

North American Mixed Breed Registry



Rules & Regulations For Tracking Tests

Process for Holding Tracking Tests

August 26, 2004

Revised July-2011

North American Mixed Breed Registry

181 Durant Ave, East York, M4J 4W5

North American Mixed Breed Registry

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All clubs, organizations or individuals holding NAMBR approved events are required to have at least one copy of the latest edition of these Rules & Regulations For Tracking Tests/Process for Holding Tracking Tests available for reference at the event.

Comments and suggestions may be forwarded to NAMBR, RR # 2 – **181 Durant Ave, East York, M4J 4W5**

The North American Mixed Breed Registry acknowledges, with appreciation, the contributions of the following persons who helped in the creation of this document:

Mrs. Marie P. Babin, Ajax, Ontario

Ms. Sue Godbehere, Oshawa, Ontario

Ms. Sylvia Milne, Caledon Village, Ontario

And in memory of Linda Reidt, without whom there would be no forum to recognize the achievements of mixed breed dogs and their handlers.

These Rules & Regulations are subject to amendments from time to time, and we welcome your ideas. Proposed amendments may be forwarded to NAMBR for consideration. All such proposals must be in writing, and must include the name, full mailing address and telephone number of the originator.

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General Rules and Regulations

Eligibility to Hold Tracking Tests

Only clubs, associations, or individuals in good standing with NAMBR may make application to hold Tracking Tests.

Application to Hold Tracking Tests

A club, association or individual applying to hold a tracking test must make application on a form provided by NAMBR. The application must be submitted so as to be received not less than 90 days prior to the date of the proposed event.

Such application must clearly state the number of events being applied for, the date or dates of the proposed event(s), and the classes that will be offered.

NAMBR shall have the authority to grant or withhold approval of an application for an event date. If the date is granted and the club, organization, or individual fails to hold its event(s) on the date(s) granted, an administrative fee as set by NAMBR will be assessed to cover the cost of materials produced and mailed as part of the process.

Priority rights for specific dates on which to hold tracking tests may be applied for on a form provided by NAMBR but must be validated each year by submission of the appropriate date application. The application must be submitted so as to be received not less than 180 days prior to the date of the proposed tests, or priority automatically becomes null and void for the remainder of the priority dates held , and those dates will then become available to other organizations.

Once approval is granted, NAMBR will inform the Test Secretary of the approval and will provide the following:

Judge's Sheet for each track.

Statement of Remittance Form.

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Advertising

A club, association, or individual may not advertise the dates of a Tracking Test until after notification has been received from NAMBR that the event has been approved.

Approved events are listed, free of charge, in the official newsletter of NAMBR.

Officials

A Test Secretary must be named and will be the point of contact between NAMBR officials and the test holding club, association or individual. The application for approval to hold a Tracking Test must include the name and full mailing address of the person designated.

The premium list for NAMBR approved tracking tests shall designate the Test Secretary as the person who is to receive entries.

Judges

Where possible, judges should be selected from the list of judges maintained by NAMBR. The names and full mailing address of selected judges shall be included on the application to hold a trial.

Judges selected shall have achieved the degree associated with the level being judged with a dog of their own. The selection of the judge is the responsibility of the host, however it is crucial that the judge be knowledgeable of the rules and abide by them.

Arrangements for payment to the judge for their assignment is between the judge and the event holding club, association, or individual. NAMBR officials will not become involved in any dispute regarding fees and/or payments.

If an advertised judge is prevented from fulfilling his/her assignment in whole or in part, the event holding club, association or individual shall appoint a qualified judge, if one is readily available. If no qualified judge is available, the host shall choose a substitute whom it feels is capable. A pass earned under a substitute judge will be considered as having been earned under the advertised judge.

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Entries

Only those dogs registered with the North American Mixed Breed Registry may enter a NAMBR approved test and all such dogs must be individually registered before the closing date of the test.

Each entrant in a Tracking Test must complete an entry form which must be received by the Test Secretary before the advertised closing date of the test. Entries must not close not less than 20 days in advance of the test and all entries must be in the hands of the Test Secretary by that date and time. Incomplete entry forms and entry forms received after the advertised closing date and time of the test must be rejected and returned promptly to whoever submitted it.

