

Jagdgebrauchshundverband e.V.



Regulations

For

Association Blood Tracking Test
(VSwPO)

and

Association Tracking Test Using the German Track Shoe
(VFsPO)

Adopted by the General Meeting on March 22nd, 2015

Valid from April 1st, 2016 until November 30th, 2026

1st Edition

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**Regulations
for
Association Blood Tracking Test (VSwPO)
and
Association Tracking Test Using the German Track Shoe
(VFsPO)**

Purpose of the Association Blood Tracking Test / Association Tracking Test Using the German Track Shoe

Blood Tracking Test (VSwP) / Tracking Test using the German Track Shoe (VFsP) are aimed at preparing for the tracking task in real hunting situations. Test conditions are to closely resemble actual hunting conditions. Dog and handler have to demonstrate, individually and as a team, that they are practiced and familiar with difficult situations that are typical for a tracking task. The blood tracking performance award (Sw / Fs) should validate the public's confidence in this test.

§1 General Guidelines

- (1) The General Guidelines of JGHV apply to all tests – see Appendix hereto.
- (2) Only JGHV Member Clubs (see by-laws definition) are authorized to conduct the Blood Tracking Test (VSwP) / Tracking Test using the German Track Shoe (VFsP).
- (3)
 - a) VSwP/VFsP tests may only be conducted during the period of May 1st through November 30th of the calendar year.
 - b) 20/40 hour tracks of VSwP/VFsP tests must be conducted in a single day.
- (4) VSwP/VFsP tests may be conducted only in large forests with good populations of hoofed game (at least two hoofed game species must be present).
- (5) VSwP/VFsP tests can also be held jointly by several Member Clubs. In this case, one Club must take the responsibility for the overall control of the correct preparation and execution of the test as well as the responsibility for the report.
- (6) A judging group may test a maximum of four dogs.

§ 2 Admission

- (1) Admission of dogs to VSwP/VFsP tests is regulated by JGHV By-laws and General Guidelines.
- (2)
 - a) Entries to a VSwP/VFsP test are limited to a total of 20 dogs.

- b) The test director can limit the number of entries; it is not permitted, however, to limit the number of entries to less than a total of 6 dogs in the test announcement.
- c) Dogs must be at least 24 months old on the day of the test and must have proof of the following:
 - 1. Gun stability and
 - 2. Loud hunting

Gunfire stability (1. above) is documented by:

- a) The score sheet from a natural ability or utility test;
- b) Verification on Formblatt 23 b.

Loud Hunting (2. above) is documented by:

- a) Loud hunting (behind fox, hare or other furred game) during a VJP, HZP, VGP, VPS or any other equivalent breed club test;
- b) Loud hunting behind game during the independent search subject at a VGP/VPS, VStP or an equivalent test;
- c) Verification on Formblatt 23a or 23b;
- d) Loud hunting during a Vbr test.

§ 3 Test Entry

(1)

- a) The owner or handler of the dog must submit the current version of Formblatt 1 for entry to a VSwP/VFsP test.
- b) The entries on the entry Formblatt must concur with the dog's pedigree. Entries must be made accurately and completely in legible block letters, and be reviewed by the test director for accuracy.
- c) The test director must return or amend entry forms that are incomplete or illegible.
- d) A copy of the pedigree with the most recent annotations as well as score sheets documenting gun stability and loud hunting must be attached to the entry form.

(2)

- a) The owner of the entered dog must be a member of a club affiliated with JGHV. The handler must show proof of having a valid and current hunting license on the day of the test. Exceptions are not permitted.
- b) With the submission of the entry form, the owner and handler accept the stipulations of these test regulations (PO).
- c) A handler may handle only a total of one dog in a VSwP/VFsP test.
- d) The test organizers are not permitted to restrict the entry rights to members of their own club or to preferentially admit their own members.

- (3) The handler of a dog is responsible for the sufficient liability insurance for his dog.
- (4)
- a) Prior to the beginning of the test, the handler must submit to the test director the dog's original papers and vaccination records documenting that all legally required and effective vaccines have been given. The handler must further show his valid and current hunting license. Non-compliance with the above requirements will result in the dog not being allowed to run and forfeiture of the entry fee.
The test director must review the documents and entries in the pedigree {Ahnentafel} for accuracy. If documents are found to be faulty, the dog can be excluded from the test, including forfeiture of the entry fee.
 - b) Submitting the entry form for a dog mandates payment of entry fee even if the dog is a no-show. This does not apply if the entry is pulled before the entry deadline. If the announced entry fee has not been paid prior to the entry deadline, no right to be admitted to the test exists. There will be no reimbursement of entry fees for dogs that were entered but failed to show up. If a VSwP/VFsP test is cancelled for reasons that are not the organizer's fault (i.e. acts of God, epidemics etc.), the organizer is entitled to withhold 50% of the entry fee to cover costs.
 - c) It must be specified on the entry form whether the dog will be handled on the over >20-hr or the >40-hr track.
 - d) Dogs entered for an >40-hr tracking test must have previously passed an >20-hr tracking test at a VSwP or VFSP test. The Certificate of the successfully passed 20-hr track must have been issued by the JGHV Studbook Keeper before the dog can be entered in a VSwP / VFSP 40-hr track test. A dog may be tested a maximum of two times in each the VSwP 20-hr and 40-hr, or VFSP 20-hr and 40-hr track.

