

INTERNATIONAL ELK HUNTING TRIAL RULES

1 PURPOSE OF THE TRIAL

The objective of elk hunting trials is to study and test the elk hunting ability of dogs for purposes of breeding selection, to maintain elk hunting as a high quality dog sport, to develop the skills and cooperation of people active in the sport, and to create possibilities for competition based on these rules.

2 TRIAL TYPES

Elk hunting trials may be

1. General
2. Trials and competitions between members of a club
3. International trials
4. Trials and competitions regulated by a separate set of rules or instructions.

3 ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE, AND LIMITATIONS

The following breeds are eligible to participate in elk hunting trials: Finnish Spitz, Karelian Bear Dog, Norrbottensspitz, Grey & Black Norwegian Elkhound, Swedish White Elkhound, Swedish Elkhound (Jämthund), Hälleforsdog, Russian-European Laika, East Siberian Laika and West Siberian Laika.

Dogs participating in trials must be registered, ID marked and vaccinated as specified by the applicable regulations, and at least nine (9) months of age.

Participation is not allowed in the following cases:

- the dog is sick,
- bitches 30 days or less prior to estimated time of whelping, or less than 42 days after whelping,
- dog does not meet the valid anti-doping regulations,
- possible other trial-specific limitations apply.

The organiser of a trial has the right to limit the number of participants in accordance with valid regulations.

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

4 INELIGIBILITY OF JUDGES DUE TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF BIAS

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

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

5 GRANTING THE PERMISSION TO ARRANGE A TRIAL

These rules shall be applied in all elk hunting trials granted by the FCI, the Finnish Kennel Club or its local sections. The FCI grants the international trials. The Finnish Kennel Club grants the permission for national championship trials and qualifying trials for these, and competitions between countries. The local kennel districts grant the general and local trials.

6 APPLYING

6.1 Applicant and organiser

The organiser applies for permission to arrange a trial; the organiser must be either a local club that is a member of the Finnish Kennel Club, or a kennel district.

The organising club is responsible for all tasks included in arranging a trial.

6.2 Term of application

The applications for trials must be submitted to the Finnish Kennel Club by the specified application dates.

6.3 Content of application

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

6.4 Submitting the application

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

6.5 Information about a trial

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

7 CHANGING THE DATE OR CANCELLING A GENERAL TRIAL

The valid regulations of the Finnish Kennel Club shall apply.

8 CHIEF JUDGE AND DEPUTY CHIEF JUDGE

The chief judge must be an accredited elk hunting trial judge, with a valid judging licence. The authorisation of foreign judges must be verified.

The chief judge must be a member of the Finnish Kennel Club and of any one of the elk hunting breed associations.

9 FIELD JUDGES

All field judges must be accredited elk hunting trial judges, with a valid judging licence. This also applies to any foreign judges.

The judge acting as group judge must be a member of the Finnish Kennel Club or any of the elk hunting breed associations; the other judge in the group must be a member of the Finnish Kennel Club or any of its member clubs.

The second judge in a group may also be a trainee.

10 ENTERING A TRIAL

10.1 Entering

The organising club decides how participants are to enter their dogs to a trial.

10.2 Absence from a trial

If a dog entered to a trial does not participate, the paid entry fee shall only be refunded in case the dog or handler has fallen ill, or in case the temperature is outside the limits specified by the Finnish Kennel Club. If an entered dog is not going to participate, the organising club must be informed of the situation before the start of the trial.

11 EVALUATION

The grounds for judging and evaluation are stated in the judging guidelines attached to these rules.

12 TRIAL CLASSES AND DEFINITIONS

12.1 Trial classes

Elk hunting trial is a one-day, one-class trial.

12.2 Definitions

- Dog's owner/handler decides to withdraw before the trial is over
shall be evaluated, reported and points given; result and final points are 0 Withdrawn
- Judge interrupts a dog's performance in a trial
shall be evaluated as normal, points are given and the final result calculated Interrupted
- The dog is barred from participating
shall be evaluated and points are given; result and final points are 0 Barred
- The dog's performance is disqualified by a judge during the trial
shall not be evaluated; result and total points are 0 Disqualified

13. INJURY TO DOG

If a dog becomes injured, the trial must be interrupted. The judge makes the decision on possible interruption. Any results achieved prior to the injury shall remain in force.

