

# Skills Certification Program

## Summary of Changes 10/2019

### All Skills

1. Removed directives regarding when cues can be given.
2. Food or toys are now allowed on handler and to be given to dog at end of all skills and between sides on Directional Cues.
3. Mats are not allowed in any test.
4. Added statement that all handler area rules in handbook apply.
5. Clarified that no goal is required.
6. Added statement that all rules regarding size and treatment of balls in handbook apply.
7. Clarified members can apply for a certificate at any level. There is no need to start at Level 1.

### Send

1. Renamed skill "Send" as distance is a variable in each skill.
2. Added 5 seconds to maximum time for each level.
3. Replaced 2 second hold with a "pause."

### Push

1. Made handler area size 25x10 at all levels.
2. Removed
  - Limits on accepted methods of pushing, i.e. with nose, top of head, chest or the top of paws.
  - Disallowing "riding" balls.
  - Allowing to reach outside handler area.
  - Disallowing staff.
3. Changed elapsed time requirements to increase with each level instead of dog size.
4. Decreased level 3 from 45 to 35 feet.

### Directional Cues

1. Replaced all 2 second holds with a "pause."
2. Added recall to handler.
3. Added second direction to level 1.
4. Changed level 3 objects to 10 feet apart instead of 12.
5. Changed level 3 distance from handler from 15 feet to 20 feet.