

## **RULES OF SCENT HURDLING UK**

As Revised May 30th, 2023

Any Club offering Scent Hurdle Racing at their Shows and/or Trials must make every effort to ensure that these regulations are strictly adhered to.

### **CHAPTER I**

#### **SECTION I INTERPRETATIONS**

SUBSECTION I - The word "dog" whenever used in these regulations includes both sexes, neutered or not.

SUBSECTION II - "Board of Directors" means the Board of Directors of Scent Hurdling UK (Board).

SUBSECTION III - "Club" except as otherwise indicated means a club, organization, or association formed for the purpose of sponsoring a team for Scent Hurdle Racing.

SUBSECTION IV - "Handler" means owner or owners or handler of dog.

SUBSECTION V - A team shall consist of four to twelve dogs, handlers, and one Platform Steward, registered with the Scent Hurdling UK.

SUBSECTION VI - "Association" means Scent Hurdling UK (SHUK).

SUBSECTION VII - A "Local Representative" is a person responsible for Scent Hurdle Racing within his/her County.

SUBSECTION VIII - All handlers of dogs competing in a point race must be full members of Scent Hurdling UK.

SUBSECTION IX – A "Scent Hurdling Manager" organises a race and is responsible for the smooth running of a show.

#### **SECTION II - RACING DATES**

These are set by the Scent Hurdling Manager with permission from SHUK.

#### **SECTION III - PARTICIPATION**

SUBSECTION I - Participation is considered a privilege accorded a person by the Board and may be withdrawn.

SUBSECTION II - Any person participating agrees to the authority of the Association.

SUBSECTION III - No person expelled from the Association may compete, judge, or handle any dog at a race.

SUBSECTION IV - DEFINITION - A "person" shall include member, person, partnership, club, association, company, or corporation. The definition of "expelled" shall include expulsion, suspension, deprivation of privileges, and debarment from SHUK.

SUBSECTION V – all competing dogs should be 18 months or older.

SUBSECTION VI – Nursery classes can be added to the schedule for dogs under 18 months old. Height of hurdle will be at a minimum; points will not be awarded but prizes will be given to the winning teams.

## **SECTION IV - JUDGES**

SUBSECTION I - It is the duty of the SHUK Representative to ensure that a minimum of four judges are present at each race and that the judges are familiar with the regulations for Scent Hurdle Racing: Starting Judge, two start Line Judges and a Platform Judge.

SUBSECTION II - The Association may set standards for judges and means of testing.

SUBSECTION III - Handlers of dogs or any member of a racing team shall act as judges only if no one else is available to perform these duties.

SUBSECTION IV - Complaints against judges will be raised with the Scent Hurdling Manager however, all judges' decisions are final. Arguing with a judge during or at the completion of a race is strictly forbidden and may be subject to disciplinary action.

## **SECTION V - ENTRIES**

SUBSECTION I - Only dogs eligible for entry at a licensed obedience show under SHUK rules may be entered in and compete at races held under these regulations.

SUBSECTION II – All dogs and handlers must be active members of SHUK.

SUBSECTION III - Entry forms for races must describe breed, name of owner/handler, name, and team number of each dog. Entry fee is to be paid on booking.

SUBSECTION IV - Entries must be received by the Show and/or Trial giving club's secretary not later than the closing date for entries for the Show or Trial.

SUBSECTION V - Authorities or any Show and/or Trial may decline to accept entries for just cause and no one shall have any claim or recourse against organisations or officials that do so. Authorities must file reason for doing so to SHUK no less than ten days after the Show and/or Trial.

SUBSECTION VI - Bitches in season are not permitted to compete. It is the responsibility of the handler not to race a bitch in season.

SUBSECTION VII – Competing dogs should run in a collar only, nothing should be attached to the collar.