§ 4 Rights and Duties of the Organizers

- (1) The organizing clubs must announce the VSwP/VFsP test to the Studbook Registry Office by March 1st of a calendar year. The Studbook Registry Office publishes all tests in the April edition of the official Association Newsletter (*Der Jagdgebrauchshund*). The announcement must specify the following: Date/time of the test, entry fee, entry deadline, plus the game species whose blood will be used, and the method for laying the tracks in the VSwP test (drop or dab); for the VFSP test, respectively, the game species whose hoofs and blood will be used.
- (2) The organizers must appoint a test director who is responsible for the preparation and execution of the VSwP/VFsP test. The test director must be listed on the current JGHV Judges' List and have the suffix "Sw". The test director can judge as an Association Judge in this test.

- (3) The breed book number {*Zuchtbuchnummer*} and, where applicable, the JGHV Studbook Registry number {*DGStB*}, of an entered dog and its parents must be listed in the test program. The test director is obligated to check that the tattoo or chip number and the numbers in the pedigree are identical.

§ 5 Association Judges

- (1) Association Judges (VR) must be listed on the current version of the JGHV Judges' List and have the suffix "Sw".
- (2) The chairman of the organizing club or, on his behalf, the test director select judges and senior judges. Only a judge who himself has trained several dogs and handled them successfully in a VSwP/VFsP test should act as a senior judge. He should also have extensive tracking experience as a hunter.
- (3) Only in exceptional cases due to an unexpected cancellation of a confirmed "Sw" judge, may an Association judge with the specialty subject "Forest" or an apprentice judge Sw / Swh be used as a substitute - "Emergency Judge" {*Notrichter*} - in a judging group accompanied by two Association judges "Sw". The reason for this substitution must be stated on Form 2 {*Formblatt 2 - Meldung*}.
- (4)
 - a) Each judging group must have at least three Association Judges throughout the entire test.
 - b) If a judge is overruled in his judging group and if he thinks that this judgment is at variance with the spirit and substance of the test regulations, he has to present these facts to the test director in the closing Judges' Conference. The announcement of scores must be deferred until then.
 - c) The senior judge is responsible for his judging group. In particular, he sees to it that the rules of the test regulations are followed precisely and interpreted sensibly. The senior judge is the sole spokesman of the judging group. The remaining judges may give explanations concerning the test to third parties only with the senior judge's permission.
 - d) As soon as a judging group has come to a mutual conclusion [about the performance of the dog], the senior judge or a judge/ apprentice judge designated by him must deliver an evaluation of the dog's demonstrated work to the handler and the gallery.
 - e) Each judging group should have at least one judge from a different club.

§ 6 Judges' Meeting

- (1)
 - a) At the beginning of each test, a comprehensive Judges' Meeting, preferably in the presence of the handlers, must be conducted.
 - b) After the dogs have been called to the test, it is decided by lottery to which judging group each dog is assigned and which blood track it has to work. This procedure must comply with the JGHV General Guidelines (no judging engagement when there is a conflict). If only one group of dogs is to be tested, the reserve track must be included in the lottery.
- (2) After the testing of all dogs is finished, a concluding Judges' Conference must be held where the performance of each dog is discussed.
- (3) The Judges' Conference determines each handler/dog team's prize category by their performance in the test.
- (4)
 - a) The following scores are to be applied when finalizing the dogs' evaluations: "Passed Very Good" Sw I/I or Fs I/I; "Passed Good" Sw II/II or Fs II/II; "Passed Sufficient" Sw III/III or Fs III/III; and "Track Failed".
 - b) The test result, including date and location, must be entered by the test director in the pedigree {*Ahnentafel*} of each dog, stamped with the club seal of the organizing club and signed.
 - c) The test director is responsible for the recording of the test results in the pedigrees of all dogs that reported for the test, including those that did not pass the test (track failed) or that were withdrawn during the test by their handlers.

