

Water Rescue Tests For Newfoundland Dogs

Rules and Regulations for the Titles:

WATER RESCUE DOG NOVICE
WATER RESCUE DOG
WATER RESCUE DOG EXCELLENT



The Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada Inc.

Effective Date 1 July 2025

Table of Contents

General Rules & Regulations	3	2. CARRY LINE/TOW BOAT	25
Water Rescue Test Committee	3	3. DIVE FROM BOAT TO RESCUE A STRANGER	25
Club Applications	3	4. DIFFERENTIATED RESCUE	27
Application for Approval of Judges	4	5. SUBMERGED RETRIEVE	28
Premium List	4	Duties of Stewards at Water Rescue Tests	29
Catalogues	5	Chief Steward	29
Rule Publication	6	CHIEF STEWARD GENERAL DUTIES	29
Test Site	6	Chief Steward Specific Duties	29
Test Committee Equipment	6	Chief Steward General Duties for WRDN & WRD	
Entries	7	Control Exercises	29
Regulations for Performance	8	Chief Steward Specific Duties for WRDN Control	
CanineSafety	9	Exercises	29
Judges	9	Chief Steward Specific Duties for WRD Control	
End of Test	10	Exercises	29
Amendments	10	Chief Steward Specific Duties for WRDN Water	
Scores and Titles	11	Exercises	30
Water Rescue Dog Novice (WRDN)	12	Chief Steward Specific Duties for WRD Water Exercises	30
WRDN CONTROL EXERCISES	12	Time Steward	30
1. HEEL ON LEASH	12	TIME STEWARD GENERAL DUTIES	30
2. RECALL	12	Time Steward Specific Duties	30
3. THIRTY SECOND DOWN	13	Equipment Steward	30
WRDN WATER EXERCISES	14	EQUIPMENT STEWARD GENERAL DUTIES	30
1. SIMPLE RETRIEVE	14	Equipment Steward Specific Duties FOR WRDN Water	
2. MARKED RETRIEVE	14	Exercises	30
3. SWIM OUT TO VICTIM	16	Equipment Steward Specific Duties FOR WRD Water	
4. SWIM OUT TO BOAT	17	Exercises	31
Water Rescue Dog (WRD)	18	Equipment Steward Specific Duties FOR WRDX Water	
WRD CONTROL EXERCISES	18	Exercises	31
1. HEEL OFF LEASH	18	Rowing Steward	32
2. RECALL	18	ROWING STEWARD GENERAL DUTIES	32
3. ONE MINUTE DOWN	19	Rowing Steward Specific Duties for WRDN Water	
WRD WATER EXERCISES	20	Exercises	32
1. SIMPLE RETRIEVE	20	Rowing Steward Specific Duties for WRD Water	
2. MARKED RETRIEVE	20	Exercises	33
3. TOW A BOAT	21	Rowing Steward Specific Duties for WRDX Water	
4. TAKE A LINE	22	Exercises	33
5. SWIM WITH HANDLER	23	Boat Steward(s)	34
Water Rescue Dog Excellent (WRDX)	24	Drowning Steward	36
WRDX WATER EXERCISES	24	Appendix A – List of Forms	38
1. DIRECTED RETRIEVE	24	Appendix B – Eligibility Requirements: New Judge	
		Applicants	39
		Water Rescue Test Forms	41

THE NEWFOUNDLAND DOG CLUB OF CANADA

Water Rescue Tests for Newfoundland Dogs

PURPOSE

Water Rescue Tests were created to encourage the instinctive and ancestral skills of the Newfoundland Dog as a canine working companion to humans in water rescue work. The dog's natural ability and skills are developed through training in simulated water rescue situations.

Water Rescue Tests for Newfoundland Dogs encompass three levels of testing: Water Rescue Dog Novice (WRDN), Water Rescue Dog (WRD), and Water Rescue Dog Excellent (WRDX). The first Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada Water Rescue Test sanctioned by the CKC was held on August 20, 1989, with three dogs earning their WRD titles.

Water Rescue Tests are designed to demonstrate the working bond between dog and handler. Dogs should show not only efficiency in accomplishing the tasks in the tests, but also a willingness to work with the handler.

General Rules & Regulations

WATER RESCUE TEST COMMITTEE

1. The Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada (NDCC) and any Regional Club that is recognized by, and is in good standing with the NDCC may form a Water Rescue Test Committee (hereinafter referred to as "Test Committee") to apply for and hold a Water Rescue Test.
2. The Test Committee shall be comprised of at least five members of the test-giving club.
3. The Test Chair, Test Secretary, and Chief Steward must be members of The Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada.
4. Each member must be familiar with the Water Rescue Test rules and regulations.
5. The Test Committee shall select stewards to assist the judges and Chief Steward as required.
6. No person shall act as a test official and officiating judge at the same test.

7. The Test Committee shall be responsible for enforcing compliance with all of the Water Rescue Test rules and regulations and shall have the authority to decide upon any matter arising during the test, except those matters under the sole jurisdiction of the judges.
8. Except as otherwise provided in these regulations, the Test Chair is in charge of the test.

Club Applications

1. Clubs must hold Water Rescue Tests under the auspices of the NDCC.
2. The Test Committee must submit an NDCC Event Application to the NDCC Events Chair at least six months prior to the event.
3. The Events Chair will present the application to the NDCC Executive for approval, at which time insurance coverage will be approved for the Water Rescue Test.
4. The NDCC Events Chair will notify the Test Committee of NDCC approval.
5. The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) application can then be completed and sent to the NDCC Secretary for signature, with a copy to the NDCC Events Chair.
6. The NDCC Secretary will forward the signed application to the CKC for approval.

Application for Approval of Judges

- After a Regional Club has been granted permission by the NDCC to hold a Water Rescue Test, the Test Committee must submit an NDCC Application for Approval of Selected Judges to the NDCC Events Chair not less than 120 days prior to the date of the test. An Alternate Judge may be approved to judge, if there is a cancellation from an Approved Judge up to 1 week prior to the test date. A Provisional Judge must only be paired with an Accredited Judge. An Alternate Judge may not be a Provisional Judge.
- On all premium lists the Provisional Judge shall be noted with this status.
- The Test Committee must select judges from the list of current NDCC Water Rescue Test Judges which can be obtained from the NDCC Events Chair. Partner or Mentor Judges on the Newfoundland Club of America list of qualified Test Judges will be eligible to adjudicate at a Canadian Water Rescue Test. It will be the duty of the club inviting an American to judge a Canadian Water Rescue Test to provide them with a copy of the current Canadian Rules prior to the test, and to ensure they fully understand and follow the Canadian rules.
- The application must set forth the names and addresses of the persons selected to judge, as well as the level assigned to each judge.
- The NDCC Events Chair will advise the Test Committee in a timely manner that their choice of judges is approved.
- The CKC Judging Panel Application can then be completed and sent to the NDCC Secretary for signature, with a copy to the NDCC Events Chair.
- The NDCC Secretary will forward the signed application to the CKC for approval.
- These procedures may be completed via fax, e-mail, or postal service.

Appendix B specifies the eligibility requirements necessary for new judge applicants.

Premium List

1. The Test Committee is responsible for preparing a Premium List.
2. The Premium List must be submitted to the NDCC Events Chair. The following information must be on the cover of the Premium List:
 - The name of the club: The Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada, hosted by (Regional Club name)
 - Date of the test
 - Exact location of the test
 - CKC Event Number
 - Date and closing time for entries
 - The statement: "Entries will close automatically when the specified limit for each test has been reached, even if the official closing date for entries has not arrived."
 - If Day of Test Entries are allowed, the statement: "Day of Test Entries will be accepted if limits have not been reached"
 - If Move Ups are allowed, the statement: "Move Ups will be allowed if time permits and at the discretion of the Test Secretary."

The Premium List must contain the following information:

- List of the NDCC Executive and Regional Club Executive, and the NDCC Events Chair
- A list of the Test Committee members
- Name, address, e-mail address and phone number of the Test Secretary
- Officiating judges, Alternate Judge if applicable, and their City and Province/State of residence. A Provisional Judge shall be noted with their status.
- The amount of the entry fee for each entry
- Eligibility
- Limitations, if any, on the number of entries
- One or more official CKC entry forms
- Vet on call, name of clinic and address

The following statements must be included in the Premium List:

- All dogs must have one of the following: a CKC registration number, an Event Registration Number (ERN) or a Performance Event Number (PEN) prior to entering a Water Rescue Test.
- CKC Non-Member Participation Fee: The Non-Member Participation Fee applies to dogs wholly owned by a resident of Canada who is not a member of the CKC; it is not applicable to CKC members or dogs co-owned with a CKC member. In order for the title to be awarded, the non-member will have a choice to either become a CKC member or pay the Non-Member Participation Fee.
- "Bitches in season are allowed to enter." or "Bitches in season are not allowed to enter."
- Re-qualifications may be accepted pending space available. Re-qualifications will be judged last in the level they enter.
- "Day-of-test entries will be accepted." or "Day-of-test entries will not be accepted."
- If day-of-test entries will be accepted, and entry numbers have been limited, the following statement: "Day-of-test entries will only be accepted if maximum number of entries is not received by closing date."
- The Test Secretary may notify entrants via email that their entry has been received.
- Following the official closing date for entries, the Test Secretary will notify successful entrants of the scheduled start times for equipment checks, judging of each test level, the number of dogs entered and the catalogue number of their dog.
- Entrants in the WRDN level at a test may post-enter in the WRD level at that same test and will be tested at the conclusion of all WRD judging of the pre-entered entrants.
- Entrants that successfully complete all of the exercises in the WRD level at a test may post-enter in the WRDX level at that same test and will be tested at the conclusion of all WRDX judging of the pre-entered entrants.
- Entrants must notify the Test Secretary of their desire to post-enter prior to commencement of the next level of testing.

- Post-entries will be considered on a first come first served basis and the number of post-entries that are accepted may be limited at the discretion of the Test Secretary.
- If the post-entry is accepted and the dog is tested, an additional fee will be charged.
- Entrants are responsible for knowing the NDCC Water Rescue Test rules and regulations for each level entered. Water Rescue Test rules and regulations are posted on the NDCC website: <http://newfoundlanddogclub.ca> and can be downloaded for free.
- Entrants may contact the NDCC Events Chair to obtain printed copies of the Water Rescue Test rules and regulations for a fee.
- A judge officiating at a Water Rescue Test held under these rules shall not be subjected to indignities of any kind at any time.

Test Committees are free to include other rules and regulations as they deem necessary. Any additions or changes to rules and regulations must be approved by the NDCC-Events Chair prior to publication of the Premium List.

If other rules are included, they must be stated in the Premium List and must be enforced.

