

**BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG  
CLUB  
OF AMERICA**



**DRAFT TEST REGULATIONS**

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**DRAFT TEST REGULATIONS**

**PURPOSE**

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America Draft Tests are a series of exercises designed to develop and demonstrate the natural abilities of purebred Bernese Mountain Dogs in a working capacity involving hauling. The Bernese Mountain Dog has historically functioned as a draft dog in various capacities, and performance of these exercises is intended to demonstrate skills resulting from both inherent ability and training which are applicable to realistic work situations. Efficiency in accomplishment of tasks is essential. It is also desirable that the dog evidence willingness and enjoyment of his work in a combination of controlled teamwork with his handler and natural independence.

**GUIDELINES**

All American Kennel Club (AKC) Dog Show Rules and Regulations, American Kennel Club Obedience Regulations, and the Constitution and By-laws of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA) shall apply to all persons and dogs except as these BMDCA Draft Test Regulations direct otherwise. A copy of each of these shall be at the site of the Draft Test and available to the judges, handlers, Draft Test Committee and personnel. A copy of these BMDCA Draft Test Regulations must also be at the Test site and available to the aforementioned persons. It is the responsibility of each handler to be familiar with these materials prior to the Draft Test.

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# GENERAL REGULATIONS

## Chapter 1 Administration

### Section 1. Application to Hold a Draft Test

**A. BMDCA Approval:** Written approval of the BMDCA Draft Work Committee (DWC) must be obtained to hold a Draft Test at which dogs earn BMDCA draft titles. Only the BMDCA and its recognized regional clubs may sponsor Draft Tests.

**B. Application:** The Application Form is downloadable from the BMDCA website. The Application shall be sent to the DWC and include:

1. Name of the Draft Test sponsoring club.
2. The date of the proposed Draft Test.
3. The closing date, which shall be a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the Test.
4. The name and address of the selected site.
5. Whether this is a BMD-only, all-purebred, or all-eligible dog Draft Test.
6. The Test limit.
7. Name and address of the two (2) judges.
8. Name, address, phone number, and, if available, email address of the Draft Test Chairperson and the Draft Test Secretary.
9. Names of additional Draft Test Committee members.
10. The certification that all BMDCA Draft Test Regulations will be followed.
11. The guarantee that all equipment, personnel and other required provisions will be available at the Draft Test.
12. The signatures of the Draft Test Chairperson and the Draft Test Secretary.
13. A description of the selected Draft Test site and Freight Haul course.

14. A \$20.00 administrative fee payable by check to the BMDCA. This fee is waived for a Draft Test held in conjunction with the BMDCA National Specialty.

**C. Time of Application:** Application to hold a Draft Test must be made at least six (6) months prior to the date of the proposed Draft Test. Tests shall be held under the Regulations in effect at the time of approval. The DW will communicate approval or rejection of the application to the Draft Test Chairperson within thirty (30) days of receipt of the completed application.

**D. Draft Test Forms:** The following forms are required. The Judging Worksheets are provided by the DWC and the rest are downloadable from the BMDCA website:

1. Judging Worksheets – the judge's evaluation of a team's performance. A copy is available to the handler at the conclusion of judging.
2. Data Worksheets - a record of rig widths and Freight Haul load descriptions and weights.
3. Judges' Report - a pass/fail summary of each exercise for all teams. This form shall be verified and signed by both judges and the Draft Test Secretary upon the conclusion of judging.
4. Draft Test Final Report – Test summary and check list filled out by the Draft Test Secretary.
5. Apprentice and Provisional Judge Evaluation Reports - to be filled out by the Mentor Judges officiating at the Draft Test and returned to the DWC within ten (10) days following the Draft Test.

### Section 2. The Draft Test Committee

**A. Official BMDCA Representatives:** The Draft Test Committee shall act as official representatives of the BMDCA and must see to the enforcement of these Draft Test Regulations. Any violations of these Draft Test Regulations must be reported by the Draft Test Committee to the DWC in writing and included with the Draft Test Report.

**B. Members:** The Draft Test Committee of the sponsoring club shall consist of a minimum of three (3) people, one of whom shall be named Chairperson. The Draft Test Chairperson must be a member in good standing of the BMDCA.

**C. Draft Test Secretary:** The Draft Test Committee shall appoint a Draft Test Secretary, who must be a member in good standing of the BMDCA. The Secretary shall receive all entries. Within four days after the closing date the Secretary shall notify each entrant of the status of their entry, and confirm the Test date, site, judges, and equipment check time. At the Draft Test, the Secretary must have available for inspection:

1. The BMDCA Draft Test Regulations.
2. AKC Dog Show Rules and Regulations.
3. AKC Obedience Regulations.
4. The Constitution and By-Laws of the BMDCA.
5. The complete entry forms of each exhibitor.

The Draft Test Secretary shall be responsible for sending all Test materials to the DWC Chairperson within ten (10) days following the Draft Test. These include:

1. Judges' Worksheets.
2. Data Worksheets.
3. Judges' Report.
4. Draft Test Final Report
5. Reports on Test violations
6. One (1) marked catalog.
7. Complete entry forms (including weight certificates).
8. Diagrams of the Maneuvering course and Freight Haul course.
9. A report on move-ups, if any

No dog belonging wholly or in part to the Draft Test Secretary or to any member of their immediate family may enter in any Draft Test at which he/she officiates or is scheduled to officiate.

### **Section 3. Duties of the Draft Test Committee**

**A. Plotting the Freight Haul Course:** The Draft Test Committee is responsible for plotting the Freight Haul course prior to application to hold the Draft Test. Individuals who will compete at that Test should not plot the Freight Haul course. The judges should walk the Freight Haul course prior to the Test and make any changes they think appropriate.

**B. Premium List:** The Draft Test Committee shall publish a Premium List after receiving approval to hold a Draft Test. The Premium List shall be submitted to the DWC for approval no less than fourteen (14) days prior to publication. The Premium List shall contain the following:

1. The statement "Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America Draft Test".
2. Name of Test-giving club.
3. The date and location of the Draft Test.
4. Entry fee.
5. Statement that this is a BMD-only, all-purebred, or all-eligible dog Draft Test.
6. A list of the officers and board of directors of the Test-giving club, including the address of the club's secretary.
7. A list of the members of the Draft Test Committee, including address, phone and email for the Test Chair and Secretary.
8. The names and addresses of the judges.
9. The name, address and telephone number of the Draft Test veterinarian.
10. A list of the classes offered.
11. The Test limit.
12. The closing date and time followed by the statement, "after which time entries cannot be accepted, cancelled or altered, except as specifically allowed in the current BMDCA Draft Test Regulations".
13. A description of awards or prizes, if any.
14. The statement: "Entrants are responsible for obtaining the BMDCA Draft Test Regulations and being familiar with them. Regulations may be downloaded from [www.BMDCA.org](http://www.BMDCA.org) at no charge or ordered from BMDCA Ways and Means (fee applies)".
15. A BMDCA Draft Test entry form which includes the following information:
  - a) Name of the Test-giving club.
  - b) Test date.

