

## **RULES FOR FOX HUNTING TRIALS for FCI group 6**

### **1. Purpose of the trial**

The objective of fox hunting trials is to test and verify the fox hunting ability of hounds for breeding selection, to develop the skills and cooperation of the people active in the sport, and to create opportunities for competition based on these rules. In fox hunting trials the objective is not to harm the quarry animal or the dog, nor to subject them to excessive stress.

### **2. Trial types**

Fox hunting trials may be either general, or trials/competitions between members of a club, or trials/competitions for certain breeds and regulated by a separate set of rules and instructions.

### **3. Participation: eligibility and limitations**

#### **3.1. Eligibility**

All breeds from FCI group "hounds" may participate in fox hunting trials. Dogs participating in the trial must be registered, ID marked and vaccinated as specified by the applicable regulations, and they must have been awarded a quality grade at an official show approved by an FCI-accepted kennel organisation at the age of at least 9 months; any exceptions to this rule must be specified separately.

The organising committee and chief judge shall verify the eligibility of every dog.

#### **3.2. Limitations**

A trial can be arranged if at least three (3) dogs participate in it. The organising committee has the right to limit the number of participants, in the order of entry, if the conditions so require.

Participation is not allowed in the following cases:

- 1) the dog is sick,
- 2) bitches 30 days or less prior to estimated time of whelping, and less than 42 days after whelping,
- 3) the dog does not meet the valid anti-doping regulations,
- 4) bitches in heat.

### **4. Ineligibility of judges due to the likelihood of bias**

1. A judge is ineligible to act as chief judge in a trial if any one of the participating dogs is owned by, or residing with, him or his family member. Parents, spouses/life partners, children and siblings are considered to be family members even if they live in different addresses.

2. A judge is ineligible to act as field judge for a dog if he or a member of his family

- owns the dog,
- is the breeder of the dog, or
- the dog lives with him/her.

Parents, spouses (or persons living with the judge), children and siblings are considered family members even if they live in different addresses. The siblings of the breeder are regarded as family members only if they live in the same address as the breeder.

### **5. Granting the permission to arrange a trial**

These rules shall be applied in all fox hunting trials granted by the FCI, the Finnish Kennel Club or its local sections (kennel districts). International trials are granted by the FCI. The Finnish Kennel club grants the permission for national championship trials and qualifying trials for these, and for competitions between countries. The local kennel districts grant the other trials.

### **6. Applying for a trial**

#### **6.1. Applicant and organiser**

The organising club(s) apply for permission to arrange a trial; the organiser(s) must be member(s) of the Finnish Kennel Club. The organiser is responsible for all tasks included in arranging a trial.

#### **6.2. Term of application**

Applications for trials must be submitted to the Finnish Kennel Club by the specified dates. Approved trials must be arranged at the time specified in the application; the time can be changed or the trial cancelled only in exceptional cases.

### **6.3. Content of application**

The trial application must contain the following information: organising club(s), type of trial, possible limitations to participation, date and place of the trial, entry fee, where the entries shall be sent and how the entry fee shall be paid, the appointed chief judge and deputy chief judge, and the chief steward in charge of the trial.

### **6.4. Submitting the application**

The application must be submitted to the kennel district of the area where the trial will be arranged.

### **6.5. Information about a trial**

Kennel districts shall send a list of all their approved trials for publication in the Finnish Kennel Club magazine.

### **6.6. Changing the date or cancelling a trial**

The valid regulations of the Finnish Kennel Club shall apply.

## **8. Chief judge and deputy chief judge**

The chief judge and deputy chief judge must be accredited fox hunting trial judges, with a valid judging licence. The chief judge must be a member of the Finnish Kennel Club and of either the Finnish Hound Association or Finnish Beagle Association.

## **9. Other judges**

A judge group consists of two or three field judges. Every judge group in a trial must have the same number of judges. If three judges per group are used, the input of the third judge is only taken into consideration when evaluating the chase time. The group leader must be at least 18 years of age, the other judges at least 15 years.

### **9. 1. Field judges**

Field judges must be accredited fox hunting trial judges, with a valid judging licence. A trainee who has completed the trial judging course may act as a field judge if necessary, unless the rules for the trial in question stipulate otherwise.

### **9. 2. Group leader**

The chief judge appoints one of the field judges in each group as the group leader. The group leader's instructions must be followed. The group leader must be a member of either the Finnish Kennel Club or a breed club; the other judges must be members of either the Finnish Kennel Club or its member organisations.

## **10. Entering a trial**

### **10. 1. Entering**

The dog must be entered to the trial and the entry fee paid not earlier than one month but not later than five days before the beginning of the trial. Dog owners must be informed of whether or not they will be able to participate in the trial, and this information must be given to them at the latest when the entry period ends.

### **10. 2. Late entry**

Late entries shall not be accepted.

### **10. 3. Absence from a trial**

If a dog entered to a trial does not participate, the entry fee must always be paid if no valid reason is given for the absence. A bitch coming to heat or an illness of either the dog or its handler are considered to be valid reasons for absence. If an entered dog is not going to participate, the organising committee must be immediately informed of the situation.

## **11. Evaluation according to breed**

The abilities and performance of each dog shall be evaluated in accordance with the approved guidelines attached to these rules.

If dogs of different breeds participate in the trial, the judges must be sufficiently familiar with the breed typical behaviour and hunting method of each breed.

## 12. Trial classes and trial period

The fox hunting trial is a one-class, one-day trial that is either arranged on a certain date or held on any one day within a specified two-week period.

A fox hunting trial may also be arranged as two separate trials on two consecutive days. In this case each dog shall have a different trial area and different judges on each day. The result and ranking of the dog is determined by the total scores achieved in the two trials.

### 12.1. Two-week trial

The two-week trial is a separate event and it cannot coincide with other trials. The dog handler may choose the trial day and must inform the chief judge of his choice at the latest one day before the trial. In a two-week trial the participating dogs do not compete with each other. (See separate instructions on organising two-week hunting trials.)

### 12.2. Terminology

- 1) Dog handler decides to withdraw before the trial is over – Withdrawn
- 2) Judge interrupts the dog's performance – Interrupted
- 3) Dog is barred from the trial – Barred

These terms are defined in more detail in the guidelines attached to these rules.

## 13. Injury to dog

If a dog is injured, its trial must be interrupted. The decision on interrupting is made by the chief judge, or in the trial area by the group leader if the chief judge cannot be immediately reached. The group leader must present the grounds for the interruption to the chief judge as soon as possible. Any results achieved prior to the injury shall remain in force.

