



## **Danish Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club.**

Rules and regulations for:

Tolling Entrance Test

Tolling Working Test

Tolling Hunting Test



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# Tolling Entrance Test to: Toller Working Test & Toller Hunting Test

## Purpose of the Tolling Entrance Test

To define the dog suitable as a hunting dog by establishing that:

- the dog exhibits willingness to cooperate and ability to receive training
- the dog exhibits passion for water
- the dog exhibits desire to retrieve
- the dog is not intimidated by or scared of gunfire.
- the dog is in control of it's vocal expressions

## General Regulations

For a dog to participate in the Entrance test of The Danish Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club, it must be at least 10 months old on the day of the trial.

The dog must be registered in DKK or any other FCI acknowledged organisation.

Both the owner and handler of the dog must be a member of a FCI acknowledged organisation.

Cryptorchid dogs can not participate in the WC trial. Therefore the judge must examine each male dog before the trial. If the dog is found to be cryptorchid the fee is refunded.

Bitches in heat can participate in WC trials but have to be tried after all other participants.

A dog is only allowed to participate in the WC trial once a day. When entering a dog in a trial the registration and vaccination papers of the dog must be displayed.

The handler is not allowed to carry sticks, whips or similar items during the trial.

The dog's behaviour and temperament taken into consideration in the final evaluation, and suppress or aggressive dogs can not be judged.

Dogs with a Toller Working Certificate can enter shows in the working/hunting dog class.

## Trial Guidelines

- The dogs are tried individually
- The trial is carried out partly on a test course, as shown in figure 1, and partly in a hide set next to a pond of swim depth. The course of the test can be reversed if necessary.
- The handler must bring two of his own dummies to the trial - one for use on land and one for use in water - and hand them to the judge before the trial begins.
- The handler must bring one or more dummies by his/her own choice to the tolling exercise

### Exercise 1. Heel with and without leash

Point 1 to 6 on the trial course is marked by cones, sticks, or similar items.

This exercise is carried out continuously without interruption from the judge and followed immediately by exercise 2.

- Starting at point 1, the handler has the dog onleash in heel position.
- At signal from the judge the handler walks from point 1 past point 2 to point 3 with the dog onleash at heel position.
- At point 3 on the trial course leash and collar are to be removed from the dog and carried out of the dog's sight by the handler for the rest of the exercise, e.g. in a pocket
- With the dog still in heel position the handler continues to point 6 passing point 4 and 5.
- Reaching point 6, the handler turns around now facing point 1, with the dog still in heel position.

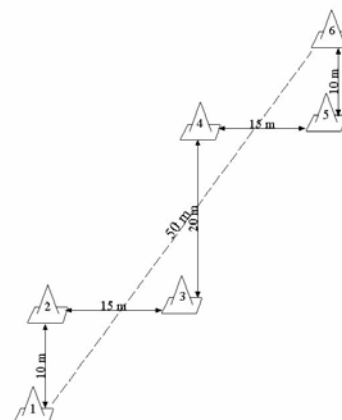


Figure 1. The trial course

### **Important evaluation issues of this exercise:**

- The cooperation between handler and dog
- The dog's eagerness to follow the handler
- The handler's ability to support the dog

### **Exercise 2. Stay and Calling in the dog**

This exercise is a continuation of the previous exercise.

- At signal from the judge, the dog is left in sit or down position and the handler walks in a straight line back to point 1, which equals app. 50 meters.
- The handler turns and faces the dog, then calls in the dog when signalled by the judge.
- The dog must run at good speed directly to the handler.

### **Important evaluation issues**

- The dog's ability to stay calm in sit or down position when left by the handler
- How directly and fast the dog runs to the handler

### **Exercise 3. Retrieving on land.**

This exercise is carried out on a suitable place close to or at the trial course. When the handler is ready a visible helper throws the dummy to a spot app. 15 meters in front of the dog.

If the dog does not stay in heel position until command, the exercise can be repeated up to 3 times, if the handler can ensure a better result next time. It is not permitted to hold back or stop the dog.

- With the dog in heel position the handler takes a position given by the judge, and the judge steps back 2-3 meters
- The dummy is thrown to a spot app. 15 meters in front of the dog on a signal from the judge.
- On a new signal from the judge the handler command the dog to retrieve the dummy
- The dog must run in a direct line towards the dummy, spontaneously pick it up and bring it directly to the handler
- Sitting/standing in front of the handler or in heel position the dog delivers the dummy to the handler on command

### **Important Evaluation issues**

- The dog's ability to remain calm in heel position before command
- The dog's eagerness and drive retrieving the dummy
- Contact and cooperation between handler and dog during delivery of the dummy

### **Exercise 4. Tolling, Shooting, and Retrieving from water**

#### **Tolling**

Tolling is carried out using one or more dummies brought to the trial by the handler. The dummies can be anything the dog likes to toll.

