



Australian National Kennel Council Ltd ABN 77 151 544 679 trading as Dogs Australia

# **Rules for the conduct of SprintDog™ Trials**

Adopted 2024

**(Effective from 1 July 2024)**

Amended  
February 2025 (Clarification purposes only)

*The SprintDog™ trademark is owned by the Australian National Kennel Council Ltd t/as Dogs Australia (hereinafter referred to as Dogs Australia).*

*The term SprintDog™ may only be applied to events run under the auspices of Dogs Australia and which strictly comply with the rules set out herein.*

**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the  
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(Australian National Kennel Council Ltd trading as Dogs Australia)

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Where referred to in the Rules, the words:

- 1.1 **Member Body** shall mean the ANKC Ltd. Member Body in each State or Territory of Australia.
- 1.2 **Affiliate** shall mean an affiliated club of Member Body conducting SprintDog™ Trials.
- 1.3 **Representative** shall mean any representative of their Member Body who is responsible for the reporting of incidents, injuries, or any other matter to their Member Body.
- 1.4 **Handler** shall mean either the releaser or Catcher nominated by the owner of the Dog and must be a Financial Member of a Member Body.
- 1.5 **Sprint Area** shall mean the area in which 100m distance exists.
- 1.6 **Sprint Zone** shall mean the area defined for the Start Box, Sprint Area, and Catching Pen.
- 1.7 **SprintDog™ Trial** shall mean dogs may run in the 100m sprint and earn points towards titles.
- 1.8 **Sand** is defined as any particle between 0.05 and 2 mm in diameter.
- 1.9 **Flag** shall mean any item highly visible to the Manual Timing Officials. This may be fabric, PVC, canvas, illuminated wands or any other items highly visible.
- 1.10 **“Break the Beam”** equipment is defined as electronic timing gates that record a dog’s time to 1/100th of a second. The timing starts when the gates are triggered by a dog or handler, thus breaking the beam.
- 1.11 **Excused** shall mean a dog is not eligible for a Qualifying Certificate but may run again at the end of the Trial (at the Affiliate’s discretion).
- 1.12 **Disqualified** shall mean any dog who is disqualified under any circumstance under Section 5.9. A disqualified dog is not eligible to compete any further in the Trial. The dog is not eligible for a Qualifying Certificate. Any dog who shows signs of aggression towards any dogs or persons must be reported to the Member Body.
- 1.13 **Correctly fitted flat collar** shall mean a quick release buckle or loop buckle collar that is snug around the dog’s neck. The collar must allow for a handler to be able to fit two fingers snugly between the collar and the neck of the dog. (See Appendix G)
- 1.14 These Rules are binding on Member Bodies.
- 1.15 Interpretation of these Rules should not be necessary; however, should there be a need for individuals to seek clarification, application must be made by the Member Body to Dogs Australia, whose decision shall be binding.
- 1.16 These Rules may be amended from time to time.

**2. DECISIONS**

- 2.1 The Member Body at its discretion, may grant permission to an Affiliate to hold SprintDog™ Trials and they are to be conducted in accordance with the Rules set down by the Member Body and applicable Dogs Australia authorised Rules.
- 2.2 The Rules of Dogs Australia shall apply to all SprintDog™ Trials. In the event of any inconsistency, the Rules of the Member Body shall prevail.
- 2.3 Anyone taking part in a SprintDog™ Trial who impugns or ignores the directions, actions or decisions of the Officials may at the discretion of the Affiliate render themselves liable to be debarred from further participation in the Trial and may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with at the discretion of the Affiliate.
- 2.4 Any person participating in a SprintDog™ Trial does so at their own risk and no Member Body or Affiliate shall be held responsible or be liable for any injury or damage to any person, dog or property.
- 2.5 SprintDog™ is a sport, and all participants must be always guided by the principles of good sportsmanship.
- 2.6 The Judge's decision is final.
- 2.7 An Affiliate holds the right to request a dog to wear a muzzle if it deems to be a safety issue to itself, others or equipment.
- 2.8 A SprintDog™ Trial must not continue past an average temperature of thirty-two (32) degrees Celsius. It is the responsibility of the Affiliate, to carry a thermometer and display at the Trial Secretary desk for all exhibitors to see.

The average temperature is calculated by the addition of the temperature in the Sprint Zone (unshaded), temperature in the shade and divided by two.

If the average temperature exceeds thirty-two (32) degrees Celsius, the SprintDog™ Trial shall either be postponed for fifteen (15) minutes or concluded. If after a further fifteen (15) minutes the average temperature still exceeds thirty-two (32) degrees Celsius, The SprintDog™ Trial must be concluded.

If the SprintDog™ Trial is concluded due to equipment failure, extreme weather or safety concerns, the dog's run 1 times shall be doubled. Any dog who has not had a chance to compete in run 1, may be entitled to a refund.

### **3. PURPOSE OF SPRINTDOG™**

The purpose of SprintDog™ is to provide all dogs of all breeds and sizes, and their owners an enjoyable, healthy, and fun activity in which they can participate. Dogs must always run singularly in competition. The dog's time to complete the 100m sprint is converted into speed (km/hr). Dogs earn points based on their handicapped multiplied by their average speed. Titles are awarded when a dog has accumulated the required number of points.

SprintDog™ is a sport that is designed for fun for dogs of all breeds. Exhibitors **do not** compete against each other. The only competition (other than obtaining a Qualifying Certificate) is for the dog to attempt to better its average run time and beat its personal best.

SprintDog™ is a sport designed to allow a dog the opportunity to run as fast as they can across a 100m distance. The safety of all dogs is paramount and any incident resulting in a dog colliding with any obstacle, tripping on the ground or any dog that leaves the Catching Pen injured, must be recorded, and submitted to the Affiliate's Member Body.

The Lure is provided as encouragement for the dog to run faster. The Lure is not required to be chased by any dog at any time.

The element of fun for all participants, should be emphasised at all SprintDog™ Trials.

**4. ELIGIBILITY FOR SPRINTDOG™ TRIALS**

- 4.1 SprintDog™ Trials shall be open to all dog breeds 12 months of age or older on the day of the Trial.
- 4.2 All dogs must be registered with Dogs Australia on either the Limited, Main, Sporting or Associate Register to compete at a SprintDog™ Trial.
- 4.3 To compete at SprintDog™ Trial, owners of competing dogs must be current financial members in good standing with a Member Body.
- 4.4 A dog may only enter once per SprintDog™ Trial.
- 4.5 Dogs may only have one handler. Handlers may have an assistant to help bring the dog into the Start Box but only one person may release the dog. Dogs may have more than one Catcher in the Catching area if required. All participants in a SprintDog™ Trial must be current financial members in good standing with a Member Body.
- 4.6 The owner entering a dog in a SprintDog™ Trial does so at their own risk. The owner agrees to abide by the rules of the Member Body. If a dog has more than one owner, permission must be granted by all owners before entering a dog in a SprintDog™ Trial.
- 4.7 SprintDog™ is a fast-paced physical activity. It is the responsibility of the owner/s to ensure their dog/s are fit for the activity of SprintDog™.
- 4.8 By submitting an entry form, the owner confirms that to the best of their knowledge that their dog is fit and able to take part in the SprintDog™ Trial.
- 4.9 Bitches in season and/or showing a discharge characteristic of being in season shall not be eligible to compete in a SprintDog™ Trial.
- 4.10 Bitches who have been mated within the last four weeks or are four or more weeks in whelp are not permitted to participate in any SprintDog™ Trial.
- Bitches must be at a minimum 10-week post whelp to participate in any SprintDog™ Trial.
- In the event of the Member Body requiring a longer period, the Rules of the Member Body shall prevail.
- 4.11 Affiliates may conduct a SprintDog™ Trial if they are approved by their Member Body.
- 4.12 Affiliates may not hold more than two SprintDog™ Trials on the same day.
- If a single Affiliate conducts two SprintDog™ Trials on the same day, they have the option to hold them concurrently or consecutively.
- Affiliates should specify in their schedule which way they intend to run their two Trials.
- When held concurrently, a dog entered in both Trials would be allowed to complete both Trials in succession (back-to-back) without having to wait for one Trial to finish before the next can begin.
- A dog can only compete in two SprintDog™ Trials in one day (24-hour period).
- 4.13 Any dog found to have competed in more than two SprintDog™ Trials in a 24-hour period, shall forfeit all points earned at all Trials on that day and be reported to their Member Body.