- c) Closing date and time followed by the statement, “after which time entries cannot be accepted, cancelled or altered, except as specifically allowed in the current BMDCA Draft Test Regulations.”
- d) Entry fee.
- e) Address where entries shall be mailed.
- f) Breed.
- g) Sex.
- h) Name of class entered and place for indicating whether the dog already has the title offered in the entered class.
- i) Place to indicate that a weight certificate is included for Open dogs.
- j) Full/registered name of dog.
- k) Call name of dog.
- l) Registration number and registry (see “Eligible Dogs”)
- m) Berner-Garde number
- n) Date of dog's birth.
- o) Place of dog's birth.
- p) Name of breeder(s).
- q) Name of sire.
- r) Name of dam.
- s) Name, address, telephone number and email address of owner(s)/co-owner(s).
- t) Name of owner(s) Agent, if any.
- u) The following statements:

#### **ENTRY AGREEMENT**

I understand that the club holding this event has the right to refuse this entry. I agree that I am solely responsible for the actions of myself and the dog (“the dog”) that accompanies me in relationship to this entry.

In consideration of the acceptance of my entry and the opportunity to participate in this event, I agree to **HOLD HARMLESS and INDEMNIFY** the following listed parties from any claim for loss, damage or injury alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly by my actions or by the actions of the dog in relationship to this event: the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA) and

the event-giving club, their members, officers, and agents; the owner and/or lessor of the premises; any provider of services at this event; any employees or volunteers of the parties listed here, and any BMDCA Draft Judge judging at this event. I personally assume **all responsibility and liability** for any such claim. I agree to be responsible for any loss and expense (including legal fees) incurred by any of the listed parties based on claims related in any way to my participation or the actions of the dog in relationship to this event, whether the claims are made by third parties or by myself.

Additionally, I agree to assume the sole responsibility for any loss, damage, or injury (including death) to myself or to the dog in relationship to this event. I agree to **RELEASE, INDEMNIFY and promise not to sue** the parties listed above for any such loss, damage or injury to myself or the dog, regardless of the cause, and whether or not the loss, damage or injury may have been caused by the negligence of the listed parties.

**I AGREE THAT ANY CAUSE OF ACTION, CONTROVERSY OR CLAIM ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO THE ENTRY, EXHIBITION OR ATTENDANCE AT THE EVENT SHALL BE SETTLED BY ARBITRATION PURSUANT TO THE APPLICABLE RULES OF THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION. HOWEVER, PRIOR TO ARBITRATION ALL APPLICABLE BMDCA BYLAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES MUST FIRST BE FOLLOWED AS SET FORTH IN THE BMDCA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS, PUBLISHED POLICIES AND GUIDELINES.**

In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I agree to abide by rules and regulations of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA) in effect at the time of this BMDCA Draft Test and by any additional rules appearing in the premium list for this event. I certify and represent that the dog entered is not a hazard to persons or other dogs. I also certify that all the information I provide with this entry is true and correct. This entry is submitted for acceptance on the foregoing representation and Entry Agreement. I agree to conduct myself in accordance with all such Rules and Regulations (including all provisions applying to discipline) and to abide by any decisions made in accord with them.

Submitting this form constitutes your agreement to the terms of the ENTRY AGREEMENT.

All such equipment and loads shall remain in this area pending use in the Test.

Recommended:

1. A system by which spectators may be silently informed whether each team passed or failed each exercise.
2. A diagram of the Maneuvering course clearly posted at ringside.

**D. Stewards:** Six to eight stewards shall be provided to assist the judges. The judges are in sole charge of the Draft Test area until their assignment is completed. Stewards may act only on the judges' instructions.

**E. Veterinarian:** The services of a veterinarian must be available during a Draft Test. Ideally the veterinarian should be present at a Draft Test and walk the Freight Haul course with the teams and judges. The veterinarian's professional opinion on the condition of any dog should be given precedence in determining whether the dog should continue to compete. If the veterinarian cannot be on site, the veterinary office must be within a short drive. The Draft Test Regulations have been devised to present a minimum hazard to dogs and handlers but Draft Test Committees are urged to take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of all involved.

**F. Notification of Changes:** If the Draft Test Committee is informed at any time prior to the opening of its Draft Test that an advertised judge will not fulfill their engagement to judge, then the Draft Test Committee shall substitute a judge. The substitute judge must be approved by the DWC Chairperson who shall be notified either by telephone, mail or email. The same shall apply to emergency changes of site or Draft Test officials. If the request is made by telephone, a letter or email to the DWC Chairperson must follow with a full explanation.

**G. Prizes:** Test sponsoring clubs are encouraged to offer ribbons and/or trophies for passing teams.

**H. Limitation of Entries:** The Draft Test Committee may limit the total Test entry. Novice Draft and Open Draft must be offered. Brace Novice Draft and Brace Open Draft may be offered. If entries are limited, the Draft Test Secretary must accept all complete entries received prior to the closing date. Additionally, entrants must notify the Draft Test Secretary if a dog has earned a title in the entered class, including if the title is earned after the entry has been submitted.

**C. Equipment and Supplies:** In order to differentiate Draft Tests from obedience competition the use of obedience equipment is not recommended. The Draft Test sponsoring club shall provide:

1. Ring gates, ropes, fencing or other barriers necessary to define a ring with a minimum of 10,000 square feet with no dimension less than 75 feet.
2. A minimum of four (4) markers to define the Maneuvering course. The markers should be large enough to be clearly visible to both handlers and spectators.
3. A gate or removable obstacle, ideally an object that might be found in everyday carting situations.
4. A minimum of two (2) markers to define a narrow area. The markers must be no less than two feet high, with a recommended height of three to four feet, and must be two to four feet in length.
5. A lightweight load (e.g. a blanket).
6. A four-foot stick or dowel, clearly marked one foot from one end, for measuring the backing exercises.
7. A tape measure at least six (6) feet in length.
8. A scale (such as a bathroom scale) which can weigh at least 150 pounds, for verifying freight load weights.
9. Two distractions, one primarily auditory and one primarily visual.
10. A stop watch or watch to time stays and backing.
11. Markers for the Freight Haul course.
12. Exhibitor numbers and matching draft rig numbers.
13. A catalog identifying each entered dog; including registered name, call name, registration number and registry, Berner-Garde number, breed, sire, dam, date of birth, sex, breeder, owner. For Open classes the catalog shall show the weight the dog(s) must pull in the Freight Haul.
14. A designated area near the ring for the draft equipment and Freight Haul loads of all entrants.

Entry priority shall be:

1. BMD's have preference over all other dogs.
2. Untitled teams have preference over titled teams, where 'title' means the title of the entered class. In the case of a brace, both dogs must be titled to be considered a titled team.

If entries exceed the Test limit, the above priority shall be used to create four groups which are applied to the Test Limit in order:

1. Untitled BMDs.
2. Titled BMDs.
3. Untitled other dogs, including brace teams with one BMD.
4. Titled other dogs, including brace teams with one BMD.

A random draw will be held for each group that exceeds the Test limit.