Catalogues

An official catalogue for all approved Water Rescue Tests must be printed in sufficient numbers to complete the required paperwork and to provide one catalogue for each judge and exhibitor as well as extra copies for purchase by spectators at the test.

The following information must be listed on the outside front cover or the first page of the catalogue:

- Name: The Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada, hosted by (Regional Club name)
- Date of the test
- Exact location of the test

The catalogue must contain the following information:

- List of the NDCC Executive and Regional Club Executive, and the NDCC Events Chair
- List of the Test Committee members
- Name, address, email address and phone number of the Test Secretary
- A complete list of the judges and their City and Province/State of residence
- Statement regarding indignities to a judge
- Judging schedule
- Vet on call, name of clinic and phone number

All dogs entered must be listed in the catalogue by level, and in order of competing. The information in the catalogue for each dog must be in the following order:

- Catalogue number of the dog
- Registered name of the dog (in capital letters)
- CKC registration number or ERN or PEN
- Dog's date of birth
- Name of breeder(s)
- Registered name of sire
- Registered name of dam
- Place of birth (Canada or elsewhere)
- Name of owner(s)
- Address of owner(s)
- Agent (if applicable)

Sufficient blank space should be left after each level to allow the Test Secretary and judges to write in day-of-test or pre-entered move ups to the WRD and WRDX tests.

At the completion of the test, the Test Committee will provide each officiating judge with a complimentary copy of the test catalogue marked with the results from all officiating judges.

Rule Publication

Water Rescue Test rules and regulations will be posted on the NDCC website:

<http://newfoundlanddogclub.ca>

The Test Committee is required to have printed copies of the current edition of these Water Rescue Test rules and regulations available for each Judge. Interested parties may contact the NDCC Events Chair to obtain printed copies of the Water Rescue Test rules and regulations for a fee.

Test Site

- The ring for the Control Exercises shall be a minimum of 12 x 15 metres (40 x 50 feet).
- The water site shall have a minimum of 18 metres (60 feet) of waterfront and shall extend at least 6 metres (20 feet) back from the shoreline. This site should be roped off to keep spectators out of the test area.
- Distance markers shall be placed at 9 metres (30 feet), 15 metres (50 feet) and 23 metres (75 feet) from shore on both sides of the test area.
- The water level should drop off to swimming depth for the dog within 6 metres (20 feet) from shore. If this is not possible, distances should be extended to ensure the dog is at swimming depth when retrieving articles.

Test Committee Equipment

- Rope and stanchions/ring gates to mark off the shore test area
- Rope and stanchions/ring gates for control exercise ring
- Suitable sized rowboat with oars, equipped with a non-slip platform
- An optional canoe or kayak to be used only for placing articles to be retrieved in the water
- Distance markers
- Name tags for test officials
- Armband and/or bib entrant numbers
- Catalogues for handlers and spectators
- Rosettes and/or medallions
- First Aid kit
- Judges' supplies:
 - Water Rescue Test rules and regulations – one printed copy per judge
 - Name tags
 - Judges' Record forms
 - Test Evaluation forms
 - Provisional Judge Evaluation forms (if applicable)
 - Clipboards
 - Pens and pencils
 - Stopwatches
 - Whistles
 - Catalogues for marking at end of test

Veterinarian

The Test Committee is responsible for arranging to have a local qualified veterinarian on call throughout the entire progress of the test.

ENTRIES

Entry Requirements

- NDCC Water Rescue Tests shall be open to Newfoundland Dogs only. No other breeds are permitted to participate.
- Entrants must have one of the following:
 - a CKC registration
 - an Event Registration Number (ERN)
 - a Performance Event Number (PEN)
- All dogs must be at least 6 months of age on the day of the test.
- Dogs must be physically fit and capable of doing all of the exercises. If a judge deems that the dog is not fit, the dog will not be tested.

Entry Guidelines

- WRDN is an elective level, and the title is not required for entrance to the WRD test.
- Dogs who have previously earned Water Rescue titles may enter the WRDN level.
- A WRD title is a requirement for entrance to the WRDX test.

Entry Restrictions

- The Test Committee has the authority to decline any entry or remove any dog from its test if the Test Committee deems that there is just cause to do so.
- No dog belonging wholly or in part to any judge or to any member of the immediate family or household of any judge shall be entered in any test where the dog could be evaluated by that judge.

Entry Clarifications

- It shall not be considered a conflict of interest if a judge knows an entrant.
- Similarly, it shall not be considered a conflict of interest if a judge has been a member of the same training group as any entrant(s) at a test

or has trained with or attended/trained at a seminar or workshop with any entrant(s) prior to the test.

Bitches in Season

- Prior to publication of the Premium List, the Test Committee will determine whether bitches in season will be allowed to enter the test.
- Entered bitches in season will be tested once all entries in all levels have finished testing. Until such time, they should be kept away from the testing and spectator areas.

Entry Limit

- Prior to the publication of the Premium List, the Test Committee will determine the maximum number of entries that will be accepted.
- Entries will close automatically when the specified limit for each test has been reached, even if the official closing date for entries has not arrived.
- Entries received after the closing time and date specified in the Premium List may be accepted if maximum entries are not received by closing.

Entrant Notification

- The Test Secretary may notify entrants via email that their entry has been received.
- Following the official closing date for entries, the Test Secretary will notify successful entrants of the scheduled start times for equipment checks and judging of each test level, as well as the number of dogs entered and the catalogue number of their dog.

Day-of-Test Entries

- Prior to publication of the Premium List, the Test Committee will determine whether day-of-test entries will be accepted.
- Day-of-test entries will be accepted as stated in the Premium List and as approved by the Test Secretary.

Post-Entries for Previously Entered Dogs to Move Up

- Judges will announce results at the end of each level of testing to allow entrants to post-enter in the next level of testing if desired.
- Entrants in the WRDN level at a test may post-enter in the WRD level at that same test and will be tested at the conclusion of all WRD judging of the pre-entered entrants.
- Entrants that successfully complete all the exercises in the WRD level at a test may post-enter in the WRDX level at that same test and will be tested at the conclusion of all WRDX judging of the pre-entered entrants.
- Entrants must notify the Test Secretary of their desire to post-enter prior to commencement of the next level of testing.
- Post-entries will be considered on a first come first served basis and the number of post-entries may be limited at the discretion of the Test Secretary.
- If the post-entry is accepted and the dog is tested, an additional fee will be charged.

Re-qualifications

- Re-qualifications may be accepted pending space available.

Non-Member Participation Fee

- The Non-Member Participation Fee applies to dogs wholly owned by a resident of Canada who is not a member of the CKC; it is not applicable to CKC members or dogs co-owned with a CKC member.
- In order for the title to be awarded, the non-member will have a choice to either become a CKC member or pay the Non-Member Participation Fee.

REGULATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE

Water Rescue Test Rules

- Entrants are responsible for knowing the NDCC Water Rescue Test rules and regulations for each level entered.
- Water Rescue Test rules and regulations are posted on the NDCC website:
<http://newfoundlanddogclub.ca>

- Entrants may contact the NDCC Events Chair to obtain printed copies of the Water Rescue Test rules and regulations for a fee.

Entrant Equipment

- Entrants must supply all equipment necessary to complete the exercises. Entrants may borrow equipment from other entrants if necessary.
- Judges will inspect each entrant's equipment prior to the start of the test to ensure equipment meets the requirements of the exercises.

Pretest Swim and Training on the Grounds

- All dogs may participate in a pre-swim except for bitches in season who will be given a pre-swim just prior to their judging.
- The pre-swim is a 15-minute session prior to the start of judging of each level.
- Dogs and handlers may familiarize themselves with the test waters, but this period is not intended for training.
- No food may be offered or carried.
- Handlers may use one retrieving object.
- In WRDX entries, the dog may get on and off the beached boat.

Regulations Common to all Exercises

- Dogs must always be under control. A dog that in any way endangers a person or another dog shall be marked "Fail".
- Dogs must wear a properly fitted collar: flat, martingale, or slip, with nothing hanging from the collar.
- Dogs may be restrained lightly by their collar between exercises.
- No bait is to be used for any of the exercises. A dog whose handler takes food or other training aids into the test area will be excused from the test.
- Government approved flotation devices and footwear that is secure and protects the foot in water and on shore must be worn by all handlers and stewards during the Water Rescue Test.
- Dogs may not wear flotation devices during Water Rescue Tests.
- Prior to each dog's individual test, the entrant may ask permission of the judges to enter the water, so the dog becomes wet.

Suggested Time Limits

- Each of the Water Exercises has a suggested time limit.
- Handlers should strive to complete each exercise within the suggested time frame.
- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the time limit has been reached, however, the time limit may be extended at the discretion of the Lead Judge due to circumstances or water/weather conditions.

Handlers with Disabilities

- At the judge's discretion, a modification may be made to accommodate a handler with disabilities, providing that such modification does not aid the dog's performance or inhibit other dogs, and the dog is required to perform all exercises as set out in the rules.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- Any handler who displays unsportsmanlike conduct, or is seen to kick, strike, or otherwise roughly manhandle a dog while on the grounds of a Water Rescue Test, or at any time during the holding of the event, may be expelled from the test by the Test Committee.

CANINE SAFETY

- No dog is to be left in a vehicle without proper ventilation.

JUDGES

Judges' Responsibilities

- Judges must evaluate entrants independently and may not consult with another judge during the test regarding the performance of any entrant.
- A Provisional Judge makes decisions unto themselves at a test, and when on site paperwork is completed, discussion with the Accredited Judge to verify their markings may be undertaken at that time.
- Judges may not disclose or discuss their assessment of entrants with other judges, entrants or spectators until all entrants at that level have been tested and the results have been announced.

- A judge must excuse a dog at any time during a test for lack of physical capacity or unsoundness.
- Judges have the authority to disqualify or excuse a dog that menaces, threatens, or attempts to bite any judge, person, or dog.
- A judge has the authority to expel a handler from a test if they observe unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the handler, or see the handler kicking, striking, or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog while the dog is being judged.
- Judges must consult with each other in the presence of the Chief Steward or other test official and be unanimous in their decision to expel the handler. It will be the duty of the judges to report the expulsion promptly to the Test Committee.
- The Test Secretary shall submit a complete report to the NDCC of any action taken under this section within seven days of such ruling.

Judges' Restrictions

- A judge may not adjudicate a dog belonging wholly or in part to the judge or to any member of the judge's immediate family or household.
- A judge may not adjudicate a member of their immediate family or household.
- No person shall act as a test official and officiating judge at the same test.
- It shall not be considered a conflict of interest if a judge knows an entrant.
- Similarly, it shall not be considered a conflict of interest if a judge has been a member of the same training group as any entrant(s) at a test or has trained with or attended/trained at a seminar or workshop with any entrant(s) prior to the test.

