

Recommendations for Balloting for Scent Work Trials in Queensland (31/10/2022)

The current ANKC rules for Scent Work Trials state

“8.2 Entry Limits

8.2.1 An Affiliate may determine which Elements are to be offered in any trial and will specify such details in the Schedule.

8.2.2 If an Affiliate elects, it may place limits on the number of entries on which a Judge can adjudicate at any trial and/or on the number of entries to be accepted in a single class, set of classes or trial. Any such limit(s) on total entries or entries in any class or for any Judge must be stated in the Schedule. Should a ballot of entries be necessary, then the balloting procedures of the member body shall be followed.

8.2.3 An Affiliate may, if entry numbers exceed the stated limit, appoint an additional Judge.”

The proposed balloting procedure for Queensland is as follows.

1. In the interests of fairness, all eligible owners and dogs shall be allowed to enter a scent work trial.
2. Practical limits may be imposed on trial entry numbers that an Affiliate may accommodate, such as judge availability, venue restrictions, day or night trial. While the preference is to appoint an additional judge where possible, it is recognised that this is not always a practical option for clubs. Where limits have been identified, these are to be listed on the Trial Schedule.
3. If, at the close of entries, more entries have been received than the Affiliate can accommodate a ballot will be conducted.
4. Each element-class will be balloted separately.
5. In a multi-element/multi-class trial an owner can only have one (1) dog balloted out of one element-class. If the dog balloted out of one element-class that dog will automatically be allowed to compete in all other element-classes in which it has been entered.
6. In a multi-element/multi-class trial, if an owner has more than one (1) dog entered and one dog is balloted out, then all the other dogs will automatically be allowed to compete in all other element-classes in which they are entered.
7. If an owner has more than one (1) dog entered in a one-element trial and one dog is balloted out, then all other dogs will automatically be allowed to compete in the classes in which they are entered.
8. If an owner has more than one (1) dog entered in the same element-class (i.e., there is another handler) and one dog is balloted out, the owner may choose which dog will compete.

The proposed balloting process for Queensland is as follows:

1. The Ballot must be conducted by a minimum of two (2) people, with at least one (1) person selected from each of the following two groups:
 - Group 1: Trial Secretary, Trial Manager, President, Vice-President, or Treasurer of the Affiliate conducting the Trial.
 - Group 2: Any of the above, or any other financial club member of the Affiliate conducting the Trial.
2. The Ballot must be conducted in a manner which is random and blind (i.e., all entries are included, and each has an equal probability of being selected).
3. All entries received for the class/element to be balloted (excluding those who have already been balloted out of a class/element) are placed in a container.
4. A name is selected at random from the container.
5. That selection is the dog balloted out of that class/element.
6. A list is kept of the balloted dogs in order of balloting for each class/element.
7. The dog balloted out is removed from the ballot for any remaining class/element selections.
8. The ballot continues for all required class/elements until the number of remaining entries equals the number of entries the Affiliate conducting the Trial may accommodate.
9. The Trial Secretary notifies all affected entrants of the ballot outcome.
10. Should cancellations or upgrades result in a vacancy with a class/element, the Trial Secretary shall offer the vacancy to the first dog on the ballot list (i.e., the first dog balloted out) for that class/element.
11. Should the first dog on the ballot list not wish to take the vacant spot, it shall be offered to the next dog on the list and so on in the order the dogs were balloted out.
12. A list of the dogs balloted and the names of the people who conducted the ballot are to be attached to the Trial Manager Report submitted to Dogs Queensland as part of the official post-trial paperwork.