§ 7 Reporting

- (1)
 - a) The senior judges must submit a written report on the performance of each dog in their respective group to the test director within one week after the test.
 - b) Using the current forms, the test director has to submit all test documents to the Studbook Registry Office within 3 weeks after the test. If the test report is not submitted in a timely manner, the organizing member club has to pay a penalty (see Association Regulation §7 [1b]).
 - c) The organizer and the test director are jointly and fully responsible for ensuring that the test reports arrive at the Studbook Registry Office by the stated deadline.
 - d) The Studbook Registry Office can return incomplete, incorrect or illegible forms to the test director to be corrected, or can amend them.

- e) The VSwP/VFsP test will not be registered in the Studbook Register {DStGB} if the penalty has not been paid.
 - f) Any damage or restitution claims by the affected handlers, owners and breeders deriving from a delayed registration or non-registration, are the responsibility of the organizing club.
- (2) The following documents must be submitted:
- a) A general report describing special events, any difficulties that may have arisen in interpreting the test regulations {PO} etc.;
 - b) The Form 2 {Meldung}. All questions on this form must be completely and legibly (typewritten) answered. If the test was conducted jointly by several clubs, the responsible club must be identified on this form;
 - c) The entry forms {Formblatt 1} of all dogs entered in the test, including those of late entries, of all dogs that did not show up, and dogs that did not pass the test;
 - d) A list of the dogs and their prizes in order of prize category (Sw I, Sw II, Sw III or Fs I, Fs II, Fs III), and divided into 20-hr and 40-hr tracks;
 - e) The reports by the senior judges.
- (3)
- a) The Studbook Registrar issues the Performance Award with the corresponding symbols Sw I or FS I; Sw II or Fs II; and Sw III or Fs III, depending on which prize the dog received for passing the test, and records it in the DGStB.
 - b) If the dog successfully completed the 40-hr track, the prize awarded will be added behind the performance award symbol and separated by a slash. One entry example might be: Sw II, I/II; this dog completed its first >20-hr blood track with prize II, the second 20-hr track with prize I; and subsequently, completed the >40-hr track with prize II.

§ 8 Organizational Regulations

- (1) The organizing club and the test director are fully responsible for the proper execution of the test.
- (2) Tests that are not conducted in accordance with the guidelines and the stipulations of these test regulations {VSwPO/VFsPO} cannot be recognized. The results of those tests cannot be entered in the Studbook Register.

- (3)
 - a) Bitches in heat are only admitted to a VSwP/VFsP test upon explicit approval by the test director. Handlers of bitches in heat must notify the test director and the judges of their dog's condition before the test has begun.
 - b) The test director, judges, and the respective handler have to ensure that the presence of a bitch in heat does not adversely affect the performance of the other dogs in the test.
- (4)
 - a) Dogs may not be handled with training devices (e.g. training collars or imitations thereof). Reflective collars are permitted. All other collars, including GPS collars, but excluding the tracking collar or harness, must be removed.
 - b) Members of the gallery may not bring dogs onto the testing grounds of a VSwP/VFsP test.
- (5)
 - a) All persons participating in the test must obey the test director's, the judges' and the field marshals' instructions. No one is allowed to disturb the handler and dog while working nor hinder the judges engaged in the proper execution of judging the dogs.
 - b) Those dogs that are not working under judgment must be leashed. Dogs that whine or are otherwise noisy must be taken out of earshot of the working dog. It is each handler's sole responsibility to arrive promptly with the dog when called to the test subject.
 - c) Few members of the gallery may follow behind the judging group and the dog during the on-lead portion, if the handler and the judges do not object.
- (6) Any one of the following conditions may exclude the offender from the test and forfeit the entry fee {*Nenngeld*):
 - a) Knowingly making false statements on the entry form;
 - b) Allowing one's dog that is not currently under judgment to roam free;
 - c) Being absent when called to a test subject;
 - d) Intentionally failing to disclose the condition that one's bitch is in heat, or failing to obey the special instructions given by the test director or by the judges;
 - e) Handlers who harm the reputation of the versatile hunting dog movement (violations against hunting ethics and animal welfare laws, offensive behavior towards judges or club officers etc.) prior to, during or after the test.
- (7) Protests against a test result are governed by the JGHV Protest Regulations.

- (8) Any attempt to dispute, at a later point in time, the decision by the judges or a decision by the protest panel {*Einspruchskammer*}, as well as any unfounded criticism challenging the objectivity of the Association Judges can be penalized by the organizing club with the loss of membership, or the temporary or permanent inadmissibility to future tests organized by this club. The JGHV business manager must be notified of any such measure in writing within 3 weeks.