Alternate Judges

- An Approved Alternate Judge should be notified by the Test Secretary prior to the test, and available on site if any of the Approved Judges are no longer available to judge. There is the option of a judge to test if a third judge (who may also be an entrant) is available. Both must be Accredited Judges.

Lead Judge

- Prior to the commencement of judging, the judges will meet in the presence of the Chief Steward and decide which judge will act as the Lead Judge for each section of the test. Judges should split the Lead with one leading land exercises and one leading water exercises for WRDN and WRD. Accredited judges should Lead the WRDX Test.
- Before every exercise, the Lead Judge must ask the entrant: "Are you ready?" and the exercise will not start until acknowledged by the entrant, and the entrant is given a command from the Lead Judge to begin.
- At the end of each exercise, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished."
- All orders shall be given to handlers by the Lead Judge and shall be sufficiently clear and distinguishable for the handler to follow.

NDCC Current Judges List

- Judges who are on the NDCC Current Judges List may continue to judge as long as they are willing and able. Provisional Judges must complete judging at two complete Water Rescue Tests, with a minimum of two levels, and only be paired with an experienced Accredited Judge, to move forward.

Newfoundland Club of America Judges

- It will be the duty of the Test Committee to provide Newfoundland Club of America judges with the current NDCC Water Rescue Test rules and regulations prior to the test.

Judges' Decision Final

- The decision of the judges shall be final in all matters affecting the working of dogs and handlers and in evaluation of their performance during the test.

Indignities to a Judge

- A judge officiating at a Water Rescue Test held under these rules shall not be subjected to indignities of any kind at any time. It shall be the duty and obligation of the Test Committee holding the test to see that this rule is effectively carried out.

END OF TEST

- Within ten days of the Water Rescue Test, the Test Secretary shall forward to the CKC a letter stating the date and location of the test, the number of certificates required, a copy of the Premium List, the entry forms, a marked catalogue, the signed Judges' Records, and a cheque to cover the cost of the certificates, including any tax payable. Any other information that the Test Committee deems necessary can be included.
- The Test Secretary shall also send a copy of the letter sent to the CKC to the NDCC Events Chair along with a marked catalogue for the NDCC records.
- The Test Secretary shall keep copies of the Judges' Records and a marked catalogue for at least one year from the date of the Test.

AMENDMENTS

- These rules are subject to amendment by The Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada's Committee and NDCC Executive.
- Any member or Regional Club may propose amendments to these rules by presenting such to the NDCC Events Chair for consideration.
- It shall be the duty of the NDCC Committee to review any proposals and make its recommendations to the NDCC Executive for its consideration and input prior to making a final decision.
- Any amendment to these rules shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the NDCC Executive.
- The Executive shall set the effective date of any approved amendments, once the CKC has sanctioned the amended rules.

Scores and Titles

QUALIFYING SCORES

In order to receive a qualifying score in any level of testing, a dog must pass each and every exercise for that level. A qualifying score must never be awarded to a dog which does not exhibit the ability to meet the minimum requirements.

TITLES

A dog earning a title must qualify under two (2) different judges, not necessarily at the same test, to be entitled to a certificate issued by the CKC certifying the title has been recognized for said dog.

Water Rescue Dog Novice (WRDN)

- This is an elective level and not required to enter the Water Rescue Dog (WRD) Test.
- Dogs who have previously earned Water Rescue titles may enter the WRDN level.
- The CKC will grant the use of the title **Water Rescue Dog Novice** in connection with each dog certified by two (2) different judges to have a qualifying score: passed each and every exercise in the Water Rescue Dog Novice test, provided the dog is registered individually in the records of the CKC, or has a Performance Event Number (PEN) or Event Registration Number (ERN).

Water Rescue Dog (WRD)

- The CKC will grant the use of the title **Water Rescue Dog** in connection with each dog certified by two (2) different judges to have a qualifying score: passed each and every exercise in the Water Rescue Dog test, provided the dog is registered individually in the records of the CKC, or has a Performance Event Number (PEN) or Event Registration Number (ERN).

Water Rescue Dog Excellent (WRDX)

- The CKC will grant the use of the title **Water Rescue Dog Excellent** in connection with each dog certified by two (2) different judges to have a qualifying score: passed each and every exercise in the Water Rescue Dog Excellent test, provided the dog is registered individually in the records of the CKC, or has a Performance Event Number (PEN) or Event Registration Number (ERN).
- In order to compete in the WRDX level, a dog must have previously attained a WRD.

Water Rescue Dog Novice (WRDN)

WRDN CONTROL EXERCISES

The Control Exercises demonstrate the dog's ability to be a safe and obedient companion and worker.

- Control will be demonstrated on leash in a ring that is a minimum 12 x 15 metres (40 x 50 feet).
- All dogs will be brought into the ring and will leave the ring on leash for all exercises.
- Praise, vocal commands, and hand signals are acceptable on any motion exercise.

Three basic exercises will be performed:

- Heel on Leash
- Recall
- Thirty Second Down

HEEL ON LEASH

General Instructions

- The handler may not touch the dog during the exercise.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The dog will be on the handler's left side and must remain on a loose leash at all times.
- The dog must respond to each of the handler's commands and must remain within arm's reach of the handler at all times throughout the exercise.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler enters the ring with the dog on a 1.8 metre (6 foot) leash and moves to the starting mark.
- The dog sits at the handler's left side and waits with the handler at the starting mark until the Lead Judge asks: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will say: "Forward."

- The Lead Judge will use each of the following commands at least once, in any order predetermined by the Lead Judge:
 - Forward
 - Slow
 - Fast
 - Normal
 - Right turn
 - Left turn
 - About turn
 - Halt
- The pattern will be the same for each entrant in that WRDN test.
- After the pattern has been completed, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished."

Failing Performance

- Handler touched the dog while working
- Dog did not respond to commands
- Dog did not stay within arm's reach of the handler
- Dog left the ring

RECALL

General Instructions

- The dog must remain sitting until called by the handler.
- The handler may not give more than two commands to "stay", by voice, hand signal, or a combination of both.
- If the handler uses a combination of voice and hand signal, they must be given simultaneously so that the command looks and sounds like one.
- The handler may not give more than two commands to "come" before the dog starts to move.
- Once the dog has responded to the command "come", the handler may give extra encouragement by voice, hand signals, or a combination of both.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog move to the spot in the ring designated by the Lead Judge.
- The handler removes the dog's leash and hands it to the steward.

- The dog sits at the handler's left side and waits with the handler until the Lead Judge asks: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will say: "Leave your dog."
- The handler commands the dog to remain in position by voice, hand signal, or a combination of both.
- The handler then walks briskly to the halfway mark across the ring (approximately 7 metres/25 feet), turns, and faces the dog.
- The dog must not move from its position after the handler has left its side.
- When the handler is in position at the halfway mark across the ring, the Lead Judge will indicate to the handler to call the dog.
- The dog must start to come on the first or second command.
- Once the dog is moving forward, the handler may take up to three steps backward to encourage the dog to come.
- The dog must come directly to the handler and sit or stand within arm's reach.
- The Lead Judge will then say: "Exercise finished."

Failing Performance

- Dog did not stay
- Dog did not come on the first or second command
- Dog did not return directly to the handler
- Dog did not return to within arm's reach of the handler
- Dog left the ring

THIRTY SECOND DOWN

General Instructions

- The Thirty Second Down will be held as an on-leash group exercise with the handlers in front of their dogs at the end of the leash.
- No more than 7 and no less than 2 dogs shall be judged at one time.
- Handlers may not give more than one command to "stay", by voice, hand signal, or a combination of both.

- If the handler uses a combination of voice and hand signal, they must be given simultaneously so that the command looks and sounds like one.

Qualifying Performance

- The handlers enter the ring with their dogs on leash and line up in catalogue order along one side of the ring as directed by the steward.
- The Lead Judge will say: "Down your dog."
- Handlers will down their dogs by command and/or hand signal, or dogs may be manually placed in a down position.
- The Lead Judge will then say: "Leave your dogs."
- Handlers will give the command and/or signal to "stay", move to the end of the leash, turn, and face their dogs.
- Thirty seconds from the time the order to leave your dogs was given, the Lead Judge will say: "Return to your dog."
- Handlers must return promptly to their dogs, each walking around behind their own dog to the heel position.
- The dog must stay in the down position until the Lead Judge says: "Exercise finished."

Failing Performance

- Handler gave more than one command to stay
- Dog sat or stood
- Dog did not stay
- Dog disturbed other dogs

WRDN WATER EXERCISES

All of these exercises are to be performed off leash.

1. SIMPLE RETRIEVE

Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's willingness to perform as a working Newfoundland Dog by exhibiting the control to retrieve a thrown bumper on the handler's command.

Equipment Required

- Bumper with a short line to facilitate throwing

Suggested Time Limit: 2 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The Test Committee will appoint a steward to serve as a Designated Thrower in the event one should be needed. The handler has the option of requesting that the Designated Thrower throw the bumper.
- The handler may not touch the dog while the dog is working.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The handler may give the retrieve command as the bumper is being thrown.
- The handler may enter the water with the dog until the dog is swimming, at which point the handler must return to shore.
- The handler may move to any part of the defined shore test area to meet the dog when it returns the bumper to shore, but the handler must not re-enter the water.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore until the Lead Judge asks: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.

- The handler commands the dog to remain in position, and then throws the bumper approximately 9 metres (30 feet).
- If the throw is not of adequate distance, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to throw the bumper again.
- On the handler's command, the dog enters the water, swims out, takes hold of the bumper, and returns it to the handler.
- Delivery may be to hand or dropped on the shore near the handler.
- When the handler has the bumper in hand, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished."

Failing Performance

- Handler touched the dog while working
- Handler went past swimming depth of the dog
- Handler did not return to shore and/or re-entered the water
- Dog did not retrieve the bumper
- Dog did not release the bumper or drop the bumper on the shore
- Dog left the shore test area

2. MARKED RETRIEVE

Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's ability to spot an article in the water, and to follow the handler's directions in performing the retrieve.

Equipment Required

- Bumper or approved life jacket
- The article to be retrieved will be determined by the judges prior to the start of the test and will be the same article for each entrant at that WRDN level test.