SUBSECTION VIII – Following discussion between the Scent Hurdling Manager and/or veterinary surgeon, a dog shall be prevented from racing if it is:

- a. A bitch which is in season
- b. Suffering from any infectious diseases or contagious disease
- c. Interfering with the safety or chance of winning of an opponent
- d. Of such temperament or is so much out of control as to be a danger to the safety of any person or other animal
- e. Likely to cause suffering to the dog if it continues competing.

The circumstances of such a removal shall be recorded in the competition Incident Book and submitted to SHUK.

SUBSECTION IX – Scent Hurdle racing is a competitive and physically strenuous activity. It is the responsibility of the owner/ handler to ensure their dog is 'fit for function' and that they themselves are fit to take part. By signing the entry form you confirm that to the best of your knowledge you and your dog are fit and able to compete.

**SECTION VI - POINT SCORING**

SUBSECTION I - Points are accumulated from January 1 to December 31 on a yearly basis.

SUBSECTION II - Only races held at Licensed Show and/or Trial will qualify as point races. However, in the case of a tie at the end of the year, the SHUK Representative will hold a tie breaking race. The SHUK Representative (or a person designated by the SHUK Representative) will decide when and where the race is to take place and will preside over same.

Below shows the scoring system for the overall competition. At the end of the day points will be determined by overall placement.

The point system is as follows:

	Number of Teams								
	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight	Nine
1st	2	3	5	7	9	11	13	15	17
2nd		1	3	5	7	9	11	13	15
3rd			1	3	5	7	9	11	13
4th				1	3	5	7	9	11
5th					1	3	5	7	9
6th						1	3	5	7
7th							1	3	5
8th								1	3
9th									1

SUBSECTION III - The Scent Hurdling Manager is responsible for submitting the points appointed to each dog to the Secretary of SHUK.

**SECTION VII - EQUIPMENT**

SUBSECTION I - Each team should supply their own dumbbell platform. Jumps and any other equipment for races is to be supplied by the Scent Hurdling Manager, unless otherwise agreed in advance. The Scent Hurdling Manager will be responsible for arranging any alternative arrangements. Only SHUK approved equipment will be used at a race.

SUBSECTION II - Each Team must have its own set of dumbbells in accordance with the minimum requirement (see Chapter II, Section III).

**SECTION VIII - DISCIPLINE**

SUBSECTION I - The Board of directors of the SHUK may take disciplinary action against any club, person, company, or partnership for any act of omission or commission, which violates any section or sections of these regulations.

SUBSECTION II - The administering of any drug except as prescribed by a veterinarian, which alters the nervous system by stimulation, sedation or tranquilization of a dog competing at a race shall be considered as misconduct and person or persons so charged will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with this section. Any points accumulated by that team may, at the Board's discretion, be cancelled.

SUBSECTION III - The Starting Judge may take summary action against any person inside or outside the ring interfering with the running of the race.

SUBSECTION IV - The Board, at its discretion, has the power to reverse the Starting Judge's decision and/or remove any points awarded.

SUBSECTION V - Arguing with the Judges or in any way subjecting them to any indignity shall be considered a serious offence and will be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

### **SECTION IX - NO LIABILITY**

SHUK shall not be responsible to any person, partnership, club or corporation, for any loss or damage arising at or by reason of any race held under any rules adopted by the Association.

### **SECTION X - AMENDMENTS**

SUBSECTION I - These regulations for Scent Hurdle Racing are subject to amendments as herein provided by the Association.

SUBSECTION II -

- a. Amendments may be proposed by an association, council or committee, executive or representative, group, or by four ordinary members of SHUK.
- b. Amendments must be approved by a majority of the members voting by returned ballots.
- c. Effective date of amendments is to be set by the Association.
- d. The Association has the power to prescribe regulations of submission and procession of amendments.
- e. The Association will provide written notification of proposed changes three months before voting on them.
- f. Approved amendments will be provided to the current members after acceptance.