14. RESPONSIBILITY

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

15 JUDGING

Points:

1. Searching	0–10 x 1.5	= 15
2. Efficiency in locating game	0–10 x 1	= 10
3. Bark to hold game at bay	0–10 x 1.5	= 15
4. Quality of bark	0–10 x 1.5	= 15
5. Following game	0–10 x 1	= 10
6. Stopping game	0–10 x 1	= 10
7. Bark time	0–10 x 0.5	= 5
8. Audibility of bark	0–10 x 0.5	= 5
9. Frequency and constancy of bark	0–10 x 0.5	= 5
10. Obedience and cooperation	0–10 x 1	= 10
Total points		100

Any erroneous action by the dog shall be noted in the field report.

The final result is the total sum of achieved points.

Prizes

For the first prize the dog must get a total of 70 points or higher, for the second prize 60 points, and for the third prize 50 points.

In a trial, the number of first, second and third prizes is not limited; it is determined by the results achieved by the participating dogs.

The results of a trial are considered final when all participating dogs have completed their trial, the trial report has been signed and the results published.

Detailed grounds for judging and evaluation are given in the judging guidelines.

16 TRIAL RESULTS

16.1 Checking the results

The secretary of the trial shall check and verify all calculated points, ensures that the results are marked in the trial report form and field reports, and submits these without delay to the chief judge for verification. The chief judge checks and verifies the results.

16.2 Sending the results

The organising club sends the trial report and field reports, verified by the chief judge, to the party that granted the trial within one week of the end of the trial.

17 CHANGES TO THESE RULES

Changes to these rules must be approved by the general meeting of the appropriate breed clubs and proposed to the Finnish Kennel Club for approval. The same applies to guidelines and instructions complementing these rules.

18 COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS

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

19. SPECIAL CASES

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

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING AND EVALUATION

GENERAL

During a trial, the performance of each dog shall be evaluated solely based on what the field judges have been able to observe with certainty.

The shortest distance taken into account is 0.1 km, the shortest time taken into account is 1 minute.

If the working time is not full, the reason for this shall be indicated in the notes.

If two or more dogs get the same total points, their order is determined based on the following criteria:

1. longer working time
2. longer bark time
3. overall impression

Scale of points:

Excellent	9–10	p
Very good	7–8	p
Good	5–6	p
Satisfactory	3–4	p
Poor	1–2	p
Insufficient	0	p
Cannot be judged (-)	-	p

Points:

	Criteria	coefficient	points
1	Searching	1.5	0–10
2	Efficiency in locating game	1.0	0–10
3	Bark to hold game at bay	1.5	0–10
4	Quality of bark	1.0	0–10
5	Following game	1.0	0–10
6	Stopping game	1.0	0–10
7	Bark time	0.5	0–10
8	Audibility of bark	0.5	0–10
9	Frequency and constancy of bark	0.5	0–10
10	Obedience and cooperation	1.0	0–10

Taking the conditions into account

The judging criteria have been written for normal, good trial conditions. If the conditions are difficult (e.g. heavy rain, very strong wind, difficult terrain, thick snow), the chief judge shall give the necessary additional instructions for judging.

A trial period consists of

- search time (maximum: 360 minutes)
- working time (maximum 300 minutes) and
- taking the dog on the lead or attempting to recall it (as soon as the handler is permitted to recall the dog)

Search time

- maximum 6 hours; if the dog does not even attempt to locate game, the trial shall be interrupted after 60 minutes
- search time starts when the dog is first released off lead
- if the dog locates an elk so quickly after it was released that the field judge has too little time to evaluate its search work, searching may also be evaluated by releasing the dog again after it has worked an elk

Working time (maximum 300 minutes)

- working time begins from the moment when the dog locates the first elk
- working time includes
 - o the time when the dog is barking at an elk (steady or moving)
 - o the dog follows or tracks the elk if it breaks into a run
 - o the dog reports back to the handler and then continues to track the elk
- working time is interrupted when
 - o the dog leaves an elk (in stand or on the run) and returns to the handler
 - o the group observes that the dog has stopped working the elk and is instead finding its way to houses, roads, the car, etc. (a dog tracking system may be used to verify this)
 - o the dog stays with the group and does not immediately continue tracking the elk
- working time stops at the latest when 300 minutes have passed after the first elk was located
- working time stops at the latest 120 minutes after darkness has fallen
 - o darkness = field report cannot be filled without artificial light
 - o shooting would be impossible due to insufficient light

Taking the dog on lead, or attempting to do so

- the group shall try to get the dog on lead as soon as possible after the trial period is up
- if the dog cannot be recalled and taken on lead within a reasonable time (e.g. 1 hour), the group is required to return to the trial centre as instructed by the chief judge

Finding game

The dog is considered to have found game when

- the dog is barking at an elk
- the dog and elk are seen within close range of each other
- the find is observed from the dog tracking system and it can also be verified (e.g. dog continues to work the elk, clear tracks are found, etc.)