Suggested Time Limit: 2 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The handler may not touch the dog while the dog is working.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The dog must not start the exercise before the handler's command.
- The handler may move to any part of the shore test area to direct the dog to the article.
- The handler may enter the water with the dog until the dog is swimming, at which point the handler must return to shore.
- The dog may be recalled once from the water in order to be redirected to the article, but the handler must stay in the defined shore test area.
- The handler may move to any part of the defined shore test area to meet the dog when it returns the article to shore, but the handler may not re-enter the water.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore.
- The Lead Judge will signal to the Rowing Steward to row across the test site at the 9 metre (30 foot) mark.
- The Boat Steward will quietly place the article to be retrieved on the shore side of the boat at the point pre-determined by the Lead Judge and the same for all entrants.
- The Boat Steward may mark the object by splashing before leaving.
- After the boat has left the area, the Lead Judge will ask the handler: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.
- The handler then directs the dog to enter the water, swim out, retrieve the article, and return it to the handler.
- Delivery may be to hand or dropped on the shore near the handler.
- When the handler has the article in hand, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished."

Failing Performance

- Handler touched the dog while working
- Handler went past swimming depth of dog
- Handler did not return to shore and/or re-entered the water
- Dog did not retrieve the article
- Dog did not release the article or drop the article on shore
- Dog left the shore test area

3. BOAT SAFETY

Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's ability to be a safe boating companion.

Equipment Required

None

Suggested Time Limit: 2 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The handler may not touch the dog while the dog is working.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working
- The handler and/or Boat Steward or Equipment Steward may stabilize the boat while boarding.
- The dog must board the boat willingly and ride out in a safe manner that does not endanger the boat, the stewards, or the handler.
- The handler may not physically restrain or manipulate the dog at any point.
- The handler may wade into the water to board and may have feet in the water while on the platform.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore.
- The boat will be at the shoreline with the platform facing the shore.
- The Lead Judge will ask: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.
- The handler and dog then move to the boat and board the platform.
- The Rowing Steward rows the team out to the 15 metre (50 foot) mark, and then returns to shore.
- The Rowing Steward turns the boat so the platform faces the shore where the team will safely exit the boat.
- The Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished."

Failing Performance

- Handler touched the dog while working
- Dog did not board/exit the boat willingly or safely
- Dog endangered the boat, stewards, or handler at any point
- Dog left the shore test area

4. SWIM OUT TO VICTIM

Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's ability to swim out to a victim to provide assistance.

Equipment Required

None

Suggested Time Limit: 2 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The handler may not touch the dog while the dog is working.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.

- The handler may enter the water with the dog until the dog is swimming, at which point the handler must return to shore.
- The dog may be recalled once from the water in order to be redirected to the Drowning Steward, but the handler must stay in the defined shore test area.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore.
- Before entering the water, the Drowning Steward receives direction from the handler to either follow the dog to shore or allow the dog to tow him/her.
- The Drowning Steward (who may be known to the dog) briefly greets the dog upon entering the water and asks for the dog's name.
- The Drowning Steward swims out to the 9 metre (30 foot) mark and turns to face the shore.
- The Lead Judge will ask: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.
- The Lead Judge then signals the Drowning Steward to attract the dog's attention. The dog's name may be used.
- The handler directs the dog to go out to the Drowning Steward.
- The dog swims out to the Drowning Steward close enough to be touched or to circle the Drowning Steward.
- The dog then returns to shore.
- The dog may tow the Drowning Steward or be followed by the Drowning Steward.
- When the dog reaches wading depth, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished."

Failing Performance

- Handler went past swimming depth of dog
- Handler did not return to shore and/or re-entered the water
- Dog did not swim out to Drowning Steward
- Dog did not get within arm's reach of Drowning Steward
- Dog left the shore test area

5. SWIM OUT TO BOAT

Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's ability to swim out to a boat in the event that assistance is required.

Equipment Required

- Bumper or rope line

Suggested Time Limit: 2 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The handler may not touch the dog while the dog is working.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The handler may enter the water with the dog until the dog is swimming, at which point the handler must return to shore.
- The dog may be recalled once from the water in order to be redirected to the Boat Steward, but the handler must stay in the defined shore test area.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore facing the water.
- The Rowing Steward rows out to the 15 metre (50 foot) mark to a position pre-determined by the Lead Judge and the same for all entrants.
- The Rowing Steward then turns the boat to face the bow to shore.
- The Lead Judge will ask: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.
- The Lead Judge will signal the Boat Steward to call and indicate assistance is needed. The dog's name may be used.
- The handler then directs the dog to swim out to the boat.

- When the dog is within 2 metres (6 feet) of the boat, the Boat Steward may (repeatedly, if necessary) hand or throw the bumper/line to the dog.
- The dog will then carry the bumper/line back to the shore followed by the boat.
- When the dog reaches wading depth the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished."

Failing Performance

- Handler went past swimming depth of dog
- Handler did not return to shore and/or re-entered the water
- Dog did not take the bumper or line
- Dog left the shore test area

Water Rescue Dog (WRD)

WRD CONTROL EXERCISES

The Control Exercises demonstrate the dog's ability to be a safe and obedient companion and worker.

- Control will be demonstrated off leash, in a ring that is a minimum 12 x 15 metres (40 x 50 feet).
- All dogs will be brought into the ring and will leave the ring on leash.
- Praise, vocal commands, and hand signals are acceptable on any motion exercise.

Three basic exercises will be performed:

- Heel Off Leash
- Recall
- One Minute Down

HEEL OFF LEASH

General Instructions

- The handler may not touch the dog during the exercise.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The dog will be on the handler's left side and must respond to each of the handler's commands while remaining within arm's reach of the handler at all times throughout the exercise.
- The sit at heel is desirable but not mandatory.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler enters the ring with the dog on a 1.8 metre (6 foot) leash and moves to the starting mark.
- The handler removes the dog's leash and hands it to the steward.
- The dog sits at the handler's left side and waits with the handler at the starting mark until the Lead Judge asks: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will say: "Forward."

- The Lead Judge will use each of the following commands at least once, in any order predetermined by the Lead Judge:
 - Forward
 - Slow
 - Fast
 - Normal
 - Right turn
 - Left turn
 - About turn
 - Halt
- The pattern will be the same for each entrant in that WRD level test.
- After the pattern has been completed, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished."

Failing Performance

- Handler touched the dog while working
- Dog did not respond to commands
- Dog did not stay within arm's reach of the handler
- Dog left the ring

RECALL

General Instructions

- The dog must remain sitting until called by the handler.
- The handler may not give more than one command to "stay" by voice, hand signal, or a combination of both.
- If the handler uses a combination of voice and hand signals, they must be given simultaneously so that the command looks and sounds like one.
- The handler may not give more than one command to "come" before the dog starts to move.
- Once the dog has responded to the command "come", the handler may give extra encouragement by voice, hand signals, or a combination of both.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog move to the spot in the ring designated by the Lead Judge.
- The dog sits at the handler's left side and waits with the handler until the Lead Judge asks: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will say: "Leave your dog."
- The handler commands the dog once to remain in position by voice, hand signal or a combination of both.
- The handler then walks briskly to the opposite end of the ring, turns, and faces the dog.
- The dog must not move from its position after the handler has left its side.
- When the handler is in position at the opposite end of the ring, the Lead Judge will indicate to the handler to call the dog.
- The dog must start to come on the first command. The dog must come directly to the handler and sit or stand within arm's reach.
- The Lead Judge will then say: "Exercise finished."

Failing Performance

- Dog did not stay
- Dog did not come on the first command
- Dog did not return directly to the handler
- Dog did not return to within arm's reach of the handler
- Dog left the ring

ONE MINUTE DOWN

General Instructions

- The One Minute Down will be held as an off-leash group exercise with the handlers across the width of the ring.
- No more than 10 and no less than 2 dogs shall be judged at one time.
- Handlers may not give more than one command to "stay" by voice, hand signal or a combination of both.
- If the handler uses a combination of voice and hand signal, they must be given simultaneously so that the command looks and sounds like one.

Qualifying Performance

- The handlers enter the ring with their dogs on leash, and line up in catalogue order along one side of the ring as directed by the steward.
- Leashes and armbands will be placed behind the dogs with the number visible to the Lead Judge.
- The Lead Judge will say: "Down your dog."
- Handlers will down their dogs by command and/or hand signal, or dogs may be manually placed in a down position.
- The Lead Judge will then say: "Leave your dogs."
- Handlers will give the command and/or signal to "stay", immediately leave their dogs, walk to the opposite side of the ring, turn, and face their dogs.
- One minute from the time the order to leave your dogs was given, the Lead Judge will say: "Return to your dog."
- Handlers must return promptly to their dogs, each walking around behind their own dog to the heel position.
- The dog must stay in the down position until the Lead Judge says: "Exercise finished."

Failing Performance

- Handler gave more than one command to stay
- Dog sat or stood
- Dog did not stay
- Dog disturbed other dogs

WRD WATER EXERCISES

All Water Exercises are to be performed off leash.

1. SIMPLE RETRIEVE

Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's willingness to perform as a working Newfoundland Dog by exhibiting the control to retrieve a thrown bumper on the handler's command.

Equipment Required

- Bumper - a short line on the bumper is allowed to facilitate throwing

Suggested Time Limit: 2 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The Test Committee will appoint a steward to serve as a Designated Thrower in the event one should be needed. The handler has the option of requesting that the Designated Thrower throw the bumper.
- The handler may not touch the dog while the dog is working.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The dog must not start the exercise before the handler's command.
- The handler may give the retrieve command after the bumper has left the hand.
- The handler may move to any part of the defined shore test area to direct the dog to the bumper.
- The dog may be recalled once from the water in order to be redirected to the bumper, but the handler must stay in the defined shore test area.
- The handler may move to any part of the defined shore test area to meet the dog when it returns the bumper to shore.
- If the dog drops the bumper before delivery, the handler may command the dog to pick it up and deliver it to hand.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore until the Lead Judge asks: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.
- The handler commands the dog to remain in position, and then throws the bumper approximately 9 metres (30 feet).
- If the throw is not of adequate distance, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to throw the bumper again.
- On the handler's command, the dog enters the water, swims out, takes hold of the bumper, and returns it to the handler. Delivery must be to hand.
- When the handler has the bumper in hand, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished".

Failing Performance

- Handler touched the dog while working
- Dog started the exercise before the handler's command
- Handler entered the water
- Dog did not retrieve bumper
- Dog did not deliver to hand
- Dog left the water more than once
- Dog left the shore test area

2. MARKED RETRIEVE

Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's ability to "spot" an article in the water and to follow the handler's directions in making the retrieve.

Equipment Required

- Boat cushion or an approved life jacket
- The article to be retrieved will be determined by the judges prior to the start of the test and will be the same article for each entrant at that WRD level test.