Entries exceeding the total Test limit shall be assigned to an alternate list in the order in which they were drawn. Alternates may compete if a slot becomes available because a team is absent or unable to compete. In the event that a dog earns its title after the draw and continues showing in that class (does not "Move-up" in the case of Novice), it shall be moved to the end of the appropriate titled group.

**I. Final Jurisdiction:** During the planning and conducting of a Draft Test all matters not related to the judging shall be resolved by the Draft Test Committee by direct reference to these Regulations. All situations not clearly resolved by these Regulations shall be resolved by reference to the AKC Dog Show Rules and Regulations and the AKC Obedience Regulations. All unusual situations and their resolutions must be reported in the Draft Test Final Report. Violations of the Draft Test Regulations shall be addressed under Discipline (*General Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 4*)

## Section 4. Discipline

Any hosting club or person(s) participating in a BMDCA Draft Test and not in accordance with the current BMDCA Draft Test Regulations may be disciplined for a

stated period of time or indefinitely. Discipline may include, but is not limited to; reprimand, forfeiture of Draft Titles and/or withholding all Draft Test privileges.

The BMDCA Draft Work Committee shall promptly address all such alleged violations of the Draft Test Regulations and consider all evidence to determine the extent of discipline, if any. The decision of the DWC and the reasons for that decision will be sent to the BMDCA Board of Directors for their review. When the DWC and the Board have reached a mutual agreement, their joint decision will be sent to the club and/or individual(s) involved. The BMDCA Board of Directors shall have final authority in accordance with the BMDCA Constitution and By-Laws.

## Section 5. Procedures for Alterations or Additions to the BMDCA Draft Test Regulations

All alterations or additions to the BMDCA Draft Test Regulations shall occur through the following procedures.

1. The BMDCA DWC defines the project and the goals.
2. The DWC appoints DWC member(s) to direct the project, who may in turn select additional persons to be members of the Project Committee. The Project Committee reports to the DWC Chairperson.
3. The Project Committee drafts an outline of proposed alterations or additions, which may or may not be in regulation language.
4. Request for Comment (RFC) #1, containing the results of (3), is communicated to all BMDCA Draft Judges requesting feedback and comments with a four week response time.
5. The Project Committee incorporates the comments and suggestions from RFC #1 into the project outline and prepares the complete proposal in regulation language.
6. RFC #2, containing the results of (5), is communicated to all BMDCA Draft Judges requesting feedback and comments with a four-week response time.

7. The Project Committee incorporates comments and suggestions from RFC #2 and submits the entire proposal (RFC #3) to the BMDCA membership for review and comment, with a two-month response time. At the same time the proposal is submitted to the BMDCA Board of Directors for preliminary approval, pending any further changes. In the event of significant change to a proposal resulting from RFC #3 comments that proposal, and that proposal alone, shall be submitted to the BMDCA membership as RFC #4 with a two month response time.
8. The Project Committee prepares the final version based on RFC #3/RFC #4 and submits it to the DWC for review. The DWC submits their final version to BMDCA Board of Directors for approval and subsequent electronic and/or printed publication. The latter may be either a new edition of the BMDCA Draft Regulations or an insert. At the time of submission to the BMDCA Board, the DWC also submits its recommendation for a date when alterations/additions take effect.
9. The approved alterations or additions take effect on the date agreed upon by the DWC and the BMDCA Board and approved by the Board. Notification of this date shall be communicated to the BMDCA membership as soon as possible.

## Chapter 2 Judges and Judging Guidelines

### Section 1. Judges

#### A. Definition of Judges:

**Apprentice:** An observer within the ring who is learning how to judge Draft Tests.

**Provisional:** An equal partner in the judging team who is gaining experience under the watchful and supportive eye of Mentor Judges.

**Approved:** A fully qualified Draft Judge.

**Mentor:** An Approved Judge who has both indicated a desire to take on additional educational responsibilities and demonstrated this desire through timely submissions of evaluations. A Mentor Judge must have completed three assignments, each with a different host club, as an Approved Judge.

**Emeritus:** An Approved Judge no longer actively judging.

**B. Test Requirements:** There shall be two judges, one of whom must be an Approved BMDCA Draft Judge. The other may be either an Approved BMDCA Draft Judge or a Provisional BMDCA Draft Judge. All judges must be thoroughly familiar with the current BMDCA Draft Test Regulations and AKC Obedience Regulations. The DWC shall maintain a list of all BMDCA Draft Judges on the BMDCA web site.

### Section 2. Becoming a Judge and Continuing Education

Judging applicants must fulfill specific pre-application requirements (*Section 2A*), submit an application (*Section 2B*) and complete Apprentice (*Section 2C*) and Provisional (*Section 2D*) judging assignments. All applications, evaluations and reports will be reviewed and evaluated for approval by the DWC Judges Committee comprised of two or more DWC members.

#### A. Pre-Application Requirements:

1. All applicants must have trained and shown a dog to earn a BMDCA Draft Dog title and competed in a minimum of five (5) BMDCA Draft Tests.
2. All applicants must have conducted Draft workshops, seminars or classes for a cumulative total of ten or more different teams and performed one of the following:
  - a) Draft Test Chair for a BMDCA Draft Test
  - b) Draft Test Head Steward for a BMDCA Draft Test
3. All applicants must be BMDCA members.

**B. Applying to Judge:** A BMDCA Draft Judge Application must be obtained from the DWC Chairperson. The completed application shall be mailed to the DWC Chairperson and shall include three parts:

1. A written application containing:
  - a) Name.
  - b) Address.



- c) Telephone number.
  - d) Email address, if any.
  - e) A list of BMDCA Draft titles earned by the applicant, to include the date and the host club.
  - f) A list of the BMDCA Draft Tests in which the applicant has competed, including the dates and host clubs.
  - g) A summary of the applicant's draft experience, e.g. chair; secretary; steward; conducting workshops, seminars or classes; etc. to include dates, host clubs and other relevant information.
  - h) A list of obedience titles earned by the applicant, to include the date and registry.
  - i) A summary of obedience experience in addition to titles earned.
  - j) A summary of other experience relevant to draft judging skills .
2. An open book test (*Section 2F*) on the BMDCA Draft Test Regulations and AKC Obedience Regulations. In order to progress to Apprentice status 85% or more of the answers must be correct. Applicants receiving less than 85% correct answers shall be asked to reapply in no less than one year. In both cases, incorrect answers shall be discussed one on one with a DWC member, as this is an educational process.
  3. A separate sheet, requiring signature and date, with the following statement:

"I understand and will respect, uphold, and be subject to the requirements of the BMDCA Draft Test Regulations."

These signed documents shall be kept on file by the DWC for all Draft judges.

The DWC Chairperson shall send immediate acknowledgment of receipt of the application. Within four (4) weeks after receipt the DWC Chairperson shall notify the applicant, in writing, either of their approval as an Apprentice Judge or of the need for further preparation and reapplication.

**C. Apprentice Judges:** An Apprentice shall observe and discuss all aspects of judging a Draft Test with Mentor Judges and fill out a Judge's Worksheet for each team. Apprentices and Mentors shall complete the DWC-provided Self-evaluation Form and Evaluation Form respectively after each assignment. All expenses of the Apprentice are the responsibility of the Apprentice.