Field judges

The field judges evaluate the dogs' performance in groups of two; one of them, an experienced field judge, is named as the group judge.

Both field judges fill their event reports independently, indicating all events during the trial.

Trainee judges

In addition to the field judges, a group may include 1–2 trainee judges; their reports shall not be taken into account when evaluating the dog's performance.

Dog handler

If the dog's owner cannot participate in the trial, the owner is to name a handler for the dog, and the handler shall be considered as the authorised representative of the owner.

Trial area

A sufficiently large area must be reserved for each of the dogs participating in the trial. The organising committee must ensure that a sufficient number of field judges are available.

Before the trial begins, the chief judge in cooperation with the organising committee appoints field judges for each area, taking into account their ability to move in the area. If neither of the field judges is familiar with the area in question, a guide must also be named.

Allotment of trial areas

The trial areas shall be drawn by lot for all participating dogs. All trial areas must be located at a reasonable distance from the trial centre, so that the chief judge has the opportunity to visit each area and observe the operation of each field group in person if he so chooses.

Changing the allotted judge

If the field judge allotted to a group may be biased or other insurmountable problems appear, the chief judge may move field judges from one group to another even after the lot was drawn.

Report of events during a trial

The group judge shall explain the judging criteria and the events recorded during the trial to the dog handler already during the trial. After the trial period the group judge shall present the field reports to the dog handler so that the handler may read and sign them.

The group judge shall present the field reports of the group and give an oral report of trial events and evaluation criteria to the chief judge. The dog handler has the right to be present when the events occurred during the trial are discussed.

Changing the evaluation

The chief judge is to change the evaluation of the field judges, after discussing the situation with the judges, if the evaluation does not correctly reflect the dog's performance.

The field judges and chief judge shall verify the trial reports with their signatures.

Disqualifying

A dog's performance at a trial can be disqualified if

- the handler does not adhere to the rules or overlooks instructions given by the field judge or chief judge
- the dog does not meet all the criteria for participation (e.g. insufficient vaccinations)

Interrupting

Judging may be interrupted if

- the dog's life is in danger
- the elk is shot
- the elk moves outside the permitted trial area
- some other serious disturbance occurs

Barring

A dog shall be barred from the trial if

- its disobedience seriously disrupts the trial, or if it is unwilling to work even though elk are sighted
- the dog is found tearing on any hooved game
- the handler wilfully acts against the rules, or puts the dog on lead without permission from the field judge, or ignores commands to adhere to the rules and instructions

Withdrawing

The handler of a dog decides to interrupt the trial before the trial time is up.

Observations and additional information

In this field are briefly entered any information that may have special significance for the total result and the pertinent information does not otherwise become clear from the field report and evaluation reports for the dog.

Blank period

If no elk is found and the period thus remains blank, the following shall be evaluated by numbers:

- search work by dog,
- obedience and cooperation during search work

Using dog tracking systems for judging:

If a dog tracking system (GPS, Glonass, etc.) is used when evaluating the dog's performance, this shall be indicated in the field report.

When a tracking system is used, distances are measured by using the route used by the dog (using intermediate points, not the distance counter reading as such). This method shall be used in all evaluation where distance has an effect on the points, unless the judging guidelines say otherwise.

The judge may use a tracking system to verify his evaluation in all steps of the trial. If the decision is made at the start of a trial to use a tracking system, the judge shall use it throughout the trial. In this case the dog handler must give the permission to allow the judge to use his tracking system. The dog handler is also allowed to use his tracking system.

At some points the distance can be measured precisely, at other times the tracking system gives information that supports the judge's own evaluation. All distances need not be measured with high precision. The judge may use the tracking system to determine a find and a renewed bark, if this can also be otherwise verified (for example: audible bark at the indicated location, clear tracks, etc.)