- 4.14 For the safety of all dogs, Lure Operators must be recognised as SprintDog™ Lure Operators by their Member Body. The schedule must advertise the Lure Operator's name for the Trial.
- 4.15 All Handlers must be over 16 years of age (and members of a Member Body. Handlers and Catchers under 18 years of age, must be a junior member).
- 4.16 Exhibitors must ensure that they have at least one extra lead so that the Releaser and Catcher both have appropriate leads to restrain the dog outside of the Sprint Area.
- 4.17 It is up to the Exhibitor to arrange both a suitable Releaser and Catcher for each dog, capable of handling the dog without undue delay to the SprintDog™ Trial.



## **5. EARNING POINTS**

- 5.1 The dog's time to complete the 100m sprint is converted into speed (km/hr).

Where "Break the Beam" electronic timers are used and are successfully triggered at both the start and finish line, this is the official time to use for the Trial.

If the electronic timers are not successfully triggered at both the start and finish line, the dogs time will be determined by the time recorded by the manual timing officials.

Where the handler accidentally triggers the start timer, it will not be reset and will continue until the dog crosses the finish line.

- 5.2 A handicap system is applied to a dog's speed to determine the number of points earned.

The handicap system is based on the height of the dog at its withers.

### **Measuring Dogs**

Dogs must be measured prior to competing in a SprintDog™ Trial.

Prior to a dog competing in a SprintDog™ Trial for the first time, dogs must have an approved Dogs Australia height card, either for SprintDog™ or another Dogs Australia discipline (showing height at the withers) to enable an Affiliate to record the correct handicap for the dog. Any dog that does not have present a height card to the trial will be recorded as over 45cm, irrespective of their breed or physical appearance.

If a dog has been previously measured for another Dogs Australia discipline and presents a Dogs Australia approved Height Card which states the height of the dog at the withers, upon presentation of the Height Card, does not need to be remeasured unless Officials deem it necessary.

Affiliates conducting trials shall provide a device of a fixed (30cm or 45cm) or on a sliding system for measuring dogs. The dog will be issued a Height Card.

Dogs are required to be measured by two officials. Officials consist of:

1. A licensed Dogs Australia judge from any discipline and;
2. Either:
  - a) Another licensed Dogs Australia Judge; or
  - b) A Club Official appointed by that Club.

If the dog is under 2 years old a temporary height card will be issued. Once the dog is 2 years of age or over 45cm high, a permanent Height Card would then be issued. Any Qualifying Certificates issued to the dog during the period of the temporary height card will remain.

An Official may request to re-measure a dog at a SprintDog™ Trial if they are of the clear opinion that the height recorded in the catalogue appears inappropriate for that dog.

Any dog that in the opinion of the measurers cannot stand steadily, (who is close to the measurements for the height classes) and thus guarantee an accurate measurement will be placed in the higher height class until the dog is able to be re-measured correctly.

Any dog that has not been measured will be given a handicap of 1.

**Handicap**

45cm or greater = Handicap is 1  
 30cm < 45cm = Handicap is 1.25  
 <30cm = Handicap is 1.5

- 5.3 Dogs must run the 100m length twice at the same Trial (once in run 1 and once in run 2) to receive a Qualifying Certificate. Their total time is divided by 2.
- 5.4 Dogs who do not complete run 1 will be excused and will not be eligible to compete in run 2. Dogs who complete run 1 but do not complete in run 2, will be excused. Excused dogs are not eligible to earn points.
- 5.5 Points are calculated by Speed (km/hr) x Dog's Handicap  
 Formula is  $360/\text{time (in seconds)} \times \text{Handicap} = \text{Points (rounded up or down to whole number)}$   
 Eg. Dogs average time is 9.13 seconds, handicap of 1.5.  
 $360/9.13 = 39.43\text{km/hr} \times 1.5 = 59 \text{ points}$
- 5.6 Dogs who foul the Sprint Zone, at any time during the Trial, by urine, faeces, or vomit will be disqualified and will not receive any points or Qualifying Certificates for the Trial.
- 5.7 Dogs that are released before the "T" in "Tally-Ho" and as a result Catch the lure, will be excused and will not receive any points for the Trial.
- 5.8 A dog will be Excused where:
- It has not completed the 100m within 60 seconds after the "Tally-Ho", or after crossing the Start Line.
- 5.9 A dog will be Disqualified under the following circumstances:
- It shows aggression towards another dog or a human, with the incident reported in line with the Member Body's incident reporting procedure; or
  - It has been caught or released by a person who is not a member of a Dogs Australia body; or
  - It has escaped from the Sprint Zone (off lead); or
  - It has invaded the Sprint Zone or Exclusion Zone; or
  - It has fouled the Sprint Zone, by urine, faeces, or vomit; or
  - It presents, in the opinion of the Judge, an unacceptable and ongoing risk to the field team, equipment, other Handlers or conduct of the Trial whether due to dog behaviour or for not following the directions of the Officials, in line with section 2.3; or
  - It is showing signs of lameness and deemed to be unfit for further competition in the opinion of the Judge.

## 6. TITLES

Titles are earned by accumulating points. Dogs continue to accumulate points over the course of their career.

Below describes the following titles and their requirements.

N.SPRD	<b>SprintDog™ Novice</b>	100 points
SPRD	<b>SprintDog</b>	250 points
SPRD.A	<b>SprintDog™ Advanced</b>	500 points
SPRD.X	<b>SprintDog™ Excellent</b>	750 points
SPRD.M	<b>SprintDog™ Master</b>	1000 points
SPRD.Ch.	<b>SprintDog™ Champion</b>	1500 points

These titles appear on a dog's Certificate of Registration as a suffix title with the new higher level of title, replacing the current title until an application is made for a dog's **SprintDog™ Champion** title.

Whilst it is not compulsory to apply for each title as the dog achieves it, owners must have applied for previous titles earned before being granted its highest title.

Owners are encouraged to apply for the titles for their dog/s, as they are achieved.

Example: When applying for the **SprintDog™ Advanced** title, if the dog does not already have **SPRD** at the end of its pedigree name, the owner must include an application for the title of **SprintDog™** as well. If the dog does not have **N.SPRD** at the end of its pedigree name, the owner must apply for the title of **SprintDog™ Novice** as well.

For example, this means the owner must submit and pay for three titles (**SprintDog™ Novice**, **SprintDog™** and **SprintDog™ Advanced**) in order for the Member Body to issue the **SprintDog™ Advanced** title on the dog's pedigree.

## **7. CLASSES & AWARDS**

Dogs do not compete against each other regardless of height, handicap, breed, or any other reason.

All dogs compete in the same class.

The 100m SprintDog™ class is called "100m".

The 100m class is for all dogs 12 months or older, on the day of the Trial.

Affiliates must not award any placings such as first, second or third for example.

An Affiliate may award dogs for beating their personal best, achieving titles, qualifying and for any other category that the Affiliate decides, that is not determined by comparing average time, speed or points earned with any other dog.

## **8. SPRINT ZONE / EQUIPMENT**

The following is required as a minimum to run a SprintDog™ Trial.