An Apprentice Judge must:

1. Complete a minimum of three (3) apprentice judging assignments, each with two Mentor Judges. Of these assignments, at least two shall have different host clubs. The Apprentice is responsible for arranging these assignments through the DWC.
2. Apprentice under at least four (4) different Mentors.
3. Design and submit two (2) maneuvering course layouts to the Mentors, at least two weeks prior to each Draft Test, for evaluation and discussion.
4. Judge no fewer than ten (10) teams at a Draft Match; judging multiple Draft Matches may be necessary to complete this requirement. The Apprentice and a Mentor shall score and discuss each team. The Apprentice shall submit a Self Evaluation Form plus both sets of Judging Worksheets. The Mentor shall submit the Apprentice Evaluation Form.
5. Receive positive evaluations. All evaluations shall be sent to the DWC within ten (10) days of the assignment. Evaluations shall be kept on file and applicants may request copies of their evaluations.
6. Within ten (10) days of the Apprentice assignment submit a Judge's Report (*Section 6G*) to the DWC.

Within four (4) weeks of completion of the Apprentice requirements, the DWC Chairperson shall notify the Apprentice, in writing, of approval as a Provisional Judge or of the need for further Apprentice experience.

**D. Provisional Judges:** A Provisional Judge shall have equal responsibility with a Mentor Judge in judging and shall actively participate in all aspects of judging, including Maneuvering Course layout, Freight Haul evaluation, Equipment Check(s), briefings, course

walk-throughs, paperwork, and calling **commands** for a minimum of half the teams at the Test. Provisionals and Mentors shall complete the DWC-provided Self-evaluation Form and Evaluation Form respectively after each assignment.

A Provisional Judge must:

1. Complete a minimum of three (3) Provisional judging assignments with a Mentor Judge. Of these Provisional assignments, at least three shall have different host clubs.
2. For Provisional and Apprentice assignments combined, be mentored by at least six (6) different Mentors.
3. Design and submit two maneuvering course layouts to the Mentor at least two weeks prior to each Test, for use at the Test.
4. Receive a positive evaluation of their judging skills and abilities. All evaluation forms shall be sent to the DWC within ten (10) days of the assignment. Evaluations shall be kept on file and applicants may request copies of their evaluations.
5. Within ten (10) days of the Provisional assignment submit a Judge's Report (*Section 6G*) of the Provisional assignment to the DWC for evaluation and approval.

Within four (4) weeks of completion of the Provisional requirements, the DWC Chairperson shall notify the Provisional, in writing, of approval as a BMDCA Draft Judge or of the need for further Provisional experience.

**E. Approved Judges:** One year following approval, and every three years thereafter, the judge must complete an open book test (*Section 2F*) covering the BMDCA Draft Test Regulations and the AKC Obedience Regulations.

All judges approved prior to 2002 shall:

1. Retain their Approved BMDCA Draft Judge status.
2. Prior to their next assignment, sign and date the following statement:

“I understand and will respect, uphold, and be subject to the requirements of the BMDCA Draft Test Regulations.”

3. Complete an open book test covering the BMDCA Draft Test Regulations and the AKC Obedience Regulations every three years, on a rotating basis to be scheduled by the DWC.

These signed documents shall be kept on file by the DWC for all Draft judges.

**F. Continuing Education - Open Book Test:** The open book test required by applicants and Approved BMDCA Draft Judges shall consist of objective multiple choice, yes/no, and short essay questions. Incorrectly answered questions shall be returned to a judge for further consideration and resubmission, after which incorrect answers shall be discussed one on one with a DWC member. The goal is education and promoting standardized judging.

### Section 3. Judges Comportment

All BMDCA Draft Judges in attendance at a BMDCA Draft Test, whether judging, exhibiting, working, or spectating, shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner as befits every official representative of the BMDCA.

### Section 4. Standardized Judging

Standardized judging is of great importance. Judges are not permitted to vary the exercises. In no case shall the judges add, delete, or change any requirements of the Draft Tests.

### Section 5. Pre-Judging Responsibilities

**A. Responsibilities:** Judges are responsible for establishing the Maneuvering course, approving the Freight Haul course, and conducting the Equipment Check.

**B. Explanation of Ring Procedure:** Immediately prior to the start of judging, the judges shall explain ring procedures, and walk the Maneuvering and Freight Haul courses with all stewards and interested handlers. Handlers are not required to attend, but the walk-through may or may not be repeated at the judges' discretion.

## Section 6. Judging Guidelines

**A. Pass/Fail:** All judging is on a pass/fail basis.

**B. Decisions:** Two judges evaluate the teams. Judges shall reach a mutual decision regarding the passing or failing performance of each team. Judges' decisions are final in all cases.

**C. Excusing a Dog:** The judges must excuse any dog that attempts to attack any person in the ring. The judges must excuse a dog that attacks another dog or that appears dangerous to other dogs. The judges must excuse any dog that is lame or appearing to pull weight in excess of its ability, any team whose equipment is inadequate or faulty, any handler who willfully interferes with another team, or any handler who abuses their dog. A judge marking a dog "excused" must state the reason in the Judges' Report.

**D. Misbehavior:** Any display of fear or nervousness by the dog or any uncontrolled behavior of a dog such as snapping, barking or running away from its handler, whether it occurs before, during or between exercises, must be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior and the judge may expel or excuse the dog from further competition in the class. A dog that fouls the ring or the Freight Haul course receives a failing mark.

**E. Group Exercises:** A maximum of six (6) teams may be judged together in the group exercises. Novice and Novice Brace teams may be combined. Open and Open Brace teams may be combined.

**F. Evaluations:** Dogs shall be judged for willingness, ability, enthusiasm, naturalness as a team, and smoothness of performance. Upon completion of all exercises, each handler shall receive a written evaluation from both judges of the team's performance in each exercise. Judges are encouraged to discuss evaluations with the exhibitors.

### G. Test Reports:

1. The day of the test the judges must complete and sign the Draft Test Judges' Report which the Draft Test Secretary must return to the DWC Chairperson.
2. Each judge must submit a Draft Judge's Report to the DWC Chairperson and the Draft Test Chair within ten (10) days after each Test at which they officiate. Judge's Reports shall include:

- a) Name of host club.
- b) Date and location of Test.
- c) Number of entries with class breakdowns.
- d) Number of absentees.
- e) Number of passes for each class.
- f) Descriptions of the Maneuvering course and Freight Haul.
- g) Comments on the most common causes of failure, unusual incidents, and disciplinary incidents.
- h) The judge's views on organization, location, weather, etc.

**H. Problems:** All judging situations not clearly resolved by these Regulations shall be resolved by reference to the AKC Dog Show Rules and Regulations and the AKC Obedience Regulations.

## Chapter 3 Eligibility, Conduct and Equipment

### Section 1. Entry Requirements

**A. Definitions:** The term "dog" applies to dogs of both sexes as well as individual dogs and both dogs of a brace. The term "brace" means a handler and two dogs. The term "team" means a handler and one or two dogs.

