

USMRA DECOY REGULATIONS

1. PROGRAM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- a. Have a written physician's release to participate in a contact sport.
- b. Be a member of USMRA in good standing,
- c. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- d. Decoys are encouraged to be a member of an active club, but are no longer required.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION

- a. At a decoy certification a decoy must:
 - i. Pass the written test.
 - ii. Pass the physical/performance test phase to show their work.
 1. The physical/performance test will be as demanding as an actual trial.
 2. The test will involve a series of tasks involving: fitness, endurance and speed, the ability to think while fatigued, the ability to design exercises, application of the rules, and agility.
 3. Standards for this test will be posted on the USMRA website, but are subject to change.
 - iii. Pass the general outlook phase of testing by demonstrating they are capable of being a trial decoy to the Certifying Committee.
 - iv. The candidate must receive a minimum of 75% of the points available in each phase of the evaluations (written test and general outlook of the Decoy Committee).
 - v. The candidate must receive a minimum of 80% for Level 1 and a minimum of 90% for Level 2 in the physical/performance test.
 - vi. Application for certification places the responsibility on the decoy to declare prior to the certification and provide at the certification correct equipment and dogs for use in the certification.
 1. Dogs used in certification should be able to demonstrate all necessary exercises (to the satisfaction of the Certification Committee).
 2. Dogs used in certifications must be able to do a Level 3 routine and must be submitted to the Decoy Committee no later than ten (10) days prior to certification.
 3. Failure by the candidate to have the correct equipment or dogs to complete the certification will terminate the certification on that day for that candidate.
 - vii. There will be no modification of the decoy certification regardless of an applicant's experience in other dog sport disciplines.
- b. The Certification Committee authorized to conduct a decoy certification will consist of three (3) individuals. The Selection Committee must be approved by the Decoy Committee ahead of time. The make-up of the Selection Committee will consist of the following three (3) individuals:
 - i. Judge or Decoy Committee Chair plus,
 - ii. USMRA Decoy Committee Member and

iii. A currently certified USMRA Decoy, a certified USMRA Decoy Trainer, an Internationally Selected Decoy, a second Judge, and/or a second Decoy Committee Member.

c. Decoy Committee Member is in charge of the certification. That decoy committee member will be required to meet a set criteria of the decoy committee before he or she will be allowed to perform certification. He or she will take input from other members of the Selection Committee, but the Decoy Committee Member will have the final say on who passes or fails. A Decoy Committee Member can stop the test for a member if they feel it is unsafe or the dog cannot demonstrate the exercise. Any complaints regarding that certification can be sent to the decoy committee for review.

d. Certifications may be held in conjunction with a trial, but certified decoys for the trial must be selected in advance of the trial.

i. No trial will be sanctioned pending the certification of decoys.

ii. Newly certified decoys may work the trial at which they were certified, but not as the primary decoy.

iii. Newly certified decoys can only work Level 1 dogs the first week certified.

iv. Two Level1 decoys cannot be the only two decoys doing a trial unless one or both decoys have worked five (5) trials under three (3) different Judges and receive a score from the trial of three (3) or better.

v. Decoys not currently certified through USMRA must be approved by the Decoy Committee before being able to decoy a trial. The decoy committee will reserve the right to bring club approved decoys in at expense of USMRA to help to maintain decoys trial skills.

3. CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR DECOYS

a. USMRA sponsored Decoy Camps- To provide a method for standardizing, maintaining and improving decoy trial performance:

i. Camps will be certified as trial equivalent events by the Decoy Committee.

ii. Attendance at a Decoy Camp by decoy candidates is strongly recommended.

iii. Active attendance at a Decoy Camp may be credited by the Decoy Committee in the general outlook of the actual decoy certification.

iv. Curriculum and standards for the Decoy Camp must be approved by the Decoy Committee prior to the event

v. Certifications will only be made if the event is pre-approved by the Decoy Committee and if all the members of the Certification Committee are present during the entire event.

b. Decoy Trainer- To provide a method for appointing or nominating a National Training Decoy, USMRA Decoy Committee will offer certification for Decoy Trainers

i. Decoy Trainers must make application to the Decoy Committee.

ii. Decoy Trainer candidates must have letters of recommendation from decoys that they have trained who have become USMRA certified decoys.

iii. Priority for certification will be given to the applicant with the greatest number of decoy recommendations by the Decoy Committee.

iv. Decoy Trainers must pass the written test for decoys with a minimum of 90%. The test can be administered for repeat testing after thirty (30) days.

v. Decoy trainer applicants must demonstrate their ability to observe and critique decoys by observing a decoy certification and submitting a written report of their observations. This report will be reviewed by the Decoy Committee Member(s) participating in the decoy certification.

vi. Attendance at Decoy Camps will give the applicant a higher level of priority for certification by the Decoy Committee.

vii. Decoy Trainers must recertify by completing (i and iv) and by either participating in (v or vi) once every two (2) years.

c. National Decoy Trainers may be nominated from the pool of certified Decoy Trainers. This role is to be for retained for future consideration.