The judging guidelines enable the judge to evaluate the dog's performance also without a tracking system. In this case the guidelines shall be applied, and all distances are evaluated as direct distances ("as the crow flies").

1. – SEARCHING

(x 1.5)

Searching means the time when the dog is allowed to range freely in the area, searching for game.

Usually a dog has to make several rounds before an elk is found. Search work is evaluated according to the average duration of the rounds. Clearly unusual rounds are not taken into account.

Search work is evaluated by using the following criteria:

1. Ranging pattern (rounds in different directions, straight runs, etc.)
2. Speed
3. Length of ranging rounds (distance run by dog)
4. Longest distance from the spot where the group last had contact with the dog

If the dog locates an elk so quickly after it was released that the field judge has too little time to evaluate its search work, searching may also be evaluated by releasing the dog again after it has worked an elk, if possible.

When evaluating a new search period, the weather conditions and the time spent in contact with an elk must be taken into account.

Long ranging rounds that fit none of the evaluation criteria shall give max. 8 points.

If the dog does not even try to locate game, the trial shall be interrupted after 60 minutes.

If the dog's performance does not meet any of the criteria listed in the table below, the judge shall use his own judgement. The grounds for the given points must be clearly stated in the field report.

Evaluation criteria:

Points

Very effective search pattern, ranging rounds at least 2 km, speed is excellent and maximum distance from the group is over 800 m, or average duration of ranging rounds is 15–30 minutes.	9–10	p
Effective search pattern, ranging rounds at least 1.5 km, speed is very good and maximum distance from the group is over 600 m, or average duration of ranging rounds is 10–15 minutes	7–8	p
Search pattern is not very effective, ranging rounds are at least 1 km, speed is good and maximum distance from the group over 400 m, or average duration of ranging rounds is 5–10 minutes.	5–6	p
Search pattern is not very effective, ranging rounds shorter than 1 km, speed is satisfactory and maximum distance from the group is over 250 m, or average duration of ranging rounds is 2–5 minutes	3–4	p
Search pattern is ineffective, ranging rounds shorter than 500 m, speed is poor and maximum distance from the group is less than 250 m, or average duration of ranging rounds is 0–3 minutes.	1–2	p
If dog locates game already during the first round, this shall be evaluated according to the distance where the game was found, as follows: 0–399m = 6p, 400–799m = 7p, 800m or more = 8p	6–7–8	p
Dog does not search for game	0	p

2. – EFFICIENCY IN LOCATING GAME (x 1.0)

Efficiency in locating game describes the dog's ability to range effectively and use its senses to locate any elk to be found in the area. Evaluation also takes into account the dog's ability to use the terrain effectively. Typically an excellent, efficient dog quickly finds an elk following its scent in the air. An experienced dog may even find an elk using rather old tracks. If the conditions are difficult, the ability to track must be duly appreciated. A dog that quickly and independently locates game shall be given the good points it deserves.

Locating efficiency is evaluated in relation to time and distance, and the following shall be taken into account:

- search time and ranging rounds
- distance from the spot where the ranging round started to the point where the game was found
- total distance from where the dog was released off lead to the spot where the game was found
- terrain and weather conditions

If no tracking system is used, the distances shall be estimated as the shortest distance between two spots.

If the dog locates an elk during the first round:

- Excellent distance at least 800m, the elk is located quickly and independently, 10 points.
- Unverified find gives max. 8 points (may give more if the bark can be verified by using a dog tracking system)

If the dog finds several animals during the trial, search efficiency is evaluated for the best instance.

If the dog's performance does not meet any of the criteria listed in the table below, the judge shall use his own judgement. The grounds for the given points must be clearly stated in the field report.

Evaluation criteria:

Excellent: an elk is quickly located when the dog reaches the area where the elk has stayed or senses it, and the distance is over 0.8 km	9–10	p
Very good: an elk is relatively soon found in the situation described above, but the efficiency is not excellent and the distance is over 0.6 km	7–8	p
Good: an elk is found after a longer time even though the conditions for locating it are good	5–6	p
Satisfactory: An elk is found only after a long time, even though the conditions are good and there are clear signs that an elk has been staying in the area. Elk runs to the group or stands within sight of the group.	3–4	p
Poor: As above, but the group gives the dog considerable help in finding the elk. The group comes in contact with the elk.	0–2	p
No elk is found	-	

3. – BARK TO HOLD GAME AT BAY (x 1.5)

Barking to stand the game at bay means the dog's ability to keep the elk in the place where it was found or very close to it.