Subject to the provisions set in these rules, no dog may be entered in any level for which it is not eligible at the time entries for the test close nor may such an entry be altered to another level after entries close. A dog may be entered only once in each class.

No dog belonging wholly or in part to any judge or to any member of the immediate family or household of any judge shall be entered in any tracking test at which such person is the judge.

No entry shall be made at any tracking test under a judge of any dog which the judge, or any member of his/her immediate family or household, owns, has owned either wholly or in part, sold, held under lease, handled in the field, boarded, trained, or instructed regularly, within six months prior to the date of the test. This includes judges who train professionally or as amateurs, and applies equally to judges who train individual dogs, as well as those who train dogs in classes or through their handlers.

Dogs entered must be not less than six months old on the day of the test.

A handicapped dog shall be allowed to participate if in the opinion of the judge the handicap does not pose a danger to the dog, handler or spectators. This includes hearing and visually impaired dogs.

The judge shall determine whether or not the dog is fit to participate.

Handlers, trainers or agents may compete, and competitors may enter more than one dog.

Where the Rules and Regulations for Tracking Tests require that a dog shall have earned a tracking title before being entered in a test, eligibility to enter the test is to be determined as follows:

- ❖ **A dog may be entered in a test in which the closing date occurs after its handler has been notified by the judge that the dog has passed the test required for the title, even though the owner may not have received official notification from NAMBR that the dog has passed the test. Should NAMBR not subsequently officially notify the owner that the dog has earned the prerequisite title, any prizes and titles won in the particular test shall be forfeited.**

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Entries (cont'd)

Immediately upon receipt of entries, the Test Secretary shall notify by mail the person making the entry, advising that the entry has been received and accepted. When the advertised test limit has been reached, all remaining/further entries shall be assigned a position on a list of alternates, in the order received. Only entries received before the official closing date and time will be placed on the alternate list. Those persons assigned to the "Alternate List" shall be notified of their position on the list. Entries from the alternate list may fill any absentee spaces up to 1 hour before the start of the test. Entries will be refunded within 10 days of the test to those on the alternate list who did not participate in the test.

Entrants who do not show on the day of the test will have their entry fee refunded less an administrative charge as determined by NAMBR, provided an alternate is available and can attend the test. If an alternate is not available, the entry fee will not be refunded.

The manner of determining acceptance to a limited test shall be left to host of the test, however it expected that a fair and equitable method will be chosen.

The following must appear on the entry form:

The event number as designated by NAMBR.

- Name of dog.
- Breed, or type of dog.
- NAMBR registration number.
- Sex of dog.
- Name and complete address of the owner of the dog.
- Signature and telephone number of the owner or authorized agent.
- Name of the handler if the dog is not to be handled by the owner or member of his/her immediate family.
- The date of the entry.

Cheques returned NSF are subject to an administration fee, as set by NAMBR from time to time, and subject to change..

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Bitches in Season

NAMBR fully endorses the spaying of female dogs. However it is recognized that there may be instances where unaltered females are entered. Bitches in season are not allowed to compete. The judge of a tracking test must remove from the test any bitch in season, or any bitch which appears so attractive to males as to be a disturbing element. When a bitch comes into season after the entry of the bitch has been submitted to the Test Secretary, a veterinarian's certificate, certifying that the bitch was in season within the 10 day period preceding the test, must reach the Test Secretary on or before the date of the test at which time the entry fee and service charge (if any) will be refunded.

Premium List

A standard premium list with entry forms must be published and be made available to prospective entrants. A copy of the official NAMBR entry form is provided as part of this document.

Premium lists shall contain the following information:

- The words "Official Premium List".
- Approved by the North American Mixed Breed Registry.
- The NAMBR logo.
- The name of the club, association or individual holding the event.
- The date of the event.
- The date and time for closing of entries (no entry may be accepted, altered, cancelled, or substituted after the official closing date of entries). It is suggested that a date of no less than 20 days preceding the trial will, under normal circumstances, allow sufficient time for the mailing and receipt of confirmations and schedules etc., if such are being prepared for distribution.
- Location and time of the draw for tracks. A map may be included.
- A statement indicating that the test is limited, and the number of entries it is limited to.
- A statement indicating that all dogs entering the event must be registered with NAMBR before the closing date of the event.
- Name, address and telephone number of the Test Secretary.

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Premium List (Cont'd)

Address and telephone number of where entries are to be sent if different from that of the Test Secretary.

