

## 5.4 Senior

All exercises are to be performed without physical control, restraint or correction. Stationary with handler = sit/stand/down, at heel or in front of handler

### 5.4.1 Directed Retrieve

**Purpose:** To demonstrate the dogs' ability to retrieve a specific article from the water, when one or more article is present.

**Desired Performance:** The dog will remain on shore, in a stationary position, under control at the side of the handler until directed to begin. The Steward will row out and on the Judges' signal, place two retrieve articles quietly in the water on the seaward side of the boat. The articles will be parallel to the shore, some 6 - 7 metres apart and 20 metres swimming distance, for the dog, from shore. On the Steward leaving the area, the Judge will advise the handler which of the two articles is to be retrieved. On the Judges' direction to begin, the handler will send the dog to retrieve the specified article and return it to hand to the handler on the shore. The Judge will indicate that the exercise is complete when the article is taken by the handler and the dog is in a stationary position with the handler. The Steward will retrieve the other article.

**Time Limit:** 1 minute 30 seconds from the direction "Send your dog". (refer to section 2.15)

**Scoring:** 5 points for entering the water  
10 points for swimming to the correct article  
10 points for retrieving the correct article  
10 points for returning to shore with the correct article  
10 points for delivering the correct article to hand  
5 points for returning to a stationary position with the handler

**Total points:** 50

**Penalties will be applied for:**

- Lack of control
- Anticipation
- Hesitation in entering the water
- Not swimming directly to the correct article
- Not swimming directly back to the handler on shore
- Dropping the article before reaching the shore
- Not delivering the article to the hand of the handler
- Not giving the article to the handler when instructed
- Handler entering the water
- Physical correction - 5 points

**Failure:** 1. Failing to retrieve the correct article.  
2. Exceeding the time limit if the dog ceases to continue to work. Providing the dog is still working, exceeding the time limit is to be penalised by 1 point for every 10 seconds over time

**Permitted actions:** The handler may touch the dogs' head in order to establish the direction of the article, prior to sending the dog, but may not force the dog in any way.

**Judge / Steward:** The directions shall be "The left/right article", "Are you ready", "Send your dog", "Exercise finished"

The Judge will select two articles as similar as possible from life rings / buoys, life jackets / buoyancy aids or boat cushions. The article shall be the same type for each dog.

The article to be retrieved may be randomly selected, either right or left, and will not necessarily be the same for each dog.

Consideration should be given to the conditions prevailing at the time in respect of the placement of the articles, the nature of the articles and the time limit for each exercise. Excessive wind drift may warrant either closer placement or where the dog is working competently but is hampered by conditions, extended time limits.

Articles should be placed quietly in the water by the Steward, without drawing attention to them.

## 5.4.2 Rescue a Stranger

**Purpose:** To demonstrate the dogs' ability to take a buoyancy aid to an unfamiliar person and that person having fitted the aid, is then towed to shore safely by the dog.

**Desired Performance:** A Steward unfamiliar to the dog, will take up a position a minimum of 20 metres swimming distance for the dog from the shore and proceed to act in the manner of a distressed person. The dog will remain in a stationary position on shore with the handler until directed to begin. When directed, the handler will offer the dog a buoyancy aid and command the dog to take hold of it and swim with it to the Steward in the water. On reaching the Steward, the dog will be commanded\* by the Steward to release the aid, which the Steward will then put on. The dog should remain in the vicinity of the Steward. Once the Steward is ready, the dog should tow the steward to shore. The Steward will release the dog on reaching knee deep water. The dog should then return to a stationary position with the handler.

**Time Limit:** 2 minutes from being directed to begin. (refer to section 2.15)

**Scoring:**

- 10 points for voluntarily taking the buoyancy aid
- 5 points for entering the water
- 10 points for swimming with the buoyancy aid to the Steward
- 10 points for releasing the buoyancy aid to the Steward
- 10 points for remaining safely within the Stewards' reach
- 10 points for towing the Steward back to shore
- 5 points for returning to a stationary position with the handler

**Total points:** 60

**Penalties will be applied for:**

- Lack of control
- Anticipation
- Not swimming directly to the Steward
- Dropping the aid on the swim out
- Not releasing the aid to the Steward
- Not remaining in the vicinity of the Steward while the buoyancy aid is fitted
- Not being within the reach when the Steward is ready to commence the tow
- Not towing the Steward
- Not returning directly to shore
- Handler entering the water
- Not returning to a stationary position

**Failure:** Exceeding the time limit if the dog ceases to continue to work. Providing the dog is still working, exceeding the time limit is to be penalised by 1 point for every 10 seconds over time

**Disqualification:** Not taking the buoyancy aid and starting to swim with it within 30 seconds of being offered the buoyancy aid. Endangering the Steward through pawing, climbing or deliberate forcible contact with the Steward, including holding or attempting to hold on to the buoyancy aid.