If the elk was found in open terrain, no points shall be deducted if it moves to a more covered area (500 meters).

Pauses shorter than 2 minutes are not considered breaks if the bark then continues in the same place. If the dog finds several animals during the trial period, points shall be calculated as an average of the evaluated instances.

If the available time and conditions allow it, the dog should be allowed to stand the elk at bay for 90 minutes.

If the dog's performance does not meet any of the criteria listed in the table below, the judge shall use his own judgement. The grounds for the given points must be clearly stated in the field report.

Evaluation criteria:

Barking with game at bay for at least 60 minutes without moving	10	p
Barking with game at bay for at least 60 minutes after a short move (200–300 m)	9	p
Barking with game at bay for at least 45 minutes without moving	8	p
Barking with game at bay for at least 30 minutes without moving	7	p
Barking with game at bay for at least 30 minutes after a short move (200–500m) or dog is found barking but the game did not stay where it was found	6	p
Barking with game at bay for at least 30 minutes after a move (0.5–1 km)	5	p
Barking with game at bay 20 minutes	4	p
Barking with game at bay for at least 10 min without moving, or after a longer move (over 1 km)	3	p
Barking with game at bay for 1–10 minutes, after this no bark	2	p
Elk runs away after contact with dog, after this no bark	1	p
No game is found even though an elk is in the area	0	p
No game is found	-	

4. – QUALITY OF BARK

(x 1.5)

The quality of bark means that part of its work when the field judge can hear it barking. The longer the dog barks and is able to keep the elk at bay by barking, the better suited it is for successful hunting in real life hunting situations.

If the conditions are normal, the field judge should try to move to a position to shoot after the dog has barked for 90 minutes, and the dog handler shall decide whether or not the group will also try to recall the dog. After the dog has been recalled, the field judge or dog handler shall carefully drive the elk to a run. When the dog has again found the running elk and stopped it by barking, the bark should continue for 30 minutes and the next two times the elk is driven off only after a 30-minute bark.

Position to shoot means that the judge must be able to see the elk in normal conditions. If the terrain is very demanding or the conditions generally difficult, fewer opportunities to shoot are allowed. Points shall not be deducted if a judge's actions or difficult conditions make the elk break into a run before the judge has moved to suitable shooting position.

If the dog's performance does not meet any of the criteria listed in the table below, the judge shall use his own judgement. The grounds for the given points must be clearly stated in the field report.

Evaluation criteria:

	Working time	Steady bark time	Points	
Judge gets at least 3 opportunities to shoot, and at least 3 times the elk is driven off	300	200	10	p
Judge gets at least 3 opportunities to shoot, and at least 3 times the elk is driven off	270	180	9	p
Judge gets at least 2 opportunities to shoot, and at least 2 times the elk is driven off	240	150	8	p
Judge gets at least 2 opportunities to shoot, and at least 2 times the elk is driven off	200	120	7	p
Judge gets at least 1 opportunity to shoot, and at least once the elk is driven off	120	90	6	p
Dog barks holding game at bay for at least 90 min	-	90	5	p
Dog barks holding game at bay for at least 60 min, or bark time is at least 120 min (including moves)	-	60(120)	3-4	p
Dog barks holding game at bay for at least 20 min, or bark time is at least 60 min (including moves)	-	20(60)	1-2	p
Dog barks holding game at bay for less than 20 min and bark time is less than 60 min (including moves)	-	<20(60)	0	p
Dog does not hold game at bay			-	

5. FOLLOWING GAME

(x 1.0)

The dog should follow or track game on the run and tries to get in contact with it once more.

Game on the run means:

- an elk driven off by the group
- an elk that breaks into a run immediately after it is found
- an elk that moves away on its own, or
- an elk that moves away because of a disturbance unrelated to the trial

Following game is evaluated according to the observed distance traveled by the dog, not as the crow flies.

If the game runs away at high speed and the dog reports back to the group but then immediately returns to track the game, this shall not cause any deductions in evaluation.

The minimum distances specified below shall be applied when evaluating the dog's performance, but the terrain must be taken into account.

If the dog barks while an elk is moving, this shall not be considered as following game on the run.

If no dog tracking system is used during the trial, the times specified in the table shall be applied when evaluating the dog's performance.

