**Changes in the CKC Tracking Test Rules and Regulations effective January 2020**

**Summary**

**The Big Changes:**

**1. An alternative path into urban test**

**6.1.20, 8.1.1**: Entry into UTD will now require EITHER a TD title OR a Pre-Test Certificate. The Certificate is to be obtained prior to entry into a UTD and consists of a test by an urban judge OR a person experienced in urban tracking approved by an urban judge or the CKC Zone rep. The test will be 200m or more in total length and will include vegetated and non-vegetated surfaces with a turn on each type of surface, with an article at the end of the track. The age of the track is between 30 minutes and 1 hour old. If the dog successfully completes the pre-test, the handler will be issued 3 certificates, one of which will accompany any entry into a UTD and will be non-refundable, providing the dog runs a UTD track in a tracking test. The certificates have no expiry date, but once a dog has failed at the UTD level 3 times, it must be re-certified before it can be entered in another UTD test, unless it passes a TD test. Note that the name of the person certifying the dog will be included in the catalogue.

**2. A start article in urban tests**

**10.3.1.a, d and e**: Clubs will provide an additional article scented by the tracklayer for all urban tests (UTD and UTDX). This article will be available at the start of an urban track for use by the handler, if desired, to aid in starting the dog. It cannot be used beyond the start and legal restart distance for urban tracks. This start article can be fabric or leather.

**Other changes:**

1. **6.1.8**: The tracking test secretary may now enter and handle a dog in the test. However, the test chair is still prohibited from entering/handling a dog in the test.
2. **6.1.9**: The period of time that a handler/dog may not train with the judge immediately prior to a tracking test has been reduced from 30 days to 14 days.
3. **6.1.10**: Entrants may not train on the sites for a tracking test for 14 days prior to the test. This includes field and urban tracking test sites.
4. **6.1.19**: **Clubs now have the option of accepting entries by hand, by courier or by email in addition to regular mail. Clubs can accept entry fees by e-transfer.**
5. **6.5**: The test secretary should acknowledge receipt of each entry within 2 days of receiving the entry. This is so entrants know that their entry has been received prior to the entry draw after closing.
6. **6.8**: The CKC has added this section on Health. It requires that dogs have current immunization status and defines the diseases and circumstances that would prohibit dogs from being on test grounds.
7. **6.12.1**: The draw times for each level of a test need to be published in the Premium List. If the times need to be changed, exhibitors need to be notified of the new draw time at least 24 hours beforehand.
8. **6.12.3**: For tests spanning more than 1 day, draw times for each day must be published in the Premium List.
9. **8.1.4**: A dog must have earned its TCH before entering and passing any TDX or UTDX tests to count towards its MTCH.
10. **10.4.1**: Clarification in the case of missing articles. If the dog was on the track where the article was dropped, but the tracklayer cannot find the article on the track, then the dog will be given credit for finding the article.
11. **10.8.e**: The first cross track on a TDX test track must be at least 100 m from the start of the track.
12. The Policy and Procedures Rules have been changed to remove the requirement that a person must be a field tracking judge before applying to become an urban judge. A person could apply to become an urban judge only or apply to become a field and urban judge at the same time.