The handler takes sitting position behind the hide, which is placed app. 5 meters from the water line.

- Including breaks, where the dog must stay calm, 5 tolling repetitions are carried out on the instructed of the judge.

#### **Shooting and Retrieving from water**

The dog staying calm in heel position, the handler now takes position facing the water.

A helper fires a shotgun at the dummy thrown into the water in front of the dog. The gun must be pointed at the dummy during the throw, and be fired when the dummy is at the highest position. Only blank shots are allowed.

- The judge signals the helpers when the handler is ready and simultaneously a dummy is thrown app. 10 meters into the water, while a shotgun is fired in appropriate distance from the dog.
- It is allowed to restrain the dog using the leash around the chest of the dog.
- On signal from the judge the handler commands the dog to retrieve the dummy
- The dog must enter the water without hesitation
- The dog must swim directly to the dummy, spontaneously pick it up and swim straight to the handler.
- In a sitting or standing position the dog deliver the dummy on command to the handler.
- The handler is allowed to meet the dog at the water line during delivery of the dummy

## Important Evaluation issues

- **Tolling:** Contact and cooperation between dog and handler
- **Shooting:** That the dog is not intimidated by or scared of shooting
- **Retrieving:** The dog's ability to remain calm until command. The dog's eagerness and drive retrieving the dummy. Contact and cooperation between handler and dog during delivery of the dummy. The dog's willingness to enter water.

## **All Round Impression in Judging the Dog**

- Contact and cooperation between dog and handler during the entire trial
- The dog's eagerness to work
- The dog's suitability as a hunting dog, as untimely barking, howling and screaming is considered a serious flaw.

## **Entrance test Judgement**

The WC trial is judged as **passed** or **not passed**. Every exercise is judged individually and must be passed for the dog to pass the trial and be awarded the Toller Working Certificate.

The handler gets written comments to each exercise on a pre-printed trial schedule, but has equal right to verbal comments from the judge after the trial.

## **TOLLER WORKING TEST**

Toller working test is an official test held by Danish Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club. The result of the Toller Working Test is registered by DKK like vice the Tolling Hunting Test.

The Tolling Working Test is held and organised by DNSDTRC. TWT rules and regulations are the same as the rules and regulations for the Tolling Hunting Test, with one exception: changing of game to canvas dummies. A TWT is judged by authorized Tolling Hunting Test judges.

DNSDTRC can change announced Tolling Hunting Test to TWT, if special circumstances arise, ex. outbreak of Bird flu.

An overpayment for entry fee will be refunded, or the participant has the choice to withdraw his dog and have the entrance fee refunded

## **TOLLING HUNTING TEST:**

### **§ 1 Purpose**

Purpose of the Tolling Hunting Test is to test and judge the NSDTR dog's natural hunting instincts under realistic hunting situations, to secure good shooting dogs for hunting, game shooting and for breeding.

### **§ 2 Organisation and approval**

The Tolling Hunting Test is a field trail held on cold game by the rules and regulations passed by DNSDTRC's committee and approved by the Danish Kennel Club (DKK).

The hunting test exercises can be changed by the judge within respect of these rules and these regulations.

Test leader is responsible for preparation/arrangement of the test and security.

Test leader is responsible for catalogue and list of judges and must deal with problems other than judging matters.

Test leader is responsible for all test personnel.

A Tolling test cannot be arranged without the approval of the club committee, which and must approve test leader and judges.

### **§ 3 Who can participate?**

Tolling Hunting Test is open for any retriever which has passed the toller entrance test held by DNSDTRC or other FCI likewise approved test for retrievers.

Owner and handler must be a member of Danish Kennel Club (DKK), DNSDTRK or a FCI-recognised club/organisation

Members of a Cynologique club/organisation not approved by DKK or FCI cannot participate.

A dog can only be entered in one class on a Tolling Hunting Test.

The dog must at the day of entry have received the prize required to participate in the class of entry. The organizer can permit the dog and the handler to be upgraded to a higher class in case the dog has been qualified to participate in the class in the time period between the day of entry and the actual test day.

#### **Requirement for registration**

On the entry day Danish owned dogs must be registered in the Danish Kennel Club or shall be under registration by DKK.

Foreign dog must have a FCI (Federation Cynologique Internationale) approved studbook/registration in its homeland.

#### **ID-chip or tattoo**

Any dog who are born in a FCI country who has a requirement of ID-marking from its national kennel club must have an ID. The ID can be checked at any time at a Toller test.