### **SECTION XI - MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Membership may be obtained by sending a completed membership application form (obtainable from SHUK) to the Treasurer (of SHUK) along with a membership fee to be set Annually.

### **SECTION XII - REGISTRATION OF A TEAM**

SUBSECTION I - A team shall consist of a minimum of four dogs, their handlers and/or Platform Steward, one of whom shall be designated as Team Captain. Eight more dogs and handlers and/or one more Platform Steward may be listed as alternates.

SUBSECTION II - The team may be registered at any time during the racing year (January 1- December 31) and will be eligible to accumulate points from that time on. To register, the Team Captain must supply SHUK with a list of all the handlers, dogs, and Platform Stewards, which make up their team.

SUBSECTION III - Once registered, new dogs may be added to the team, up to a maximum of twelve; substitutes can be made but at least ten days' notice must be given before a show and/or trial. A dog can only be registered in one team.

SUBSECTION IV - No team may borrow dogs from another team for league competition.

SUBSECTION V - Any member in good standing of SHUK may be a Platform Steward at a race. This shall include registered team members. The same person shall serve as Platform Steward for the runs in a heat. For example, if only two runs determined the winning team, the Platform Steward would remain the same for those runs. After that heat has finished, the Platform Steward can change. Platform Stewards may be changed between heats but not between races.

### **SECTION XIII - RESPONSIBILITIES OF SHUK REPRESENTATIVE ·**

The Representative will:

- a. Arrange with clubs to have Scent Hurdle Racing included at their Shows and/or Trials and to have it advertised in their Premium Lists. Ideally, this should be done before the start of a new year so that all teams may be informed about the details of upcoming competitions.
- b. Arrange Judges for each race and ensure that they are familiar with regulations on judging Scent Hurdle Racing.
- c. Arbitrate any disputes that may arise between teams or others involved directly or indirectly in Scent Hurdle Racing.
- d. In the case of a formal protest, conduct a hearing to hear both sides of the case and submit their recommendations to the Board for its decision.
- e. Keep a record of registered teams and points earned.
- f. Promote the sport of Scent Hurdle Racing by arranging demonstrations and displays at public gatherings etc.

### **SECTION XIV - SCENT HURDLE RACING TITLES**

Only dogs running in heats can win points. All times are for a team of four dogs and handlers. Times would be obtained by the Scent Hurdle Manager and recorded by the Starting Judges at each race. Results are to be collected and kept on forms provided by SHUK at each point race.

#### *Points*

A race taking over 80 seconds shall not earn any points. The Starting Judge will stop the heat after 80 seconds.

#### *Titles*

50 points = Scent Hurdle Dog (SHD)

100 points = Scent Hurdle Dog Excellent (SHDX)

250 points = Scent Hurdle Dog Champion (SHDCh.)

500 points = Scent Hurdle Dog Masters (SHD.M)

1000 points = Scent Hurdle Dog Masters Excellent (SHDMX)

2500 points = Scent Hurdle Dog Masters Champion (SHDMCh)

## **CHAPTER II**

### **SECTION I - DESCRIPTION OF COMPETITION**

SUBSECTION I - The Race Area will be determined by the Starting Judge with the participation of the Team Captains. It will be large enough to provide a safe racing environment. Two courses will be set up in the Race Area.

SUBSECTION II - The Scent Hurdle Races consist of two teams of four handlers, their dogs, and a Platform Steward, with each team racing their dogs simultaneously over a series of four hurdles spaced 3m apart and the two rows of hurdles spaced 3.6m away from each other. Each dog must retrieve a scented and numbered dumbbell from a square platform set 3.6m beyond the fourth hurdle on each course. As each dog retrieves its handler's dumbbell, it immediately returns over the four hurdles to its handler and the next dog is sent to repeat the same performance until the fourth dog on the team has completed its run. The first team to successfully complete the course will be declared the winner of that race. The first team to win two out of three races will be considered the winner of the heat. Once one team has won two races, the heat is over.