## 14. Responsibility

The dog owner is responsible for any damage or injuries caused by, or suffered by, the dog during the trial.

## 15. Judging, results and prizes

### 15.1. Judging

The final result of a fox hunting trial is the sum of performance points and points given on the basis of hunting time.

The dog's performance during the trial is evaluated as follows:

Maximum points for chase time	30 points
Maximum points for overall performance	70 points
Total maximum	100 points

Points for chase time

- Each four minutes of chase equal 1 point (1 minute = 0.25 points).
- If the chase ends in some excessive disturbance during the trial, chase points can be increased by 3.
- Points for a chase that ends when the fox goes underground are determined according to a separate table

Performance points

Performance points are given for the entire time that the dog is working, also when the dog handler decides to withdraw or the trial is interrupted. Performance points are calculated as an average of the points given by the judges.

Judges must be careful to avoid situations where some excessive disturbance they have not been able to verify might result in incorrect evaluation of the dog's performance.

Searching

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| - Efficiency and determination                      | 1–10 points |
| - Speed and distance                                | 1–10 points |
| - Zeal and persistence                              | 1–10 points |
| - Other qualities of search, and general impression | 1–10 points |

Chasing

- Speed and fluency 1–10 points
- Zeal and general impression 1–10 points

#### Barking

- Barking 1–10 points

### 15.2. Points and prizes

1. prize minimum points 75
2. prize minimum points 60
3. prize minimum points 50

## 16. Trial results

### 16. 1. Checking the results

The secretary of the trial checks and verifies all calculated points, ensures that the results are correctly entered in the trial report form and dog performance reports, and submits these without delay to the chief judge for verification. The chief judge checks the results and confirms them with his signature and judge number.

If any omissions or errors are observed in these documents, the kennel district or breed club or Finnish Kennel Club are required to correct them.

### 16. 2. Sending the results

Within one week of the end of the trial the organising committee shall send the trial report and dog performance reports, verified by the chief judge, to the party that granted the trial. The kennel district sends the required report copies to the Finnish Kennel Club and the breed clubs within two weeks of the end of the trial.

## 17. Changes to these rules and instructions

Changes to these rules and guidelines must be approved by the Finnish Kennel Club.

## 18. Complaints and protests

The general rules of the Finnish Kennel Club, valid at the time of occurrence, shall be applied.

## 19. Special cases

In exceptional cases the Finnish Kennel Club has the right to limit participation to trials or give other special instructions.

## **GUIDELINES FOR FOX HUNTING TRIALS (KEAJ)**

### **1. TRIAL CENTRE**

The trial centre must be suited for the purpose and located as centrally as possible with regard to the trial areas.

### **2. ALLOTMENT OF TRIAL AREAS**

A separate trial area must be reserved for each participating dog, and additionally a sufficient number of reserve areas must be available. The areas must be sufficiently large and located not too close to each other. The organising committee decides which areas will be used. The chief judge approves the trial areas for each group of field judges.

The trial must be carried out in the allotted or appointed area. A reserve area can be used instead if the conditions have become such that the trial cannot be carried out in the allotted or appointed area. The available reserve areas shall be chosen before the beginning of the trial.

### **3. PROGRESS OF THE TRIAL**

The trial begins with a briefing by the chief judge, and it ends when the chief judge gives a closing speech, the results are read and any prizes given.

The briefing is held on the morning of the trial day, or on the previous night if necessary.

#### **3.1. Allotment of trial areas**

A dog may participate in the trial if it is included when the areas are allotted.

The trial area for each dog is drawn by lot after the chief judge's briefing, unless the situation demands that the allotment be carried out in advance. In any case the allotment shall be carried out using an unbiased method approved by the chief judge.

If insurmountable difficulties arise after the allotment, the chief judge has the right to move field judges from one group to another as necessary.

In a two-week trial the dog handler has the right to propose a trial area for his dog, to be approved by the organising committee. The trial areas shall be drawn by lot if necessary.

#### **3.2. Trial period**

The trial period must start at the time given by the chief judge. In the briefing the chief judge shall specify a time by which the dog must at the latest be let loose on the day of the trial, unless some insurmountable problem causes a delay.

#### **3.3. Working time**

The working time, maximum 420 minutes (7 hours), consists of search time and chase time. Working time is the time when the dog is working on its own, searching and chasing a fox or indicating when the fox has gone underground.

Search time is maximum 240 minutes (4 hours), chase time maximum 180 minutes (3 hours). The time when the dog is searching or chasing other animals shall be included in the total working time.

#### **3.4. Search time**

Search time is maximum 240 minutes, consisting of the time when the dog is searching for a fox as well as possible repeat searches. If the dog has not found a fox to chase during this time, the trial ends.

If there is still search time left after a chase, a repeat search for another fox may be started if it is possible.

Searching for other game except fox shall not be evaluated. If the search results in a chase for some other animal than fox, only the time during which the judges know that the dog was searching for a fox shall be evaluated, but all times when the dog is searching or chasing another animal are still to be calculated in the total search time. Especially demanding conditions may cause an increase in the scoring and evaluation, but good conditions shall not cause any point reductions.

Repeat search is a new search that takes place after a successful search (search leading to chase, or search that ends when the fox goes underground) or a new search after an interruption caused by some excessive disturbance.

When the dog is searching (first search or repeat search) the group is not allowed to follow the dog with a car; a car can only be used when the group is moving from one place to another.

### **3.5. Chase time**

The maximum chase time is 120 minutes. If the dog has been out of hearing for some of this time, an additional 60 minutes may be allowed; this additional chase time must however not be used to make up for a loss of quarry. Chase time includes the time when the dog is chasing a fox or working on finding again a lost quarry. If a new chase starts after a repeat search, it may be included in the total chase time if the maximum chase time is not yet up.

Only a chase during which the field judges have heard the dog barking and chasing a fox shall be accepted. When the dog is not tracking and barking its quarry, this is interpreted as a loss of quarry. Every minute during which the dog has been barking and chasing a fox shall be included in the total chase time. Loss of quarry that lasts for five (5) minutes or more shall not be included in the total chase time. If a loss of quarry occurs within the last minutes of a chase, the chase period shall be continued until the field judges are able to see whether or not the time must be detracted from the chase time. If the dog barks even though the field judges know it has lost the quarry, these minutes shall not be included in the total chase time.

The entire chase time of 120 minutes must always be used even if maximum score is obtained already before the time is up.

The times when the dog searches or chases another animal during a chase shall be regarded as a loss of quarry.

Observations on a chase obtained by using dog tracking systems shall not be accepted.