### B. Eligible Dogs:

1. Draft Tests are open to all dogs, purebred or mixed heritage, registered or listed (such as Purebred Alternative Listing [PAL], Indefinite Listing Privilege [ILP], Canine Partners or any future equivalents) with the American Kennel Club or the Canadian Kennel Club, with the following restrictions:
  - a) National Specialty Tests are open only to BMDs.
  - b) All other Draft Tests, at the discretion of the host club, are open to:
    - i. BMDs only
    - ii. All purebred dogs
    - iii. All dogs, purebred and mixed heritage.

2. **Age:** Dogs must be at least two (2) years old on the day of the Draft Test.
3. **Deaf Dogs:** Deaf and partially deaf dogs may enter BMDCA Draft Tests.

**C. Dogs That May Not Compete:**

1. **Bitches in Season:** Bitches in season are not permitted to compete. Entry fees shall be refunded upon receipt of a veterinary certificate stating an entered bitch is in season at the time of the Draft Test.
2. **Dogs Owned by the Judges or Secretary:** No dog belonging wholly or in part to a Draft Test Judge, Draft Test Secretary or to any member of their immediate family may enter in any Draft Test at which such person officiates or is scheduled to officiate.

**D. Weight Certificates:** Each Open or Open Brace handler shall send a veterinarian's certificate(s) stating the dog's name and weight to the Test Secretary with the entry form(s). This certificate must be dated within 60 days prior to the Draft Test date.

**E. Braces:** The two dogs of a brace need not be owned by the same person or by the handler. A separate entry form shall be filled out for each dog of the brace and then submitted together.

**F. Medical Withdrawals:** A handler may withdraw a dog from a Draft Test for medical reasons. Entry fees shall be refunded upon receipt of a signed veterinary certificate stating the reason for the medical withdrawal.

**G. Acceptable Entries:** No entry may be accepted unless the Test Secretary receives such entry prior to the closing date and hour as published in the Premium List. Only complete entries may be accepted. A complete entry includes:

1. A completed entry form and Entry Agreement.
2. Entry fee.
3. Weight certificates for Open or Brace Open entries.
4. For Brace entries, separate entry forms for each dog, submitted together.
5. Any additional requirements as set forth in the Premium List.

**Section 2. Handlers**

**A. On Time:** Teams must be present with their equipment for their scheduled Equipment Check or forfeit their entry. Judges are not responsible for waiting for any handler or dog.

**B. Multiple Commands:** Multiple **commands, signals** and verbal praise may be used in all the exercises of the Draft Test, except as specified. Between exercises verbal praise is allowed but physical praise is discouraged and if excessive may cause failure.

**C. Food and Toys:** The carrying of food or toys during any Draft Test exercise shall result in a Failing Performance.

**D. One Handler:** Dogs shall be exhibited by the same handler for all exercises except if a handler has two or more entries, each entry must have a separate handler for the group exercises when judged in the same group.

**E. Control Outside of Ring:** All entered dogs must be on leash or crated when not competing.

**F. Training on the Grounds:** Training on the Draft Test grounds is not permitted. Dogs, entered or not entered, may be hitched to draft rigs to aid in unloading and transport of equipment from vehicles to the competition area, as this is a typical and practical application of draft work.

**G. Warm-up:** Entered teams are allowed a warm-up as permitted in AKC obedience competition - approximately 5 minutes, all on leash, not hitched to a draft rig - prior to the ring exercises. Prior to the group exercises dogs may be hitched to their draft rigs and warmed up on leash for an additional 5 minutes to verify and adjust the balance of the freight load.

**H. Risk:** The handler entering a dog in a Draft Test does so at his/her own risk and agrees to abide by the BMDCA Draft Test Regulations.

**I. Responsibility:** The handler is responsible for the dog's health, welfare, and safety. Handlers provide their own draft rigs, harnesses, Freight Haul loads, and means of securing loads. The condition of this equipment is the responsibility of the handler.

### Section 3. Equipment

**A. Draft Rig:** The same draft rig must be used for all exercises. Lightweight decorations are allowed on or in the draft rig and are not considered part of the rig or load, therefore their loss or failure is of no consequence.

Since BMDs live in a variety of climates and perform draft work in a variety of situations, any of the following draft rigs may be used: cart, wagon, sled, toboggan or travois. Each of these must be equipped such that the draft rig cannot run up on the dog when hauling downhill. The only acceptable brace hitch is one dog beside the other, coupled or uncoupled.

#### B. Collars, Leashes and Couplers:

- Collars:** Dogs must wear a properly fitted buckle, slip or limited slip (martingale) style of collar. No special training collars such as electronic collars or prong collars are permitted. ID, rabies and license tags are allowed.
- Leashes:** Leashes must be of fabric or leather and need be only of sufficient length to provide adequate slack.

All dogs must be kept on leash except when in the ring, and must be brought into and taken out of the ring on leash, except that Open teams leave and return to the ring off leash for the Freight Haul. Dogs must be kept on leash when entering the ring for the Group exercises and to receive awards.

- Couplers:** In Brace classes the dogs may be unattached or coupled, and whichever method is used shall be continued throughout all exercises. The coupler shall be 6 – 12 inches in length.

#### C. Freight Haul Load and Weights:

**Novice Draft:** Each dog must pull twenty (20) pounds.

**Brace Novice Draft:** Each brace must pull forty (40) pounds.

**Open Draft:** Each dog must pull its own weight rounded down to the nearest multiple of ten, or sixty (60) pounds, whichever is greater. See table.

**Brace Open Draft:** Each brace must pull the sum of the weights that the individual dogs must pull in Open Draft.

<u>Dog Weight</u>	<u>Freight Load</u>
- 69 lbs.	60 lbs. (minimum)
70 - 79	70
80 - 89	80
90 - 99	90
100 - 109	100
110 - 119	110
120 - 129	120
130 - 139	130
140 - 149	140
150 - 159	150
160 - 169	160
170 - 179	170

The Practical Draft Work exercises may not be performed with the Freight Haul load. No person or animal may serve as a freight load.

## Chapter 4 Competition Site and Spectators

### Section 1. Site

**A. Ring:** The ring for all exercises except the Freight Haul shall be a minimum of 10,000 square feet with no dimension less than 75 feet. The ring area should be flat and shall be defined by ring gates, ropes, fencing or other barriers. The ring entrance shall be a minimum of six (6) feet wide or twelve (12) inches wider than the widest measurement recorded during the Equipment Check, whichever is the widest. Only members of the Draft Test Committee, judges and stewards shall have unlimited access to the ring. Handlers are permitted in the ring for the walk-through. Teams are permitted in the ring only when they are called for testing. Spectators are not allowed in the ring at any time.

**B. Maneuvering Course:** The Maneuvering course shall be clearly defined with markers and may include signage directing handlers through the course.

**C. Freight Haul Course:** The half mile Freight Haul course must be clearly marked and should ideally include both uphill and downhill slopes and changes of terrain.