§ 9 Execution of the Test

- (1) Must and Should requirements
 - a) These Test Regulations contain "Must" and "Should" requirements.
 - b) The Must requirements, including those in their negative form – e.g. “must not” - must be adhered to unconditionally and in all detail during test procedures and also with regard to all other provisions of the test regulations. A dog that does not meet a "must" requirement cannot pass the test.
- (2) The dogs will not be tested in behavior at the carcass.

§ 10 Preparation of Tracks

(a) General Guidelines

- (1) Tracks must be placed in the forest, this includes forest openings, clearings, and thickets. From the start, a track can lead up to 100 m across an open field, meadow, etc.
- (2) The minimal length of each track must be 1000 m, and the minimum distance between tracks must be 300 m throughout.
- (3) The track must lead through varying vegetation cover. The direction of the track should in general be slightly winding. The track must have three nearly rectangular angles. Two wound beds must be placed on the track (compacting of the soil, increased blood and ample amounts of hair tufts).
- (4) For each test, VSWP and VFSP (<20-hr track and <40-hr track), at least one reserve track must be prepared.
- (5) The blood used for blood tracks must be from a hoofed game species, and all blood used at a test must be of the same game species.
- (6) Chemical additives for preservation purposes are not permitted. The use of blood that was frozen while fresh is allowed.

- (7) Tracks must have been left out overnight, and the minimal aging time is 20 hours, or 40 hours respectively.
- (8) The ground must be clear of snow when the tracks are prepared.
- (9) The determination of the exact direction of the track and the actual preparation of the track occur in one step. One judge of each group must participate in the preparation of tracks and he is responsible for the correct preparation of the tracks.
- (10) At all times of the test, the judging group must know precisely where the track's direction is. Markers are not allowed.
- (11) The shooter's position {*Schützenstand*} must be marked with the appropriate sign [fresh branch stuck in the ground], and a tree next to it must bear a piece of paper indicating in indelible ink the date and time of day when the track preparation began. The starting point {*Anschluss*} must be placed approximately 50 m in front of the shooter's stand with conditions resembling a real hunting situation (for example, increased blood, lung pieces, bone fragments, signs of bullet striking the ground, and ample amount of hair tuft).
- (12) Care must be taken that no blood is lost beyond the end of the track.
- (13) For the person carrying the game, the end of the track will be marked using a trunk and attaching around it, at approximately chest height, colored pieces of paper. At every end of the track a piece of paper is placed indicating in indelible ink the number of the track and the group.

b) Special Guidelines for Track Preparation in a VSWP Test

- (1) Maximally ¼ liter of blood (250 ml) may be used for the entire track length, including starting point, wound beds and 6 alert spots.
- (2) To allow the dog the opportunity to demonstrate that it alerts {*Verweisen*} track signs, approximately 6 alert spots {*Verweiserpunkte*} must be placed on the track in addition to the wound beds. These spots consist of coagulated blood from the same game species. The volume of coagulated blood may not exceed 2 ml (cm³).
- (3) Tracks can be prepared by dabbing {*Tupfen*} or dripping (*Tropfen*). All tracks in a test must be prepared in an identical manner.
- (4) The dabbing of blood is accomplished with a 6x6 cm square and 2 cm thick sponge (approximate size) affixed to the end of a stick. The blood must be pre-measured at ¼ liter and must be carried in an open wide-mouthed jar. After submerging the dabbing stick in the blood it is lightly wiped at the mouth of the jar. Walking at a normal pace, the ground is touched at every second step, first lightly and then increasingly stronger. The immersion in the blood jar is repeated when the amount of blood dabbed on the ground is no longer sufficient. It is recommended to carry a tightly closed reserve container of blood, in case the person laying down the track stumbles and spills the blood from the open container. Dabbing sticks with internal blood dispensers are admissible.

- (5) For the dripping of tracks a transparent, controllable squirt bottle is required. It is recommended to test the squirt bottle prior to the test so that the correct amount of blood is dripped.
- (6) The person laying the blood track by dabbing or dripping must always walk last in line with everybody in the group walking single file.

c) Special Guidelines for the Track Preparation in a VFSP Test

- (1) The tracks are prepared using the track shoes. Their construction must ensure that the shoe of the person preparing the track will not touch the ground. The hoofs and blood must be fresh (or frozen while fresh) and from the same game species. Both hoofs used in one pair of track shoes must originate from the same game animal. They may only be used for the dogs to be tested by one judging group; they may not be used for another test. The game species is to be specified in the test announcement. The use of roe deer hoofs is not permitted. For the preparation of the starting spot, wound and drip beds on the tracks, game blood and hair tufts, and the hoofs in the track shoes must be from the same game species. Maximally 0.1 liter of blood may be used for each track.
- (2) During the first 50 m of the track following the starting spot, blood is dripped in decreasing intensity, from there the track is nearly free of blood. The remaining blood is dripped in 2 wound beds and 4 drip beds. When laying the track, one track shoe is used to step into the wound and drip beds one time each.