#### **Cryptorchid dogs**

A cryptorchid or castrated dog can participate in a TET, TWT or THT but the result cannot be registered or officially recognised.

Castrated dogs that have an official prize on a FCI approved show prior to its castration can have its result official recognised. (Dogs which is proven entire before castration.)

#### **Wrong coloured dogs with a registration.**

Dogs registered as "wrong coloured" on their registration certificate can participate, but cannot receive an official prize.

#### **Test with limited entry**

If a limit is placed on the number of entries for a test, a draw is held immediately after the closing date for entries. The test leader performs the draw, which also can be used if reserve dogs are needed to make up the numbers on the test day

If the owner of the test area has entered a dog correctly, this dog will always be granted entry, and is not a part of the draw.

Reserves have preference to entry if entered dogs are withdrawn from the test.

Test leaders and judges can be given preference to take part in tests where they are not officials, because of the limited test they can attend.

### **Expelled from participation:**

1. Dogs that shows aggressive behaviour against other dogs, animals or human beings.
2. Dogs that 3 (three) times have been received a 0 prize or is disqualified because of bad temperament.
3. Dogs owned by test leader, judge/judges or other personnel for the test. On two days events such dogs can if their owners are not officiating that day
4. Dogs that are owned by judges close family cannot run in the class being judged by this judge.
5. Dogs that have not passed the Toller Entrance Test or comparable domestic / foreign FCI approved test.
6. Dogs without proper vaccination.
7. Dogs that show signs of or are believed to carry an infectious illness.
8. Bitches in season.
9. Pregnant bitches who will give birth less than 4 weeks after the test. Only in the first 35 days after 1st day of mating.
10. Bitches that are unmistakably pregnant.
11. Bitches that have whelped less than 10 weeks before the test day.
12. Dogs that have received medication to improve they performance. (Doping).

## **§ 4 The dog owner responsibility**

The owner and handler are responsible for all damages a dog makes on the test area or on other humans or animals. The owner is responsible for correct insurance of his dog/dogs

## **§ 5 Entry and entry fee**

The entry must be applied on the clubs entry form. Payment and entry form must be posted to the address stated in the invitation, and must be postmarked before the closing entry time.

Foreign dogs must forward a copy of their registration FCI approved papers/studbook together with the entry form.

### **Entry fee is paid back if:**

1. The test is cancelled.
2. If there are limited participants, and the dogs was elected by the draw.
3. For dogs that after the day of entering obtain prizing that prohibits a dog in participating a class.
4. Dogs that are ill /sick. Documentation must be a statement from a veterinarian.

## **§ 6 Type of test and classes**

**Tolling Hunting Test:** Is an official hunting test on **cold game**, and can only be judged by authorised field trail judges.

**Tolling Working test:** Is an official "hunting" test on **canvas dummies**, and can only be judged by authorised field trail judges.

*Tolling Hunting Test & Toller Working test can also be held as **unofficial** tests and can be judged by unauthorised personnel. It must be stated **clearly** in the announcement that a test is unofficial, and in what way they will deviate from in the rules and regulations for the announced test.*

### **Novice class**

- Open for dogs that are over 10 month of age, and have not yet received 2 x 1<sup>st</sup> prizes in Novice class.
- Dogs who are not yet 24 month of age, can still participate in novice class up the day they are 2 years old.

### **Open class**

- Open for dogs more than 2 years of age on the first day of the event, and have received 2 x 1<sup>st</sup> prizes in Novice class and have not yet received 2 x 1<sup>st</sup> prizes in Open class.

### **Winner class**

- Open for dogs that have received 2 x 1<sup>st</sup> prizes in Open class, and are at least 2 years of age.

### **Start order:**

There will be a draw to determine the starting order. The working committee or test leader carries out the draw.

## **§ 7 Arrangement of test**

### **Test arrangement.**

The hunting test must be designed as hunting realistic as possible, but consideration of the difficulty/demanded for the particular class and test area must be made.

The test is arranged in this way – one or two hunters are out shooting together with a dog handler (the tolling part, markings on water and land), and the hunters has already been shooting before the dog arrives (the dogs must hunt an area, and/or the dogs must run from line as direction work to game. (Blind retrieves)

### **Tolling**

Dog and handler are placed in a cover, which is placed on open land by the side of a lake. The dog must be steady and calm, when handler starts tolling with a tennis ball or chunk of wood etc., right and left of the cover. The handler calls the dog back to steadiness for a while and the tolling starts over after the judge's instructions. The amount of tolling exercises and steady time will increase with the classes.

At the end of the tolling exercise one, two or three birds are marked and shot to. At least one must be in swimming water.