SUBSECTION III - The dogs on the winning team must retrieve the correct dumbbell by going over each jump and returning over each jump in faster times than their opponents, without performing any actions which would result in disqualification.

SUBSECTION IV - Both platforms shall be started in the same initial position and this position will be such that the lowest number being used is in the home position (6:00pm position as viewed from the starting line) before the first heat. After each heat, the dumbbell platform shall be rotated by the Platform Stewards in accordance with the Starting Judge's decision.

SUBSECTION V - Upon entering the competition area, the handlers shall put their dogs on a Stay, one behind the other, in the order that they will race, behind the starting line. Once the racing order has been determined, the Starting Judge will determine the position of the Platform.

SUBSECTION VI - At a command from the Starting Judge, "Place your Dumbbells", the handlers will leave their dogs and place the dumbbells on the dumbbell platform at the end of the course. The spare dumbbells will also be carried down at the same time and be handed to the Platform Steward. All dumbbells must be scent protected (Platform Steward must wear gloves to prevent transference of their scent). The dumbbells will be placed on their corresponding numbered positions on the dumbbell platform in a symmetrical pattern. The handlers will then return in an orderly fashion to their dogs. No changing of running order will be allowed after the dumbbells have been placed for that heat. If any team members with numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12 are being used, inserts must be inserted on the platform in such a manner as to have the numbers in increasing numerical clockwise order.

At the Judges command "Get Set", the handler of the lead dog should position themselves and their dog behind the starting line ready for the starting whistle. At the sound of the whistle, the dog will be sent over the course and the handler may use both voice and hand signals but shall not propel the dog over the starting line. The handler must not cross the starting line once the race has commenced.

Each dog must retrieve their handler's naturally-scented dumbbell and return over the hurdle course immediately and before the next dog starts its run. The Platform Steward shall place on the empty space on the dumbbell platform one of the dummy dumbbells. As each dog retrieves the proper dumbbell, a dummy dumbbell is put down to take its place so that all four spaces are always

occupied by a dumbbell, except if it is the last dog. The next dog shall not be sent until the previous dog's nose has crossed the finish line (starting line) on their return run. A dog that does not bring back the correct dumbbell across the finish line must be sent again after the fourth dog has completed the course. In the case of a close finish, the dog whose nose crosses the finish line first is the winner.

SUBSECTION VII - If a dog begins to retrieve an incorrect dumbbell, or starts to go around one of the hurdles, the handler may correct his dog by voice or signal or both but may not leave the starting area. If a dog cannot be corrected in this manner, the handler should recall his dog to the starting area and prepare to re-run his dog after the fourth dog has completed its run. In the event of such a recall, the next dog may be sent to retrieve as soon as the defaulting dog crosses the finish line.

SUBSECTION VIII - In the event an incorrect dumbbell is retrieved, the Platform Steward will place a previously scented spare dumbbell on the platform.

SUBSECTION IX - In the event that a dog retrieves more than one dumbbell in a single run, provided that one of the dumbbells retrieved is that dog's dumbbell to retrieve, then the dog is considered to have successfully completed the heat.

SUBSECTION X - In the event that a dog knocks over a hurdle during the course of the race, there is no penalty provided that the offending dog completes the course in accordance with the rules. It is the responsibility of the Platform Steward to reset the hurdle into its proper position before the next dog is sent or at the end of the heat.

SUBSECTION XI – Your team will go through stages in competition; you will race until there is one winning team. Points will be given depending on overall placing.

## **SECTION II – DESCRIPTION OF HURDLES**

Hurdles shall be of a light-weight construction. The height of the uprights shall be between 60cm and 80cm and the space between the uprights, 60cm. Sufficient boards should be made to allow the adjustment of the height from 15cm (small), 20cm (medium), and 15cm (large).