- 8.1 Lure Machine (Continuous Loop System or Drag Lure). If using a Continuous Loop System, there must be sufficient pulleys to run the loop safely and the return loop must be either outside the Sprint Area or within 20cm of the fencing. In case of equipment failure during a SprintDog™ Trial, clubs must have access to a second Lure Machine. Pulleys are prohibited from placement inside the Sprint Zone.
- 8.2 String. Minimum 2mm thick string suitable for use. String must have a breaking strain of no less than 130kg.
- 8.3 Stopwatches able to measure down to 1/100th of a second.
- 8.4 "Break the Beam" electronic timers where possible.  
Where "Break the Beam" electronic timers are used and successfully record a dog's time, this is the official time to use for the Trial.
- 8.5 A Lure. The Lure may contain a squawker.  
In the case of a Drag Lure Machine. The Lure must be of artificial nature and be suited to the machine.  
In the case of a Continuous Loop System, the Lure must be odourless plastic or fabric of high contrast to the surrounding environment. A maximum of two Lures may be used. They must be of the same type.  
The lure must not trip the "Break the Beam" electronic timers.
- 8.6 Long Tape Measure (minimum of 100m long in one continuous piece). It must be strong enough to be able to withstand numerous uses.  
A rope which has been pre-measured to 100m can be used in place of the tape measure.  
A measuring wheel cannot be used to mark out the 100m length.
- 8.7 Communication Devices to communicate between the Gate Steward, Sprint Marshall, Lure Operator, Timing Officials, Judge and Catching Pen Steward.
- 8.8 Flag for one of the Timing Officials to signal the dog has crossed the finish line and / or the start line.
- 8.9 Minimum of 134m straight flat terrain. The width of the Sprint Zone must be a minimum of 3 metres.  
The Sprint Zone must be essentially flat and must be straight from beginning to end and free of any potential hazards.

- 8.10 The terrain must be of a surface consisting of grass, sand, or dirt. To avoid injury, the area must not be mechanically compacted. In no circumstances is a track to be laid over gravel, asphalt, concrete, or any other surface that would pose a damage to the dog's feet or joints. For the safety of all dogs, the track must be considered low impact.
- 8.11 For the safety of all dogs, any fencing used **must** be highly visible to the dog. Fencing **must** be of high contrast to any objects or obstacles outside of the Sprint Zone, as to not affect the dog's ability to see the fencing.

The Affiliate should consider fencing the entire Sprint Zone, however this is up to the decision of the Affiliate given the specifics of the Environment.

The Sprint Area must be fenced on both sides of the 100m, and consideration should be made to extend the fencing past the 100m finish line (except when using the Return to Handler system).

Dogs see Yellows & Blues best (see Appendix C). In no instance shall any of the fencing blend in with the background environment.

- 8.12 An Exclusion Zone around the Sprint Area of no less than 10m must be established to allow dogs to run unhampered. The exclusion zone must be clearly defined and all attendees, must be advised before the beginning of the Trial, where the exclusion zone is. The Gate and Catching Pen Stewards are responsible to ensure handlers, dogs and Catchers are not crowding their respective areas whilst dogs are running.
- 8.13 Any persons within the exclusion zone shall receive an official warning first to leave the area. If a second warning is required to be issued, they will be asked to leave the Trial and all dogs owned/entered by them, will be excused and forfeit any further runs.
- 8.14 No check chains, haltis, prong collars e-collars and/or martingale collars are permitted. Only one item of permitted restraint is allowed on the dog. Dogs may run with or without a correctly fitted flat collar. Any item attached to the collar (such as name tags, council tags) must be taped up so that it is unable to be caught in the string. Dogs must not run in a harness or any other restraint other than a collar.

(See Appendix G for examples.)

- 8.15 Dogs may start up to 3m behind the starting line. Clubs must clearly mark the 3m Start Box. A dog may be released from anywhere within the start box, however, at a minimum, a dog's front paws must be inside the start box when it is released. Enough space must be provided behind the back of the Start Box to accommodate the dog's body to be aligned straight down the Sprint Area.

At the start, the lure must be resting in front of the Starting Line. Hot starts where the dog is released as the lure passes the dog are not allowed.

- 8.16 The club must provide enough room for a safe run-out area. It is required to be a minimum of 30m and suggested the run out be 50m. The club should consider fencing the end of the run to help collect the dogs.  
The width of the Catching Pen must be a minimum of 3 metres wide and must not be less than the width of the Sprint Area.
- 8.17 Officials should not be expected to handle, release, or catch any dog that is not familiar to them.
- 8.18 In the instance where the Affiliate uses a Return to Handler system to bring the dog around to the handler, the chute bunting must end directly at the finish line and the pulley at the end of the straight must be a minimum of 30m past the finish line.  
The lure must be stopped prior to returning to the start box.

Where this system is used, all dogs must run without a collar.

- 8.19 Handlers in a SprintDog™ Trial are not permitted to travel down the 100m Sprint Area during Run 1 or Run 2 or just prior to a dog being released. If a handler enters the Sprint Area, the dog will be excused.
- 8.20 The Starting Line and Finishing Line may be marked. This must not interfere or cause hazards to the running of any dog. Chalk or Landscaping Paint are suggested items that may be used. In the instance of Break the Beam Equipment, the Affiliate may not choose to mark either the start or finish.
- 8.21 The Catcher may enter the Catching Pen prior to the dog running but not before the previous dog is on lead.
- 8.22 The Catcher may call the dog prior to “Tally-Ho” and use any form of encouragement from within the Catching Pen only, whilst the dog is running for encouragement.
- 8.23 The schedule must advise whether the Trial will consist of:
- an enclosed Catching pen; or
  - an open Catching pen; or
  - a continuous loop Return to Handler system.
- 8.24 If sand is used for a Catching Pen, it must be either USGA grade or equivalent, free of debris and raked regularly when in use. (See Appendix D)

## **9. OFFICIALS**

All SprintDog™ Trials shall have the following officials:

- Trial Secretary
- Sprint Marshall
- Lure Operator
- Minimum of three Timing Officials. (One of the Timing Officials may also act in the role of Gate Steward)
- Gate Steward
- Catching Pen Steward
- Judge

For safety reasons, unless handling a known dog, no Official is to be inside the Sprint Zone area during a SprintDog™ Trial whilst a dog is running. If the SprintDog™ Trial is being held on a wide track such as a Greyhound Track and Officials can easily move clear of their standing position, they may be inside the Start Box or Catching Pen.

**(Amended February 2025)**

### **9.1 Trial Secretary**

Where an Affiliate's Member Body requires a Representative to be present at an event to officiate on behalf of the Member Body, the Trial Secretary will refer any incidents to the Representative.

Where an Affiliate's Member Body does not require a representative to be present at an event, the Trial Secretary may also fulfil the position of Trial Manager and is responsible for the reporting of any incidents to the Member Body.

The Trial Secretary shall:

- a. Be responsible for making sure that the grounds for the Trial are checked for hazards and checks with the people responsible for all the equipment to ensure that all is in place and functioning.
- b. Receive, record, and collate all entries prior to the SprintDog™ Trial.
- c. Prepare Catalogues, Gate Sheets, Check-In Sheets, Vetting Sheets and Timing Sheet.
- d. Where possible, ensure that when preparing the Catalogue, Exhibitors handling multiple Exhibits, have enough entries between their dogs to ensure they have ample time to get ready with their next dog.

- e. Email Catalogues to all exhibitors at least 24hrs before the start time.

Catalogues must consist of the information as required by their Member Body.