The tolling takes place on the open land min. 10 meters to each side left and right of the cover. This exercise must be carried out as quietly as possible.

### **Marking**

More marking can occur on land or water after the tolling part is over. The amount and difficulty of the marking must be in accordance with the demands of the class.

In open and winner class it is not necessary for the dog to see the landing of the game.

### **Direction work (blind retrieves)**

Is work where the position of the game is known, but not seen by the dog, and can be on either land or water, with or without stop and changing of direction.

1. In Novice class direction work is not allowed.
2. In Open class directional work is desired on land up to 40-60 m with or without a stop.
3. In Winner class directional work on water can occur, and must occur on land with a stop and with a changing of direction at least one time. Longitude not more than ca. 80 m. Consider area.

### **Hunting an area**

Game is placed in an area known to the handler, for size see below. Wetland (marsh) and water can be a part of the area.

1. In Novice class the area can be up to 40 x 40 m without open water, wet area can be a little part of the area.
2. In Open class the area can be up to 60 x 60 m. Easy wetland (marsh) is desirable in a part of the area.
3. The hunting area in Winner class can be up to approx 80 x 80m, in mind of the difficulty of the area, and the placement of water. Marsh, wetland and rush is very desirable and can be a part of the area.

### **In general**

1. Distance must vary according to the difficulty of the area and must be realistic.
2. The handler must be informed about the test by the judge before the test of his dog has started.
3. The judge decides where and how the handler must move in the area, and if he wants a dog to retrieve some birds in a decided order.
4. The judge decides when and where the dog is on or off lead.
5. In the judgment of the test must this also be considered:
  - a. The ability of the dog to stay calm under stress, steadiness under shooting, steadiness under marking of game and under other dogs work.
  - b. Co-operation between handler and dog.
  - c. The ability of the handler to handle the dog in a decent and calm way, without too much noise.
6. The Judge must be able to judge the ability of a dog to do directional work, and the obedience of the dog and how the dog works without interference from the handler (independence).

Test must be arranged so that the flow of exercises is held at a good speed throughout the test. The distance between each exercise must not be too long, but still keeping the aim of a realistic hunting situation.

Test leader and judge are responsible for the arrangement; demands and difficulties of the class, must be suitable for that class (novice, open and winner).

It is natural for a retriever to work and hunt together with other dogs without showing distresses, and a dog must not stress the other dogs while they are working.

1. In Open class a dog must sit calmly on lead while another dog works to show steadiness and quietness.
2. If the test area allows 2 dogs can work together hunting an area for hidden game for a short while, to see that the tested dog accepts another dog working.
3. In Winner class is it mandatory that 2 or more dogs work together for a while.

The judge is responsible that no dog that works together with another dog suffers any harm, and to remember that if a dog has a negative experience (caused by other dog/dogs) it must not have influence on its chance to get maximum prize for its work.

### **Game**

Test leader is responsible for the quality of the game, which must have the quality of a new shot bird, or at least newly thawed from frozen.

Any damaged or very bloody game must not be used.

If possible new killed is preferred

It is the judge's responsibility to ensure that the quality of the game is acceptable, and that it is kept in a proper and ethical way.

In the tolling exercise only waterfowl must be used for retrieving (duck and goose and so on).

In all other exercises:

1. In Novice class only waterfowl, and dove.
2. In Open and Winner class any animal which is legal to hunt. This game must be of a suitable size for retrieving. No predators are allowed. Fur game is not mandatory.
3. Domestic rabbits and doves allowed.

## **§ 8 Demands of the tests**

The demands and distance mentioned below are maximum demands, and can be deviated from if it is a very difficult area and difficult scent situations. (i.e. Vegetation, wind, structure of area).

### **Novice class**

The vegetation in the test area must be relatively open on land and water.

**Novice class must have the following exercises:**

#### **Tolling:**

At least 10 tolling retrieves, divided in 2-3 elements, one element must have at least 5 tolling retrieves. At least one break (steadiness more than 1 minute). The judge's directions must be followed. The length of a tolling retrieve must be at least 5 m. of length.

#### **Marks:**

3-4 marks - 1 - 2 on water, at least one in open swimming water and at least one on land.

Only single marks are given.

Distance on water max. 20 m. and on land max 30 m.

#### **Hunting an area:**

At least 8 pieces of game are placed the Hunting area, at least 4-5 pieces must be retrieved. If it is to the benefit of the dog more game retrieves can be asked for.

Size of hunting area ca. 40 x 40 m.

#### **Shots:**

At least 3 shots are fired through the test of a dog.

#### **Direction work:**

Direction work (blind retrieves) **is not allowed** in a Novice class.