### **3.6. Withdrawing**

The dog handler has the right to withdraw from the trial at any point before the end of the trial period. The dog's performance shall be evaluated up until the moment when the handler informs the judge of withdrawing.

### **3.7. Interrupting the trial**

The decision on interrupting is made by the chief judge, in the trial area by the group leader if the chief judge cannot be immediately reached. The group leader must present the grounds for the interruption to the chief judge as soon as possible.

The trial may be interrupted in the following cases:

- The conditions become such that continuing the trial would be in violation of animal protection regulations, for example: an icy crust that may injure the dog, hard crusted snow, very cold or very hot weather.
- The dog is injured during the trial in such a way that continuing the trial would be in violation of animal protection regulations.
- Natural conditions change in such a way that the dog's performance cannot be reliably assessed (for example a storm).
- Darkness makes it impossible to continue the trial. (See under point 4.1. Excessive disturbance).
- If a chase ends in some excessive disturbance, the dog handler has the right to ask for the trial to be interrupted.

### **3.8. Barring from trial**

The dog shall be barred from the trial if it refuses to work, shows such disobedience that continuing the trial becomes impossible, barks so much while searching that the field judges are not able to tell whether it is searching or chasing, or barks either so much or so little during a chase that the field judges are not able to follow the progress of the chase.

The dog shall also be barred if it chases hoofed game for a total of 30 minutes during the trial, or if it chases and attacks and mauls a hoofed game animal. If this occurs and the dog cannot be recalled and put on lead,

the chase shall be followed even after the trial period is over in order to see whether or not the dog must be barred.

The dog shall also be barred if it repeatedly strays from a night track or interrupts a chase and begins to search or chase some other animal and refuses to be put on lead even though the handler is close.

The dog may also be barred from the trial if the dog handler knowingly breaches the trial rules, recalls and puts the dog on lead without permission from a field judge, or disregards the field judges' instructions.

The dog may be barred if persons following the group at the request of the dog handler and with the permission of the chief judge purposely disrupt the trial or the work of the field judges or disregard the field judges' instructions.

### **3.9. Calculating the result**

Results are calculated for a completed or interrupted trial. If the dog is barred or the dog handler decides to withdraw during the trial, results shall not be calculated.

The reason for interruption, barring and withdrawing shall be noted in the trial reports.

## **4. EXCESSIVE DISTURBANCE DURING THE TRIAL**

### **4.1. Excessive disturbance**

An excessive disturbance unrelated to the dog may occur during the search or chase and interrupt the trial.

### **4.2. Verifying the disturbance**

If there is reason to believe that the search or chase was interrupted by some excessive disturbance, the field judges must take immediate action to find out what caused the interruption. If the reason for the disturbance cannot be properly verified, the interruption shall be interpreted as a loss of quarry. The field judge decides what can be accepted as an excessive disturbance.

### **4.3. Exceptional situations**

The field judges should always do their best to ascertain if the dog's behaviour during the trial has been affected by the presence of large predators or birds of prey, so as to avoid incorrect interpretation of the situations. The animal in question shall be noted in the scoring card and trial reports.

## **5. CHANGING THE EVALUATION OF A FIELD JUDGE**

The chief judge shall ensure that the approved rules and guidelines for fox trials are followed exactly in the trial. The chief judge is to change the evaluation of the field judges if he, after watching the trial or discussing with the field judges, is convinced that the evaluation does not correctly reflect the dog's performance.

## **6. Changes to the rules**

All changes to these rules must be approved by the Finnish Kennel Club at the proposal of the breed club.

## GUIDELINES FOR FIELD JUDGES

### 1. TRIAL GROUP: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### **Trial group**

A trial group consists of field judges and the dog handler. The group may also include one or two field judge trainees and a field guide.

There may be also other people who are allowed to watch the trial under the supervision of the group leader; this must be approved by the chief judge on a case by case basis.

#### **1.1. Duties of field judges**

- 1) The field judge must always carry with him the trial rules and proof of his authorisation and qualifications for the task. Field judges should always be present at the chief judge's briefing.
- 2) The trial rules must be followed to the letter. When applying the rules and guidelines, the field judge has the right to use his own discretion, as long as he is able to give grounds for his decisions and his interpretations are in accordance with the trial rules and guidelines.
- 3) If the conditions during the trial and in the trial area become such that continuing the trial would be in violation of animal protection regulations, the field judge must interrupt the trial, contact the chief judge and consider the possibility of moving to a reserve area.
- 4) Every dog's performance must be evaluated neutrally and truthfully. The judge must not allow any previous acquaintance, hearsay, the dog handler's words or any earlier trial results influence his evaluation. The field judge shall only take into account what he can see for himself and what he considers to be true. However, the field judge is also allowed to base his evaluation on the observations made by the other field judge in the group.
- 5) Hasty conclusions and excessive self-confidence must be avoided. The field judge must be adaptable and flexible, and he must always behave in a friendly manner towards all other members of the group. The field judge may taken into account any reasonable requests from the dog handler, provided that these are not excessive or in violation of the rules and do not disrupt the progress of the trial.
- 6) The field judge must watch the performance of the dog as closely as possible throughout the trial period, however without disturbing it. The evaluation of the different qualities should not be mixed with each other.
- 7) The trial must be carried out in the allotted trial area, unless the group is forced to move outside the area while following the dog.
- 8) The group may move to a reserve area if the conditions in the allotted area make the trial impossible. However, the group is not allowed to move to a reserve area just because the allotted area is estimated to have a very low fox population. The group leader makes the decision on moving to a reserve area, if the chief judge cannot be contacted without delay.
- 9) If the dog comes to danger during the trial, all members of the trial group must take immediate action to rescue it.

#### **1.2. Duties of group leader**

- 1) The group leader is appointed by the chief judge. He is responsible for ensuring that the group acts in accordance with the trial rules and guidelines and any instructions given to them, in good kennel spirit. The group leader must be present at the chief judge's briefing, unless the chief judge has given the leave of absence for some special reason.
- 2) The group leader makes sure that all field judges set their clocks to the same time before the trial begins. The group leader has the final say about the direction and speed of the group's movements, when and where the dog is let loose, and when the dog must be recalled and put on lead, taking into account any reasonable wishes that the dog handler may express. The group leader instructs the group members as to which positions they are to take and how they are to act. He supervises and guides the work of any field judge trainees in the group. The group leader ensures that any persons outside the group do not disrupt the trial or disturb the work of the field judges.