§ 11 Test Sequence

- (1) Before the dog starts on the track, a hooped game animal must be placed where the end of the track has been marked. The game carrier must remove all markers immediately after placing the game.
- (2) Upon completion of this task the game carrier and the accompanying horn player must leave the area and must hide in such a manner that they cannot be noticed by either the dog or the handler. Any vehicles used in connection with the test must be parked in a way that they cannot be seen by the handler during tracking.
- (3) The work is done as pure on-leash tracking. The handler must hold the tracking lead correctly.
- (4) During tracking work, the handler must keep his dog on a tracking leash that is given its entire length, and that is attached to the appropriate tracking collar or harness. The lead must be given predominantly at a length of 6 m.

- (5) The judges show the handler the place of the shooter. The judge who was involved in the track preparation briefs the handler on the approximate starting point (within an area of 30 x 30 m and with its corner points sufficiently marked for the handler to see) and the approximate direction in which the game fled. From there, the tracking team should search, find and identify the starting point, or the start of the track on their own. The dog/handler team has approximately 15 minutes to search for and find the starting point (or start of the track). If the dog/handler team does not find the starting point, or the start of the track or if it follows a distracting track for more than 80 m, the judging group will show the handler the location of the starting point. When this assistance is provided, it lowers the predicate.
- (6) All judges and local guides must follow the dog and handler in an appropriate distance at all times, even when the dog has veered off the track. If just one judge or the guide lags behind in this situation, the observant handler will know how to interpret this inadvertent assistance and immediately will use it to his advantage. Necessary questions are to be whispered. Conversations and pointing in the direction of the track are not allowed. If the handler announces that he has found signs, either upon identifying the starting point or during the track, the judges make a note of this without confirming to the handler whether he is correct or still on the track. The handler is free to cast backwards or forward or to cast in a circular fashion. He may also interrupt the work of the dog by commanding a down stay, and he may help his dog with the appropriate aids.
- (7) If the handler wants to cast back or forward with his dog, he must find the track on his own. In this case, the judges continue to stay together and follow in the appropriate distance. Only signs the handler had previously called as such, or special topographic features must be shown to him, if he wants to cast back to them.
- (8) The judges must inform the handler when the dog leaves the track (even when the dog works parallel to the track over a good distance) and does not self-correct the error within 80-100 m or when the handler himself decides to take the dog back or forward. In this case, the handler must relocate the track on his own. He can ask the judges to be taken back to a specific location of his choice. A dog that leaves the track more than twice in the above described manner, or that leaves the track more than once after having received assistance in finding the starting point (§11 [5]), cannot pass the test.
- (9) If a dog/handler team does not satisfy the demands of the test, the judges can terminate the test.
- (10) When the handler and dog reach the carcass, the team has passed the test. The senior judge hands the handler the honorary branch {*Bruch*} and evaluates the dog's performance in words. Then the horn bugle is to be played.

§ 12 Evaluation of the Performance

The teamwork between handler and dog is to be evaluated. The determining factor in the evaluation is the method in which the dog works the track: Willingness to track [determination], calmness, confidence and independence, the manner in which the dog guides itself to re-locating the track by casting sideways, forward or backward; whether it alerts the starting point and other track signs; and whether it self-corrects after following a diversion, or whether it needs to be taken back. A hastily working dog will fail in difficult situations. Thus, excessive and unrestrained speed, and casting back multiple times, as well as every instance of being taken back lower the predicate.

Appendix to VSwPO/VFsPO

JGHV General Guidelines Rev. 03/2015

The following is a complete and updated list of adopted General Guidelines: they apply to all tests and performance awards, and to all Member Clubs.

	Last Revision
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handlers must have a valid hunting license;	by General Meeting 1990
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test repeats;	by General Meeting 1990
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• JGHV Test Regulations for Water Work Parts A & B	by General Meeting 2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protest Regulations	by General Meeting 2000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Admission to tests according to § 23 of JGHV By-laws;	by General Meeting 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conflict of interest for Association Judges;	by General Meeting 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judging Engagements by JGHV Association Judges;	by General Meeting 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximum number of dogs tested on a single day	by General Meeting 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compliance with respective state laws in Germany	by General Meeting 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handlers must have a valid hunting license	by General Meeting 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judging Engagements by Association Judges	by General Meeting 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protest Regulations	by General Meeting 2015

Handlers Must have a Valid Hunting License

The handler must show proof of a valid hunting license. The test director may grant an exception, if the respective Test Regulation does not explicitly prohibit such exception, in certain cases where such exception is necessary for reasons of breeding or hunting.