## Section 2. Spectators

**A. Applause:** Because BMDs working under natural conditions may often be in places where there are a variety of everyday sounds, spectators are encouraged to applaud and cheer for the performing dog. Spectators and dogs not entered are not to interfere with the performance in any way. Judges' discretion is to be used to determine interference.

**B. Dogs Not Entered:** All dogs not entered in the Draft Test must be leashed or crated at all times.

## Chapter 5 Procedures and Scheduling

### Section 1. Equipment Check

Judges shall check all draft equipment, collars, leashes, couplers and weights (*General Regulations Chapter 3 Section 3, B and C*) to be used in the Draft Test. Measurements may be made by judges, committee members, or stewards. A judge must supervise all measurements. Dogs shall not be required at the Equipment Check. After the Equipment Check, no alterations or substitutions may be made to the equipment without the approval of a judge.

The following shall be recorded on the Draft Test Data Worksheet:

1. Class
2. Width of the widest part of the draft rig or the hitched dog(s)
3. Weight of dog(s) (Open classes only)
4. Weight and description of load. Opened or non-commercially labeled loads shall be weighed.

Multiple Equipment Checks may be held at the host club's discretion, with the judges' pre-approval. Each team will be assigned to a specific Equipment Check based on the judging schedule. The Test Secretary shall notify each exhibitor of the time of their Equipment Check when verifying their entry after the closing date.

### Section 2. Order of Group Exercises

The Freight Haul shall immediately follow the Group Stay exercise and shall start and finish in the ring. Draft Test

Committees should bear this in mind when laying out the ring location and Freight Haul course.

### Section 3. Scheduling

The Draft Test Committee should plan for the judging of three (3) to four (4) teams per hour. This figure includes time for the Group Stay and the Freight Haul.

### Section 4. Move-ups

Move-ups to a more advanced class are allowed after the close of entries under the following conditions:

1. A dog may be moved up from one individual class to another or from one brace class to another, but not between individual and brace classes.
2. The weight certificate(s) must be included with the Novice entry with notification to the Test Secretary that a move-up is possible.
3. The weight of the freight haul load must be printed in the catalog.
4. The Test Secretary must be notified of the move-up no later than 30 minutes prior to the first Equipment Check. The handler presents a Test catalog to the Test Secretary. The Test Secretary marks, signs and dates the move-up in the catalog and on the original entry form, and gives the catalog to the handler.

## Chapter 6 Qualifying Performances and Titles

### Section 1. Qualifying Performances

**A. Pass/Fail:** A dog must pass all the exercises in a class at one Draft Test to qualify and earn a Draft title.

**B. Other Criteria:** The primary quality to be emphasized in Draft Tests is ability to perform the assigned tasks. However, dogs are also to be judged for willingness and smoothness of performance. A dog that effectively completes the task within a reasonable time period and without physical assistance should be scored as passed if it has performed willingly. A dog that does everything correctly but appears to be in fear of severe correction from its handler shall be scored as failed. Teams shall be evaluated the entire time they are in the ring or on the Freight Haul.

## Section 2. Titles

**A.** The following titles are earned after passing the respective class:

1. **Novice Draft Dog (NDD)** in Novice Draft.
2. **Draft Dog (DD)** in Open Draft.
3. **Brace Novice Draft Dog (BNDD)** in Brace Novice Draft.
4. **Brace Draft Dog (BDD)** in Brace Open Draft.

**B.** The following titles are earned after passing the respective class five (5) times under at least seven (7) different judges:

1. **Advanced Novice Draft Dog (ANDD)** in Novice Draft.
2. **Master Draft Dog (MDD)** in Open Draft.
3. **Advanced Brace Novice Draft Dog (ABNDD)** in Brace Novice Draft.
4. **Master Brace Draft Dog (MBDD)** in Brace Open Draft.

**C. Certificates:** Each dog earning a title shall receive a title certificate from the BMDCA.

## REGULATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING

### Chapter 1 Key Words

#### Section 1. Key Words Defined

Key words will always appear in bold.

**A. Stay** - dog remains in the location and position (sit, stand, or down) indicated by the handler. Minor movements such as adjusting of feet or rolling to the opposite hip are acceptable. "Stay" is the concept being judged, NOT the **command**. Handlers may use any **command** they wish.

**B. Wait** - dog remains in the same location but may shift its feet or change position (such as sit, stand, down, hip

roll, etc.). "Wait" is the concept being judged, NOT the **command**. Handlers may use any **command** they wish.

**C. Physically Guide** - contact of any part of the handler's body with the dog or draft rig with the intent of exerting control.

**D. Slack/Loose Leash** - a slack or loose leash has a visible U or J shape between the dog and handler.

**E. Leash Guidance** - a leash "guides" the dog as the slack is reduced. A tight or taut leash is only the most extreme example of **leash guidance**. Judges shall use common sense in evaluating whether the dog would have responded if the leash had not been there.

**F. Command** - a verbal order which may begin or end with the dog's call name.

**G. Signal** - a single, continuous motion of one or more body parts which must start in and immediately return to a natural position.

**H. Command and/or Signal** - handler may give a **command**, a **signal**, or both a **command** and **signal** simultaneously.

**I. Slow** - a pace distinctly different and slower than the pace immediately preceding, and followed by a return to the preceding pace or a **halt**.

**J. Halt** - on the judge's **command** the handler must **command** the dog to stop. The dog should start to respond to the handler promptly and the dog and draft rig should stop within a short distance. "Halt" is the concept being judged, NOT the **command**. Handlers may use any **commands** they wish.

**K. Hover** - bending of the handler's upper body directly over the dog.

### Chapter 2 Classes

#### Section 1. Classes Defined

**A.** There shall be two classes for individual dogs.

1. **Novice Draft:** The Novice Draft class shall be for all dogs regardless of prior titles. All exercises except the Recall, Harness and Hitch, and Group Stay are performed on leash. No **leash guidance**

is allowed. The leash must be visibly slack. **Leash guidance** or **physically guiding** the dog and/or draft rig, except as noted, will result in a failing performance.

2. **Open Draft:** The Open Draft class shall be for dogs that have earned the NDD title. All exercises are performed off leash. **Physically guiding** the dog and/or draft rig, except as noted, will result in a failing performance.

**B.** There shall be two brace classes.

1. **Brace Novice Draft:** Brace Novice Draft shall be for dogs that have individually earned the NDD title. All exercises are the same as those of Novice Draft except there will be no Basic Control.
2. **Brace Open Draft:** Brace Open Draft shall be for dogs that have individually earned the DD title and the BNDD title. All exercises are the same as those of Open Draft.

## Chapter 3 Draft Test Exercises

### Section 1. Basic Control (Novice Draft Only)

**Overview:** Prior to hitching, the dog demonstrates willingness to work with and respond to the handler while in the vicinity of the draft equipment. The team is to demonstrate walking under control with changes of direction and speed, and a recall to the vicinity of the draft rig.

**A. Walking under Control:** Prior to the start of this exercise the draft rig and harness will be brought into the ring and positioned by a steward.