- 3) The group leader must use his discretion and possibly interrupt the trial if the dog is injured during. The trial may be continued if the dog is injured so slightly that continuing the trial will not cause a violation of animal protection regulations.
- 4) The group leader may call the field judges to a negotiation if necessary. The group leader compares the notes taken by the field judges and calculates how much of the search time has been used and how much is still left, and what the chase time is. The group leader also notes in his scoring card the averages of the merit points given by the field judges, compares them to any additional notes and discusses the final score with another judge if necessary.
- 5) When the trial period is over and the scoring cards have been filled in, the group leader must show them to the dog handler.
- 6) The group leader hands the scoring cards to the chief judge and gives an oral report about the progress and events of the trial and the grounds for the evaluation. The field judges, trainee judges and dog handler should be present during this report. The field judges must for their part make sure that the scores and notes in the dog's trial report are correct and confirm them with their signature.

### **1.3. Guidelines for dog handler**

- 1) The dog handler (the owner or his representative) must follow the instructions given by the group leader and field judge. The dog must be handled by the same person throughout the entire trial; in exceptional cases the chief judge may approve a change of handler.
- 2) The dog handler is not allowed to assist the dog in any way, to interfere with its work without permission from a field judge, or to put the dog on lead unless he wishes to withdraw from the trial. However, if the dog is in obvious danger it must be immediately recalled and put on lead; in this case the field judge must be informed of this without delay.
- 3) The dog handler has the right to give reasonable suggestions and wishes to the field judge, regarding for example the speed or direction in which the group will move, but he must not disrupt the work of the field judges with repeated suggestions or his other behaviour.
- 4) If the dog handler disregards the judges' instruction, breaches the trial rules, disturbs the work of the field judges or otherwise behaves in an inappropriate manner, the group leader may bar the dog from continuing the trial. The same applies to persons who follow the group at the request of the dog handler and with the permission of the chief judge. The chief judge must be immediately informed of the barring and the grounds thereof.
- 5) If the dog handler withdraws from the trial, the group leader must be immediately informed. Withdrawing is possible during the time between the confirmation of allotted trial areas and the end of the dog's trial period.
- 6) If the dog handler's idea of the events during the trial differs from that of the field judges, he is allowed to express this to the field judges when in the trial area, and to the chief judge when at the trial centre.
- 7) During the trial the dog handler and field judges are to work in good confidence and cooperation.

## **2. OPERATION OF FIELD JUDGES DURING TRIAL**

### **2.1. Evaluation of dog's performance**

The two most important requirements for a hound are the ability to find quarry and the ability to chase it even over long distances. A good hunting hound works in such a way that the quarry being chased can be seen several times.

The dog's performance is evaluated at the end of the trial day. During the day the field judge must write down notes and observations of the dog's actions and performance in his scoring card; these notes are then used when giving the overall evaluation.

The condition or age of the dog shall not affect the evaluation.

### **2.2. Excessive disturbance**

The following situations are considered as excessive disturbances that may make it necessary to put the dog on lead and move to another area:

- 1) The chased fox goes underground into a hiding place from which the dog cannot flush it out on its own. The group is not allowed to flush it out, either. The type of hiding place shall be noted in the scoring

card (building, rocks, underground hole, etc.). If the dog continues to chase the same fox after an excessive disturbance, the chase points cannot be increased.

- 2) During the search or chase the dog enters a place or area where both the field judge and the handler consider it to be in serious danger; for example a road with heavy traffic, a railroad, thin ice, etc.
- 3) The dog catches the fox it chases.
- 4) Someone shoots the fox being chased.
- 5) Another dog interrupts the search or chase.
- 6) Another dog joins the chase before the chase has lasted for 60 minutes. If the dog has been chasing the animal for at least 60 minutes and the other dog cannot be caught or driven away despite repeated attempts, the chase may continue provided that the other dog does not clearly assist or disturb the chasing dog.
- 7) When the chase begins so late in the day that there is not enough daylight to follow it, the trial is interrupted when darkness falls. However, a chase that starts in the evening shall not be interrupted before the time is up if at least 60 minutes of the chase has taken place in daylight and the field judges consider that they have already been observing the dog's performance long enough to make correct evaluations even without sufficient light.
- 8) A large predator or bird of prey moving in the area interferes with the dog's work or causes an obvious threat to the dog.

Also other situations unrelated to the dog can be accepted by the field judges as an excessive disturbance. If the excessive disturbance makes it necessary to recall the dog, the dog handler is allowed to choose the spot where the dog is let off lead again.

### **Interruptions caused by excessive disturbance**

The interruption caused by an excessive disturbance shall not be deducted from the total working time of the dog. Assessment continues until the moment the dog is put on lead, even though the clock has already been stopped.

### **2.3. Actions during search**

When a search or repeat search begins, the dog is let loose to either search for tracks made during the night before the trial, or directly on a night track.

The group leader decides when and how the field judges will split up to monitor the dog's actions in the area without disturbing the dog.

When a search is going on the group must find out what animal the dog is searching for.

The dog must not be in any way assisted or disturbed during the search.

Searching for other quarry except fox shall not be assessed. If the dog is found to be searching or chasing some other game animal, the dog shall be put on lead and taken to continue work on a fox. The same procedure is followed also when the dog begins to follow a track backwards and does not turn around on its own.

If the search results in a chase or search for another quarry than fox, only the part that the judges have been able to ascertain as a search for fox shall be evaluated. The judges make a note of the quarry in the scoring cards.

If the dog alerts a few times when on a night track, the field judges must follow it and make sure they know when the alerting bark turns into a chase bark.

If the dog cannot flush out a fox during a search period of 240 minutes, the group leader shall inform everyone that the period is over.

The group leader has the right to bar the dog if it barks so much during the search that the field judges cannot tell with certainty whether it is searching or chasing game, or when the over-excitable barking during search has lasted for 40 minutes.

### **2.4. Actions during chase**

Once a chase begins, the group leader gives such instructions for the group that the progress of the chase and the dog's performance can be monitored and assessed with maximum ease and certainty. The group is

required to follow the dog tenaciously even if it moves far away. The field judges should be positioned in the area suitably, make use of available roads and means of transportation and act with such coordination and persistence that their observations complement each other and give a truthful picture of the events. The field judges should take their positions in the same way as hunters take their stands.

The field judges must waste no time in finding out whether the dog is chasing a moving fox or some other quarry, or whether it is barking on an old track or without a reason. Field judges must endeavour to see both the dog and the quarry it is chasing, and to observe the tracks they make.

The group leader has the right to bar a dog from the trial if it has been barking without reason for 20 minutes. Field judges must observe every aspect of the dog's performance during the chase and how it is able to deal with a loss of quarry and eventual obstacles. If the dog starts to bark within a very limited area, its actions must be immediately verified.