**Permitted Actions:** The dog may circle the Steward or wait to one side while the Steward fits the buoyancy aid. Handler may call the dog to shore on the return tow.

**Judge / Steward:** directions are "Are you ready?", "Give your dog the buoyancy aid and send your dog" and "Exercise finished"

\*Steward should determine the release command from the handler, prior to entering the water.

Steward should not physically correct the dog unless self-preservation requires (ie. dog attempting to grab buoyancy aid).

The buoyancy aid should be of a simple type that can be fitted quickly (10-15 seconds) by a person in the water eg. the waist belts with slip-clip used by water skiers or the type that fit over the head and secure with a waistband, often used for children, or a life ring of a suitable size. When selecting a suitable buoyancy aid consideration should be given to size, not too large or too small, and ease and speed with which it can be fitted and secured, being not too long as to test the dog unreasonably, nor so fast as to not allow the dog time to demonstrate its ability to remain with a person in distress while the buoyancy aid is fitted.

### 5.4.3 Take a Line / Tow a Boat

**Purpose:** To demonstrate the dogs' ability to take a line out to an unfamiliar person in a boat and tow the boat safely to shore.

**Desired Performance:** A Steward, unfamiliar to the dog, will position a boat a minimum of 20 metres swimming distance from the dog, from the shore. The dog will remain on shore, in a stationary position under control at the handlers' side, until directed to begin. When directed, the handler will command the dog to take the end of a coil of rope presented to it by the handler, and swim with it in its mouth, to the boat. On reaching the boat, the dog will swim sufficiently close to the boat that the Steward is able to take hold of the rope without endangering his/her safety or that of the dog. On taking hold of the rope, the Steward will then ensure that there is sufficient rope to enable the dog to tow the boat in safety, whilst holding the rope securely. The dog having retained hold of the rope, will be commanded by the handler (on shore) to tow the boat back to shore, to such a depth that the Steward can safely leave the boat into knee deep water. The Judge will indicate that the exercise is complete when the dog has returned the retained end of the rope to the handler and is in a stationary position with the handler.

**Time Limit:** 2 minutes from the direction "Send your dog" (refer to section 2.15)

**Scoring** 10 points for voluntarily taking the line

5 points for entering the water

10 points for swimming with the rope to the boat

10 points for swimming close enough to the boat that the Steward is able to take hold of the rope.

10 points for retaining hold of the rope

10 points for towing the boat back to shore

5 points for returning the rope to the handler and returning to a stationary position with the handler.

**Total points:** 60

**Penalties will be applied for:**

Lack of control

Anticipation

Hesitation in entering the water

Not swimming directly to the boat

Not allowing the Steward to take the rope

Not swimming directly back to shore

Not bringing the boat close enough to shore

Not delivering the rope to hand

Handler entering the water

Not returning to a stationary position with the handler

Physical correction (5 points)

**Failure:** Exceeding the time limit if the dog ceases to continue to work. Providing the dog is still working, exceeding the time limit is to be penalised by 1 point for every 10 seconds over time

**Disqualification:** Not voluntarily taking the rope in mouth and starting to swim with it within 30 seconds of the rope being offered. Attempting to enter the boat.

**Permitted Actions:** The dog may turn before or after coming in reach of the Steward or may circle the boat.

**Judge / Steward:** The directions shall be "Are you ready?", "You may begin", "Exercise finished". The rope should be a minimum of 10 metres long, and may have spliced ends to act as a mouthpiece. No other types of mouthpiece should be used. Stewards should not handle the dog or otherwise physically correct it. Stewards may attract the dogs' attention but may not use the dogs' name.

### 5.4.4 Retrieve from a Boat

**Purpose:** To demonstrate the dogs' ability to travel safely in a boat, jump from a boat and return a retrieve article back to the handler in the boat, without endangering itself or any person.

