour infused Q-tips and hides/vessels. A raised table, chair, or other suitable platform must be available for handlers to place personal effects before the start of the search.**
- 13.8 Entry fees charged to enter a trial are set by the Organiser.
- a) Entry fees are the property of the Organiser
  - b) Entry fees should be fair and reasonable to the trialists
- 13.9 The organiser is responsible for obtaining official SSANZ qualifying certificates.
- 13.10 Organisers, at their discretion, may present additional participation certificates/awards, but these are not officially recognised by SSANZ for the purposes of any titles.

- 13.11 The Organiser may set a competitive aspect to a trial if they wish based on the following criteria:
- i) A non-faulted team with the fastest combined time of all their searches may be awarded Highest Qualifier
  - ii) Teams on no faults place above faulted teams
  - iii) If there are no un-faulted teams, then the fastest time will come into play after considering the lowest number of faults.
  - iv) Awards and prizes are the responsibility of the Organiser.
- 13.12 Organisers may hold additional novelty scent games at SSANZ trials, with the understanding they are **to be conducted in a manner that is consistent with SSANZ protocols.**
- 13.13 Organisers must forward a copy of all results, including scores and search times to the SSANZ Secretary within **7 days** of the conclusion of the trial.
- 13.14 Organisers must keep records of the trial for 12 months after the trial date including but not limited to:
- i) Application to hold a SSANZ trial
  - ii) Entry forms
  - iii) Menacing dog information and exemptions
  - iv) Financial records

## 14 DEFINITIONS

<b>Alert:</b>	Word used by the handler to communicate to the judge that the dog has indicated the location of the odour.
<b>Change of behaviour:</b>	Any behaviour by the dog which makes it clear to the Judge and/or handler that the dog has encountered odour.
<b>Event:</b>	Several trials run in the same time frame at the same venue.
<b>Finish:</b>	The handler is required to call "Finish" when they believe all hides in the search area have been located and called in some levels. The "Finish" call stops the official search time. If "Finish" is not called, a maximum time will be allocated to that search, and only hides found will gain points.
<b>Handler:</b>	The person participating in the search with the dog.
<b>Judge:</b>	Official scorer at a trial, SSANZ approved judges.
<b>Locations:</b>	The area where the search is set up. A venue can have multiple locations for searches to be set up. Note – This is relevant for buried hide trials only.
<b>Level:</b>	One specific level of a SSANZ Buried Hide trial e.g., Novice.
<b>Official:</b>	Any person commissioned by the organiser to help run a trial.
<b>Organiser:</b>	A current financial Organisation member of SSANZ
<b>Owner:</b>	The registered owner of a dog.
<b>Search:</b>	One element of a level, e.g., water search.
<b>Start Line:</b>	A clear line marked by cones or other items that indicate where the search will begin. The team is expected to start the search by crossing the line. A minor fault will be deducted if neither the dog nor the handler crosses the line. Time begins when any part of the team enters the search area.
<b>Steward:</b>	The person who is working with a Judge to brief and/or time keep at any element.
<b>Team:</b>	A dog and handler.
<b>Trial:</b>	One single element, water and/or sand, at any level.

## **Addendum 1**

### **SSANZ Youth Handler Policy**

Handlers younger than 16 years of age can trial at SSANZ trials with the following:

- Be a member of SSANZ.
- Must have an adult guardian accompany and be responsible for the youth and the dog at the trial.
- As the youth team requires the adult guardian to support them at the individual elements of the trial if the adult is also trialling in the same level the adult is to be placed earlier than the youth in the running orders.

The guardian is to be nominated with the entry.

A statement is completed as part of the entry as to who is the adult guardian responsible for the team acknowledging the below statement.

I acknowledge that under the Dog Control Act 1996 I am legally responsible for the dog's control and compliance. I will remain on site and within line-of-sight during all runs, carry a leash, and ensure compliance with all council bylaws and event rules.

If it has been noted on the entry form that the dog is reactive the guardian must accompany the team at all times.

When the guardian goes to the search areas, they:

- Must stand where instructed and not impact any of the search areas
- Cannot speak or move while a team is searching
- Will not coach the team between or during elements.



## **Addendum 2**

### **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 wellbeing of all.

#### **Recording of Event - Handler**

This is covered under Regulation 12.8. 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 12.5 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 photographer/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 photographer/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.