Suggested Time Limit: 2 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The handler may not touch the dog while the dog is working.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The dog must not start the exercise before the handler's command.
- The handler may move to any part of the onshore test area to direct the dog to the article.
- The dog may be recalled once from the water in order to be redirected to the article, but the handler must stay in the defined shore test area.
- The handler may move to any part of the defined shore test area to meet the dog when it returns the article to the shore.
- The handler may not touch the article before delivery to hand.
- If the dog drops the article before delivery, the handler may command the dog to pick it up and deliver it to hand.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore.
- The Lead Judge will signal to the Rowing Steward to row across the defined test site at the 15 metre (50 foot) mark to a position pre-determined by the Lead Judge and the same for all entrants.
- The Boat Steward will quietly place the article to be retrieved on the seaward side of the boat.
- After the boat has left the area, the Lead Judge will ask the handler: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.
- The handler then directs the dog to enter the water, swim out, retrieve the article, and return it to the handler. Delivery must be to hand.

- When the handler has the article in hand, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished".

Failing Performance

- Handler touched the dog while working
- Dog started the exercise before the handler's command
- Handler entered the water
- Handler touched the article before delivery to hand
- Dog did not retrieve the article
- Dog did not deliver the article to hand
- Dog left the water more than once
- Dog left the shore test area

3. TOW A BOAT

Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's intelligence, speed, and strength in returning an adrift boat to shore.

Equipment Required

- Bumper with attached line that is 2.5 – 4.5 metres (8 – 15 feet) in length, as determined by site and conditions, to allow the dog to safely deliver the bumper to the handler

Suggested Time Limit: 2 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The handler may not touch the dog while the dog is working.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The dog must not start the exercise before the handler's command.
- The handler may move to any part of the defined shore test area to direct the dog to the boat.
- The dog may be recalled once from the water in order to be redirected to the boat, but the handler must stay in the defined shore test area.

- The handler may move to any part of the defined shore test area to meet the dog when it returns the line to the shore.
- If the dog drops the line before delivery, the handler may command the dog to pick it up and deliver it to hand.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore.
- The Rowing Steward rows to the 23 metre (75 foot) mark to a position pre-determined by the Lead Judge and the same for all entrants.
- The Lead Judge will ask the handler: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.
- The Lead Judge will signal the Boat Steward to attract the dog's attention by calling and by tossing a bumper attached to a line into the water. The Boat Steward must not use the dog's name.
- The handler commands the dog to enter the water, swim to the boat, take the bumper in his mouth and tow the boat to shore.
- The dog delivers the bumper to the handler who remains on shore. Delivery must be to hand.
- When the handler has the line in hand, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished".

Failing Performance

- Handler touched the dog while working
- Dog started the exercise before the handler's command
- Handler entered the water
- Dog did not swim to boat
- Dog did not tow boat to shore
- Dog did not deliver the bumper to hand
- Dog left the water more than once
- Dog left the shore test area

4. TAKE A LINE

Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's willingness to aid in a rescue by delivering a line to a swimmer in distress.

Equipment Required

- 23 metre (75 foot) floating line either knotted at one end or with a bumper attached

Suggested Time Limit: 2 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The handler may not touch the dog while the dog is working.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The dog must not start the exercise before the handler's command.
- The handler may pick up the line at the bumper/knotted end on shore once after the initial take but must not touch the dog when commanding him to take it.
- If the dog drops the line on shore for a second time, the handler must command the dog to pick it up.
- The handler may move to any part of the defined shore test area to direct the dog to the Drowning Steward.
- The dog may be recalled once from the water in order to be redirected to the Drowning Steward, but the handler must stay in the defined shore test area.
- The handler is allowed to feed the line out to avoid it becoming entangled with an obstruction along the shoreline.
- The dog must swim close enough to the Drowning Steward so the line can be grabbed with an outreached hand.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore.
- The Drowning Steward, who must be a stranger to the dog, will swim out to the 15 metre (50 foot) mark and turn to face the shore.
- The Lead Judge will ask the handler: "Are you ready?"

- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.
- The Lead Judge will signal the Drowning Steward to call for help and attract the dog's attention. The Drowning Steward must not use the dog's name.
- The handler commands the dog to take the end of the line with the bumper/knotted end.
- The handler then commands the dog to enter the water and carry the line to the Drowning Steward.
- When the Drowning Steward has hold of the line, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished".

Failing Performance

- Handler touched the dog while working
- Dog started the exercise before the handler's command
- Handler entered the water
- Dog did not take the line
- Dog did not deliver the line
- Dog endangered the Drowning Steward
- Dog left the water more than once
- Dog left the shore test area

5. SWIM WITH HANDLER

Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's ability to be a safe, reliable swimming companion who is also available for assistance.

Equipment Required

- If the dog has been trained to tow by grasping the swimmer's arm, the handler must supply arm protection. The type of protection must not be construed as a training aid for the dog.

Suggested Time Limit: 2 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The handler has the option of designating another handler for this exercise, if desired.

- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The dog must not start the exercise before the handler's command.
- The handler may use any swimming stroke desired.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore.
- The Lead Judge will ask the handler "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.
- The dog and handler wade out to swimming depth for the dog.
- The dog and handler then swim together an additional 6 metres (20 feet) out into the water. The dog may swim on either the left or right side of the handler at a safe distance of approximately 2 metres (6 feet), so as not to interfere with the forward movement of the handler.
- When the distance has been reached, the Lead Judge will signal the handler by whistle.
- The handler stops swimming and commands the dog to turn towards shore. The handler must not aid the dog by physically turning the dog.
- The handler will take hold of the dog and be towed towards the shore. The handler must be free floating during the tow.
- Once the dog has reached wading depth, the handler may stand.
- The Lead Judge will then say: "Exercise finished".

Failing Performance

- Dog started the exercise before the handler's command
- Handler aided the dog in turning towards shore
- Dog refused to swim
- Dog interfered with handler
- Dog did not tow handler
- Dog left the water without handler
- Dog left the shore test area

Water Rescue Dog Excellent (WRDX)

WRDX WATER EXERCISES

All Water Exercises are to be performed off leash.

1. DIRECTED RETRIEVE

Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's ability to follow the handler's directions to retrieve a specific object.

Equipment Required

- Boat cushion and an approved life jacket
- The article placement and order will be determined by the judges prior to the start of the test and will be the same for each entrant at that WRDX level test.

Suggested Time Limit: 4 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The handler may not touch the dog while the dog is working.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The dog must not start the exercise before the handler's command.
- The articles may be repositioned if they are blown too far off the test site, as determined by the Lead Judge.
- The dog may exit the water at the closest point to land.
- The handler may move to any part of the defined shore test area to meet the dog when it returns to shore.
- The handler may not touch the article before delivery to hand.
- If the dog drops the article before delivery, the handler may command the dog to pick it up and deliver it to hand.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore at the approximate midpoint of the defined shore test area.
- The Lead Judge will signal to the Rowing Steward to row across the test site at the 15 metre (50 foot) mark to a position pre-determined by the Lead Judge.
- The Boat Steward will quietly place the articles about 15 metres (50 feet) apart on the shore side of the boat. Placement of the articles shall be the same for all entrants.
- The Lead Judge will tell the handler which article is to be retrieved first.
- After the boat has left the area, the Lead Judge will ask the handler: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.
- The handler and dog may now move to any area of the test site.
- Following the handler's direction, the dog enters the water, swims out, retrieves the first article, and returns it to the handler. Delivery must be to hand.
- If desired, the handler and dog may then move to another part of the test site to mark the dog on the second object.
- The handler commands the dog to swim out, retrieve the second article and return it to the handler. Delivery must be to hand.
- When the handler has the second article in hand, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished".

Failing Performance

- Handler touched the dog while working
- Dog started the exercise before the handler's command
- Handler entered the water
- Handler touched the article before delivery to hand
- Dog retrieved the wrong article
- Dog did not retrieve both articles
- Dog did not deliver the articles to hand
- Dog left the water without retrieving an article
- Dog left the shore test area

2. CARRY LINE/TOW BOAT

Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's willingness to cooperate in a rescue.

Equipment Required

- Bumper with attached line that is 2.5 to 4.5 metres (8 to 15 feet) in length, as determined by site and conditions, to allow the dog to safely deliver the bumper to the handler

Suggested Time Limit: 2 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The handler may not touch the dog while the dog is working.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The dog must not start the exercise before the handler's command.
- The dog must bring the line close enough to the boat for the steward to take hold without endangering himself or the boat.
- The handler may move to any part of the defined shore test area to meet the dog when it returns the line to the shore.
- If the dog drops the line at any point before delivery to hand, the handler may command the dog to pick it up and continue on to complete the exercise.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore.
- The Rowing Steward will row out to the 23 metre (75 foot) mark to a position pre-determined by the Lead Judge and the same for all entrants.
- The Lead Judge will ask the handler: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.

- The Lead Judge will signal the Boat Steward (who must be a stranger to the dog) to attract the dog's attention by calling for help and encouraging the dog to come. The Boat Steward must not use the dog's name.
- The handler commands the dog to take the bumper, enter the water and swim close enough to the boat to deliver the line to the Boat Steward.
- When the Boat Steward has the line in hand, the dog will tow the boat to shore.
- The dog delivers the line to the handler who remains on shore. Delivery must be to hand.
- When the handler has the line in hand, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished."

Failing Performance

- Handler touched the dog while working
- Dog started the exercise before the handler's command
- Handler entered the water
- Dog did not take the line
- Dog did not deliver the line to the Boat Steward
- Dog did not deliver the line to the handler's hand
- Dog left the water before completing the exercise
- Dog left the shore test area

3. DIVE FROM BOAT TO RESCUE A STRANGER

Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's willingness to rescue a human in distress.

Equipment Required

- If the dog has been trained to rescue by grasping the swimmer's arm, the handler must supply the Drowning Steward with arm protection. The type of protection must not be construed as a training aid for the dog.

Suggested Time Limit: 2 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The dog must not start the exercise before the handler's command.
- The handler may wade into the water to board the boat.
- The handler may help stabilize the boat with his/her hands if the dog is boarding the boat in rough water conditions.
- The dog must board the boat willingly and ride out in a safe manner that does not endanger the boat, the stewards, or the handler.
- The dog and handler may touch while on the boat platform, but the handler may not physically restrain or manipulate the dog.
- The handler's feet may be in the water while sitting on the platform.
- The Equipment Steward will receive and hold the dog until the handler returns if the dog brings the Drowning Steward to shore.
- Rowing time will not be counted in the overall time.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore.
- The Lead Judge will ask the handler: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.
- The handler and dog move to the boat and board the platform.
- The Rowing Steward rows the team out to the 15 metre (50 foot) mark to a position pre-determined by the Lead Judge and the same for all entrants.
- The Rowing Steward turns the boat parallel to the shore with the platform facing the Drowning Steward.
- At the same time as the boat is rowing out, the Drowning Steward (who must be a stranger to the dog) swims out to the 15 metre (50 foot) mark, positions themselves 7.5 to 9 metres (25 to 30 feet) from the boat, and turns to face the platform.