The field judge must attempt to see the fox and the dog in order to estimate the distance between them, but his movements or position must not in any way disturb the fox or the dog.

Even if the field judges cannot see a fox or its tracks during the chase, the dog's performance shall be evaluated as a chase for fox unless the field judges have good reason to believe that it was chasing some other quarry.

If the dog is found to be searching or chasing any other quarry than fox, the dog shall be recalled and put on lead.

## **2.5. Chasing hoofed game**

If the dog begins to chase hoofed game during the trial, all members of the trial group must do their best to recall the dog and put it on lead. If this does not succeed, the chase shall be followed also after the trial period is over, even if the chase cannot be heard, until the field judges are able to decide whether or not the dog must be barred.

## **2.6. Chase by another dog**

If the dog from another trial group enters the trial area while chasing quarry, the field judge must note its chase time if this does not distract him from his primary duty and does not disturb the dog in his trial group. Any notes on the chase time of the other dog shall be given to the group leader of the group in question, or to the chief judge, for the calculation of the total chase time.

## **2.7. Weather conditions**

When the ground is covered with snow to such an extent that any tracks can be easily followed almost without interruption in the area where the search and chase took place, this is marked as "snowy ground". This also applies when the ground is covered by hard snow on which the tracks are not visible enough to be followed.

The field judges determine how the weather conditions are marked. In unclear cases or if there is disagreement, the chief judge makes the final decision.

# **3. FILLING THE SCORING CARD**

## **3.1. General instruction**

The field judge must fill the scoring card with due care.

Before the trial starts, the field judges write in the scoring card the trial area, time, dog and handler.

In the timing table the field judges write the hours at the points indicated with zero (0) so as to keep the correct time.

All notes and evaluations of the dog's performance must be made immediately after the situation has been verified. This general instruction is applied when noting the times when the dog was let loose, when a chase began, when the dog and its quarry were seen, and all other events during the trial.

## **3.2. Noting the chase time**

A chase is indicated in the timing part using qualitative notation: continuous chase with a continuous line (\_\_\_\_\_), fragmentary chase with a dashed line (- - - - -), separate barks with dots (.....) and

chase time copied from another judge's scoring card with a serrated line (~~~~~). A blank section indicates loss of quarry or a break.

The field judge must always endeavour to note the chase time as accurately as possible in the timing table. The reason for loss of quarry (if observed) is also entered in the timing section, as well as any other observations about the chase: what kind of mistakes the dog makes and when, when the fox and dog were seen, and how the dog performs especially when dealing with obstacles or particularly difficult terrain.

### 3.3. Characteristics and additional information

At the end of the trial day the dog's performance is scored using numbers and any additional information is written down. When deciding on the final scores also the notes and additional information noted during the trial shall be taken into account. The final score is the overall evaluation of the qualities shown by the dog during the trial.

Each field judge enters the scores using full numbers. The total points of the group are calculated as an average of the scores given by the field judges.

Additional notes describe the conditions during the trial and various aspects of the dog's performance, and they help the field judges to determine the scores.

Section 5 gives more instructions on how to note and use the additional information. Each field judge enters the additional scores using full numbers. The total score is calculated as an average of the scores given by the field judges in the group.

## 4. Evaluation of dog's performance

### General

Each aspect of the dog's performance is assessed by giving points, 1 through 10.

Excellent	9 or 10
Very good	7 or 8
Good	5 or 6
Satisfactory	3 or 4
Poor	1 or 2

If the field judge is not able to assess some aspect of the performance, this is indicated by a dash (–) in the corresponding column.

### 4.1. Searching

#### 4.1.1. Efficiency and determination

Only the time when the dog is working independently shall be assessed. The judge must assess if the dog is capable of successful searching even on difficult terrain and when working an old night track. Particular merit must be given when the dog searches and finds a fox, and when the dog repeats the search after a chase. Points shall be deducted if the dog follows the track backwards. The search and repeat search are assessed as one whole.

#### Excellent (9–10)

- Dog finds a fox track on its own and begins to follow it.
- Dog follows a night track with determination.
- Terrain is difficult.
- Dog shows no interest in the tracks of any other animals in the area.
- The dog finds a fox track on its own and begins to follow it.
- The search or a repeat search results in a chase.

#### Very good (7–8)

- Otherwise as above, but the dog has slight difficulty in tracking.
- No obstacles or tracks of other animals in the area.
- Dog is let loose directly on a night track.

**Good (5–6)**

- Dog has trouble in tracking.
- Dog begins to follow the track backwards and does not turn around on its own.
- Dog is recalled and then begins to follow the track in the right direction.

**Satisfactory (3–4)**

- Dog has trouble in tracking.
- Dog follows the track backwards and the handler must go and get it back.
- Search brings no results.

**Poor (1–2)**

- Dog is not able to follow a night track.

**4.1.2. Speed and distance**

The distance and time that the dog independently follows a night track shall be assessed.

Special merit shall be given if the dog is able to quickly overcome any obstacles it encounters while searching. Search time must be at least 100 minutes (including search and repeat search). This performance is considered excellent, provided that the dog has started a repeat search. Otherwise a repeat search is not necessary. The search and repeat search are assessed as one whole.

**Excellent (9–10)**

- Dog progresses rapidly on a night track for more than 5 km.
- Search time, including repeat search, is at least 100 minutes.
- Dog mostly moves in gallop while tracking and easily overcomes roads and the tracks of other game animals.

**Very good (7–8)**

- As above.
- Tracking distance is over 4 km.
- Search time over 80 minutes.
- Dog mostly moves in trot while tracking.
- Dog is somewhat slowed down by roads or other tracks.

**Good (5–6)**

- Tracking distance is over 3 km.
- Search time over 60 minutes.
- Dog mostly moves in trot while tracking.
- Dog is clearly slowed down by roads or other tracks.

**Satisfactory (3–4)**

- Search time over 30 minutes.
- Tracking distance is over 2 km.
- Dog mostly walks while tracking.
- Dog is not able to follow the track when it encounters other game tracks.

**Poor (1–2)**

- Very short search time, less than 30 minutes.
- Tracking distance is over 1 km.
- Dog only walks while tracking.

**4.1.3. Zeal and persistence**

Persistent searching and tenacious work on a night track give special merit in all circumstances. Particular merit must be given when the dog searches and finds a fox even in difficult conditions, and when the dog starts a repeat search after a chase. Lack of hunting zeal shall mean lower points, and if the dog is totally unwilling to hunt it shall be barred.