The dog is expected to walk under control within arm's length of the handler at all times. The dog may work on either side, in front, or behind the handler but may not interfere with the handler's movement. The handler may not **physically guide** the dog but may encourage the dog to remain within arm's length.

Judge's **commands** to the handler are: "Are you ready?", "Forward", "**Slow**", "Fast", "Normal", "Right turn", "Left turn", "About turn", "**Halt**", and "Exercise finished".

Judges will determine the pattern and order of their **commands**.

Failing performance:

1. Dog does not walk under control within arm's length of handler at all times.
2. No change of pace.
3. Handler adapts to the pace of the dog.
4. Handler **physically guides** the dog.
5. **Leash guidance**.
6. Dog interferes with handler's movement.

**B. Recall:** The recall is performed off leash (leash shall be given to a judge) and will be approximately 40 feet in length. The exercise may start with the dog in any position. The dog must execute the **wait** with a single **command and/or signal**.

The handler leaves the dog, proceeds to a position close to the draft rig, and faces the dog.

At the judge's direction, the handler calls the dog with a single **command and/or signal**. After the dog has begun to move, additional **signals, commands** and praise are allowed. The dog is expected to come directly to the handler and stop near enough for the handler to touch.

Judge's **commands** or **signals** to the handler are: "Are you ready?", "Leave your dog", "Call your dog", "Exercise finished".

Failing performance:

1. Handler gives more than one **wait command and/or signal**.
2. Dog does not **wait**.
3. Dog does not come on first **command and/or signal**.
4. Dog does not come directly to handler.
5. Dog remains out of reach.
6. Handler **physically guides** the dog.



## Section 2. Harness and Hitch

**Overview: Dog demonstrates willingness to be harnessed and hitched to draft rig.**

*Novice: Dog remains off leash following the Recall and may receive gentle **physical guidance** to the vicinity of the draft rig. The judge places the leash in the draft rig.*

*Brace Novice: Prior to the start of this exercise the draft rig and harness will be brought into the ring and positioned by a steward. The team proceeds to the harness and hitch location designated by the judges. The leash is removed.*

*Open and Brace Open: The team proceeds to the harness and hitch location designated by the judges. The dog must **wait** while the handler leaves the ring and brings the draft rig and harness into the ring, and positions them close to the dog.*

The handler harnesses and hitches the dog. The dog cooperates for the harnessing and hitching. All dogs may receive gentle **physical guidance**. When hitched, the handler indicates readiness to proceed (in the Novice classes by putting the leash back on the dog).

If the draft rig is a sled, toboggan or travois not designed for backing, the backing exercise (described below in *Practical Draft Work, Basic Command - Section 3A*) shall be performed prior to hitching, backing into position to be hitched.

Judge's **commands** to the handler are: "Are you ready?," "Harness your dog," ("Back your dog"), "Hitch your dog", "Exercise finished".

Failing performance:

1. Dog does not **wait** while draft rig is brought into ring (Open).
2. Dog is uncooperative.
3. Dog is incorrectly harnessed or hitched.
4. Rough handling of dog.

**Examples:**

### **Harness and Hitch**

The position of the team relative to the draft rig for the Harness and Hitch is a set-up point, not a position to be judged. The exercise may not begin until the team is close

to the draft rig. The judge may ask the team to narrow the gap without penalty to the team.

The leash must be off during the Novice Harness and Hitch. The exercise may not begin until the leash is removed. The judge may remind the handler to remove the leash without penalty to the team.

## Section 3. Practical Draft Work

**Overview: The team demonstrates working ability. The team encounters situations and distractions such as might be met under everyday conditions.**

The handler may work beside, behind, or in front of the dog, or any combination of these. The key factor to be judged is the exhibition of teamwork as well as completion of the exercises and willingness, ability, enthusiasm, and smoothness of performance.

Judges may require the Practical Draft Work exercises to be performed in any order. The different components of each exercise do not need to be performed consecutively. At the beginning of these exercises the judge will ask "Are you ready?" and at the conclusion the judge will state "Exercise finished".

Except as specified, the Practical Draft Work exercises are performed with an empty draft rig.

**A. Basic Command:** The Basic **Commands** are:

- 1) "Normal" 2) "**Slow**" 3) "**Halt**" 4) "Back"

Normal pace and **halts** will occur multiple times throughout the Draft Test. The **slow** and back shall each be required only once, but may be used elsewhere in the Draft Test at the handler's discretion. The Basic **Commands** may occur in any order and in any order relative to the other Practical Draft Work **commands**.

**Slow:** The slow pace shall last for a minimum of ten feet.

**Back:** Novice dogs must back the draft rig a distance of at least one foot. Open dogs must back the draft rig a distance of at least four feet. The judge will ask the handler if they are ready for the backing exercise and then place the measuring stick. The backing exercise begins when the judge gives the **command** "Back your dog." The measuring stick shall not be moved during the exercise. The direction of backing should be approximately straight. One minute shall be allowed for the backing exercise.

If the draft rig has a locking mechanism to assist in backing, the handler must notify the judges and time will be allowed for locking and unlocking the rig. If the draft rig is a sled, toboggan or travois not designed for backing, the backing exercise shall be performed prior to hitching by backing into position to be hitched.

Judge's **commands**, in any order, to the handler are: "Forward", "**Slow**", "Normal", "**Halt**", "Are you ready?", "Back your dog", "Exercise finished".

Failing performance:

1. No **slow**.
2. No **halt**.
3. Dog does not back up the required distance.
4. Dog substantially changes direction while backing.
5. Dog upsets draft rig.
6. Handler **physically guides** the dog and/or draft rig.
7. **Leash guidance**.

**Examples:**

**Backing**

Once the judge says "Back your dog", the exercise to back the required distance has begun. Should the dog move forward, it then has that distance plus the required distance to back. The backing exercise is not to be judged by dog movement (e.g. standing, sitting or any combination), but on the distance and direction of the draft rig's movement.

**Hovering during Backing**

Excessive **hovering** to force the dog backwards may be failed based on *General Regulations, Chapter 6, Section 1B, Other Criteria*, " ... scored as passed if it has performed willingly," and "a dog that . . . appears to be in fear of severe correction from its handler shall be scored as failed." A dog that must be intimidated into performing an exercise has not done so willingly.

**Slow**

If the handler is ahead of the dog, slows down and then finishes the exercise behind the dog, chances are good that only the handler has demonstrated a change of pace. The dog's change of pace is what is being judged.

**Slow, Brace**

The team must change pace and stay on course. If one dog demonstrates change of pace while the other does not and the rig veers or turns to one side, the team must be failed for either no **slow** or lack of control.

**Halts, Body Blocking**

Given that handlers may work beside, behind or in front of the dog, a handler may step in front of a dog for a **halt** or other maneuvers. However, if the dog collides with the handler, attempts to go around the handler, or if the handler is forced to back up, the dog should be failed for lack of control or no **halt**.