4. LEVELS OF DECOY CERTIFICATION

a. Level 1 Decoys - These candidates have demonstrated sufficient proficiency (skills, knowledge and conditioning) to participate as a trial decoy. This level must be capable of working an entire trial. The decoys must demonstrate a minimum of 75% of the available points in each phase of the certification, except the performance test, a decoy must receive a minimum of 80% for Level1.

b. Level 2 Decoys - Decoys who have successfully completed Level 1 decoy certification and whom have acquired additional experience and knowledge may elect to upgrade their certification. These individuals will have a higher standard of certification than the Level 1 Decoy and must have worked a minimum of five (5) trials in order to attempt certification at this level. These individuals must demonstrate superior knowledge and skill by receiving 90% of the points available in each phase of the certification.

i. Must have requisite experience (5 trials).

ii. Must have passed the written test with 90% or better.

iii. Must have passed the practical examination with 90% of the available points.

iv. Must be selected as a capable and safe Level 2 Decoy in the Certification Committees general outlook evaluation.

c. International Decoys/Level 3 - These candidates have demonstrated their proficiency by attending and obtaining a passing score at the International Super Selection.

i. To apply for admission to the Super Selection, decoys must be Level 2, with no less than ten (10) trials in their book.

ii. Candidates will make application to the Decoy Committee, who will determine if the candidate will represent USMRA appropriately.

iii. Further eligibility requirements will be determined by the International Super Selection Committee and rules will be relayed as available.

5. MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

a. Level 1 Decoys must recertify every three (3) years

b. Level 2 Decoys must recertify every five (5) years.

c. Level 1 Decoys must work one (1) trial in two (2) years to maintain their certification.

d. Level 2 Decoys must work two (2) trials every two (2) years to maintain their certification.

e. Level 3 Decoys will retain their International status for five (5) years from the date of Super Selection, after which time they must recertify as a Level 2.

f. There is not a mandatory requirement to upgrade certification. This is an option to be decided by the individual decoy.

6. DECOY BOOKS

- a. Decoy books are the property of the USMRA and must be surrendered upon request of a USMRA Board Member or the Chairman of the Decoy Committee
- b. Decoy books will contain specific performance items as well as open ended comments by the Judge.
- c. A copy of your decoy book and updated contact information must be sent to the USMRA Secretary by Jan 31 or decoy will be decertified.

7. REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION

- a. USMRA By-Laws outline current complaint process. To streamline the process, any member can always contact members of the decoy committee or Board of directors to bring it to decoy committee for review.

Revocation of certification will be a two (2) or three (3) tiered process dependent on who is submitting the charges of misconduct.

- i. Complaints from the general membership must be first reviewed by the board of inquiry, which may or may not elect to elevate the charges to the Decoy Committee for further review.
 - ii. Any USMRA Board Member or any Decoy Committee Member may suggest a review of any infraction or misconduct they observed a decoy committing while decoying a sanctioned trial.
- b. Revocation review will first be performed by the Decoy Committee who will submit their findings and recommendations to the USMRA Board, who will then make the final determination.
 - c. Misconduct and infractions will be distinguished by the level of severity

- i. Major infractions or acts of misconduct:

1. Any act considered intentionally dangerous for the handler and/or their dog.
2. Flagrant disregard for the rules of conduct for the decoy.
3. Being argumentative or vocally disagreeing with the Judge on the trial grounds.
4. Flagrantly disregarding the Judge's instruction for performance.
5. Falsification or forgery of the decoy book.
6. Multiple minor infractions showing repeated disregard for the rules of conduct for the decoy.

- ii. Minor infractions or acts of misconduct, will be acts that in isolation may not be considered as a major infraction, but that should be recorded to ensure that they are not repeated.

Remedial training may be recommended by the Decoy Committee for decoys with repeated minor infractions.