**Excellent (9–10)**

- Dog persistently follows a night track and overcomes any obstacles.
- Dog shows no lack of hunting zeal.
- Dog eagerly continues searching after a chase.

**Very good (7–8)**

- Otherwise as above, but a repeat search was not possible.
- Search ends when the fox goes underground.

**Good (5–6)**

- Otherwise a good search, but no repeat search began even though there was an opportunity.
- Dog eagerly and persistently follows a fresh track.
- Dog is slightly reluctant to start a repeat search.

**Satisfactory (3–4)**

- Otherwise an eager hunter, but refuses to follow a night track in good conditions.
- In normal conditions is reluctant to follow a night track.
- Dog is clearly reluctant to start a repeat search in good conditions.

**Poor (1–2)**

- Dog repeatedly refuses to work a night track, or refuses to start a repeat search in good conditions.

**4.1.4. Other qualities of search**

Special merits are: good obedience and cooperation with the handler, reporting when the fox goes underground, and suitable alerting during search.

Alerting means that the dog barks audibly but sparingly while searching to indicate its whereabouts. Alerting is suitable when the dog barks occasionally every few minutes while following a night track. Alerting must not resemble the barking during a chase. If the alerting bark sounds too much like chasing, this shall be considered as over-excitability, which is a fault that may eventually lead to barring.

Interest towards other quarry than fox is always considered a fault, the more so the stronger and fresher the track of a fox is. Interest towards other fur animals or large predators (raccoon dog, pine marten, wolf, lynx) is considered a lesser fault.

**Excellent (9–10)**

- Dog shows no interest in other game animals.
- Dog is easily recalled and put on lead if necessary.
- Dog clearly reports when the fox goes underground, if it gets the chance.
- Suitable alerting bark.

**Very good (7–8)**

- As above.
- Some problems in reporting when the fox goes underground.
- Dog can be recalled when necessary.
- Alerts only very little or not at all.

**Good (5–6)**

- Dog is diverted when searching for a fox and begins to search or chase other quarry.
- Does not report when the fox goes underground even though it has the chance to do so.
- Dog can be recalled when necessary.
- Some over-excitability barking during search.

**Satisfactory (3–4)**

- Dog repeatedly searches or chases other quarry.
- Dog is difficult to recall and put on lead.
- Dog is disobedient.

- Over-excitably barking during search.

Poor (1–2)

- Dog is overly interested in other animals.
- Dog begins to search or chase hoofed game.
- Dog cannot be recalled and put on lead when needed.
- Plenty of over-excitably barking during search.

## 4.2. Chasing

### 4.2.1. Speed and fluency

Special merit is given for confident, fluent chasing, good contact with the chased game, efficiency even in difficult conditions or when encountering obstacles, and frequent sightings of the game due to a fast, efficient chase.

Excellent (9–10)

- Speedy and fluent chase.
- Dog quickly finds the track again after a momentary loss of quarry.
- Dog keeps good contact with the chased game.
- Dog is able to keep the fox moving even in difficult conditions.
- Dog chases the fox in swift canter in normal conditions.
- Chase continues for over 45 minutes and ends when the fox goes underground.

Very good (7–8)

- Speedy and relatively fluent chase in normal conditions.
- Dog works eagerly and quickly to find the track again after a momentary loss.
- Dog chases the fox mostly in gallop in normal conditions.
- Chase continues for over 30 minutes and ends when the fox goes underground.

Good (5–6)

- Relatively fluent chase.
- Dog is considerably slowed down by obstacles.
- Dog chases the fox mostly in trot in normal conditions.
- Chase continues for less than 30 minutes and ends when the fox goes underground.

Satisfactory (3–4)

- Chasing is slow.
- Dog makes such mistakes that the chase time is less than 20 minutes.
- Dog works inefficiently and is slow to get back on track after losing it.
- Dog mostly walks when chasing in normal conditions.

Poor (1–2)

- Severe shortcomings in performance (very slow speed, lack of fluency, inability to get back on track).
- Dog makes such mistakes that the chase time is less than 10 minutes.
- Dog only walks when chasing in normal conditions.

### 4.2.2. Zeal and general impression

Special merits are: eager, enthusiastic work even in difficult conditions or when encountering obstacles, good cooperation with handler, and obedience in different situations.

Excellent (9–10)

- Excellent hunting zeal and focus.
- Excellent ability to overcome obstacles and to get back on track after losing it.
- Good contact with the chased quarry.

- Dog is able to continue chase even on a road.
- Dog shows no interest in other animals.
- Good obedience and cooperation with handler.
- When possible, dog reports if the fox goes underground or if it catches the fox.

#### Very good (7–8)

- Good hunting zeal and focus.
- Dog is able to overcome obstacles and to get back on track after losing it.
- Dog works well on a road.
- Dog shows no interest in other animals.
- Some shortcomings in reporting when the fox goes underground.
- Chase not quite perfect in every sense.

#### Good (5–6)

- Satisfactory hunting zeal.
- Problems with focusing on the task.
- Dog does not bark enough or chase is halting.
- Dog should be clearly more efficient in overcoming obstacles or getting back on track.
- Dog is able to overcome loss of track caused by a road.

#### Satisfactory (3–4)

- Satisfactory hunting zeal.
- Obvious problems in dealing with obstacles or getting back on track.
- Dog is clearly left behind by the fox in normal conditions.
- Even small roads cause problems.
- Dog searches or chases other quarry.
- Some over-excitability barking on an old track.

#### Poor (1–2)

- Weak hunting zeal.
- Dog repeatedly searches or chases other quarry.
- Begins to search or chase hoofed game.
- Dog does not bark while chasing or barks on an old track.
- Even a small road stops the chase.
- When the dog is searching or chasing other quarry, it can be recalled only with difficulty.

### 4.3. Barking

#### 4.3.1. Evaluating the bark

When evaluating the bark, audibility and other qualities are marked in the corresponding columns and fields, and the overall score is based on this information.

The most important quality is audibility; other qualities can either increase or decrease the score.

In order to get a good score (5–6) the barking must be so loud that the progress of the chase can be easily followed by listening to it. If there is no chase or it cannot be heard, a dash is used instead of a number.

#### Audibility 1–5

- Audibility is the most important quality.
- When evaluating, the judge must take into account the distance to the dog and the effect of external conditions: terrain, height differences, vegetation, wind, snow.

#### Other qualities 1–5

- Other qualities of the bark are descriptiveness, passion, frequency, melodious quality and masculinity/femininity.
- Descriptiveness: the barking reflects the distance between the dog and the chased quarry.