**B. Control with Distractions:** While the team is working, two distractions, one primarily auditory and one primarily visual, shall occur approximately 10 feet from the working dog. When the distraction appears, the dog may stop what it is doing and/or watch but is not allowed to divert from the course it is following or to move the draft rig if the rig is at that moment stationary. The handler may speak to the dog with instructions concerning the distraction. If the dog has stopped to watch the distraction, the handler is to encourage the dog to proceed with the exercise. When the distraction has passed the handler is to instruct the dog to continue the exercise it may have stopped.

Distractions are to be arranged at the discretion of the Draft Test Committee and should be distractions that might occur in everyday situations. Judges must approve the distractions prior to the start of judging.

Possible appropriate distractions are:

**Auditory**

- ringing bell
- car or bicycle horn
- crinkly food bag
- musical instrument
- radio
- banging pans
- squeaky toys

**Visual**

- camera flash
- another animal on leash
- ball or toy being thrown
- person riding a bicycle
- person on horseback

Stewards perform distractions under direction of the judges.

Failing performance:

1. Dog changes direction in response to a distraction.
2. Dog moves a stationary draft rig in response to a distraction.
3. Dog chases distraction.
4. Dog is fearful of distraction.
5. Dog upsets draft rig.
6. Handler **physically guides** the dog and/or draft rig.
7. **Leash guidance**.
8. Dog barks out of control or shows aggression.
9. Dog refuses to resume the exercise it was performing after the distraction is gone.
10. Dog gives a failing performance in reaction to a naturally occurring distraction, even though the dog passes the official distractions.

**C. Loading and Unloading:** The team shall **halt**. The dog must **wait** in a stand, sit or down position. The individual dogs of a brace may be left in different positions. When the handler indicates readiness, a steward approaches, greets the handler, gives the handler a lightweight load (e.g. a blanket), and departs. The handler secures the load to the draft rig. The team then pulls the load to another part of the ring where they again **halt**. The dog must again **wait**, as above. When the handler indicates readiness, a steward approaches, greets the handler, greets and pats the dog, receives the load from the handler, and departs. If the load should shift the handler may stop to reposition and secure the load.

Judge's **commands** to the handler are: "**Halt**", "Load your draft rig", "Forward", "**Halt**", "Unload your draft rig".

Failing performance:

1. Dog does not **halt** on **command**.
2. Dog does not **wait**.
3. Dog refuses to pull loaded draft rig.
4. Load falls off of draft rig.
5. Dog does not **wait** when greeted and patted.
- 6.

Dog shows aggression or shyness when greeted and patted.

7. Dog upsets draft rig.
8. Handler **physically guides** the dog and/or draft rig.
9. **Leash guidance**.

**D. Maneuvering:** The team is required to perform:

1. Circular patterns to the right and left.
2. 90 degree turns to the right and left.
3. Movement through a narrow area that is 12 inches wider than the widest recorded dimension for this team without touching the objects defining the narrow area. The handler, dog and draft rig must all pass through the narrow area.
4. Removable obstacle - the dog **waits** while the handler opens a gate or removes an obstacle such as a tree branch or child's toy. The team then proceeds through the gate or past the obstacle. The handler may be required to close the gate or replace the obstacle.

3. and 4. may not be combined.

Judges will direct handlers as necessary through the maneuvers. Judge's **commands** to the handler may include: "Right turn", "Left turn", "Right U turn", "Left U turn", "Circle right", "Circle left", "Weave", "**Halt**", "Remove the obstacle", "Forward".

Failing Performance:

1. All maneuvers not executed.
2. Any contact by the dog, handler or draft rig with the obstacle or the objects defining the narrow area or any other part of the course.
3. Dog does not **wait** while handler removes obstacle.
4. Dog upsets draft rig.
5. Handler **physically guides** the dog and/or draft rig.
6. **Leash guidance**.
7. Handler, dog, and draft rig do not pass through the narrow area.

## Section 4. Group Stay

**Overview: The dogs demonstrate their ability to remain on an off-leash stay while hitched to loaded draft rigs. This is a group exercise.**

*Novice Draft and Brace Novice Draft: The handler stands across the ring from the dog.*

*Open Draft and Brace Open Draft: The handler is out of sight.*

The handler is responsible for the proper loading of the draft rig. (See *General Regulations Chapter 3 Section 3C Freight Haul Load and Weights*) Stewards/volunteers may assist under the handler's direction. Judges must confirm the proper freight load from the Data Worksheet.

Dogs may be gently placed in a stand, sit or down. Draft rig shafts may be adjusted for the dog's comfort. Leashes are placed in the rig. The **stay command and/or signal** is given once and no other **commands** or **signals** may be given during this exercise. The **stay** is for three minutes. The handlers shall return to the dog's side.

Judge's **commands** to the handlers are: "Are you ready?", "Position your dogs for the **stay**", "Leave your dogs", "Return to your dogs", "Exercise finished."

Failing performance:

1. Handler gives more than one **stay command**.
2. Dog changes position e.g. from a down to a sit or stand.
3. Dog moves out of place.
4. Dog barks or whines repeatedly.
5. Rough placement of dog.
6. Dog is incorrectly harnessed or hitched

## Section 5. Distance Freight Haul

**Overview: The teams traverse an outdoor course with the dogs hauling loaded draft rigs. This is a group exercise.**

A half-mile course, beginning and ending in the ring, is traversed over the natural terrain of the area, ideally including uphill and downhill slopes and changes of

terrain. The judges must accompany the teams. The judges have the authority to stop the exercise if the load is too great for the dog under the working conditions. Only with the approval of a judge may the handler **physically guide** the dog and/or draft rig in unusual trail conditions. Control is an important part of this exercise. Handlers should be prepared to slow down, or stop and wait at the request of a judge or to remain part of a group. Any narrow areas on the Freight Haul course, such as between trees or through gates, must be as wide as or wider than the widest measurement recorded during the Equipment Check plus twelve inches. Test Committees should be aware of this when laying out Freight Haul courses and judges should watch for this when inspecting the Freight Haul course prior to judging.

Failing performance:

1. Handler loads draft rig in a manner that causes it to become significantly unbalanced when moving.
2. Freight load exceeds the dog's capacity to pull comfortably and safely.
3. Dog upsets draft rig.
4. Handler **physically guides** the dog and/or draft rig without judge approval.
5. Dog refuses to move the loaded draft rig.
6. Dog refuses to accompany handler.
7. Team does not complete the course.
8. **Leash guidance.**
9. Dog or draft rig collides with any object.
10. Dog is incorrectly harnessed or hitched.

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## Changes in this Edition

### Administration

- Regulation Change Process - 4th RFC round for any significant change
- Premium Lists may be distributed in any form
- Open to all dogs registered, or listed, with the AKC/CKC (purebreds and mixed)
- Handler is responsible for the dog
- Decoration falling off a rig is not a failure
- Allow any two dogs to be braced
- Entry Agreement no longer requires a signature
- Berner Garde number required on entry form and in catalog

### Handlers

- Basic Control eliminated for Novice Brace, Open and Open Brace
- Recall may begin in any position and handler calls the dog with a single command and/or signal

### Judges

- Teams are evaluated the entire time they are in the ring or on the freight haul
- Freight Haul begins and ends in the ring
- Tests shall be held under the Regulations in effect at the time of approval