If the dog cannot follow the game because of some natural obstacle, the judge must taken this into account in evaluation.

If the dog's performance does not meet any of the criteria listed in the table below, the judge shall use his own judgement. The grounds for the given points must be clearly stated in the field report.

10 p	Dog follows the elk in total at least 5 km or 60 minutes
9 p	Dog follows the elk in total at least 4 km or 50–59 minutes
8 p	Dog follows the elk in total at least 3 km or 40–49 minutes
7 p	Dog follows the elk in total at least 2.5 km or 30–39 minutes
6 p	Dog follows the elk in total at least 2 km or 20–29 minutes
5 p	Dog follows the elk in total at least 1.5 km or 10–19 minutes
4 p	Dog follows the elk in total at least 1 km or 7–9 minutes
3 p	Dog follows the elk in total at least 0.7 km or 5–6 minutes
2 p	Dog follows the elk in total at least 0.5 km or 3–4 minutes
1 p	Dog follows the elk in total at least 0.3 km or 1–2 min
0 p	Dog does not follow an elk on the run
-	Cannot be evaluated

6. STOPPING GAME

(x 1.0)

Stopping game stands for the dog's ability to stop an elk on the run, and to hold it again at bay by barking (the elk must have run away at least 100m). After the elk stops, the dog must hold it steady at bay for at least 10 minutes.

The group must repeatedly drive the elk on the run in order to sufficiently test the dog's ability to stop game on the run. The first time the elk must be driven off carefully, from a sufficient distance; after this the elk is driven off with more intensity so as to make it run faster. Actions when driving the elk off must be in relation to how it behaved on the first time the group drove it into a run.

Dog stops the elk and holds it steady at bay at least 3 times, on two of these occasions for at least 30 minutes	10 p
Dog stops the elk and holds it at bay at least 3 times, on two of these occasions holding it steady (once for 30 minutes)	9 p
Dog stops the elk and holds it steady at bay at least 2 times, on one of these occasions for 30 minutes	8 p
Dog stops the elk and holds it at bay at least 2 times, on one of these holding it steady for at least 30 minutes	7 p
Dog stops the elk and holds it steady at bay at least once, for 30 minutes	6 p
Dog holds the elk at bay once, part of the time moving (barking for 30 minutes)	5 p
Dog holds the elk steady at bay for 10–29 minutes	4 p
Dog holds the elk steady at bay for less than 10 minutes	3 p
The dog makes several attempts to stop the elk	2 p
Dog follows the elk but cannot stop it to hold it at bay	1 p
Dog does not follow the elk when it is driven off	0 p
Cannot be evaluated (no game found)	-

7. BARK TIME

(x 0.5)

Bark time includes both standing and moving bark, time counted as full minutes.

Pauses shorter than two minutes (2 min) shall be included in the bark time.

If the dog finds and barks at more than one animal, the bark times are counted as the sum of all occasions.

Barking is only evaluated during the time when the judge is able to hear the dog barking.

Bark time is evaluated according to the table below. If the total bark time is less than 20 minutes, the dog shall be awarded 0 points.

Bark time, minutes	20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	200
Points	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

8. AUDIBILITY OF BARK

(x 0.5)

When evaluating the audibility of bark, the judge must taken into account the prevailing weather, wind, snow and terrain.

The points table below applies to normal conditions.

The audibility of bark must be tested sufficiently to allow just evaluation.

Audibility of bark is evaluated as follows:	
Excellent	9–10 p
Very good	7–8 p
Good	5–6 p
Satisfactory	3–4 p
Poor	1–2 p
Bark time less than 20 minutes	0 p
Cannot be evaluated	-

9. – FREQUENCY AND CONSTANCY OF BARK (x 0.5)

The goal is to evaluate the frequency, constancy and stability of bark, without pauses.

Constancy is equally important as the frequency, and it must be given equal weight in the evaluation.

- Frequency of bark = how many times per minute the dog barks
- Constancy of bark = the dog should bark constantly, without pauses or breaks
- The number of barks is counted during a full minute, and this is repeated several times during the trial period. The total points shall be given according to the calculated average result.

If the dog's performance does not meet any of the criteria listed in the table below, the judge shall use his own judgement. The grounds for the given points must be clearly stated in the field report.

The frequency and constancy of the bark must be tested sufficiently to allow just evaluation.