**Desired Performance:** The dog and handler will wait on shore until directed to enter the boat. On entering the boat safely they will be taken by the Steward to a point at least 20 metres from shore. Whilst travelling, the dog will remain under control so as not to impede the Steward or endanger the occupants of the boat. On direction from the Judge, the handler will throw the retrieve article at least 3 metres from the boat. On a further direction from the Judge, the handler will command the dog to leave the boat and retrieve the article, delivering it back to the hand of the handler. The handler will raise the article in the air to signal that it has been returned. The Judge will then direct the Handler to return to shore. The handler will then direct the dog to return to shore in such a manner as to not endanger itself or the occupants of the boat.

**Time Limit:** 1 minute from the direction “Send your dog” and finishing on the handler raising the article in the air. (refer to section 2.15)

**Note:** the exercise starts at the direction to “Enter the boat” and is completed on the Judges’ direction “Exercise finished”.

**Scoring:**

- 5 points for dog entering the boat safely
- 10 points for dog travelling safely
- 10 points for the dog leaving the boat voluntarily
- 10 points for retrieving the article and returning the article to the boat
- 10 points for delivering it to the hand of the handler
- 5 points for returning safely to shore

**Total Points:** 50

**Penalties will be applied for:**

- Lack of control
- Anticipation
- Not entering the boat safely at the shore
- Hesitation in leaving the boat when commanded
- Not swimming directly to the article
- Not retrieving the article
- Not returning the article to the boat
- Not releasing the article to the handler
- Physical correction (5 points)

**Failure:** Exceeding the time limit

**Disqualification:** Dog attempting to re-enter the boat

**Permitted actions:** The retrieve article will be selected by the Judge, and will be of the same type for all dogs.

**Judge / Steward:** Directions are “Are you ready?”, “Enter the boat”, “Throw the article”, “Send your dog”, “Return to shore” and “Exercise finished”. The Steward shall give a verbal report on the execution of the exercise if asked to do so by the Judge.

### 5.4.5 Underwater Retrieve

**Purpose:** To demonstrate the dogs’ ability to retrieve an article from water that is a reasonable depth on the dog (46cm).

**Desired Performance:** The dog shall be in a stationary position with the handler on shore. On direction from the Judge, the handler will throw the weighted retrieve article into water that is level with the depth marker (46cm) for the dog. On the Judges’ direction, the handler will send the dog to retrieve the article. The dog will enter the water, retrieve the article from under water and return it to the handler. The handler should take the article from the dog and the dog should complete the exercise in a stationary position with the handler.

**Time limit:** 1 minute from the direction to “Send your dog” (refer to section 2.15)

**Scoring:**

- 5 points for the dog entering the water
- 10 points for the dog moving directly to the point at which the article entered the water
- 10 points for the dog putting its head under water and searching for the article
- 10 points for retrieving the article
- 10 points for the dog returning the article to the handler, delivering to hand
- 5 points for completing the exercise in a stationary position with the handler

**Total points:** 50

**Penalties will be applied for:**

- Lack of control
- Anticipation
- Hesitation
- Not going directly to the vicinity in which the article entered the water
- Not retrieving the article from the water
- Not returning the article to the handler
- Dropping the article

Not delivering to hand  
Handler entering the water  
Physical correction (5 points)

**Failure:** Exceeding the time limit

**Disqualification:** The handler entering the water to physically force the dogs' head underwater

**Permitted Actions:** The dog may trawl the article, using its paws to move it closer to shore, before retrieving the article. The handler should determine water depth prior to commencing the exercise.

**Judge / Steward:** Directions will be "Are you ready?", "Throw the article", "Send your dog" and "Exercise finished". Consideration needs to be given to prevailing conditions eg water clarity, movement and turbulence that may move the article between the time the article is thrown and the time the dog might reasonably have been expected to locate it. The Judge may indicate a rethrow is necessary if the water depth is unsatisfactory, prior to the dog being sent for the article. The Steward will return the article to the handler. A light line may be attached to the article to assist in location of the article in the event of it not being retrieved. The article should be weighted so that it will sink immediately. It may be of a bright colour and should be no more than 10cm high.

A measuring pole marked the required depth is to be placed in the ground prior to the dog entering the water.