## **SECTION III - DESCRIPTION OF DUMBBELLS**

Two dumbbells are required for each dog. The size of the dumbbell depends on the dog. For small dogs, the size of the dumbbell grip is 10cm. For medium dogs, the grip size is 14cm and large dogs, the grip size on the dumbbell is 14cm.

Dumbbell Identification - Each team dumbbell must be uniform in colour and size. The outside surface of the block ends must display a number two inches high. Numbers shall be selected from the numbers one through twelve. No numbers shall be duplicated on any one team and numbers must be on both ends of the dumbbells and clearly visible to the judges.

Dummy Dumbbells - Each team must have a minimum of five dumbbells. They shall be identified with a letter "X" 5cm high instead of a number. These will be marked on the side of the dumbbell so the Platform Steward can see clearly.

## **SECTION IV - DESCRIPTION OF DUMBBELL PLATFORM**

A wooden platform 60cm by 60cm by 7.5cm high with a divider running from corner to corner creating four equal sections shall constitute the dumbbell platform. The sections of the platform shall be numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4 in a clockwise direction in 15cm high numbers. A moulding shall be put around the perimeter of the platform to prevent the dumbbells from sliding or being pushed off.

## **SECTION V - PLACEMENT OF HURDLES**

Four hurdles shall constitute a hurdle course. They shall be placed as follows: the first hurdle must be 4m from the starting line. The hurdles shall be 3m apart and the dumbbell platform shall be 4m beyond the fourth hurdle. All four hurdles and the dumbbell platform shall be placed in a straight line and the distance between the two hurdle courses shall be maintained at 4m.

## **SECTION VI - HEIGHT OF HURDLES**

Before any dog competes in Scent Hurdle Racing, they will require a measure to take place. Measuring will be organised by the Scent Hurdle Manager, and it is their duty to inform SHUK of each dog and their measure. This is to allocate the right size of class. Dogs must be measured by official Scent Hurdling measurers before they compete at their first race.

Dogs competing in the large height category do not need to be officially measured before competing, provided they are "obviously" large. However, those handlers who are not sure if their dog is large may still have their dog measured.

Please note that once a dog has competed in the large height category at a show licensed by SHUK without a measurement, it cannot subsequently change to a different height.

For measuring, the measurer must have not previously measured the dog, plus the dog cannot be owned or part-owned by them, owned by a partner, member of their family or been previously entered for competition by them.

All team members must be within the same size class.

There are three class sizes:

Small dogs, measuring 35cm or under at the withers

Medium dogs, measuring over 35cm and under 50cm at the withers

Large dogs, measuring over 50cm at the withers

The height of the hurdles are as follows:

Small, 15cm

Medium, 20cm

Large, 25cm

## **SECTION VII - STARTING LINES**

Starting lines shall be located 1.2m from the first hurdle and shall extend the full width of both hurdle courses. Handlers must remain behind the starting line from the time the first dog is sent to retrieve until the heat is completed.

## **SECTION VIII - CENTRE LINE**

There will be a centre line drawn, or if this is not possible then an imaginary centre line will be used to divide the distance between the two courses in half, thereby allowing 2m on either side. The centre line will run from one end of the Racing Area to the other end.



## **SECTION IX - TEAM CAPTAIN**

Each team will appoint one of its members to act as Team Captain for the year. The Captain shall keep his team ready and alert for competition. The Captain should be familiar with the Scent Hurdle Racing regulations and is the only one on the team who is allowed to discuss the rules with the judges. They will indicate to the judge when their team is ready for the next heat and will handle all draws for team order of racing at a competition. If the Team Captain is unable to make it to a competition, they may designate an alternative to represent them at said competition.

## **SECTION X – PLATFORM STEWARD**

The team's Platform Steward (or Platform Steward) must be a registered member of SHUK in good standing. The Platform Steward shall stand at a minimum of 2.5m from the platform and will approach the platform during a race only to substitute or replace the dumbbells in a symmetrical pattern. After doing so, they will return to their position 2.5m away from the platform. The Platform Steward must not aid or encourage the dogs in any way. The Platform Steward must stay 2.5m away from the dog at all times or be behind the Platform Steward's Line.