Test Repeats

A dog may not be tested more than twice in the same type of Association test. Participation in international tests does not count. This rule does not apply when the handler misses the test for reasons for which he is not responsible.

Part A – JGHV Water Work

A. General Part

The ethical and conservative hunting of waterfowl demands the use of efficient utility dogs as specified by federal and state hunting laws (see § 1[2] of the German Federal Hunting Code and its supplemental stipulations in the various German States Hunting Regulations).

The purpose of water work is to prepare the young hunting dog for its future task of retrieving crippled or dead waterfowl out of the water, to prove the result of this preparation in a standardized test, and consequently to document it for breeding. To fulfill this purpose of the water work and at the same time to conduct this test in conformity with legal regulations, the following conditions are to be observed:

§ 35 (1) Generally Binding Regulations {*Allgemeinverbindlichkeit*}

- a) The following rules of the General Part A are binding for all Member Clubs which conduct tests using live ducks; however, these under consideration of the different regulations prevalent in the various German States.
- b) These rules must also be followed during official training days organized by Member Clubs {*Wasserübungstagen*}, and it must be guaranteed that each dog is trained with not more than 3 ducks total.
- c) Intentional or grossly negligent violations of these regulations cause the immediate exclusion of the responsible persons from future training or testing activities. This is in addition to possible legal charges or internal disciplinary action by the Association.

(2) Bodies of Water

A test pond or lake must be sufficiently large (at least 0.25 ha surface area), wide (at least 6 m at some spots) and deep (to force dogs to swim), and it must have sufficient cover (ca. 500 square meters), so that the duck can fully utilize its capability to flee.

(3) Responsible Persons

- (a) The Member Clubs designate one person for each test, who as "senior judge at the water" {*Obmann am Wasser*} is responsible for the exact compliance with all of the following regulations during the water work.
- (b) In addition to the person specified in (a) above, the organizing club is similarly responsible for the compliance with these rules.

(4) Ducks

- (a) For testing, only fully matured mallards may be used, which are temporarily incapacitated of flight by the method of Prof. Müller (paper strip around individual primaries of one wing).
- (b) Ducks must be raised and kept in such a way that they are used to cover and water, and that they can swim, dive and hide in cover. These conditions must be certified by the outfitter. Ducks must have opportunity to preen and grease their feathers until shortly before the test.
- (c) If it is not possible to maintain ducks under such conditions for acclimatization prior to the test, then these ducks must be transported directly to the test pond immediately before the test. They must be kept there unaffected by the test procedures.
- (d) The test duration per duck may not exceed 15 minutes.
Sight chases are undesirable and must be terminated as soon as possible.
- (e) Ducks retrieved live by a dog must be humanely and immediately euthanized.
- (f) Dead ducks are to be kept separate from live ducks.
- (g) Duck crates are to be placed in such a manner that the working dog cannot find them.

(5) Nesting Season

Water work with living ducks may not be practiced and tested during the nesting season.

(6) Prerequisites for the complete testing of water work {*Voraussetzungen zur Durchprüfung am Wasser*}

The test behind the live duck may be conducted only after the dog has passed the gun sensitivity {*Schussfestigkeit*} test and after proving capable of reliably retrieving a dead duck from cover {*Verlorensuchen und -bringen*}.

(7) Dogs

- (a) Dogs are admitted only if their handler has a valid hunting license. Exceptions are allowed only in special cases for hunting or breeding purposes. They must be specified.
- (b) Dogs which fail the subjects listed in (6) or which have demonstrated gun sensitivity or shyness of live game {*Schuss- oder Wildscheue*} at this test before the water phase may not continue with the water test.
- (c) A tested, experienced dog must be available at each test for possible retrieves.

- (d) As a rule, each dog is given only one duck. The use of an additional duck is only allowed if the dog could not be tested with the previously released duck (i.e. if the released duck flies off prematurely).
- (e) Dogs which have passed the subject "independent search behind live duck in densely vegetated water" {*Stöbern mit Ente in deckungsreichem Gewässer*} once at a test with the score of at least "sufficient" may not be tested in this subject again. This does not apply to further testing in a selective breed test {*Zuchtauslese*-} or international test (e.g. Hegewald, IKP, or similar tests).
- (f) In case of a failing score, the dog may be re-tested only once.
- (g) The predicate awarded for the duck work at the first successfully completed test is copied into the score sheets of all future tests with this notation:
"according to test on....." {*laut Prüfung vom...*}.
A copy of this score sheet must be provided to the test director with the entry form.
- (h) In addition to the total result of the respective test, each test in the subject "independent search with live duck in densely vegetated water" must be entered with the predicate (and possibly points) into the pedigree {*Ahnentafel*}.