- The judge's name and address.
- List of awards and prizes, if offered.
- The amount of the entry fee.
- The name and address of the North American Mixed Breed Registry.

Other rules and regulations may be included as deemed necessary by the host. However, if other rules are included, they automatically become part of the premium list and must be enforced. At the time of distribution of premium lists, 1 copy shall be sent to NAMBR, 1 copy to the **NAMBR Tracking Representative**, and one copy to the officiating judge.

Program of Judging

After entries have closed, the club, association or individual hosting the test may, at their discretion, prepare a judging schedule showing the time scheduled for judging the various tests.

The club, association, or individual may limit entries in any or all classes by prominent announcement on the title cover page of the premium list, and also indicate that entries will close automatically when the limit for each test has been reached, even if the official closing date for entries has not arrived.

The tracks for each test shall be numbered and drawn by lot by each exhibitor one half hour prior to the start of the test. Draw time for the test is to be published in the Premium List.

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Prizes

A ribbon or rosette shall be provided only for a dog which passes the required test held under these rules. Each ribbon or rosette shall identify the association or club holding the test, display the NAMBR logo, indicate Tracking Test and level (Tracking Dog/tracking Dog Excellent), and that the dog passed the test ("Passed").

The color of the ribbon is left to the host's discretion, however it is not to be yellow, so as to differentiate the event from obedience.

NAMBR may, at its option, supply a mug with the NAMBR logo as an extra prize, for each dog that passes the test.

Ribbons and rosettes may be ordered (but do not have to be) from Dominion Regalia Ltd., which has the NAMBR logo set up. They can be contacted at:

1550 O'Connor Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M4B 2V3

Attention Frank Saunders, Manager Logo Division

Phone 416-752-2382 Ext. 641

Fax 416-752-4615

Toll free 1-800-930-9514

www.dominionregalia.com

Official Catalog

After entries have closed, a catalog shall be prepared listing the following information:

On the cover it must state "This test is held under the North American Mixed Breed Registry Rules", and include the NAMBR logo.

It shall list in the order of receipt of entry, the name and address of each exhibitor, the NAMBR registration number, and available pertinent details about the dog such as name, age, breed description or type.

Space is to be provided to fill in track number when drawn, and to indicate whether the dog has passed the test.

There must be a catalog on site during the test in the event the exhibitors wish to review it for information.

At the discretion of the host, the catalog may be reproduced in bulk and offered for sale, or provided at no cost to the exhibitors. A complimentary copy is to be provided to the officiating judge, and, if present, the Area Representative for the zone in which the test is held.

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Titles and Certificates

NAMBR shall notify the owner of a title earned and ensure corresponding certificate is in the hands of the owner within 90 calendar days of the completion of the test in which the title was earned.

NAMBR will permit the use of the title NAMBR Tracking Dog (TD) in connection with each dog certified by the judge as having passed the Tracking Dog Test. A certificate will be issued to the owner by NAMBR certifying that the title has been won at an approved Tracking Dog test held under NAMBR rules.

NAMBR will permit the use of the title NAMBR Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) in connection with each dog which has already been certified as a Tracking Dog, and which has been certified by the judge to have passed the Tracking Dog Excellent Test. A certificate will be issued to the owner by NAMBR certifying that the title has been won at an approved Tracking Dog Excellent test held under NAMBR rules.

In the case of a dog having earned its Utility title and a tracking title, the dog may utilize the title NAMBR UDT or NAMBR UDTX as appropriate.

End of the Test

The Test Secretary shall forward to NAMBR the following material so as to be received within the 21 days following the test:

Judges sheets marked and signed by the judge

All entry forms

The signed certificate over the signature of the Test Secretary of the test giving club as to the total number of dogs entered in the test. This certificate is supplied by NAMBR at the time of approval.

A remittance which shall include all recording fees for each and every dog entered in the test.

One copy of the official catalogue, completed as to track drawn, and whether the dog passed or failed.

Any other information or reports as may be required by NAMBR.

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Entry Fee and Remittance to NAMBR

Entry fee amounts are set by the host organization

At the end of the test a remittance fee is to be sent to NAMBR by the host organization within the 21 day period following the test.