**The element of the test must provide possibilities for judging:**

1. Ability to mark a bird
2. Ability of handler to collaborate with dog
3. Independence (have the dog behave without handler interference)
4. Handling/carrying the game(soft mouth).

### **Open class**

The test area must have relative thick cover on land and water as well as open area to watch the dogs work.

#### **Open class must have the following exercises:**

##### **Tolling:**

At least 20 tolling retrieves, divided in 3-5 elements, one element must have at least 7 tolling retrieves. At least two breaks (steadiness more than 1 minute). The judge directions must be followed. The length of a tolling retrieve must be at least 5 - 10 m. of length.

##### **Marks:**

4 - 6 Marks at least one double (2 marks). At least two markings on swimming water, and one on land. (Amount of markings = amount of thrown game)  
Land- and water marks can be mixed.  
Distance on water max. 35 m. and on land max 45 m. (max shooting distance to a bird 40-45 meters)

##### **Hunting an area**

At least 10 - 15 pieces of game are placed the Hunting area, at least 6- 8 pieces must be retrieved. If it is to the benefit of the dog more game retrieves can be asked for.  
Size of hunting area ca. 60 x 60 m.

If the hunting area allows it, 2 dogs can work together for a short while, to see each dogs reaction on another dog. In the time two dogs work together there must be enough game in the area, so the dogs can hunt freely.

##### **Shot:**

At least 4 shots are fired through the test of a dog.

##### **Direction work:**

Max 60 meter.

##### **Steadiness/stay calm:**

Each dog must watch another dog work either when the other is marking or retrieving or when another dogs is hunting an area. Dogs are tested for calmness and must stay calm and be silent. Dogs are allowed to show interest and curiosity.

#### **Open class can also have the following exercises:**

##### **Working up:**

Working can be one of the element of a THT and TWT. Under a working up these elements can occur: Markings, Direction work, Hunting an area as well as steadiness/calmness.

##### **Tracking:**

A short distance tracking a piece of game dragged over maximum 40 m of land can be included.

These exercises of the test must provide possibilities for judging of :

1. Ability to mark a bird
2. Cooperation between handle and dog
3. Independence (how the dog behaves without handler interference)
4. Ability to be directed
5. Steadiness / calmness to other dog's work
6. How a dog is handling/carrying game (soft mouth).

### **Winner class**

The test area must have relatively thick cover on land and water as well as open area to watch the dogs work.

All elements are the same as in open class, only the difficulties are greater, cover, distance, stamina and so on. More water work is desirable.

#### **Winner class must have the following exercises:**

##### **Tolling:**

At least 20 – 40 tolling retrieves, divided in 4-7 elements, one element must have at least 10 tolling retrieves. At least 3 breaks (steadiness more than 1 minute, one must be aprox. 5 min.). The judge directions must be followed. The length of a tolling retrieve must be at least 5 - 10 m. of length.  
A dog can be asked to start tolling again after a retrieve on water/land.

**Marks:**

Up to 4 - 8 Marks, at least one double (2 marks), two markings on swimming water and one on land.  
(Amount of marks = amount of thrown game)  
Land- and water marks can be mixed.  
Distance on water max. 40 m. and on land max 60 m. (max shooting distance to a bird 40-45 meters)  
One triple mark can be an element of the test, several marks can be used for a group of dogs.  
All dogs must have 3 marks on water

**Hunting an area:**

At least 12 pieces of game are placed the Hunting area, at least 6- 8 pieces pr. dog must be retrieved. If it is to the benefit of the dog more game retrieves can be asked for. Amount of game is relative to the amount of dogs working/hunting together.  
Size of hunting area ca. 80 x 80 m. In open areas like open fields up to 100 x 100 meters.

The hunting area should allow 2 or more dogs to work together for a while, to see each dog's reaction to a strange dog and test their willingness to collaborate. When two or more dogs work together there must be enough game in the area, to give each dog a chance to work/hunt freely. Damp areas/water land can be a part of the hunting area.

Under det "frie søg" skal hundene testes for deres villighed til at søge i samarbejde med 1 – 3 andre

**Shot:**

At least 4 shots.

**Direction work:**

Max 80 meter. Stop and change of direction ought to be in this class, direction on/over water is also desirable.

**Steadiness/stay calm:**

Each dog must watch another dog work either when the other dogs is doing his marks/retrieve or when another dog/dogs is/are hunting an area. Dogs are tested for calmness and must stay calm and be silent. Dogs are allowed to show interest and curiosity.

This can be an exercise alone or be a part of another exercise like marks, hunting etc. etc.

**Respect for other dogs.**

In a Winner class a dog must be tested in one or more situations (tolling, marking, and hunting) together with one or more strange dog/dogs.