- Passion: expression of the intensity, fervour and excitement of the chase. A dog barking passionately while chasing quarry is a delight to hear.
- Frequency: how much and how often the dog barks.
- Melodious quality: how many different tones the bark contains.
- Masculinity/femininity: is it possible to say whether the barking dog is a dog or a bitch purely by listening to how it barks.

#### 4.4. Excitability, chasing bark, and over-excitability

The excitability of the dog is determined based on how fresh the track must be before the dog barks while following it.

The strength of scents is affected by time, terrain and weather conditions. The dog is excitable if it barks readily when following a 30-minute-old track in normal conditions. Barking while following the track of a fox that the dog has flushed out is not considered over-excitability even if the track is over 30 minutes old, provided that the dog progresses on the track with determination.

If the dog is found to be easily excitable, only the times when it is chasing with fluency shall be accepted as a chase. If the dog does not bark too readily, all barking during a well progressing chase shall be taken to indicate a chase.

The dog is over-excitability if it barks when following a fox track it has already chased or when trying to find a track it has lost, or if it barks on a track older than 30 minutes that it cannot follow easily in normal conditions, or when following a track backwards.

If the dog barks while following a track backwards but turns around in less than one minute and continues in the right direction, this shall not be considered as over-excitability.

If the dog in normal circumstances does not bark at all unless the fox track it is following is less than five minutes old, the dog is too quiet.

The dog is suitably vocal if it barks when following a track less than half an hour old and its bark reflects the distance to the fox it is chasing.

#### 4.5. Chase points

Every minute during which a chasing bark is heard shall be included in the total chase time.

When giving points for chase time, the points table (4.5.1) is used. If the chase ends when the fox goes underground so that the dog cannot flush it out on its own, chase points shall be given according to the points table 4.5.2.

If the dog has chased several foxes, chase points are calculated from the total chase time. Points given for chases that ended when the fox goes underground shall be added to the other chase points.

If the dog is over-excitability when chasing, the verified time when it has shown this quality shall be deducted from the total chase time.

If the chase ends due to an excessive disturbance, the points given according to the table can be increased by three (3) points; this increase can only be done once.

If the dog catches the fox it was chasing, the points given according to the points table 4.5.1. can be increased by three (3) points; this can only be done once.

The total sum of points given on the basis of chase time is always max. 30.

##### 4.5.1. POINTS FOR CHASE TIME

Chase minutes	Points	Chase minutes	Points	Chase minutes	Points	Chase minutes	Points
1	0.25	31	7.75	61	15.25	91	22.75
2	0.50	32	8.00	62	15.50	92	23.00
3	0.75	33	8.25	63	15.75	93	23.25
4	1.00	34	8.50	64	16.00	94	23.50
5	1.25	35	8.75	65	16.25	95	23.75
6	1.50	36	9.00	66	16.50	96	24.00
7	1.75	37	9.25	67	16.75	97	24.25
8	2.00	38	9.50	68	17.00	98	24.50

9	2.25	39	9.75	69	17.25	99	24.75
10	2.50	40	10.00	70	17.50	100	25.00
11	2.75	41	10.25	71	17.75	101	25.25
12	3.00	42	10.50	72	18.00	102	25.50
13	3.25	43	10.75	73	18.25	103	25.75
14	3.50	44	11.00	74	18.50	104	26.00
15	3.75	45	11.25	75	18.75	105	26.25
16	4.00	46	11.50	76	19.00	106	26.50
17	4.25	47	11.75	77	19.25	107	26.75
18	4.50	48	12.00	78	19.50	108	27.00
19	4.75	49	12.25	79	19.75	109	27.25
20	5.00	50	12.50	80	20.00	110	27.50
21	5.25	51	12.75	81	20.25	111	27.75
22	5.50	52	13.00	82	20.50	112	28.00
23	5.75	53	13.25	83	20.75	113	28.25
24	6.00	54	13.50	84	21.00	114	28.50
25	6.25	55	13.75	85	21.25	115	28.75
26	6.50	56	14.00	86	21.50	116	29.00
27	6.75	57	14.25	87	21.75	117	29.25
28	7.00	58	14.50	88	22.00	118	29.50
29	7.25	59	14.75	89	22.25	119	29.75
30	7.50	60	15.00	90	22.50	120	30.00

#### 4.5.2. POINTS FOR CHASE TIME WHEN CHASE ENDS AS FOX GOES UNDERGROUND

Chase minutes	Points	Chase minutes	Points	Chase minutes	Points	Chase minutes	Points
1	0.70	21	14.70	41	22.98	61	26.58
2	1.40	22	15.40	42	23.16	62	26.76
3	2.10	23	16.10	43	23.34	63	26.94
4	2.80	24	16.80	44	23.52	64	27.12
5	3.50	25	17.50	45	23.70	65	27.30
6	4.20	26	18.20	46	23.88	66	27.48
7	4.90	27	18.90	47	24.06	67	27.66
8	5.60	28	19.60	48	24.24	68	27.84
9	6.30	29	20.30	49	24.42	69	28.02
10	7.00	30	21.00	50	24.60	70	28.20
11	7.70	31	21.18	51	24.78	71	28.38
12	8.40	32	21.36	52	24.96	72	28.56
13	9.10	33	21.54	53	25.14	73	28.74
14	9.80	34	21.72	54	25.32	74	28.92
15	10.50	35	21.90	55	25.50	75	29.10
16	11.20	36	22.08	56	25.68	76	29.28
17	11.90	37	22.26	57	25.86	77	29.46
18	12.60	38	22.44	58	26.04	78	29.64
19	13.30	39	22.62	59	26.22	79	29.82
20	14.00	40	22.80	60	26.40	80–120	30.00

## 5. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

### General instruction

Only things that the judge has been able to witness or verify shall be assessed. The scores must be in accordance with the given performance points.

The evaluation covers all events and conditions during the trial day.

Each of the two field judges assesses the dog's performance separately, following these guidelines, unless otherwise specified below:

5 = excellent (t)

4 = very good (t)

- 3 = good (t)
- 2 = satisfactory (t)
- 1 = poor (t)

The field judge makes notes of any additional information by either ticking the appropriate alternative or using full numbers. The total score of the group is calculated as an average of the scores given by the field judges.

### **Conditions**

- 11. Bare ground
- 12. Snowy ground, thickness of snow in centimetres
- 13. Dry weather
- 14. Humid weather
- 15. Temperature, degrees

The conditions are noted by ticking the appropriate alternative; temperature and the thickness of snow are marked with numbers.

### **Searching without night track**

#### **21. Zeal and enthusiasm**

Evaluated according to the general instructions.