**What you need to know about the rule changes:**

1. **If you are the judge**:
   1. If you are asked to pre-test a dog for the UTD Pre-Test Certification you should read Section 8.1.1. in the Rules and Regulations. The requirements for the pre-test certification and the certificate are outlined there. The Pre-Test Certification isn’t meant to be a full UTD, but rather a test to establish that the dog has basic urban tracking skills. You or the exhibitor should make up the certification certificates in advance and you should sign 3 copies if the dog is successful. You are permitted to judge a dog that you have previously certified in a test. Your name will be listed in the catalogue as the Pre-Test Certifier.
   2. All urban tests (UTD and UTDX) should have a start article, scented by the track layer, available at the start of each track. There will still be a scent pad as before, but the scented article will be available immediately before the dog is directed to the start pad to be used by the exhibitor to start their dog if desired. The exhibitor may not use the article to re-scent or re-start the dog, except within the legal distance from the start for a re-start (10 m). **The article is not to be left on the start pad by the track layer as the track is laid**, but rather carried to the starting area by the tracklayer, or if the tracklayer cannot be present at the start, carried in a sealed plastic bag. The exhibitor does not have to take the article at the start, but if they do, they can leave the article with the judge or track layer after starting or carry it with them. The purpose of the start article is to allow a dog to determine which scent to follow from the start pad if the start pad may have been contaminated. Start articles can be leather or fabric. Suggestions: pieces of microfiber cleaning cloths, socks, knitted or leather gloves, etc.
   3. You may not judge an exhibitor in a test if you have trained with them within 14 days of the test.
   4. If a dog misses an article in a test, but was on the track where the article should have been and the tracklayer cannot find the article, then the dog is given credit for finding the article.
   5. When plotting TDX tracks, the first cross track must be at least 100m after the start. This is to allow the dog sufficient time to imprint on the track layer’s scent before the cross track.
2. **If you are the club running a test**:
   1. The Premium List should include information about how entries will be received, e-transfer information if email entries will be accepted, test day draw times for each level, a statement that test sites should not be used by exhibitors for 14 days prior to the test. Clubs may allow entry via commercial sites specializing in taking on-line entries for a fee.
   2. Clubs may decide to run Pre-Test Certification days to facilitate certification of their members or other interested parties.
   3. Provisions should be made for start articles to be available to the exhibitor at the start. Articles may be fabric or leather. As a suggestion, the club can buy, wash, and cut fabric or microfiber cleaning cloths to suitable size, or use clean socks, or knitted gloves or leather gloves, which should be clearly marked as start articles to differentiate them from track articles. If tracklayers cannot be available at the start of their tracks, the scented start articles should be sealed in a plastic bag, marked with the track number, and provisions made to deliver the article to the start of the track.
3. **If you are a club secretary**:
   1. For UTD entrants, you need to establish that the dog is qualified for the test, either with a TD title OR with an original (i.e. with an original signature of the tester) Pre-Test Certificate that accompanies the entry. The Pre-Test Certificate should not be returned to the exhibitor, except when an entry is withdrawn before the test and the dog does not run in the test. If a dog fails the UTD test the Pre-test Certificate is forfeited. If an exhibitor enters by email you could request a scanned image of the Pre-test certificate and request that the original be produced before the dog is allowed to draw for tracks on the test day. You could specify in the Premium List that all relevant tracking titles should be declared on the entry form. Where a Pre-Test Certificate is used to qualify for entry, the name of the Certifier should be put in the catalogue.
   2. You should acknowledge receipt of each entry within 2 days of receiving it, so that exhibitors know that their entry will be included in the entry draw.
   3. You may enter a dog in the test.
4. **If you are an exhibitor**:
   1. For entry into a UTD test you need either a TD title or a Pre-Test Certification. If you do not have a TD title, you will need to send one original copy of the Pre-Test Certificate to the test secretary along with your UTD entry. If you enter by email, you must still submit an original signed copy of the Pre-Test Certificate to the secretary before the test. If you pass the Pre-Test Certification, you will be issued 3 original copies of the Certificate by your certifier. If you fail the UTD test three times, you will need to re-certify before entering another UTD.
   2. In urban tests, there will be a start article that has been scented by the track layer. It will not be on the scent pad, but will be available if you want it immediately before you run your dog. You may use the start article to start your dog, or to re-start the dog within 10 m of the start as described in 10.5.1.c. You may not use the start article to re-scent or re-start the dog after this 10 m distance. You do not have to use the start article, as there will also be a scent pad, but you may request it if you think the scent pad may have been contaminated and/or if you think it will help your dog start. After your dog has started, you may leave the article on the ground or with the judge or track layer, or you may carry it with you to the end of the track. If you plan to use start articles in tests, it is desirable to teach your dog to use the start article to determine the scent that he/she is to follow from the start pad before you enter a test.
   3. You cannot train with the judge of a tracking test that you enter for 14 days immediately prior to the test.
   4. You cannot train on the tracking test site(s) for 14 days immediately prior to the test. If you are in doubt about what sites might be used in the test, you should contact the secretary or club.
   5. If you wish to pursue an MTCH, you must complete your TCH before re-doing the TDX or the UTDX necessary for the MTCH title.
   6. If, in the opinion of the judge, your dog was not on the track where an article was placed your dog will not be given credit for the article even if it is missing, and can be failed.
   7. Every exhibitor should be familiar with section 6.8 of the Rules and Regulations. This section deals with the health status of dogs entered in the test.
   8. If you are entering the UTD or if you are pursuing the MTCH title, you should be sure to put all relevant tracking titles on your entry form.
5. **If you are a track layer for an urban test (UTD or UTDX)**:
   1. You will need to scent a start article for each track. This can be fabric or leather and should be scented at the same time the track articles are scented. The start article for a track should be retained by the track layer until the entrant is ready to start the track. If you cannot be available for the running of a track, the article can be sealed in a Ziploc-type plastic bag clearly marked with the track number and left in an agreed-upon place for the judge to hand to the entrant just before the track is run.
6. **If you want to become an urban judge**:
   1. You no longer must be a certified field judge to apply to become an urban judge.