



## ***Trialling – the Unwritten Rules (and some written ones)***

1. ***Before you can enter a Tracking Trial*** you **MUST** be a member of DogsWest and register your dog with them. This takes a while, so if you do want to enter a trial, apply at least a month before the trial you plan to enter. For further information and the forms you need, go to the DogsWest website: [www.dogswest.com](http://www.dogswest.com). If you own a pedigreed dog that you bought “with papers” your dog will already be registered with DogsWest but you will still need to join.

2. ***If you plan to handle another person’s dog*** (i.e. you are not the registered owner) in a Trial, you must also join DogsWest. However, you may join as a Handler Member which is a bit cheaper.

3. **When you enter a Tracking Trial**, you must complete an entry form (available on the TrackWest website). The important word is **complete**. Make sure that you have the following:

**Dog’s name:** This is the name that is on his DogsWest registration certificate ( not his pet name)

**Breed:** As per DogsWest certificate but if it simply says ‘Associate’, put the breed (e.g. Labrador X) in brackets as well.

**Name of owner(s).**

**Dog’s DOGSWEST registration number and your DogsWest registration number.** His Council Registration number or Microchip number isn’t good enough !

**The track that you are entering for.** Trial Secretaries should not be expected to chase you up to find out (nor are they proficient at crystal ball gazing).

**The name of someone who has agreed to lay a track on the day.** This applies to Track & Search in particular but also to Tracking – we may have to refuse entry if you do not name a tracklayer that we can use. **Make sure that you ask the person named if they are available. Try not to “double-up” by naming someone that others have also named.**

**It is recommended that you do NOT nominate as a tracklayer someone who**

- **Is themselves competing.**
- **Has been nominated by another competitor.**
- **Yourself.**

After all that, don’t forget to **sign the form !**

4. **Trial entries have a CLOSE BY date**, two weeks before the trial. This date is the very last day that entries must be with the Trial Secretary. ***Late entries will not be accepted.*** Entries can be put in an envelope and placed in the box at training. If you post an entry, please email the Trial Secretary that you have done so (posted entries have been known to take up to 10 days to arrive). Entries can also be emailed to the Trial Secretary and payment made direct to TrackWest.



5. ***Trial Etiquette.***

a) If you are entered and something happens that you are not able to trial, let the Trial Secretary know ***as soon as possible***. If your judge has not yet flagged your track, we usually hold your entry over until the next trial. If the judge has flagged the track, they still need to know you won't be there because it will affect their organisation for the day.

b) **It is your responsibility to be at Base Camp by 7.45 am.** If, for some unavoidable reason (such as held up behind a car crash), you are running late on the day contact someone (preferably the Trial Secretary) *as soon as you know*. If the judge knows that you will be late, they may be able to re-arrange their timetable.

c) You should stay until presentations are finished, whether you have qualified or not. If you have qualified, you will need to collect your Qualifying Card. If you haven't, your support of those who have qualified is appreciated and their support of you can make the day much less of a disappointment.

d) If you pass a track at a Trial held by another Club after the closing date of a TrackWest Trial for which you have entered, you are entitled to ask for your track to be upgraded to the next one. Notify the Trial Secretary as soon as possible.

However: **any upgrade is at the Judge's discretion. Judges spend many hours setting up their tracks and it is not always feasible to alter tracks that have already been flagged. That said, a request for upgrade will be met if it can reasonably be done.**

***And a few points for tracklayers:***

1. Articles should be socks or gloves, should be dark-coloured and able to fit in a normal sized pocket.

2. Articles should be on your person for at least 30 minutes before you walk the track – this means in your pocket or down your front, not on the back seat of the car.

3. If you can't come or if you are running late, **LET SOMEONE KNOW**. Contact the Trial Secretary, preferably on the night before the trial at the latest. If you are held up on the day, contact the Trial Secretary as soon as possible. Failing that, contact the person who nominated you as tracklayer. Contact numbers are on the Information Sheet you are sent just before the Trial. However, **it is your responsibility to be at Base Camp by 7.45 am on Trial day.**