**Winner class can have the following exercises:****Working up.**

Working can be one of the elements of a THT and TWT. Under a working up these elements can occur: Marking, Direction work, Hunting an area as well as steadiness/calmness.

**Tracking:**

Tracking a piece of game dragged over a piece of land

These exercises of the test must provide possibilities for judging of:

1. Ability to mark a bird
2. Ability of handler to collaborate with dog
3. Independence (have the dog behave without handler interference)
4. Ability to be directed
5. Steadiness / calmness to other dog/dogs work No barking.
6. Acceptance of working together with one or more other dog/dogs
7. How a dog is handling/carrying game (soft mouth).

## § 9 Purpose of judging

The purpose of the Toller tests is to judge a dog's potential and willingness to find and retrieve wounded and dead shot game, and also to judge a dogs tolling instinct and ability for this work.

Good training/handling and eagerness in the dog is the premise for a good hunting -, tolling -, and retrieving dog, a good gun dog.

All tolling tests are tools to find good breeding stock for the future, and a way to bring a higher working standard to the working gun dog. It is also a good sport.

## **Qualities to be judged are:**

### **Tolling**

A dog must be able to do "tolling work", The purpose for this job is to toll/lure imagined ducks into shooting distance. Important for judgment of a dog's tolling is

:

1. A dog must work/ do its tolling as the judge desires (When and where to do tolling, when and how long any breaks must be. During a break the handler must look for any waterfowl (imagined). In a test situation a tolling series is typically 4 to 10 tolling retrieves with a break between each series. The amount of tolling retrieves, series and breaks are increased up through the different classes.
2. A dog must be handled in such a way, that is no waterfowl (imagined) is frightened away.
3. A dog must run on the lakeside or shore in such a manner, that it can be seen and be attended by any waterfowl (imagined).

Faults:

1. A dog showing slow or uninspiring tolling work, further testing can be stopped.
2. Whining, barking or other unnecessary noise from dog or handler.
3. Other behaviour/activity than retrieving or quietness, f. ex bathing/ swimming when not asked for.
4. Showing an uncontrollable interest in live game/animals in the area.
5. If a tolling session is unacceptable, further testing can be stopped.
6. If a dog is hunting/chasing or frightening a live bird/animal, further testing can be stopped.

### **Cooperativeness**

Is judged for a dog's willingness and ability be handled by its handler. A result of how easy and discreet the dog is handled in all situations.

Throughout the test a dog must under the test show that it is willing to be cooperative and attentive to its handler in its ability to obey commands (words, whistle, body language). Commands and corrections from the handler which are not followed, is not to the benefit of the dog (reduced prizing). If a dog is totally "out of control" this is a disqualifying fault.

### **Hunting an area**

The dog must hunt the area at a good speed and move in such manner that the entire area will be examined efficiently. Difficulty of access to the area is also taken into account. The dog shall work independently and without unnecessary interference by the handler. Damp areas/ water land should be a part of the hunting area. Inefficient hunting will have negative affect on the judgement. If the hunting session is unacceptable, the judge can stop the dog from further testing.

### **Speed and style**

A dog must show good speed and style, but never with more speed than the scenting conditions allows. Slow and uninspired work is not to the benefit of the dog.

### **Stamina**

A dog must show it is fit for the test; it must show that it can work through the test's different elements.

A dog showing lack of fitness can have its prize reduced

### **Nose work**

The dog must show "an efficient nose", which means the dog efficiently locates the game, taking wind and scent condition into account. A "poor nose" is a severe fault, however the judge shall be careful in the judgement as humans have difficulties determining scent conditions.

### **Ability to take direction**

A dog must show willingness to be handled in directional work on water and land.

In Novice class Directional work is not allowed. Missing this willingness is not to the benefit of the dog.

### **Ability to mark a thrown bird**

The purpose of a mark is to see the dog's ability to concentrate on the exercise, its ability to mark the fall and point of impact of the thrown bird, ability to find the bird without help, with no whining/barking during the marking/shooting of birds. The handler is not allowed to direct the dog to a marked bird.

### **Reaction on shooting**

The judge can stop and deny further participation of a dog i.e. If a dog shows gun shyness or shows big uncontrollable excitement

### **Calmness**

A dog must stay calm during contact with live animals, shooting, markings, and other dogs work. It must stay totally silent without any barking/whining, and must not show any signs of aggression

When a dog works it must not be distracted by live game or shooting, but must carry out what it has been asked/given command to do. When a dog is commanded "sit, drop, heel" it must stay still, calm and must stay on its place. Handlers must give their commands and signals as silently as possible, whistle and hand signals are preferred. It is to a dog's benefit if it shows steadiness and calmness without influence by its handler. In Novice class a dog is allowed to show some eagerness/excitement, and is not judged as hard as in higher classes. Dogs who are showing very high agitation and negative signs of stress and/or who are difficult to "handle", can be stopped by the judge.