- At a signal from the Lead Judge, the Drowning Steward will then splash, and otherwise indicate that a rescue is needed.
- Following the handler's direction, the dog dives from the boat, swims directly to the Drowning Steward and either grasps the Drowning Steward by the arm or allows the Drowning Steward to take hold.
- The dog then tows the Drowning Steward either to the boat, or to the shore.
- When the Drowning Steward touches the boat or grasps the handler's hand and raises their free arm in the air, or, if the dog takes the Drowning Steward to shore, when the Drowning Steward has reached wading depth and stands up, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished."

Failing Performance

- Dog started the exercise before the handler's command
- Dog did not willingly board the boat in a timely manner
- Dog endangered the handler and stewards on the boat
- Dog did not dive from the boat in a timely manner
- Dog did not swim directly to the Drowning Steward
- Dog did not grasp the Drowning Steward or allow the Drowning Steward to take hold
- Dog did not take the Drowning Steward to shore or to the boat
- Dog left the water before completing the exercise
- Dog left the shore test area

4. DIFFERENTIATED RESCUE

Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's ability to know when rescue is indicated, and to perform such a rescue.

Equipment Required

- Life ring with a 1 to 1.5 metre (3 to 5 foot) line attached.
- The line may be knotted, as this demonstrates the dog's ability to use any available equipment in an emergency situation. However, if desired, the line may be tied to a bumper to facilitate carrying.

Suggested Time Limit: 2 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The handler may not touch the dog while the dog is working.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The dog must not start the exercise before the handler's command.
- If the dog drops the line at any point before delivery to the Drowning Steward Victim, the handler may command the dog to pick it up and continue on to complete the exercise.
- The dog may tow the Drowning Steward Victim to the closest point to land.
- The handler may move to any part of the defined test area to meet the dog when the dog and the Drowning Steward Victim return to shore.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore at the approximate midpoint of the shore test area.
- The team waits in that position while three Drowning Stewards enter the water, swim out to the 23 metre (75 foot) mark, and space themselves 9 metres (30 feet) apart, as indicated by markers on shore.
- One Drowning Steward (the same for each dog) will be selected as the "victim" by the Lead

Judge prior to the start of the exercise. The position of the Drowning Steward Victim shall be the same for each dog.

- Once the Drowning Stewards are in position, the Lead Judge will ask the handler: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.
- The handler and dog may now move to any part of the defined shore test area.
- The Lead Judge will signal the Drowning Steward Victim to indicate that rescue is needed by splashing and calling for help.
- The other two Drowning Stewards will quietly tread water and turn to face the Drowning Steward Victim.
- The handler then gives the line with the life ring attached to the dog and commands the dog to deliver the ring to the Drowning Steward who is calling for help.
- The dog must carry the life ring close enough to the Drowning Steward Victim so that the Drowning Steward Victim may grasp the life ring, line, or the dog.
- The dog then tows the Drowning Steward Victim to shore.
- When the Drowning Steward Victim reaches wading depth and stands up, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished".

Failing Performance

- Handler touched the dog while working
- Dog started the exercise before the handler's command
- Handler entered the water
- Dog did not take the line
- Dog delivered the line to the wrong Drowning Steward
- Life ring, line, or dog were unreachable by the Drowning Steward Victim
- Dog did not tow the Drowning Steward Victim to wading depth
- Dog left the water before completing the exercise
- Dog left the shore test area

5. SUBMERGED RETRIEVE

Purpose: To demonstrate the Newfoundland Dog's instinct to dive underwater to retrieve an object.

Equipment Required

- One or two objects that are sufficiently weighted so that they sink directly to the bottom. The articles need not be identical.
- The object(s) shall be no more than 10 centimetres (4 inches) in height.

Suggested Time Limit: 3 minutes

- The Time Steward will notify the Lead Judge when the suggested time limit has been reached. The Lead Judge may extend the time limit at their discretion.

General Instructions

- The handler may not touch the dog while the dog is working.
- The handler may give verbal encouragement and/or extra commands while the dog is working.
- The dog must not start the exercise before the handler's command.
- The dog may move in any direction around the object and paw to locate it but must remain at belly depth.
- The Lead Judge may call off the retrieve if the dog moves the object and it is no longer at belly depth. The Lead Judge will then instruct the handler to re-throw the object at the correct depth.
- If the dog cannot locate the object, the handler may re-throw the object as often as desired during the 3-minute time limit. Each throw must be at the dog's belly depth, at least 1 metre (3 feet) in front of the dog, and parallel to shore.
- If the object becomes lost in the water, the handler may use a different object.
- The handler may stand in any position to the dog during this test but must not block the view of the judges.

Qualifying Performance

- The handler and dog wait on shore.
- The Lead Judge will ask the handler: "Are you ready?"
- The handler must have hands off the dog and the dog's collar before indicating that they are ready to start the exercise.
- Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Lead Judge will instruct the handler to proceed.
- The handler and dog enter the water and wade out until the dog is at belly depth. The Lead Judge will indicate to the handler by voice, whistle, or signal when they have reached the required depth.
- The dog and handler will then turn so they are parallel to the shore.
- The handler tosses the object at least 1 metre (3 feet) in front of the dog and commands the dog to retrieve the object.
- The dog moves toward the spot where the object entered the water, submerges its head, picks up the object, and delivers it to hand.
- When the handler raises the object over his/her head to indicate that the object has been retrieved, the Lead Judge will say: "Exercise finished".

Failing Performance

- Handler touched the dog while working
- Dog started the exercise before the handler's command
- Dog refused to pick up the object
- Dog did not deliver the object to hand
- Dog left the shore test area

Duties of Stewards at Water Rescue Tests

- All stewards must be familiar with the NDCC Water Rescue Test rules and regulations.
- While it is ideal to have the same steward(s) for all entrants, in order to avoid a conflict, substitutions for stewards are necessary in the following situations:
 - If the Boat Steward or Drowning Steward is an immediate family member of the handler
 - If the Boat Steward or Drowning Steward has trained/handled an entered dog within three months prior to the day of the test
- Stewards may not give advice or assist the teams in such a way as to affect their performance.
- Stewards are required to supply their own approved life jacket and are required to wear appropriate footwear that is secure and protects the foot on shore and in the water.
- Experienced stewards are preferred, but if none are available, it is advisable to hold a training seminar before a test.
- There should be a Rowing Steward and a Boat Steward acting as ballast for all exercises in which the handler and dog are on the boat platform.

Chief Steward

CHIEF STEWARD GENERAL DUTIES

- Assists judges as directed and supervises all other stewards.
- Ensures that all stewards at the water site are wearing approved flotation devices and appropriate footwear.
- Supervises the water site, particularly with regard to the safety of everyone present.
- Ensures that only the judge(s), necessary stewards, test officials, and the current handler and dog are on the test site.
- During the test, ensures that Test Evaluation forms are available and ready for the judge(s).
- Ensures that a steward is available if the judges wish to confer about a test-related issue and the judges indicate that a steward's presence is needed.

CHIEF STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES

- Ensures the handler's equipment is in order and easily accessible so as not to slow down the exercises.
- Ensures the handler is wearing a life jacket and appropriate footwear.
- Calls each handler in order by their assigned number and ensures that the judge has the appropriate Test Evaluation form.
- Takes the leash as the dog and handler enter the shore test area.
- Ensures that the next handler is standing by.

CHIEF STEWARD GENERAL DUTIES FOR WRDN & WRD CONTROL EXERCISES

Performs, or assigns another steward to perform, the following duties:

- Ensures the dog has an appropriate collar/leash and the handler has no inappropriate accoutrements (bait bag etc.)
- Closes the gate once the team has entered the ring and opens the gate at the end of the exercises.
- Determines whether extra stewards are needed around the outside of the ring.

CHIEF STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRDN CONTROL EXERCISES

Performs, or assigns another steward to perform, the following duties:

- Ensures dogs are ready at ringside for the Thirty Second Down exercise.
- Is prepared to lend assistance during the Thirty Second Down exercise (escapees, etc.)

CHIEF STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRD CONTROL EXERCISES

Performs, or assigns another steward to perform, the following duties:

- Takes the leash from the handler at the gate and returns the leash at the end of the exercise.
- Is prepared to lend assistance during the One Minute Down exercise (escapees, etc.)

CHIEF STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRDN WATER EXERCISES

Water Exercise #1 – Simple Retrieve

- Enquires if the handler wants the Designated Throwing Steward to throw the bumper and informs the steward and the Lead Judge accordingly.
- Ensures that the Designated Throwing Steward understands the requirements of the exercise.

CHIEF STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRD WATER EXERCISES

Water Exercise #1 – Simple Retrieve

- Enquires if the handler wants the Designated Throwing Steward to throw the bumper and informs the steward and the Lead Judge accordingly.
 - ☐ Ensures that the Designated Throwing Steward understands the requirements of the exercise.

Water Exercise #3 – Tow a Boat

- Enquires if the handler wishes to use the dog's retrieving bumper with the tow line and informs the Equipment Steward accordingly.

Water Exercise #4 – Take a Line

- Enquires if the handler wishes to use the dog's retrieving bumper with the 23 metre (75 foot) line and informs the Equipment Steward accordingly.

Time Steward

TIME STEWARD GENERAL DUTIES

- Assists the Equipment Steward with duties as required.
- Is available to assist with a rescue if necessary.
- Assists the Chief Steward in controlling the water site.

TIME STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES

- Times all exercises from the moment the Lead Judge tells the handler to begin.
- Gives the elapsed time if it is requested by a judge.

Equipment Steward

EQUIPMENT STEWARD GENERAL DUTIES

- Upon entry of the handler and dog into the shore test area, the Equipment Steward takes all the handler's equipment except for the retrieving bumper and stores it until needed.

EQUIPMENT STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRDN WATER EXERCISES

Water Exercise #1- Simple Retrieve

- When the exercise is completed, the Equipment Steward returns the retrieving bumper to the handler.

Water Exercise #2 - Marked Retrieve

- The Equipment Steward gives the Boat Steward the appropriate bumper or life jacket as determined by the Lead Judge.
- When the exercise is completed, the Equipment Steward collects the article from the Boat Steward.

Water Exercise #3 – Boat Safety

- The Equipment Steward assists in stabilizing the boat as the dog and handler are boarding.

Water Exercise #4 – Swim Out to Victim

- The Equipment Steward or a designate, should be prepared to assist the Rowing Steward and Boat Steward if someone in the water is in danger.