Frequency more than 75 barks/minute, steady barking without pauses	10 p
Frequency 70–75 barks /minute, steady barking without pauses	9 p
Frequency 60–75 barks /minute, slight pauses	7–8 p
Frequency 50–60 barks /minute, short pauses	5–6 p
Frequency 40–50 barks /minute, disturbing pauses	3–4 p
Frequency 20–40 barks /minute, or long pauses	2 p
Frequency less than 20 barks /minute	1 p
Bark time less than 20 minutes	0 p
Cannot be judged	-

10. – Obedience and cooperation (x 1.0)

The purpose is to evaluate the dog's ability to obey the handler's commands and to keep contact with the handler.

Obedience is tested

1. during the search (0–2p)
2. when working an elk (0–5 p) and
3. immediately after the trial time is up (0–3 p).

To get the full 10 points the dog must immediately obey the handler when recalled.

The handler is not permitted to recall the dog when it is barking, before the 90 minute bark time is up.

If the working time is less than 200 minutes or if the dog takes contact with the handler more than twice without being called, the maximum points are 6 p. This does not include situations where the group attempts to get into shooting position and the dog is conscious of the group's presence, or when an elk is sighted.

If the dog's performance does not meet any of the criteria listed in the table below, the judge shall use his own judgement. The grounds for the given points must be clearly stated in the field report.

If the dog repeatedly leaves the group and goes to houses, to the car etc., 2 points shall be deducted.

Searching	0–2 p	
The dog can be put on lead		2 p
Dog finds game during the first ranging round		1 p
Dog could not be put on lead		0 p
When working an elk	0–5 p	
Dog can be recalled when it is holding game at bay, and it obeys the command immediately. This is tested twice, first time before it has worked for 150 minutes and it continues to work after reporting back to handler.		5 p
Dog can be put on lead once when it is holding game at bay, and it continues to work after reporting back to handler.		4 p
When recalled, the dog reports back to handler after some hesitation and continues to work after this.		3 p
Dog can be recalled and put on lead after several attempts and it continues to work after reporting back to handler, or dog returns to handler when the elk is running away		2 p
Dog works the full time but cannot be recalled and put on lead		1 p
Dog cannot be recalled and does not work the full time		0 p
At the end of a trial period	0–3 p	
Dog is recalled when it is holding game at bay and the trial period is up		3 p
Dog is recalled when it is working an elk and the trial period is up		2 p
Dog is holding game at bay but cannot be recalled and put on lead, and the trial period		1 p
The dog cannot be caught, or it has to be fetched back		0 p
Cannot be evaluated		-

GUIDELINES FOR PEOPLE WORKING IN ELK HUNTING TRIALS

GUIDELINES FOR FIELD JUDGES

1. Come to the trial location in time. Present your valid authorisation and proof of membership.
2. Make sure to have the appropriate clothing and other equipment for the time of year.
3. Make sure to bring a clock, compass, pencil, eraser, rule book, and map of the trial area if necessary.
4. Discuss the trial plan with your guide and decide when a trial period begins.
5. Discuss with the dog handler the speed and direction for the group's movements.
6. When game is found, determine the distance and evaluate the find, and explain your interpretation to the dog handler. You may use a dog tracking system to verify the distance and to follow the dog's movement.
7. Explain your interpretation of the trial events to the dog handler on the spot.
8. After the trial period is up, present your field report to the dog handler and ask him to sign it. Also sign the report.
9. Present your report of the trial and the dog's performance to the chief judge.
10. Discuss the given points and interpretation of the events with the chief judge if necessary.
11. Sign the trial report.
12. If you are also working as a guide in the trial, pay attention to the guidelines for trial guides.
13. Follow the instructions given by the chief judge.

GUIDELINES FOR TRIAL GUIDES

1. Well before the trial, find out the extent of the trial area and the reserve areas that are accessible if necessary.
2. Make sure well in advance that you have a map of the trial area and the surrounding areas. Make sure to have a compass and the appropriate clothing and other equipment according to the time of year.
3. Discuss the situation with the groups using the areas next to yours, and find out if there is any danger of the groups coming too close to each other.
4. Tell the dog handler and judge group your plan for moving in the area and where game can be expected to be found.
5. Agree with the other people in the group on the most expedient way of moving in the area,
6. When game is found, determine the location of the group and the place where the bark started as accurately as possible.
7. When the elk breaks into a run, try to estimate the areas where it could possibly be running to. Take the group as quickly as possible to the location where the dog finds the elk again, or where it could be expected to stop it.
8. When the trial is over, take the group back from the terrain and assist the handler in recalling the dog and putting it on lead. Pay attention to the chief judge's instructions on how to proceed after the trial

period is over.