## **SECTION XI - DRESS OF A TEAM**

To maintain uniformity of a team's appearance, matching colours for handlers, dumbbell platform and dumbbells are required. For example, shirt, jacket, sweaters, uniforms, etc. should be in matching colours. All team members taking part in a competition must be in team colours.

## **SECTION XII - STARTING THE RACE**

The Starting Judge shall always use a starting whistle to begin the races.

## **SECTION XIII - TEAM RUN-OFF**

In the event of teams who are tied for a position both teams are to enter a team run-off. Another race will take place, the first team with two wins will win the team run-off, this will determine their final position.

## **SECTION XIV - RACING TIMES**

The racing day and time shall be at the discretion of the club hosting the shows and trials. Scent Hurdle racing points will be announced at the end of the judging day.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **SECTION I - JUDGING OF SCENT HURDLE RACES**

SUBSECTION I - There shall be a minimum of four judges present at each Scent Hurdle Race. They will be the Starting Judge, and two Start Line Judges, and one Platform Judge.

SUBSECTION II - Starting Judge – will be the ruling judge and their decisions are final. Other judges must report all fouls to them. They are responsible for timing and observing both teams in the absence of a second Starting Line judge; and they may expel any dog on either team that they consider unfit to compete or any handler on either team who interferes with another dog or handler.

SUBSECTION III – Start Line Judge(s) He/they will time and observe a Team(s) and will report any fouls noted to the Starting Judge upon completion of each heat.

SUBSECTION IV - Platform Judges - They will observe the action at their respective platforms and watch for fouls on the course itself and report any fouls noted to the Starting Judge upon completion of the heat. They will ensure that the platform is rotated by the Platform Stewards in accordance with the Starting Judge's decision before each heat and will ensure that the dumbbells have been placed in a symmetrical pattern at the start of the race and between dogs.

SUBSECTION V - Upon completion of each heat the Judges will confer before the heat is awarded to the winning team to ensure that all fouls have been taken into consideration prior to the Starting Judge's final decision.

SUBSECTION VI - Handlers of alternate dogs or any member of a racing team shall act as judges only if no one else is available to perform these duties.

SUBSECTION VII - When one team has successfully completed a run, the judge may at their discretion call a halt to the re-running of any dogs on the opposing team and thereby end the heat. It will be deemed to be a dead heat.

SUBSECTION VIII - When no team successfully completes a run in the first two heats of a race, the judge shall declare the race ended and no win will be awarded.

## **SECTION II – INTERFERENCE**

Should a dog or handler interfere with the opposing team by passing over the centre line dividing the course at any time during the running of the race, the Starting Judge will signal the offence by blowing their whistle to stop the race. The team with the offending dog or handler shall automatically lose the heat and the opposing team will automatically win that heat without being required to complete the course and the opposing team will be awarded five (5) points per dog that actually ran in that heat. Should two dogs from opposing teams both cross the centre line, the heat shall be considered a dead heat and must be re-run. To constitute interference, the dog's front and hind legs or both handler's feet must have crossed the centre line. If a dog begins to cross the centre line but can be successfully corrected either by voice and/or signal, before their hind legs cross the line, then the race will continue as a live race

## **SECTION III – RETRIEVAL OF AN INCORRECT DUMBBELL**

If a team retrieves two incorrect dumbbells of the same number, the team will automatically lose the heat provided the opposing team can successfully complete the course.