### **Passion to retrieve**

A dog must quickly and spontaneously pick game up without interference from its handler. Retrieved game /or dummies must be brought to the hand of the handler as fast as possible, without any damages. Refusal to picking up game or dummies is a serious faults and can cause for the judge to stop further testing of the dog.

A dog must show:

1. Willingness to pick game / dummies up.
2. Willingness to bring the retrieved objects straight back to its handler.

### **Handling/carrying game (soft mouth)**

Game must be carried in a way, where it is not dropped to the ground, chewed or damaged any way during the retrieve. There must be absolutely no sign of a hard mouth. A dog's physical size must be considered when this is to be judged. (Extreme big rabbit, very big gees and so on) Game must be carried in such a manner that it is no obstacle to the way the dog moves in the area.

Game must be delivered to hand:

To be judged:

1. Efficiency of the grip
2. A dog must show a "soft mouth"
3. Correct delivery to hand

Hard mouth dogs must/can be stopped by the judge.

### **Passion for water:**

A dog must have an efficient style of swimming. Inefficient swimming, splashing and so on is not to the benefit of the dog.

A dog must show happiness and joy doing water work, and show willingness to enter water and show willingness and ability to cross obstacles in the water. Missing water passion is a major fault.

Total unwillingness to enter water is a disqualifying fault, and a dog must/can be stopped.

### **Acceptance of strange dog**

A dog must not be influenced by other dogs and must be able to work together with another dog for shorter or longer periods, and it must respect the other dog's retrieves. Missing acceptance of another dog/dogs is not to the benefit of the dog. Aggressive behaviour towards another dog is totally unacceptable, and a dog must/can be stopped by the judge.

## **§ 10 A dog can be stopped by the judge if:**

The dog can be stopped if it shows one or more of these faults:

1. Reluctance to enter water
2. Hard mouth
3. Gun shyness
4. Reluctance to retrieve game in general
5. Disobedient ("out of control")
6. Missing or reluctant ability to hunt an area for game.
7. Reluctance for tolling work
8. To interested in live game

A dog shall be stopped if it shows any aggressive behaviour against any dog, animal or human under the test or on the test area. The dog will be expelled from the test and must leave the area immediately. This judgment is done by the test leader on the test area, and by the judge of the actual test.

It is the test leader's responsibility to report such an incident to the Toller club committee, and it is this committee that is responsible for a form that can be used to write this report.

## **§ 11 Judging**

The judge must be able to state his opinion of a dog's work based on these rules and regulations for a tolling tests.

A judge must after each judgment give a spoken and a written critique, a review of how a dogs performed throughout the test. See § 9.

All dogs have a right to have a critique, also dog with no prizing.

A judgement of a judge cannot be appealed.

## **§ 12 Prizing/awards**

All dogs will be awarded a prizing for the quality of its performance 1<sup>st</sup> to Zero or D for disqualification.

Tolling and a dog's ability to work together with its handler under the tolling session is 51% of the total prizing see table 1.

A decision on what prizing a dog will receive must be based on the general impression the judge has become of a dog's work and skills through the test, also based on how efficient he believes the dog is, both as a gundog and in its ability to toll and retrieve successfully in varying situations.

In all classes the prizing must be adjusted to the difficulty of the class (Novice, Open and winner). A dog will be prized with a 1st. – 2nd. – 3rd or 0 (Zero) prize or D for disqualification, depending of the quality of its performance. (See table 2).

In all classes three awards are given, One for the tolling/water part, one for the rest of the test (more water can be included) and a total award of these two awards is given, this final award is the award that will be the official final result of the test for a dog. (See table 1). All 3 prizing must emerge of the written critique by the judge.

To obtain a 1st. or 2nd prize a dog must be approved in all its elements without any severe or disqualifying fault in the different elements in the test.

All dogs that obtain a 1<sup>st</sup> prize in Winner class are placed 1<sup>st</sup> winner to 4th winner.

### **Novice class**

In Novice class it is most important that it is the dog's willingness, the joy of retrieving, the spontaneous happiness retrieving and its ability to please and cooperate with its handler that are judged, and not the result of trivial training.

Lack of skill/confidence is not to be penalized too hard.

To score a 1st prize a dog must show willingness, joy for its work, cooperativeness, and must not have made any severe fault or showing lack of working potential.