Timing Sheets must contain the following information only:

- Number
- Breed

- f. Checks in all dogs that are present on the day and marks off those that are scratched or absent on the Check-In sheet, Gate Sheet, and Timing Sheet.
- g. Shall liaise with the Judge and any other officials present on the day to remove from the grounds any individual who wilfully interferes with any person, dog or official. In this instance a report is to be written up and submitted to their Member Body.
- h. Record and report any injuries or incidents involving dogs or persons during the SprintDog™ Trial to their Member Body (in the absence of a Representative).
- i. Collect completed Timing Sheets.
- j. Calculate and record each Exhibit's speed (in km/hr) based on the Exhibit's time.
- k. Convert and record each Exhibit's points based on the Exhibit's speed and handicap.

- l. Ensures a permanent record is kept of the Trial for the Affiliate's records.
- m. Compile all results and submit to their Member Body along with any other requirements.
- n. Present each exhibitor of qualifying dogs with their Qualifying Certificate showing only the following:
  - Average Time
  - Average Speed
  - PointsThe time for each run must not be presented to Exhibitors.
- o. If Clubs wish to publish results, only the following results may be published:
  - Average Time
  - Average Speed



## **9.2 Sprint Marshall**

The Sprint Marshall:

- a. Is in control of the proceedings in the Sprint Area and Start Box.
- b. Is responsible for the safety of the dog and handler in the Sprint Area and the Start Box.
- c. Will be in complete charge of all dogs and handlers in the Sprint Area and the Start Box.
- d. Will ensure that only one handler releases the dog in each run.
- e. For their safety, must stand on the opposite side of the fencing to the Start Box.
- f. Gives the signal "Tally-Ho" to release the dog.
- g. Shall check in the following order: Correct Catcher in the Catching Pen and ready, Timing Officials ready, Lure Operator ready and give the instruction to the handler that they cannot release the dog until the "T" in "Tally-Ho", then ask the handler if they are ready. After affirmative answers, the Sprint Marshall provides a hand signal to the Lure Operator to start the lure.
- h. May order retrieval for a dog that:
  - Fails to run at the "Tally-Ho".
  - Tries to escape from the Start Box or Sprint Area.
  - Fouls the Start Box or Sprint Area.
  - Repeatedly does not cross the start line within 30 seconds of the Sprint Marshall calling "Tally-Ho".
  - Does not complete the 100m in 60 seconds.
- i. May signal the Lure Operator to stop the lure immediately when a dog becomes entangled in the lure string or when a dangerous situation may develop.

### **9.3 Lure Operator**

The Lure Operator is responsible for operation of the machine that drives the lure in the Sprint Area.

The Lure Operator:

- a. Must be a Recognised SprintDog™ Lure Operator or an accredited Lure Operator for Greyhound Racing events held on a straight track.
- b. Must be contracted for the SprintDog™ Trial.
- c. Must be positioned as to have a clear view of the Sprint Zone.
- d. Will attempt to always keep the lure a reasonable distance in front of the dog.
- e. Starts the lure on the signal from the Sprint Marshall.
- f. Will stop the lure on a signal from the Sprint Marshall but shall automatically stop the lure anytime a dog becomes entangled in the lure string or when a potentially dangerous situation may develop.
- g. Must stop the lure in a place that allows time for dogs to stop before the end of the Catching Pen.
- h. May only return the lure from the Catching Pen to the Start Line once the dog is caught by the Catcher, is on leave and under effective control or if a dog cannot be caught and the dog is running back towards the releaser. In this instance, the Lure Operator must give the dog sufficient distance to stop.

## **9.4 Timing Officials**

A minimum of two Timing Officials are required for a SprintDog™ Trial.

The Flag Timing Official and Electronic Timing Official will be present at the start or finish line and Manual Timing Officials will sit at the opposite end of the 100m area.

In the event of "Break the Beam" equipment being used, only one Manual Timing Official is required to manually record the dog's time using a stopwatch.

Where "Break the Beam" electronic timers are used and are successfully triggered at both the start and finish line, this is the official time to use for the Trial.

If the electronic timers are not successfully triggered at both the start and finish line, the dogs time will be determined by the time recorded by the manual timing officials.

Where two Manual Timing Officials are used, the time will be the average of the two times.

The remaining Timing Official, is the Electronic Timing Official and is in control of the electronic timing system, shall be responsible for recording each time and resetting the system. This Timing Official may sit at the start or finish line.

If "Break the Beam" equipment is not being used, the Manual Timing Officials must sit opposite each other on either side of the line (outside of the Sprint Area) at the opposite end of the 100m to the Flag Timing Official. The Manual Timing Officials shall manually record the dog's time using a stopwatch. The Flag Timing Official must be clearly visible to Manual Timing Officials.

The Flag Timing Official and Manual Timing Official/s must be directly in line with the start/finish line outside of the Sprint Area.

All Timing Officials responsible for recording a dog's time, must have a written copy of the time for each dog, even where electronic documenting devices are used, in case of technology failure.

The Flag Timing Official shall give a clear visual signal as the dog crosses the start or finish line. The movement signalling the dog crossing the line, must be able to be seen clearly by the Manual Timing Officials.

The Flag Timing Official may also be the Electronic Timing Official or the Gate Steward.

Timing Officials shall record if the handler enters the Sprint Area.

The Manual Timing Officials are responsible for the starting and stopping of a stopwatch as the dog crosses the line in front of the Official and when the Flag Timing Official signals that the dog has crossed the line. The dog's time to the nearest 1/100th of a second is recording against the dog.

Timing Officials shall not discuss with each other the dog's time. Timing Officials shall hand in timing results to the Trial Secretary.

Timing Officials cannot officiate in the position whilst their dog is running. They must be temporarily replaced.

If at any time a Manual Timing Official has difficulty seeing where the dogs cross the line or the Flag Timing Official, they must notify Officials immediately once the Sprint Area is free of dogs, as to rectify the situation.

A dog's time is recorded from the first instance where the dog crosses the start line or the Electronic Timers are triggered, and until it crosses the finish line. If the dog returns to the handler before running down the Sprint Area or returns in the Sprint Area before it crosses the finish line, the time will not be reset and started again.

## **9.5 Gate Steward**

Gate Steward is the intermediary between those competing, and those waiting to compete.

The Gate Steward may also act as the Flag Timing Official at the start line.

The Gate Steward is responsible for:

- a. Checking that the upcoming dogs are present in the marshalling area.
- b. Ensuring that safety precautions are observed (eg. covered shoes for handlers, no check chains, haltis, prong collars or e-collars on dogs and that the handler is a minimum of 16 years of age).
- c. Ensuring dogs enter the Start Box with only one item of permitted restraint attached.
- d. Ensuring that each handler is wearing the correct number and notifying Timing Officials and Catching Pen Steward of the Exhibit number.
- e. Marking off each dog as it enters the Start Box and recording those that are absent for both runs of the day. Marking sheets for dogs who do not complete the 100m, so they are not called for Run 2.
- f. Controlling the Marshalling Area.
- g. Opening and Closing the gate for handlers to enter and exit the Start Box.

## **9.6     Catching Pen Steward**

The Catching Pen Steward is the intermediary between the Handler and the Catcher.

The Catching Pen Steward is responsible for:

- a. Giving adequate notice to handlers that their dogs are due to run and to enter the Catching Pen before the dog starts running.
- b. Opening and Closing the gate for Catchers to enter and exit the Catching Pen.
- c. Communicating with Officials that the Catcher is ready.
- d. Ensuring that safety precautions are observed (eg. covered shoes for Catchers, age of handlers, no prohibited items of restraint).
- e. Ensuring dogs are caught quickly and inform Officials over radio that the dog is on lead and under control.
- f. Checking dogs for injuries (visual inspection of the dog leaving the Catching Pen) and reporting immediately if a dog is obviously injured after it's run.
- g. Reporting immediately if a dog collides with any fencing/barriers used in the Catching pen. This includes where the dog attempts to jump over the fencing due to being unable to slow down in time to stop.