Protest Regulations

- § 1 These Protest Regulations replace all protest stipulations in the regulations for Association tests.
- § 2 Only the handler of a dog entered in the respective test has the right to protest.
- § 3
- (1) The justification for a protest is limited to errors and mistakes of the organizers, the test director, the judges and assistants in preparation and execution of the test, provided that the handler or dog were thereby disadvantaged or were interfered with during their work.
- (2) Objections to the discretionary freedom of the judges cannot be subject of a protest, unless an obvious abuse of discretionary freedom can be substantiated. If a claim is made that the discretionary freedom was abused, such claim must be supported with concrete facts (see § 4). The difference of one predicate can never be used as the substantiating factor to the claim when the dog passed the test.
- § 4 The protest is to be submitted in simple, written form to the test director or – when present - the chairman of the club or the senior judge of the judging group which evaluated the dog. The protest can only be considered if the reasons for the protest are specified in writing and the protest fee in the amount of Euro € 50.00 is paid.
- § 5 The protest period begins with the calling of the dogs to the test and ends ½ hour after the awards have been issued.
- § 6 The test director forwards the protest to the judging group that evaluated the dog. The group has the possibility to remedy the protest.
- § 7 If the judging group does not remedy the protest issue, a Protest Panel must immediately be formed. The Protest Panel consists of a chairperson {*Vorsitzender*} and two associates {*Beisitzer*}. Any Association judge on the current JGHV Judges' list who is authorized to judge the subject of the protest can be an associate of the Protest Panel. Association judges who have evaluated the respective dog, and members of the Executive Committee and members of the Studbook Commission may not be associates of the Protest Panel. The General Guidelines governing judging conflicts must be observed as well.
- § 8 The person filing the protest and the organizing club each name one Associate. The Associates do not serve as advocates for the party which designated them. The Associates agree upon the chairperson. Should the Associates not agree regarding the chairperson, then the organizing club designates the chairperson.
- § 9 (1) Minutes of the Protest Panel hearing must be recorded. The minutes must include the judgment in this case; the reasons for the judgment and the cost decision.
- (2) The chairperson designates one associate to take the minutes.
- (3) The minutes must be signed by all members of the Protest Panel.

- (4) The minutes, the written protest of the dog handler and the test report must be submitted by the organizing club to the Studbook Registry Office.
- § 10 The Protest Panel must hear the party filing the protest. If the protest appears to be justified, the judges of the judging group who evaluated the dog and – where available – witnesses must be heard. No additional evidence hearing will be permitted. Exceptions may be made when circumstances are such that the evidence cannot be brought forward at this point in time.
- § 11 (1) The Protest Panel's primary objective should always be the amicable resolution. If the issue cannot be settled amicably, the Panel's decision can entail:
1. Rejection of the protest;
 2. Correction of the scoring, if the Test Regulations were applied erroneously or the discretionary freedom was abused;
 3. Re-testing of the respective subject(s) or testing of the subjects in which the dog had not been tested if the Test Regulations themselves were violated. The Test Director orders and supervises the execution of the re-testing.
- (2) It is not necessary that the re-testing be conducted by the judges whose decision was called into question. Members of the Protest Panel may not be involved in re-testing.
- § 12 If the Protest Panel rejects the protest, the party filing the protest shall bear the costs incurred. The protest fee shall go to the organizing club. In all other cases, the protest fee shall be returned to the party filing the protest and the organizing club shall bear all costs incurred.
- § 13 The party filing the protest and/or the organizing club can file a complaint against the decision of the Protest Panel if they have been found at fault. Such complaint must be filed in writing and state the reasons for the protest; it must be addressed to the chairperson of the Studbook Commission and be received by the Studbook Commission within one week of the test. The complaint will be considered only if the party filing the complaint pays the protest fee in the amount of Euro 150.00 to the JGHV Business Office.
- § 14 The decision by the Studbook Commission is by majority, in writing and final. The complainants do not have the right to appeal under § 13 (4) of the JGHV By-laws.