## **SECTION IV - STARTING LINE PENALTIES**

Each handler or dog that steps over the starting line before the preceding dog on his return run has crossed the finish line will be penalized two seconds by the judge at the finish of the heat. There will also be a two-second penalty for a dog that is propelled over the starting line. If a dog is released before the starting whistle sounds, the heat will be ruled a dead heat and the dogs will be recalled for a new start. Should a handler step over the starting line while their own dog is racing this will cause the loss of the heat to that team, providing the opposing team successfully completes the course.

## **SECTION V - PLATFORM**

The Platform Steward must not at any time aid or encourage any dog or signal the retrieval of an incorrect dumbbell. In the event they do, their team shall lose the heat providing the opposing team successfully completes the course.

## **SECTION VI - DEAD HEAT**

A heat shall be considered a dead heat when:

- a. Both teams have committed fouls to disqualify them from the heat.
- b. One team is disqualified, and the opposing team cannot successfully complete the course.
- c. A false start is made by either team.

## **APPENDIX 1 – JUDGING SUMMARY**

### **STARTING JUDGE**

- a. The Starting Judge is the ruling judge and their decisions are final.
- b. Other judges report all fouls to them.
- c. They may oversee the timing of both teams and the starting positioning of the dumbbells on the dumbbell platforms.

### **PLATFORM JUDGE**

The Platform Judge will observe the action at their respective platforms and watch for fouls on the course itself and report any fouls noted to the Starting Judge upon completion of the heat.

### **STARTING LINE JUDGE**

- a. The Starting Line Judge will oversee the timing of one team (ideally).
- b. They will report start/finish line violations, such as handler crossing the start line; premature release of a dog (causing a crossover); propelling of the dog over the start line, incorrect dumbbell being retrieved to the Starting Judge.

### **GENERAL**

- a. All dumbbells to be naturally scented.
- b. Starting whistle starts the race.
- c. No changes of running order can be made after placement of dumbbells on the dumbbell platform.
- d. Platforms must start in the same positions before each heat.
- e. Rotation of platforms will be done by the Platform Stewards in accordance with the Starting Judge's instructions.
- f. Platform Stewards may be changed between heats but not between races.
- g. Both platforms are started in the same position and will be decided by the Starting Judge before each heat.
- h. The dumbbell platform is to be rotated by the Platform Judges as decided by the Starting Judge. This position can be changed from race to race but must be the same for both teams.
- i. A dog which has brought back the incorrect dumbbell or goes around a hurdle on the way down or back may only be re-sent once the fourth dog has completed the course.
- j. Once the dog has retrieved its dumbbell, it must be replaced with a dummy (X).
- k. Should a dog or handler from one team cross the centre line dividing the course at any time during the running of the race, the Starting Judge will signal the offence by blowing their whistle to stop the race. The team with the offending dog or handler shall automatically lose the heat and the opposing team will automatically win that heat without being required to complete the course and the opposing team will be awarded five (5) points per dog that ran in that heat. Should two dogs or handlers from opposing teams both cross the centre line, the heat shall be considered a dead heat and must be re-run.

## **VIOLATIONS & PENALTY SUMMARY**

### ***Loss of heat***

Platform Steward must not encourage dogs.

Platform Steward must not come within 2.5m of dogs unless they are behind Platform Steward's line.

The correct dumbbell must be retrieved, two attempts at this and the other team has won.

There must be four dumbbells on the board at all times. Make sure they are replaced with "X" or numbered dumbbells with the correct number

Handler goes over starting line when own dog is running

Handler crosses over centre line (both feet)

Centre line interference when all four paws go over the centre line

### ***Two second penalty***

Handler goes over starting line when other dog is running

A dog that goes over starting line before hind legs of previous dog crosses starting line

Propelling dog over starting line

### ***Dead heat***

Release dog before whistle

Two dogs from opposing teams cross the centre line

### ***Other***

Hurdle broken, extra dumbbell on floor, etc. No penalty provided it does not interfere with the running of the race.

Hurdle knocked over. No penalty provided the dog completes the course according to the rules. Hurdle must be reset by the Platform Steward before the next dog is sent.