**In the event that a dog collides with any obstacles in the area of the Catching pen (including fencing/barriers), the SprintDog™ Trial must stop and the Officials must have a meeting regarding the incident and find a solution to stop this happening again. The incident must also be reported to the Affiliate's Member Body.**

- h. Ensuring that no other person other than the Catcher, is in the Catching Pen whilst the dog is running.
- i. Ensuring the safety of officials and protection of equipment is maintained when a dog will not release the lure, including where necessary by cutting the string and replacing the lure to enable the trial to proceed.

In the instance where a continuous loop is used to return dogs to their handlers, the Catching Pen Steward is not required, and the Sprint Marshall is responsible for checking dogs for signs of lameness after it has completed the run.

**9.7 Judge**

Although a SprintDog™ Trial is a timed event, each Trial MUST have a judge to adjudicate where required and shall have the final say.

The Judge:

- a. Must be a licensed Dogs Australia SprintDog™ Judge and contracted for the SprintDog™ Trial.
- b. Must be specified in the schedule.
- c. Must check that the Sprint Zone has been set up correctly and safely.
- d. Must measure and record the dimensions of the Start Box, Sprint Area, and Catching Pen to ensure they are of the correct length required in these rules. This report is to be given to the Trial Secretary or Representative before the start of the Trial.
- e. May officiate in the positions of Sprint Marshall, Trial Secretary or Catching Pen Steward during their assignment. The Judge may officiate in the position of Gate Steward when there is another Official acting as Flag Timing Official.
- f. Must NOT officiate in the positions of any Timing Official or Lure Operator whilst officiating as the Judge.
- g. Shall not be prohibited from entering their dog/s into the SprintDog™ Trial.
- h. Shall be able to review all results, during any time at the SprintDog™ Trial, on request.
- i. Does not automatically have to be responsible for the measuring of dogs. This may be done by any Judge and does not have to be noted in the schedule.
- j. Must report any incidents or injuries to dogs or handlers or any other concerns to the Trial Secretary / Member Body Representative as soon as possible.

## **10. How to Conduct a SprintDog™ Trial**

### **10.1 Pre-Trial**

The Sprint Area, Start Box, Catching Pen (if used) and Sprint Zone is to be set up and marked, including “Break the Beam” electronic timers (if used).

Set up the Lure Machine, string, pulleys, and lure.

The Judge will measure and record the Start Box, Sprint Area, Catching Pen (if used), sign and hand into the Trial Secretary.

Brief all Officials and Exhibitors before the Trial starts.

### **10.2 Check-In**

Check-In may consist of up to three sections:

- Vetting of entire bitches (if required).
- Checking in all dogs not scratched / withdrawn from the Trial.
- Measuring dogs that have not previously been measured.

### **10.3 Run 1**

All dogs eligible, present for Run 1 in their correct order, ensuring that they have a Catcher at the other end of the Sprint Zone, ready to enter the Catching Pen.

The Gate Steward will mark off each dog as it enters the Start Box and shall mark any dog that does not complete the 100m run within the allocated time or fouls the Start Box or Sprint Area as Excused.

In the use of “Break the Beam” electronic timers, the Electronic Timing Official will record this time at the official time.

The Manual Timing Official/s shall record a time for all dogs who complete the 100m run.

Any Official who notices a dog fouling the Sprint Zone, shall inform the Gate Steward or Trial Secretary.

On the completion of Run 1, all timing officials shall hand their results to the Trial Secretary. The Trial Secretary will note any dogs that are excused from Run 2 on all paperwork.

### **10.4 Run 2**

All dogs who successfully completed Run 1 without being excused or disqualified, must present themselves for Run 2 when called by the Trial Secretary or Gate Steward.

The Gate Steward will mark off each dog as it enters the Start Box and shall mark any dog that does not complete the 100m run within the allocated time or fouls the Start Box or Sprint Area as Excused.

In the use of “Break the Beam” electronic timers, the Electronic Timing Official will record this time at the official time.

The Manual Timing Official/s shall record a time for all dogs who complete the 100m run.

Any Official who notices a dog fouling the Sprint Zone, shall inform the Gate Steward or Trial Secretary.

On the completion of Run 2, all timing officials shall hand their results to the Trial Secretary.

**10.5 Results & Presentation**

The Trial Secretary will collate the results from all Timing Officials and calculate the:

- Average Time of each dog eligible
- Speed of each dog eligible
- Points of each dog eligible.

These results must be given to each owner/exhibitor of eligible dogs at the completion of the Trial (unless weather conditions prevent this from occurring).

At a SprintDog™ Trial, an Official shall present all qualifying dogs with a Dogs Australia SprintDog™ Qualifying Certificate. The Qualifying Certificate may be in electronic format where the Affiliate's Member Body allows for this.

All prizes, ribbons, sashes, rosettes, or other items offered by the Affiliate, are awarded at the completion of the presentation of Qualifying Certificates (except in the instance where an Affiliate is providing ribbons or sashes to qualifying dogs).

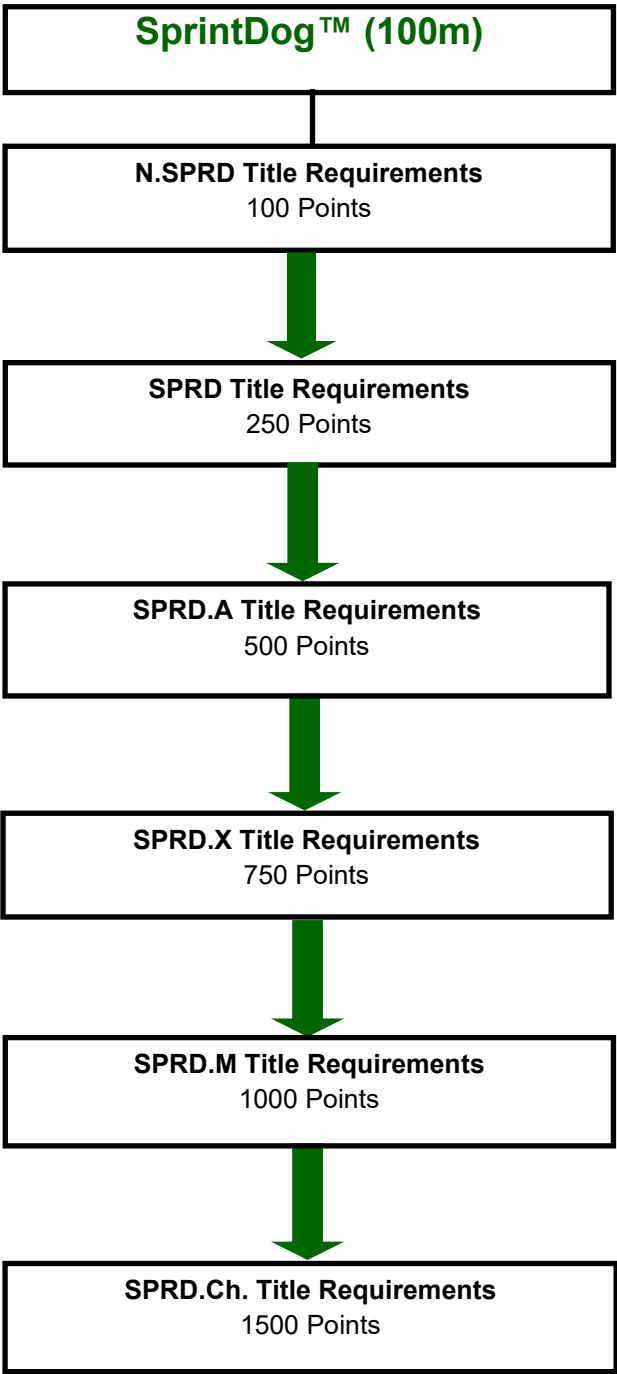
Any Exhibitor with a query relating to their dog/s, must approach the Trial Secretary at the completion of Presentation. Exhibitors are not to permitted to request their individual times.

