

## 5.2 Beginners

### 5.2.1 Single Retrieve

**Purpose:** To demonstrate the dogs' ability to respond to the handlers' commands and to return to the handler an article thrown into the water.

**Desired Performance:** The dog will remain on shore with the owner until directed by the Judge to begin. In full view of the dog, the handler will throw the retrieve article at least 5 metres into the water within the test area. The dog will be sent to retrieve the article from the water and return it to the hand of the handler on the shore. The judge will indicate when the exercise is completed.

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

**Scoring:** 5 points are available for entry to the water  
5 points for swimming to the article  
5 points for taking the article in the mouth  
5 points for returning to the shore with the article  
5 points for delivering the article directly to hand

**Total points:** 25

**Penalties will be applied for:**

- Lack of control
- Failure to respond to a command
- Anticipation
- Hesitation in entering the water
- Entering the water before being directed to do so
- The dog being physically corrected
- Not swimming directly to the article
- Not retrieving the article
- Not returning directly to the handler on shore
- Dropping the article before getting back to the shore
- Not delivering the article to hand
- Not releasing the article when instructed
- Handler entering the water

**Failure:** Exceeding the time limit.

**Permitted actions:** Articles may be supplied by handlers and must be approved by the Judge prior to the test commencing

Additional commands and encouragement from the handler only are permitted.

**Judge/Steward:** Directions to be "Are you ready?" "Throw the article", "Send your dog", "Exercise finished".

Should the throw be insufficient, the Judge shall direct that the article be rethrown before the dog is sent.

Articles for retrieving should be of a suitable size for the dog, neither too large nor too small, safe for the dog to carry, buoyant, and may be of a bright colour to aid visibility. Articles may include but are not limited to: a floating dumbbell, a suitable ball, a boat bumper, any retrieve article used in Junior or Senior tests.

### 5.2.2 Swim With Handler

**Purpose:** To demonstrate the dogs' ability to swim safely with its handler without endangering itself or the handler, and to demonstrate the dogs' ability to safely tow the handler to shore.

**Desired Performance:** On the Judges' direction, the dog will voluntarily\* accompany the handler into the water and move to swimming depth for the dog. The dog will then swim alongside the (swimming) handler and parallel to the shore, for a distance of 10 metres. The dog should be close enough to the handler to be touched but not so close as to interfere with the handlers' progress through the water. On the Judge signalling that the required distance has been traveled, the Handler will command the dog to return to shore towing the handler. The exercise is completed when the dog and handler have left the water to the Judges' satisfaction.

**Time Limit:** 2 minutes from the direction to begin (refer to section 2.15)

**Scoring:** 5 points for entry to the water  
10 points for swimming alongside the owner in a safe manner  
5 points for turning safely and without guidance  
10 points for the tow directly back to shore.

**Total points:** 30

**Penalties will be applied for:**

- Lack of control
- Anticipation
- Hesitation in entering the water
- Physical correction
- Swimming in such a manner as to endanger the handler eg. Too close to the handler
- Attempting to climb onto the handler
- Not turning when instructed
- Not towing the handler
- Not swimming directly back to shore
- Not leaving the water when instructed
- Handler assisting the dog

**Failure:** Exceeding the time limit.

**Permitted actions:** The handler may wear a buoyancy aid. Any style of swimming may be used by the handler. The Handler may hold the dog directly or use a suitable harness on the dog for the tow to shore.

The dog may be encouraged by way of voice or patting, but must not be forced or physically controlled in any way.

For the tow back to shore, the handler should be free floating behind the dog. The handler is allowed some motion in order to maintain balance but must not assist the dog by kicking. The handler should stand once the water reaches knee depth.

**Judge/Steward:** Directions to be "Are you ready?" "You may begin", "Return to shore", "Exercise finished".

\* The dog should not be held or on a leash or physically controlled or guided.

### 5.2.3 Swim With Boat

**Purpose:** To demonstrate the dogs ability to respond to is handlers' commands by swimming to the handler in a boat and to demonstrate its' ability to swim safely in close proximity to a boat.

**Desired Performance:** The dog will remain on shore with a Steward while the handler is taken out by a Steward in a boat a minimum swimming distance for the dog of 10 metres. On the Judges' direction the handler will call the dog to the boat. On reaching the boat the dog will swim 5 metres with the boat as it travels parallel to the shore. The dog should remain close to the boat in a manner that does not endanger either dog, boat or occupants. On reaching the shore the dog should await the handlers return to the shore. The exercise is completed when the dog returns to the handler on the shore.

**Time Limit:** 2 minutes (refer to section 2.15)

**Scoring:** 5 points for entry to the water  
10 points for swimming directly to the boat  
10 points for swimming with the boat, parallel to the shore  
5 points for turning towards the shore safely  
10 points for returning to the shore with the boat  
5 points for exiting the water

**Total points:** 45

**Penalties will be applied for:**

- Lack of control
- Anticipation
- Hesitation in entering the water
- Physical correction
- Not swimming directly to the boat
- Attempting to enter the boat
- Attempting to grab the boat / oar
- Swimming in a manner that endangers the dog, boat or the occupants
- Swimming too far from the boat
- Not turning when instructed
- Not swimming with boat to shore
- Not leaving the water when instructed

**Failure:** Exceeding the time limit.

**Permitted actions: Verbal** encouragement and additional commands

**Judge/Steward:** Directions to be "Are you ready?" "You may begin", "Return to shore", "Exercise finished".

The Steward may hold the dog on the shore but the dog should wait without needing to be restrained.

Should the dog travel on the seaward side of the boat and be obscured from the Judges' view, the boat Steward shall observe the dog and make a brief verbal report to the Judge on returning to land if requested by the Judge. Once the dog has reached the boat, the Steward should move the boat 5 metres parallel to the shore. The Judge should signal the 5 metres. The Steward should then turn the boat and make for the shore.

Depending on conditions, the Steward may walk the boat the required distance rather than row.