Protests

All protests must be made in writing accompanied by a \$10.00 fee submitted to the host club Test Committee with a copy sent to the **NAMBR Tracking Representative** and to NAMBR. If the host club is unable to resolve the protest in consultation with the **Tracking Representative**, the protest is to be forwarded to NAMBR for resolution. If a complaint is deemed justifiable, the \$10.00 fee will be refunded.

Who to Contact

For NAMBR registration, application and/or information: Bob Brewster
181 Durant Ave.
East York, Ont M4J 4W5

Tracking Event Planning

Sue Godbehere
116 Kingsdale Dr
Oshawa, Ont., L1G 2G2
Telephone: 905-723-3798
Email: suegodbehere@hotmail.com

Application for Approval to Hold An Event Form	Sue Godbehere
Judges Sheets	Sue Godbehere
Rules and Regulations for Tracking Tests	Sue Godbehere
Current List of Judges	Sue Godbehere

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Standards for Tracking Tests

Test Grounds

The tracking test grounds will be determined by the host club, association, or individual, with individual testing areas set aside for each dog entered.

The host shall make all reasonable effort to try and keep livestock off the actual tracking area during the test.

The stewards shall keep each exhibitor from observing his/her allotted track while it is being laid. Failure of the exhibitor to cooperate with the steward will constitute grounds for the judge to mark his/her dog as disqualified.

The judge shall strive to make the tracks in each class of equal as to length, age and number of turns.

Equipment

Before laying the track, the tracklayer shall produce for the judge's inspection the article or articles which the dog is to find. The articles are to be of leather, and not larger than a pocket book. They are not to be of a colour which will contrast sharply with the background. The tracklayer shall have kept the article in his/her possession for some time, in order for it to become thoroughly permeated with his/her scent.

A chart will be prepared for each track showing the approximate length in meters of each leg, major landmarks and boundaries, if any. Charts may be prepared by the host/test committee, and are subject to approval by the officiating judge prior to commencement of the test, or may be laid out by the judge. The tracklayer will receive a copy of the chart from the judge before he/she lays the track. The judge shall mark the chart while the dog is tracking, and make other notations.

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Tracks

The tracklayer is to be a stranger to the dog. At the start of the track, the tracklayer shall thoroughly tramp an area of approximately one square meter for one minute, then proceed along the designated track at a normal walking pace. No standing still or shuffling is permitted while on the track. The tracklayer shall leave 1 flag to mark the start of the track for the TD/TDX track, and another flag 30 metres from the start to indicate the direction of the track for the TD test. After dropping the article for the TD test, and at the end of the track for the TDX test, the tracklayer shall proceed straight ahead for at least 20 metres and leave the course. The location of the article(s) is to be marked on the chart with an "x" .

No major part of a track is to run along a fence or boundary or within 10 metres of such a boundary and no track shall cross a body of water.

Articles may not be dropped at turns, or in the immediate vicinity of turns. The articles are to be dropped directly on the track and not beside it.

Timing in regards to age of the track shall start from the time the tracklayer begins the track.

During the Test

The handler may not be given any assistance by anyone, and compulsion of any kind shall not be used by the handler while setting the dog on the track or during the track itself. The handler may restart the dog if he/she has reason to believe that the dog has not taken the scent properly, provided that, in the TD test, the dog has not proceeded past the second (30 metre) marker; or in the TDX test, that the dog has not gone more than 5 metres past the marker. Encouraging the dog is permitted, but it's unnecessary use is to be avoided. A dog that is working too fast for the conditions may be restrained gently by the handler, however leading or guiding the dog is cause for calling the handler off and marking the dog failed.

The handler shall hold found articles in the air momentarily and then retain them until the end of the track, at which time they will be examined by the judge.

Abuse of the dog while on the test grounds or the track is cause for automatic failure.

Food is not permitted on the test field at any time, and the possession or presentation of food while on the test field will result in failure of the dog.

Water may be provided to the dog during a TDX test, after article indication. The water must be in a sealed container, and provided to the judge for examination prior to commencement of the TDX test

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The Dog

The dog is to be on a lead from 3 metres to 15 metres in length, and under most circumstances, should work at the end of the lead. The dog is to be given ample time to take the scent at the starting point, and slowly and without coaxing from the handler explore the trampled starting point. There is no time limit provided the dog is working.

A dog that is off the track and is clearly not working shall be whistled off by the judge, and will fail the test, however the handler and dog are to be given the opportunity to finish the track with guidance from the tracklayer.