**10.6 Post-Trial**

The Trial Secretary shall submit all applicable results and reports to their Member Body within the required time frame.

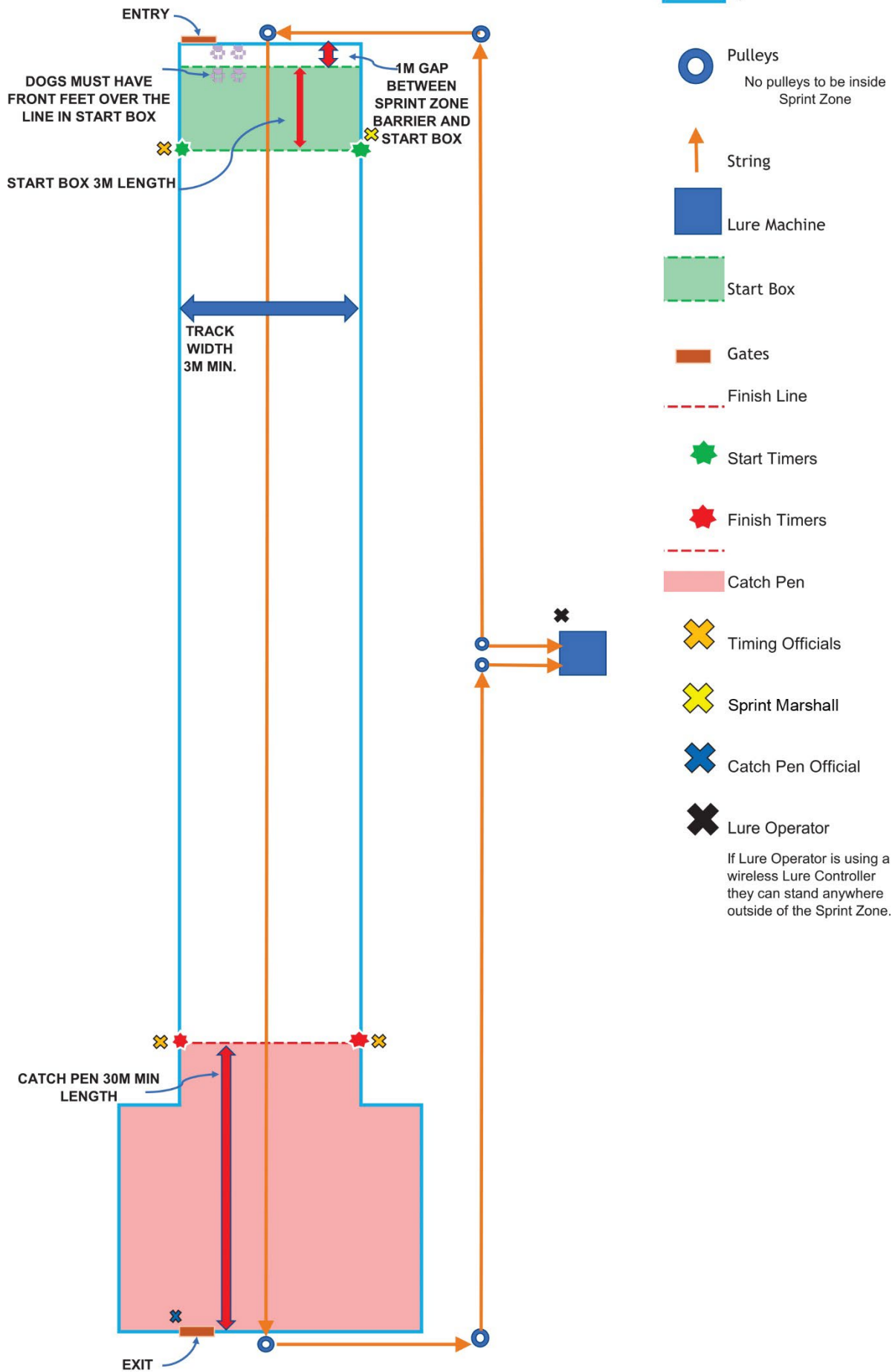


Appendix A: Title Progression

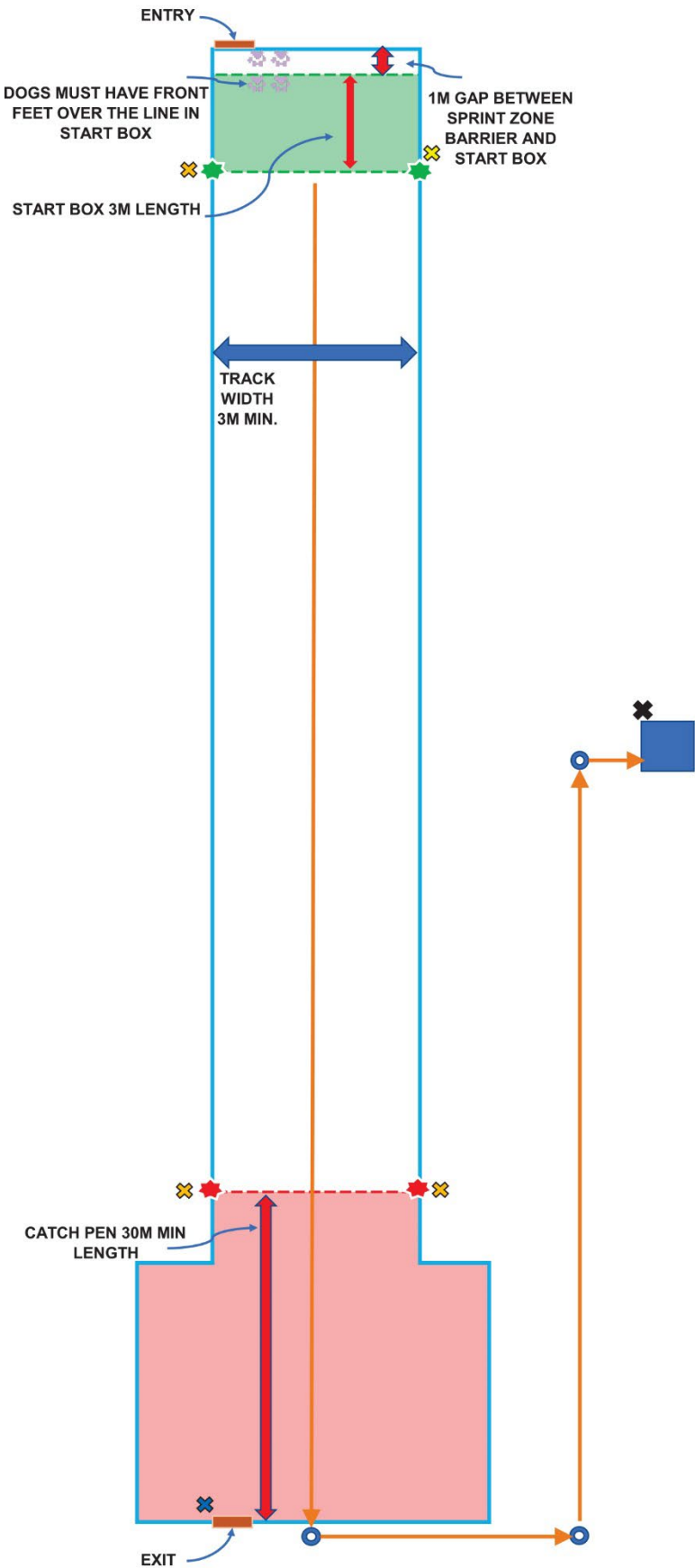



Appendix B: Sample Layouts

SPRINTDOG TRACK LAYOUT  
CONTINUOUS LOOP SETUP EXAMPLE

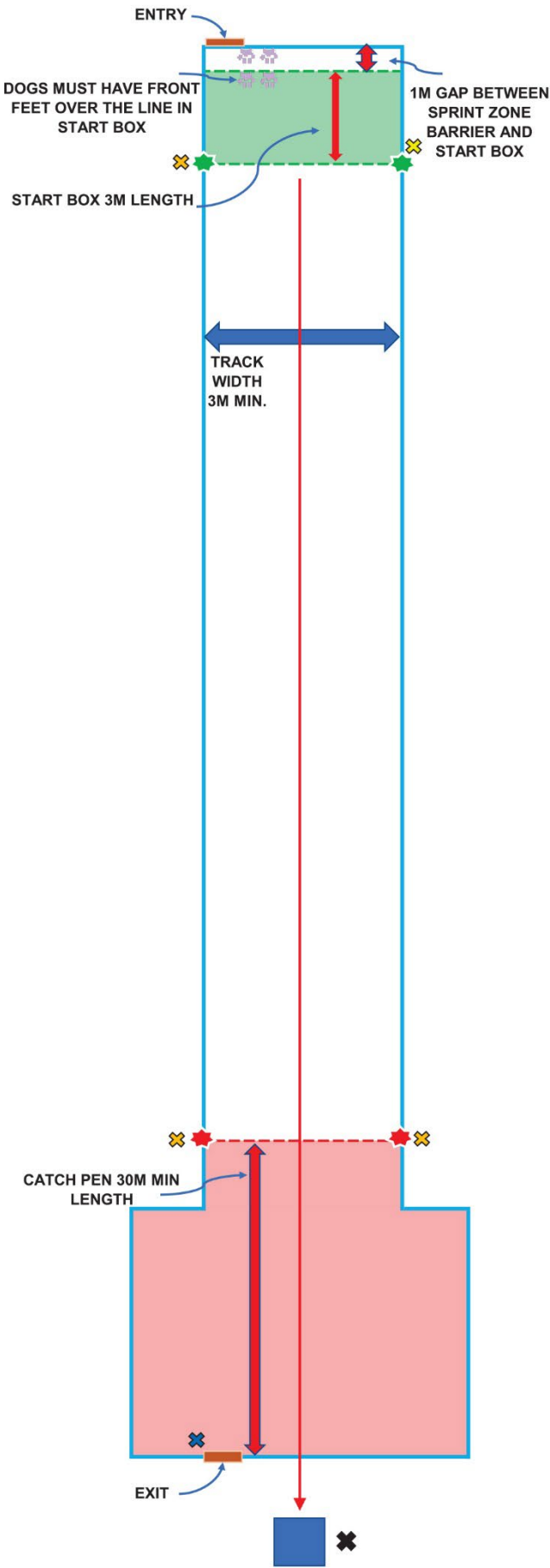


SPRINTDOG TRACK LAYOUT  
DRAG LURE SETUP EXAMPLE

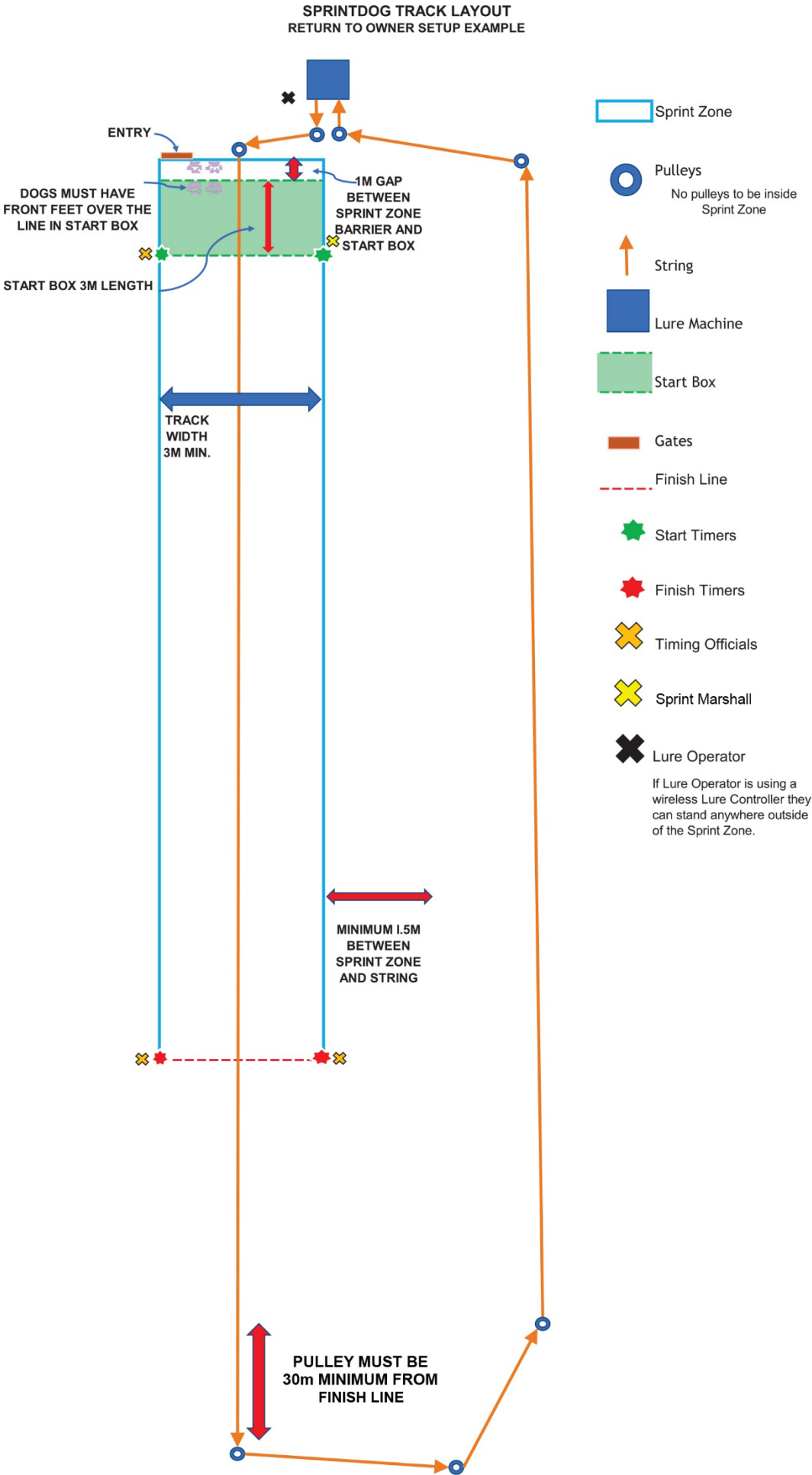


-  Sprint Zone
-  Pulleys  
No pulleys to be inside Sprint Zone
-  String
-  Lure Machine
-  Start Box
-  Gates
-  Finish Line
-  Start Timers
-  Finish Timers
-  Catch Pen
-  Timing Officials
-  Sprint Marshal
-  Catch Pen Official
-  Lure Operator  
If Lure Operator is using a wireless Lure Controller they can stand anywhere outside of the Sprint Zone.

SPRINTDOG TRACK LAYOUT  
DRAG LURE SETUP EXAMPLE



- Sprint Zone
- Pulleys  
No pulleys to be inside Sprint Zone
- String
- Lure Machine
- Start Box
- Gates
- Finish Line
- Start Timers
- Finish Timers
- Catch Pen
- Timing Officials
- Sprint Marshall
- Catch Pen Official
- Lure Operator  
If Lure Operator is using a wireless Lure Controller they can stand anywhere outside of the Sprint Zone.