#### **22. Extent of search**

Evaluation shall only describe how far the dog goes while searching for quarry, not assess what is good or poor.

- 5 = generally over 1000 metres
- 4 = 600–1000 meters
- 3 = 300–600 meters
- 2 = 100–300 meters
- 1 = generally less than 100 metres

### **Working on a night track**

#### **31. Zeal and enthusiasm**

Evaluated according to the general instructions.

#### **32. Scenting method**

Evaluation shall be descriptive, not assess what is good or poor.

- 5 = only uses air scent
- 4 = uses mostly air scent
- 3 = alternates between air and ground scenting
- 2 = mostly follows ground scent
- 1 = only uses ground scent

#### **33. Alerting and barking during search**

- 5 = no alerting
- 4 = some alerting
- 3 = suitable alerting

2 = some excessive barking during search

1 = excessive barking during search

#### **34. Alerting and barking during search**

5 = barks when finds a track

4 = some infrequent, separate barks

3 = some infrequent instances of barking

2 = constant barking while following track

1 = barking sounds like a chase

#### **35. Following a track backwards**

3 = starts to follow a track backwards but turns around on its own

2 = follows a track backwards but can be recalled by handler

1 = follows a track backwards and the handler must go and get it back.

No other numbers shall be used.

#### **36. Finding a night track**

2 = dog finds a night track on its own

1 = dog was let loose on a night track

No other numbers shall be used.

#### **37. Following a night track, distance**

5 = over 10 km

4 = 5–10 km

3 = 3–5 km

2 = 1–3 km

1 = less than 1 km

### **Chasing**

#### **41. Speed**

Evaluation shall be descriptive, not assess what is good or poor.

5 = very fast

4 = fast

3 = average, normal

2 = slow

1 = very slow

#### **42. Fluency**

The evaluation shall take into account any breaks or losses of quarry that are caused by mistakes that the dog has made. The judges must also differentiate between infrequent barking and breaks in the chase; even if a dog is not very vocal the chase may still be progressing well.

4 = very fluent, no breaks

3 = fluent, with few breaks

2 = fragmentary, breaks make up 1/3 of the total chase time

1 = very fragmentary, breaks make up more than half of the total chase time

#### **43. Scenting method**

- 5 = only uses air scent
- 4 = uses mostly air scent
- 3 = alternates between air and ground scenting
- 2 = mostly follows ground scent
- 1 = only uses ground scent

#### **44. Over-excitability during chase, and following a track backwards**

- 4 = barks even when it has lost the track
- 3 = follows a track it has already followed before
- 2 = follows a track backwards
- 1 = barred due to over-excitability

### **Working after losing the track**

#### **51. Efficiency in finding the track again**

Evaluated according to the general instructions.

### **Barking**

#### **60. Audibility**

- 5 = excellent
- 4 = very good
- 3 = good
- 2 = adequate
- 1 = poor

#### **61. Descriptiveness (requires visual confirmation)**

- 5 = excellent
- 4 = very good
- 3 = good
- 2 = adequate
- 1 = poor

#### **62. Passion**

- 5 = excellent
- 4 = very good
- 3 = good
- 2 = adequate
- 1 = poor

#### **63. Frequency**

- 5 = excellent
- 4 = very good
- 3 = good
- 2 = adequate
- 1 = poor

#### **64. Melodious quality**

- 5 = very melodious
- 4 = mostly melodious
- 3 = dual-toned
- 2 = mostly single-toned
- 1 = single-toned

#### **65. Masculinity/femininity**

- 5 = very obvious
- 4 = obvious
- 3 = ambiguous
- 2 = incorrect
- 1 = quite misleading

#### **66. Excitability (requires visual confirmation)**

Evaluation shall be descriptive, not assess what is good or poor.

The greatest observed distance to quarry when dog is barking while chasing it.

- 5 = over 20 minutes
- 4 = 15–20 minutes
- 3 = 10–15 minutes
- 2 = 5–10 minutes
- 1 = less than 5 minutes

#### **Other qualities and events**

#### **71. Working on a road**

- 5 = excellent chase on a road, excellent ability to locate tracks that cross a road
- 4 = able to continue chase even on a regularly used road
- 3 = able to find a track after it crosses a road
- 2 = chase ends when the track crosses a regularly used road
- 1 = chase ends when the track crosses even a small road in normal conditions

#### **72. Chasing other game**

- 5 = dog shows no interest in other animals
- 4 = dog chases the animal away, follows it for some time and then returns to handler on its own
- 3 = dog chases the animal but returns to handler when called
- 2 = dog chases the animal and cannot be recalled by handler
- 1 = dog begins to follow a cold track, follows it intensively and cannot be recalled by handler

Field judges shall indicate in their scoring card and performance reports what animal the dog was chasing.

#### **73. Obedience**

- 5 = dog can be recalled from a chase (when out of sight)
- 4 = dog can be recalled from a night track or after losing the track (when out of sight)
- 3 = dog can be recalled when it is within sight and close enough to the handler
- 2 = dog cannot be recalled by handler
- 1 = dog cannot be caught and put on lead

#### **74. Reporting when fox goes underground**

- 5 = dog returns to handler, takes him to the place where the fox is hiding and indicates where it is
- 4 = dog remains at the hiding place of the fox and indicates its location by barking
- 3 = dog barks at the hiding place but then leaves it
- 2 = dog indicates with its behaviour that the fox has gone underground
- 1 = dog does not report the situation in any way

#### **75. Chasing out of hearing distance**

- 5 = chase continues until it cannot be heard and dog is not reached before the chase time ends
- 4 = dog chases quarry out of hearing distance for more than 91 minutes
- 3 = dog chases quarry out of hearing distance for 61–90 minutes
- 2 = dog chases quarry out of hearing distance for 31–60 minutes
- 1 = dog chases quarry out of hearing distance for less than 30 minutes

#### **76. Why the chase ended**

- 5 = dog caught the chased fox
- 4 = chase ended when fox went underground
- 3 = chase ended due to an excessive disturbance
- 2 = chase ended for an unknown reason
- 1 = dog was recalled from the chase

#### **77. Large predator observed in area**

- 4 = wolf
- 3 = bear
- 2 = wolverine
- 1 = lynx

#### **78. Observation of chased fox**

- 3 = fox was seen
- 1 = track observed

No other numbers shall be used.

#### **79. Opportunity to shoot**

Field judge notes how many times during the chase it would have been possible to shoot the chased fox.

### **6. CHANGES TO THE GUIDELINES**

All changes to these rules and guidelines must be approved by the general meeting of the breed club and proposed to the Finnish Kennel Club for approval.