The glove, wallet or other article is to be found by the dog. The manner in which the dog treats the found article is to be left to the discretion of the handler as to whether the dog retrieves or indicates the article.

In case of unforeseen circumstances, the judge may at his/her discretion, give the dog and handler a second chance on a new track.

The judge will walk the track at reasonable distance behind the handler and dog, accompanied by the person who laid the track.

The use of prong or pinch collars will not be allowed on the test grounds, and use of same will result in failure of the dog. It is not mandatory to use a harness, however if a choke collar is used the lead must be attached to the "dead" ring.

Description of Tracking Dog Test (TD)

The length of the track shall be not less than 400 metres, and not more than 450 metres. The track is to be no less than ½ hour old nor more than 2 hours old at the time the dog starts the track. There may be up to 5 turns, none of which may be at an acute angle. Two of the turns shall each approximate a right angle.

The scent shall be that of a stranger who shall leave a leather glove, wallet or other similar sized leather article, satisfactory to the judge, at the end of the track. All turns shall be well out in the open where there are no fences or boundaries to guide the dog. No conflicting track shall be laid.

Description of Tracking Dog Excellent Test (TDX)

The length of the track shall be not less than 900 metres, nor more than 1000 metres. The track shall be not less than 3 hours old or more than 5 hours old at the time the dog starts the track, and is to be crossed in 2 places at well separated intervals by a more recent track. The track shall contain at least 5 turns, and no more than 8 turns, with no acute angles. The primary track should be laid over varying terrain, and cross a road.

The first article should be dropped not less than 250 metres from the start of the track; the second at an irregular interval between the first and third article; and the third article is to be dropped at the end of the track. The dog must find the last article and one other.

One hour after the primary track has been laid, the judge shall instruct a second person, who must also be a stranger to the dog, to start out from a given point and cross the original track in 2 places. The judge shall strive to ensure the cross tracks intersect the primary track at a 90 degree angle. The dog must not follow the cross track for a distance of more than 20 metres.

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Description of Urban Tracking Dog Test (UTD)

The length of the track shall not be less than 300 metres and not more than 400 metres. The track is not to be less than 1 hour old and not more than 2 hours old at the time the dog starts the track. The track layer shall leave the 2 approved articles at the designated locations. The dog must find both articles except, if in the judge's opinion, the dog actively searched the area where the article was dropped and the tracklayer cannot find the article, the dog shall be given credit for finding the article. The first article should be dropped not less than 100 metres from the start, the last article at the end. One article shall be left on a non-vegetative surface.

Approximately 2/3 of the track shall be on vegetation, 1/3 (not less than 100 metres) on non-vegetation such as gravel, dirt, sand, mulch, brick concrete or asphalt. The first 25 metres shall be on vegetation. The track shall contain 3 to 5 turns both left and right and 2 are to be 90 degrees, none are acute. One turn shall be on non-vegetated surface. No conflicting track shall be laid. No "obstacles" shall be included.

Description of Urban Tracking Dog Excellent Test (UTDX)

The length of the track shall not be less than 600 metres and not more than 750 metres. The track is not to be less than 3 hours old and not more than 5 hours old at the time the dog starts the track. The track layer shall leave the 3 approved articles at the designated locations. The dog must find all three articles except, if in the judge's opinion, the dog actively searched the area where the article was dropped and the tracklayer cannot find the article, the dog shall be given credit for finding the article. The first article should be dropped not less than 100 metres from the start, the second article at an irregular interval between the first and the third. The third is at the end of the track. At least one article shall be left on a non-vegetative surface. A minimum of 1/3 to 1/2 of the track shall be on non-vegetation such as gravel, dirt, sand, mulch, brick concrete or asphalt. The remaining shall be on vegetation. At least the first 25 metres shall be on vegetation. The track shall contain 5 but no more than 7 turns both left and right and no acute angle less than 45 degrees, and at least one 90 degree turn on non-vegetated area. No conflicting track shall be laid. Obstacles such as guardrails, stairs and open buildings are permitted. No track may enter a closed building.

End of Test

The judge is to sign each plotting sheet showing on each the time the tracklayer started, the time the dog started and finished tracking, a brief description of the ground, wind direction and weather conditions, and whether the dog passed or failed.