9. Follow the instructions given by the chief judge.

GUIDELINES FOR DOG HANDLER

1. Enter your dog to the trial following the instructions given by the organising club, and pay the entry fee.
2. Present the dog's registration certificate, proof of vaccination, and any other necessary documents to the organising committee.
3. Be present at the briefing given by the chief judge. Make sure to have the necessary equipment for the trial day.
4. Follow the instructions given by the chief judge.
5. Drive the trial group to the area where the trial will take place.
6. Discuss the plan for moving in the trial area with the guide and judges.
7. Instruct the field judge in using your dog tracking system, and if the judge so wishes, let him monitor the dog's movement using the system.
8. Tell your opinion of the judges' evaluation immediately after each event, when discussing for example distances and times.
9. You are only allowed to recall your dog and put it on lead at the request of a field judge, if you intend to withdraw from the trial, or if the dog comes to grave danger.
10. Sign the field report presented by the judge.
11. When the trial period is over, take your group back to the trial centre.
12. If possible, be present when the judge group hands the field reports to the chief judge.
13. Be present at the closing of the trial.

GUIDELINES FOR CHIEF STEWARD AND ORGANISING COMMITTEE

1. Reserve a suitable trial centre, the necessary meals, and facilities where the participants may wash or bathe and change gear as needed.
2. Decide how many dogs may be allowed to participate in the trial.
3. Contact the chief judge in good time and agree with him when the opening talk of the trial will be held.
4. Reserve the necessary trial areas and agree with the landowners on keeping the area clear at the time of the trial. Make sure that an extra area, guide and judge are available.
5. Make sure to have all the necessary equipment for the trial, and any prizes that will be given.
6. Make sure to have a competent trial secretary who will work together with the chief judge.
7. Check the dogs' papers and the judging authorisation of field judges as instructed by the chief judge.
8. Prepare an allotment and result board for the trial, and also prepare a map that will be displayed at the trial centre, showing the location of all trial areas and their distance from the trial centre.

9. Choose the best field judges for each area, and find out in advance if any of them may be considered biased.
10. Arrange the allotment of trial areas as instructed by the chief judge.
11. Arrange transportation and guidance for the chief judge in case he wishes to visit the trial areas and observe the work of the groups.
12. Prepare and arrange the trial closing event, and make sure to remember all parties that have contributed to the success of the trial when rewarding people.
13. Send the trial report and field reports to the kennel district. Archive and keep the necessary paperwork for at least one year after the trial.
14. Publish the results of the trial.
15. The organising committee and all its members are responsible for all arrangements throughout the trial.

GUIDELINES FOR CHIEF JUDGE

1. Agree with the organising committee on the timetable of the trial opening speech and the actual trial.
2. Arrive on time to the trial centre, and present your authorisation and proof of membership to the organising committee.
3. With the assistance of the organising committee, check the ID markings and vaccinations of the participating dogs, and also check the required authorisations and memberships of all field judges.
4. Supervise the allotment of trial areas. Before the results are published, make sure that all judges are unbiased and ask if anyone has any objections to the result.
5. Give the opening speech to the participants, explaining the most important factors related to the trial. Give instructions on how special situations are to be dealt with, and any other practical instructions that may be necessary. Also specify the time when the dogs may be released, when darkness falls, and how the groups are to proceed after the trial period is up.
6. Supervise the work of judge groups in the trial areas without informing them of this in advance. Make sure not to disturb the dog's work when moving in the area.
7. After the trial period, have a meeting with the entire judge group. Familiarise yourself with the events of the trial and how they have affected the overall evaluation. In unclear cases also listen to the dog handler's statement. Make sure that all judging is done in accordance with the rules and judging guidelines.
8. If disputes arise, observe the applicable instructions of the Finnish Kennel Club.
9. Write the chief judge's report.
10. Before signing the papers, make sure that the information in them is correct.
11. Preside over the closing event of the trial and publish the results there.
12. If the trial is cancelled or its date is changed, observe the general rules of the Finnish Kennel Club for such occasions.