Allowable Test Entries in Accordance with § 23 of the JGHV By-Laws

Applicable Segment of JGHV By-Laws § 23

Allowable Entries to Association Tests

- (1) Successful training and handling of healthy, mentally stable, socially adapted and dependable hunting dogs are facilitated by careful and objectively controlled breeding which incorporates established scientific facts. In doing so, the breeding of dogs serves to promote the interest of animal protection, with regard to the game hunted as well as the hunting dog itself.
The testing system serves to determine the performance capability of the dogs with regard to hunting and the interests of breeding relative to the overall population of a certain breed, and thereby establishes the basis for valuations.
- (2) All clubs that are JGHV Member Clubs in accordance with § 3(1) no. 1 a) through e) of the By-laws are authorized by their membership status to conduct tests in compliance with the JGHV Test Regulations and General Guidelines.
- (3) There is a differentiation between:
 - a) Tests and Performance Awards with general applicability to all Member Clubs (such as Association blood tracking test [VSwP], Association test after the shot [VPS], retrieve reliability test [Btr], Armbruster Halt [AH], and others). Tests in this category are established and adopted by the General Meeting of JGHV;
 - b) Joint breed and utility tests for pointing breeds (such as VJP, HZP, VGP). These tests are to ensure that certain performance standards that are vital to hunting practices can be compared and sustained. Regulations for tests in this category are established and adopted during the General Meeting of JGHV by the pointing breed clubs and clubs that conduct the respective tests regularly in at least 2 year intervals;
 - c) Other tests of breed clubs which are established by such clubs.
- (4) All **recognized** hunting dogs must be allowed to enter above tests (3). Recognized hunting dogs are defined as:
 - a) Hunting dogs which are registered in a breed book maintained by a breed club/association which is a JGHV and a VDH Member Club, as well as dogs bred in the club for hunting earth dogs {*Verein Jagdtecke*} and in the club for hunting beagles (VJB) (grandfathered protection);
 - b) Hunting dogs that have been bred in other countries and belong to a breed which is represented within JGHV by a club with a breed registry. Their pedigrees must show the F.C.I. stamp {*Fédération Cynologique Internationale*};
 - c) Hunting dogs that are registered with a breed club/association and are qualified by a registration document bearing the logo of the "*Sperlingshund*".
- (5) All performance tests (such as VGP, VSwP, VFSP, VStP) are further open to all **eligible** dogs. Eligible dogs are defined as:

- a) Hunting dogs that have been bred in other countries, and their offspring which are outside the scope of 4(b) above, but which have a pedigree that is recognized by F.C.I.; the authenticity of such pedigree has been verified by VDH; and
- b) Hunting dogs of certain breeds bred in Germany with a pedigree of a VDH breed club which is not a JGHV Member Club.

(6) Transitional Provision: All of the above will be valid beginning on 01-01-2011.

Entry eligibility by nature of JGHV's purpose statement is granted by the JGHV Executive Committee in coordination with VDH once for the respective breed until revoked.

Conflict of Interest in Judging Engagements

An Association Judge / Apprentice Judge / Emergency Judge may not judge a dog that he trained or bred. The same rule applies to first generation offspring of such dogs, and to offspring by a stud dog (first generation). Special breed clubs have the right to take into account their breed specific needs. The JGHV Business Office must be notified in advance of such needs. The aforementioned judges may also not judge dogs of handlers, breeders, stud dog owners, or owners to whom he is related either by blood or marriage (past and present; and/or as remote as three times removed) or to whom he is or was married, or with whom he lives in a domestic partnership.

Test directors and/or Association judges may not handle dogs at tests where they engage in test director or judging activities.

Judging Engagements By JGHV Association Judges

Association Judges may judge only at tests that are organized by JGHV Member Clubs; included herein are official utility tests organized by the individual German states. The rules for judging engagements in other countries are established by the individual Member Club in sole responsibility. The Association Judge shall understand his acceptance of a judging invitation to be a binding commitment and consequently report to the test location to judge dogs that are recognized by JGHV or by the individual state's test regulations for utility tests.

Violations may be penalized in accordance with the JGHV Disciplinary Rules {*Disziplinarordnung*}.

Only a person who is listed as an active Association Judge on the current JGHV Judges' List can be test director or the responsible person at the water (see Water Test Regulation, paragraph 3 of Part A of the JGHV Water Test Regulations). The designated responsible water person must furthermore be an appointed Association Judge for the specialty subjects Water.

Maximum Number of Dogs per Day per Judging Group:

A judging group is allowed to judge, in a single day, dogs at different tests; i.e. *VJP/Derby*, *HZP/Solms*; *VGP/HZP*.

At a JGHV test, a judging group may not judge more than the maximum number of dogs

allowed per judging group per day in accordance with the respective test regulation.

Compliance with German State Laws:

JGHV tests are conducted in compliance with the laws of the respective German State.

- Released by JGHV Business Office -