Water Exercise #5 – Swim Out to Boat

- The Equipment Steward gives the Boat Steward the handler's bumper/line.
- When the exercise is completed, the Equipment Steward assists the handler in gathering up their equipment.

EQUIPMENT STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRD WATER EXERCISES

Water Exercise #1 – Simple Retrieve

- When the exercise is completed, the Equipment Steward returns the retrieving bumper to the handler unless it is needed in Exercise #3 and/or #4.

Water Exercise #2 - Marked Retrieve

- The Equipment Steward gives the Boat Steward the appropriate boat cushion or life jacket, as determined by the Lead Judge, along with the line for Exercise #3. The Equipment Steward ensures that the bumper is attached to the line if requested by the handler.

Water Exercise #3 – Tow a Boat

- When the exercise is completed, the Equipment Steward collects the equipment from the Boat Steward.

Water Exercise #4 - Take a Line

- The Equipment Steward has the appropriate line laid out in advance and, if requested, attaches the handler's bumper.
- When giving the line to the handler, the Equipment Steward offers the handler the opportunity to check the attachment of the bumper, or to attach the bumper themselves.
- As the dog carries the line out, the Equipment Steward helps feed the line, if necessary, to ensure that the line does not get snagged.
- The Equipment Steward or a designate, should be prepared to assist the Rowing Steward and Boat Steward if someone in the water is in danger.

Water Exercise #5 - Swim with Handler

- Since the handler is in the water during this exercise, the Equipment Steward or a designate should be prepared to assist and/or rescue the handler if either dog or handler's safety is endangered e.g., if the dog climbs up on the handler and causes the handler's head to go underwater.
- If suspecting a life-threatening situation, the Equipment Steward should act immediately. It

is better to err on the side of safety; the judge(s) can permit the exercise to be repeated if they feel that the Equipment Steward intervened inappropriately.

- When the exercise is completed, the Equipment Steward assists the handler in gathering up their equipment and then collects the equipment for the next entrant.

EQUIPMENT STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRDX WATER EXERCISES

Water Exercise #1 – Directed Retrieve

- The Equipment Steward gives the Boat Steward the life jacket and boat cushion.

Water Exercise #2 – Carry Line/Tow Boat

- When the exercise is completed, the Equipment Steward collects the retrieve articles from the Boat Steward and gives the Boat Steward the next entrant's bumper/line.

Water Exercise #3 – Dive from Boat to Rescue a Stranger

- The Equipment Steward gives the Drowning Steward the handler's arm protection, if needed.
- The Equipment Steward assists in stabilizing the boat as the dog and handler are boarding.
- If the dog tows the Drowning Steward to shore, the Equipment Steward receives and holds the dog until the handler returns.

Water Exercise #4 – Differentiated Rescue

- The Equipment Steward gives the handler the life ring with attached line and/or bumper.

Water Exercise #5 – Submerged Retrieve

- The Equipment Steward gives the handler his/her weighted objects.
- When the exercise is completed, the Equipment Steward assists the handler in gathering up their equipment.

Rowing Steward

ROWING STEWARD GENERAL DUTIES

- The Rowing Steward should be an experienced rower who can row backwards, forwards, in circles, and can keep the boat in place.
- It is the duty of the Rowing Steward to be attentive and to be in the proper position for each of the Water Exercises in order to keep the test moving forward in a timely manner.
- The Rowing Steward works closely with the Boat Steward and is responsible for the safety of self, the Boat Steward, and the boat.
- The Rowing Steward should be available to assist in any life-threatening situation in or around the water site.

ROWING STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRDN WATER EXERCISES

Exercise #2 - Marked Retrieve

- After the Boat Steward has received the life jacket or bumper from the Equipment Steward and has boarded the boat, the Rowing Steward rows out to the 9 metre (30 foot) mark to a position outside the defined test area, turns, and faces parallel to shore.
- At the Lead Judge's signal, the Rowing Steward quietly rows across the test area to a position pre-determined by the Lead Judge so that the Boat Steward can place the article in the water on the shore side of the boat. Placement of the article shall be the same for all entrants.
- The Rowing Steward continues rowing until the boat has exited the test area on the other side.
- If the dog did not retrieve, when the exercise is completed, the Lead Judge will signal the Rowing Steward to row to the article so the Boat Steward can pick it up.

Exercise #3 - Boat Safety

- The Rowing Steward rows the boat to shore with the platform facing shore.
- Once the dog and handler are safely on the platform and the Boat Steward is seated in the bow of the boat, the Rowing Steward rows out

to the 15 metre (50 foot) mark, turns, and returns to shore.

- When nearing the shore, the Rowing Steward positions the boat with the platform facing the shore so the dog and handler can safely exit.

Exercise #4 – Swim Out to Victim

- The Rowing Steward or a designate, should be prepared to assist the Boat Steward and the Equipment Steward if someone in the water is in danger.

Exercise #5 - Swim Out to Boat

- After the Boat Steward has received the bumper/line from the Equipment Steward and has boarded the boat, the Rowing Steward rows out to the 15 metre (50 foot) mark to a position pre-determined by the Lead Judge and the same for all entrants.
- The Rowing Steward then turns the boat and faces the bow to shore.
- If possible, the Rowing Steward ships the oars, but the boat must not be allowed to drift out of the defined test area, or further than 15 metres (50 feet) from shore.
- Once the dog starts to tow the boat, the Rowing Steward ships the oars, sits quietly, and allows the boat to gently touch bottom if conditions allow.
- If the dog drops the bumper/line and continues to swim to shore, the Rowing Steward will follow the dog to shore.
- When the Lead Judge indicates that the exercise is finished, the Rowing Steward rows quietly out of the area.

ROWING STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRD WATER EXERCISES

Exercise #2 - Marked Retrieve

- After the Boat Steward has received the line and the article to be retrieved from the Equipment Steward and has boarded the boat, the Rowing Steward rows out to the 15 metre (50 foot) mark to a position outside the defined test area, turns, and faces parallel to shore.
- At the Lead Judge's signal, the Rowing Steward quietly rows across the test area to a position pre-determined by the Lead Judge so that the Boat Steward can place the article in the water on the seaward side of the boat. Placement of the article shall be the same for all entrants.
- The Rowing Steward continues rowing until the boat has exited the test area on the other side and remains there until the exercise is finished.
- If the dog did not retrieve, when the exercise is completed, the Lead Judge will signal the Rowing Steward to row to the article so the Boat Steward can pick it up.

Exercise #3 – Tow a Boat

- With the Boat Steward on board, the Rowing Steward rows to the 23 metre (75 foot) mark to a position pre-determined by the Lead Judge and the same for all entrants and faces the boat to shore.
- If possible, the Rowing Steward ships the oars, but the boat must not be allowed to drift out of the defined test area, or further than 23 metres (75 feet) from shore.
- Once the dog starts to tow the boat, the Rowing Steward ships the oars, sits quietly, and allows the boat to gently touch bottom if conditions allow.
- When the Lead Judge indicates that the exercise is finished, the Rowing Steward rows quietly out of the area and tries to be out of the dog's sight.

Exercise #4 - Take a Line

- The Rowing Steward watches the Drowning Stewards while they are in the water and is prepared to come to their assistance if they are in danger e.g., the dog climbs on a steward or tangles the rope around a steward.

Exercise #5 - Swim with Handler

- The Rowing Steward watches the handler while he/she is in the water and is prepared to assist the Equipment Steward and Boat Steward in rescuing the handler if he/she is in danger.

ROWING STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRDX WATER EXERCISES

Exercise #1 - Directed Retrieve

- After the Boat Steward has received the life jacket and boat cushion from the Equipment Steward and has boarded the boat, the Rowing Steward rows to the 15 metre (50 foot) mark to a position outside the defined test area, turns, and faces parallel to shore.
- At the Lead Judge's signal, the Rowing Steward quietly rows across the test area to a position pre-determined by the Lead Judge so that the Boat Steward can place the two articles in the water on the shore side of the boat. Placement of the articles shall be the same for all entrants.
- The Rowing Steward continues rowing until the boat has exited the test area on the other side and remains there until the exercise is finished.
- If the dog did not retrieve one or both articles, when the exercise is completed, the Lead Judge will signal the Rowing Steward to row to the article(s) so the Boat Steward can pick it/them up.

Exercise #2 - Carry Line/Tow Boat

- With the Boat Steward on board, the Rowing Steward rows to the 23 metre (75 foot) mark to a position pre-determined by the Lead Judge and the same for all entrants and faces the boat to shore.
- If possible, the Rowing Steward ships the oars, but the boat must not be allowed to drift out of the defined test area, or further than 23 metres (75 feet) from shore.
- When the dog has delivered the line to the Boat Steward and begins to tow the boat to shore, the Rowing Steward ships the oars, sits quietly, and allows the boat to gently touch bottom if conditions allow.

Exercise #3 - Dive from Boat to Rescue a Stranger

- With the Boat Steward seated in the bow of the boat and the dog and handler on the boat platform, the Rowing Steward rows out to the 15 metre (50 foot) mark to a position pre-determined by the Lead Judge and the same for all entrants and turns the boat parallel to the shore with the platform facing the Drowning Steward.
- The Rowing Steward maintains that position until the exercise is completed.
- When the Lead Judge indicates that the exercise is finished, the Rowing Steward returns the handler to shore.
- The Rowing Steward rows the boat out of the test area for the remainder of the exercises.

Boat Steward(s)

BOAT STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRDN WATER EXERCISES

Water Exercise #2 – Marked Retrieve

- The Boat Steward obtains the appropriate bumper or life jacket, as determined by the Lead Judge, from the Equipment Steward and boards the boat.
- The Rowing Steward rows to the position predetermined by the Lead Judge. The Boat Steward places the article in the water on the shore side of the boat so the handler and dog can see it, and then marks the object by splashing before leaving. Placement of the article shall be the same for all entrants.
- If the dog did not retrieve, when the exercise is completed, the Lead Judge will signal the Rowing Steward to row to the article so the Boat Steward can pick it up.
- The Boat Steward then returns the article to the Equipment Steward.

Water Exercise #3 – Boat Safety

- The Boat Steward sits in the bow of the boat to provide counterbalance for the handler and dog on the platform.

Water Exercise #4 – Swim Out to Victim

- The Boat Steward or a designate, should be prepared to assist the Rowing Steward and Equipment Steward if someone in the water is in danger.