## **Appendix C: Colourblindness Resources**

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/what-colors-do-dogs-see/>

<https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/do-dogs-see-color#:~:text=For%20example%2C%20the%20color%20red,ball%20and%20a%20yellow%20ball.>

<https://www.wisdompanel.com/en-us/blog/can-dogs-see-color>

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/can-dogs-see-color/>

**Appendix D: USGA Graded Sand**  
**United States Golfing Association (USGA)**

Particle	Diameter	Sieve	% by Weight
Coarse gravel	> 4 mm	No. 5	0%
Fine gravel	2.0 – 3.4 mm	No. 10	≤ 3% gravel
Very coarse sand	1 – 2mm	No. 18	≤ 10% combined in this range
Coarse Sand	0.5 – 1.0mm	No. 35	≥ 60% of the particles in this range
Medium Sand	0.25 – 0.5mm	No. 60	
Fine sand	0.15 – 0.25 mm	No. 100	≤ 20%
Very fine sand	0.05 – 0.15 mm	No. 270	≤ 5%
Silt	0.002 – 0.05 mm		≤ 5%
Clay	< 0.002 mm		≤ 3%
Total fines	Very fine sand + silt + clay		≤ 10% combined

Source:

<https://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/usgamisc/monos/2018recommendationsmethodputtinggreen.pdf> (Page 9)

Sand is defined as any particle between 0.05 and 2 mm in diameter.

## Appendix E: Club Resource

There are many positions required to hold a SprintDog™ Trial.  
Some require formal training, some just a quick demonstration and off you go!  
To hold a SprintDog™ Trial you require a minimum of 6 people.

### Pre-Trial

**Trial Secretary** - receive all entries, work out the run order and prepare a catalogue. Email the catalogue to all competitors 24hrs before the trial start time. Prepare sheets needed for trial day, check in sheets, gate sheets, timing sheets, scoring sheets, competitor numbers and height cards. An electronic version that does 98% of the work for the Trial Secretary has been developed. As this is a fast-paced event it is important that competitors have their own handlers. The Trial Secretary will always try to ensure there is plenty of time between dogs to ensure dog running order can be kept for the first round.

### Check-In

**Vetting person** – Ensures all entire bitches have been swabbed and are not in season.

**Dogs Australia SprintDog™ Judge** – Measures dogs to obtain which handicap is applied for each dog.

**Trial Secretary** - to write height cards, number cards and fill in check in sheet and update scoring program (if using an electronic program)

### On the Field

**Gate Steward** - required to ensure dogs are ready at the start, open, close gate for competitors. Keep the first round in running sheet order. The second round with non-running dogs disqualified, the gate person is responsible to ensure there is always a dog on the track, so skipping numbers is not a problem. This is a quick demonstration job!

**Sprint Marshall** - ensures Lure Operator, Timing Officials and handlers are ready before giving the lure operator a signal to start the lure and Tally-Ho to competitor to release the dog. There is basic training for this position, knowing when to release the dog is important.

**Flag Timing Official** - responsible for the flag drop when the dog crosses the start line to notify the Manual Timer the dog has crossed the line. If the gate Official is good at multi-tasking, they may also do Start Timing Official. Either one of the above positions can be responsible for letting the Catch Pen Official and finish timing official the dog's number.

**Lure Operator** - this position requires a Recognised Lure Operator. The Lure Operator is responsible for safely getting the dog from one end to the other ensuring they have a adequate chance at the best possible run and safe finish. Arguably the most important position on the track.

**Manual Timing Official/s** - this position requires either 1 or 2 people. If using Break the Beam electronic timers, only one is required in case of timer malfunction. If you are not using electronic timers, two Manual Timing Officials are positioned either side of the track and are required to record their times on their timing sheets for each dog. Timing officials cannot converse with each other regarding times.

**Catching Pen Official** - ensures the correct Catcher is in the pen for the dog currently running. Is also responsible for checking dogs for injuries, and noticing if the dog is leaving the pen sound.

**Trial Secretary** - records scores from the electronic timing gates and responsible for resetting the gates for the next dog. At the end of the trial, they are responsible for getting all the result cards and certificates ready for presentation.



**Equipment:**

- Barrier Mesh – approx. 300m of barrier mesh in a colour clearly visible to dogs. Dogs see in blue and yellow.
- Pegs/ Poles – approx. 100.
- 100m measuring tape.
- 1 flag minimum (Flag Timing Official)
- Lure Machine - either continuous loop or drag lure, machine must have brakes in case of emergency and to safely stop the dog after it crosses the finish line.
- Break the Beam Timing Gates (if using this option).
- Walkie Talkies (5 or more where possible) for communicating between Gate Steward, Lure Operator, Timing Officials and Catching Pen Steward.
- Tables
- Measuring device for height categories, loops or wicket.
- Gates x 2 (Start Box & Catching Pen)
- Stop watches x 2

**Appendix F: Height Card**



DOGS  
AUSTRALIA

EST. 1958 AS AUSTRALIAN  
NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL

SPRINTDOG

Height Card

This card must be presented at all SprintDog Events if requested.

Dog's Registered Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog's Registered Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog's Registered Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Measured: \_\_\_\_\_

SprintDog Height Category    <30cm    30 - 45cm    >45cm

Circle one

Official Measurer 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

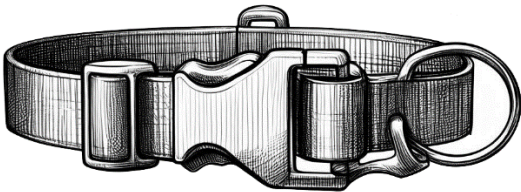
Official Measurer 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix G: Collars**  
(Amended February 2025)



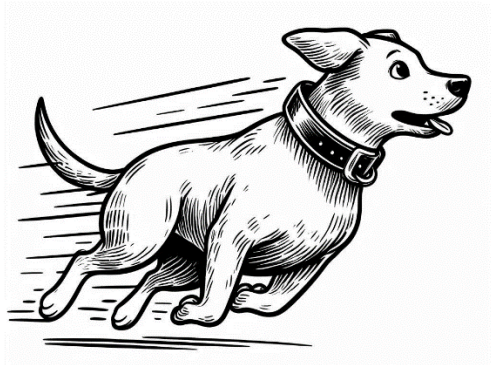
**Correctly fitted flat collar.**  
Two fingers snug under collar.



**Approved** - Flat Collar – Side Release type



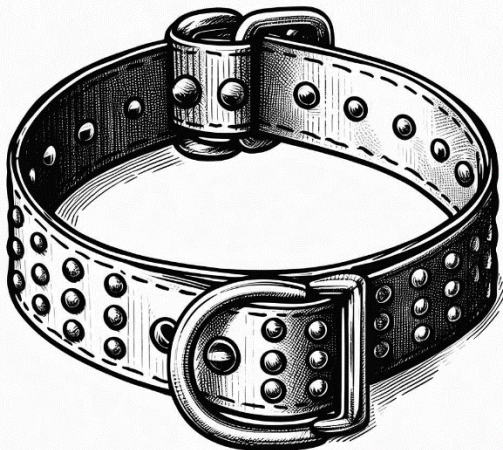
**Correctly fitted flat collar** – Buckle type



**Correctly fitted flat collar** – Buckle type



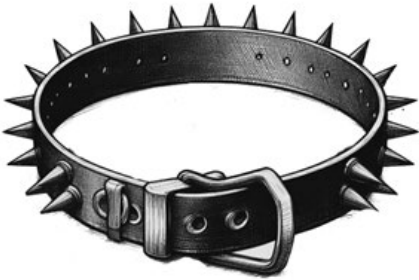
**Approved** - Flat Collar – Buckle type



**Approved** - Flat Collar – Buckle type



**Incorrect** – Martingale Collar



**Incorrect** – Spiked Collar



**Incorrect** – Head Halter / Restraint



**Incorrect** – Metal Chain



**Incorrect** – Harness



**Incorrect** – Tag hanging down



**Incorrect** – End of Collar not secured