Water Exercise #5 – Swim Out to Boat

- The Boat Steward asks for the dog's name before the exercise starts.
- The Boat Steward obtains the handler's bumper/line from the Equipment Steward and boards the boat.
- At the Lead Judge's signal, the Boat Steward attracts the dog's attention by whatever means necessary to encourage the dog to come to the boat. The dog's name may be used.
- Once the dog is swimming towards the boat, the Boat Steward shows the dog the bumper and keeps the dog focused on it.
- The Boat Steward encourages the dog to come close enough to the boat to take hold of the bumper/line. The dog may turn to the front, or side, or circle around when picking up the bumper/line.
- Whether the dog takes the bumper/line or not, the Boat Steward stays silent on the return to shore so the handler can give the dog commands and encouragement.
- When the exercise is completed, if the dog did not take the bumper/line, the Boat Steward returns it to the Equipment Steward.

BOAT STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRD WATER EXERCISES

Water Exercise #2 - Marked Retrieve

- The Boat Steward obtains the appropriate boat cushion or life jacket, as determined by the Lead Judge, as well as the line used in Exercise #3 from the Equipment Steward and boards the boat.
- The Rowing Steward rows to the position predetermined by the Lead Judge. The Boat Steward gently places the article in the water on the seaward side of the boat. Placement of the article shall be the same for all entrants.
- If the dog did not retrieve, when the exercise is completed, the Lead Judge will signal the Rowing Steward to row to the article so the Boat Steward can pick it up.
- The Boat Steward then returns the article to the Equipment Steward after Exercise #3.

Water Exercise #3 - Tow a Boat

- At the Lead Judge's signal, the Boat Steward attracts the dog's attention by whatever means necessary to encourage the dog to come to the boat. The dog's name may not be used.
- Once the dog is swimming towards the boat, the Boat Steward shows the dog the bumper/line and keeps the dog focused on it.
- The Boat Steward encourages the dog to come close enough to the boat to take hold of the bumper/line. The dog may turn to the front, or side, or circle around when picking up the bumper/line.
- If the dog takes hold of the bumper incorrectly, the Boat Steward only intervenes if the dog is so entangled that he is in danger, or if the Lead Judge requests it.
- Once the dog is towing the boat towards shore, the Boat Steward stays silent so the handler can give the dog commands and encouragement.
- If the boat touches bottom as the dog is towing it, the Boat Steward lets out enough line for the dog to deliver the bumper to hand.
- When the exercise is completed, the Boat Steward returns the equipment to the entrant.

Water Exercises #4 – Take a Line

- The Boat Steward should be prepared to assist the Rowing Steward and Equipment Steward if someone in the water is in danger.

Water Exercise #5 – Swim with Handler

- The Boat Steward should be prepared to assist the Rowing Steward and Equipment Steward if someone in the water is in danger.
- When the exercise is completed, the Boat Steward collects equipment for the next entrant from the Equipment Steward.

BOAT STEWARD SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRDX WATER EXERCISES

Water Exercise #1 - Directed Retrieve

- The Boat Steward obtains the life jacket and boat cushion from the Equipment Steward and boards the boat.
- The Rowing Steward rows to the position predetermined by the Lead Judge. The Boat Steward places the two articles in the water about 15 metres (50 feet) apart on the shore side of the boat so the handler and dog can see them. Placement of the articles shall be the same for all entrants.
- If the dog did not retrieve one or both articles, when the exercise is completed, the Lead Judge will signal the Rowing Steward to row to the article(s) so the Boat Steward can pick it/them up.
- The article(s) will remain in the boat until the end of Exercise #2.

Water Exercise #2 - Carry Line/Tow Boat

- At the Lead Judge's signal, the Boat Steward attracts the dog's attention by whatever means necessary to encourage the dog to come to the boat. The dog's name may not be used.
- The Boat Steward encourages the dog to come close enough to the boat to take hold of the bumper/line. The dog may turn to the front or side, or circle around when delivering the bumper/line.
- When the dog has carried the line close enough for the Boat Steward to reach it, the Boat Steward takes hold of the line so the dog can tow the boat to shore. The Boat Steward stays silent so the handler can give the dog commands and encouragement.
- When the exercise is completed, the Boat Steward returns the retrieve articles to the Equipment Steward and collects the next entrant's bumper/line from the Equipment Steward.

Water Exercise #3 - Dive from Boat to Rescue a Stranger

- The Boat Steward sits in the bow of the boat to provide counterbalance for the handler and dog on the platform.

Drowning Steward

DROWNING STEWARD(S)

The Drowning Steward(s) must be a stranger to the dog being tested.

DROWNING STEWARD(S) SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRDN WATER EXERCISES

Exercise #4 - Swim Out to Victim

- Before entering the water, the Drowning Steward receives direction from the handler to either follow the dog to shore or allow the dog to tow him/her.
- The Drowning Steward briefly greets the dog upon entering the water and asks for the dog's name.
- The Drowning Steward swims out to the 9 metre (30 foot) mark and turns to face the shore.

- At the signal from the Lead Judge, the Drowning Steward splashes and encourages the dog to complete the rescue. The dog's name may be used.
- The Drowning Steward encourages the dog to come close enough to touch. The dog may turn to the front or side, or circle around the Drowning Steward.
- The Drowning Steward may allow the dog to tow them back to shore, depending on the handler's direction.

DROWNING STEWARD(S) SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRD WATER EXERCISES

Exercise #4 - Take a Line

- The Drowning Steward swims out to the 15 metre (50 foot) mark and turns to face the shore.
- At the signal from the Lead Judge, the Drowning Steward splashes and encourages the dog to complete the rescue. The dog's name may not be used.
- The Drowning Steward encourages the dog to come close enough for him/her to take hold of the line. The dog may turn to the front or side, or circle around when delivering the line.
- The Drowning Steward reaches out to receive the line without changing position and does not swim to the dog or the line.
- Once the line is in hand, the Drowning Steward holds it up so that the Lead Judge can see it.

DROWNING STEWARD(S) SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR WRDX WATER EXERCISES

Exercise #3 - Dive from Boat to Rescue a Stranger

- If the dog has been trained to rescue by grasping the swimmer's arm, before entering the water, the Drowning Steward will obtain the handler's arm protection from the Equipment Steward.
- As the boat with the dog and handler is being rowed out, the Drowning Steward swims out to the 15 metre (50 foot) mark, then turns to face the boat.
- When the boat is in place, the Drowning Steward should be positioned 7.5 – 9 metres (25 - 30 feet) from the boat platform.

- At the signal from the Lead Judge, the Drowning Steward splashes and encourages the dog to complete the rescue. The dog's name may not be used.
- The Drowning Steward encourages the dog to come close enough for him/her to take hold. The dog may turn to the front or side, or circle around.
- When the dog is within reach, the Drowning Steward takes hold of the dog and allows the dog to tow him/her to either the boat or the shore.
- If the dog has been trained to grasp the Drowning Steward by the arm, the Drowning Steward allows the dog to take hold of their protected arm and tow him/her to either the boat or shore.
- If the dog tows the Drowning Steward to the boat, the Drowning Steward touches the boat or grasps the handler's extended hand and raises their free hand so the Lead Judge can see it.
- If the dog tows the Drowning Steward to shore, the Drowning Steward stands up when wading depth is reached.

Exercise #4 – Differentiated Rescue

- The Lead Judge will select one of the three Drowning Stewards to be the "victim" before they enter the water.
- The three Drowning Stewards swim out to the 23 metre (75 foot) mark and space themselves approximately 9 metres (30 feet) apart.
- The position of the Drowning Steward Victim will be the same for each entrant.
- At a signal from the Lead Judge, the Drowning Steward Victim will indicate that rescue is needed by splashing and calling for help. The dog's name may not be used.
- The remaining two Drowning Stewards quietly tread water and turn to face the Drowning Steward Victim.
- The Drowning Steward Victim encourages the dog to come close enough for him/her to take hold of the life ring, the line, or the dog. The dog may turn to the front or side, or circle around when delivering the life ring/line.
- The Drowning Steward Victim allows the dog to tow him/her towards the shore.
- The Drowning Steward Victim stands up when wading depth is reached.

Appendix A – List of Forms

- ☐ Judges' Equipment Check
- ☐ Water Rescue Dog Novice Test Evaluation
- ☐ Water Rescue Dog Test Evaluation
- ☐ Water Rescue Dog Excellent Test Evaluation
- ☐ Water Rescue Dog Novice Test Judge's Records
- ☐ Water Rescue Dog Test Judge's Records
- ☐ Water Rescue Dog Excellent Test Judge's Records
- ☐ Water Rescue Test Application for Approval of Selected Judges
- ☐ Provisional Judge Evaluation
- ☐ Application for NDCC Provisional Water Rescue Test Judge

Appendix B – Eligibility Requirements: New Judge Applicants

PROVISIONAL JUDGES

Provisional Judge Applicant

The applicant must meet all of the following requirements before an application to become a Provisional Water Rescue Test judge is considered:

- (a) Must be eighteen years of age or older
- (b) Active membership in the NDCC for one year, or NCA membership if a US resident.
- (c) Must have within five (5) years preceding the application completed a Water Rescue Dog title or higher.
- (d) Must have within five (5) years preceding the application stewarded at a Water Rescue Test with at least one WRD and one WRDX participant, in a functional capacity that requires a knowledge of the actual rescue exercises, i.e. drowning, boat stewarding, equipment steward for each entrant.
- (e) Must have a history of participation. i.e. helping out at practice sessions, stewarding and helping put on training events and seminars.

The applicant must submit a completed application with all the pertinent documentation to the NDCC Events Chair. All experience must be documented in the form of written confirmation from the hosting club or judges and will be verified.

The NDCC Events Chair will notify applicants once their application has been approved and their name has been added to the NDCC Provisional Judges List.

An Accredited Judge who has been a judge for at least three years and has judged at least two tests in the past five years may be paired with a Provisional Judge. The test committee must ascertain these credentials when forming their judges panel.

Provisional Judging

- ☐ The Provisional Judge must judge within three (3) years under two (2) different Accredited judges at NDCC Water Rescue Tests with at least one dog in each WRD & WRDX levels and receive favourable reports to advance to Accredited Judge status.
- ☐ A Provisional Judge will only be paired with an experienced Accredited Judge as noted on the list. This will, in effect, be their "apprenticeship".
- ☐ A Provisional Judge will inspect and approve both the land test area and the water test area.
- ☐ A Provisional Judge will participate in all briefings of exhibitors at all levels and answer questions about the rules.

- A Provisional Judge makes decisions unto themselves at a test, and when on site paperwork is completed, discussion with the Accredited Judge to verify their markings may be undertaken at that time. The Accredited Judge will complete the Evaluation form and forward to the NDCC Events Chair.
- The Provisional Judge must complete judging at two Water Rescue Tests and have a history of participation. i.e. helping out at practice sessions, stewarding and helping put on training events and seminars to be granted Accredited judge status.
- ☐ The name of a person who has successfully completed the provisional judging requirements, will be added to the list of Accredited Judges in accordance with the above requirements.

Water Rescue Test Forms