To score a 2nd prize a dog must show very good willingness, joy for its work, cooperativeness, but has done some minor fault, that can be explained by its age and/or lack of routine in its work.

To score a 3rd prize a dog must show such work that in spite of its shortcomings and minor faults has managed a performance without severe fault that excludes it from prizing. In the judgment of a novice class consideration of the dog's age and routine must be done to decide the severity of fault.

To score a zero prize a dog must do an unacceptable work which does not allow a higher prize without any disqualifying faults. See table 2

### **Open class**

To obtain a 1st prize a dog must show such good work that the judge considers a dog's performance as a very good gundog without any severe fault.

To obtain a 2nd prize a dog must show have done a very good work. It has made some acceptable fault/s but no severe faults or shortcomings.

To obtain a 3rd prize a dog must show such work that in spite of its shortage and minor fault has managed a performance without severe fault that excludes it from prizing.

To score a zero prize a dog must do an unacceptable work which does not allow a higher prize without any disqualifying faults. See table 2

### **Winner class**

In Winner class the demands are high but obtainable, an excellent gundog ready for any job on a day's shooting.

To obtain a 1st prize a dog must show such good work that the judge considers a dog's performance as a very good gundog with a minimum of minor faults.

To obtain a 2nd prize a dog must show such good work that only minor faults and shortcomings are a hindrance to obtain a 1<sup>st</sup> prize

To obtain a 3rd prize a dog must show such work that in spite of its shortage and minor fault has managed a performance without any severe faults or shortcomings that exclude it from prizing.

To score a zero prize a dog must do an unacceptable work which does not allow a higher prize without any disqualifying faults. See table 2

## **§ 13 A Danish Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Club's Toller Hunting Test champion.**

A FCI recognized and registered Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever can become Danish Toller Hunting Test Champion DKJCH when it has achieved at least 3 x 1 prizes in winner class on Tolling Hunting Tests arranged by DNSDTRK, under at least 2 different judges, and has received at least 2nd. prize in open class at an official championship show.

## **§ 13 B Danish Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Club's Toller Working Test champion.**

A FCI recognized and registered Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever can become Danish Toller Working Test Champion DKTWCH when it has achieved at least 3 x 1 prizes in winner class on Tolling Working Tests arranged by DNSDTRK, under at least 2 different judges, and have received at least 2nd. prize in open class at an official championship show.

## § 14 Direction to handlers

It is mandatory for all participants to know these rules and regulations for the Toller tests, but also that they are allowed to ask the judge questions about the coming exercise.

It is not good manners to discuss any judgment of the judge during the test, and it is not acceptable to criticize in public any judgement done by the judge.

Punishment of a dog is strictly prohibited. Any sign of punishment will lead to exclusion from the test, and can lead to disciplinary action.

The dog handler must aim to handle his dog so that the dog shows, joy in its work throughout the test.

All handlers must act according to hunting ethics, show respect for the game and handle it the proper way.

All dogs must be handled discretely as possible without any shouting and unnecessary commands.

Physical contact with the dog, with the aim of calming or correcting the dog is prohibited.

Any training aid which a dog can associate with unpleasantness and/or punishment is prohibited on the test area.

## § 15 Protest

*It is only possible to protest/ complain against a technical fault or violation on these rules.*

*The judging of the dog and its prizing is a subjective judgment and can not be questioned or protested.*

Any complaint or protest must be done on the day of the test, and must be given to the test leader, the same as at a show.

**Table 1: Tolling Hunting Test award table**

Tolling and water marking the 1st exercise, the dog has achieved a	Rest of the test: Hunting – markings on land directional work-extra water work etc.	Prizing end up as a total of a
1st	1st	1st
1st	2nd	1st
1st	3rd	2nd
1st	0	0
1st	D	D
2nd	1st	2nd
2nd	2nd	2nd
2nd	3rd	2nd
2nd	0	0
2nd	D	D
3rd	1st	2nd
3rd	2nd	3rd
3rd	3rd	3rd
3rd	0	0
3rd	D	D
0	1st	0
0	2nd	0
0	3rd	0
D	1/2/3/0/D	D

**Table 2: Tolling Hunting / working Test judgment**

Guide for judgment of faults and shortage in a dogs work on a Tolling Hunting Test

**Signature explanation:**

**A**            **minor fault.**

**B**            **severe fault.**

**D**            **disqualifying fault.**

**B/D**         **severe fault, and can also be disqualifying in severe cases**

<b>Faults</b>	<b>Novice</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Not calm between tolling repetitions	A	B	B/D
Refuses to enter water	D	D	D
Lacking water passion	B	B	B
Repeated whining/barking (vocalising)	B	D	D
Out of hand	D	D	D
Aggressive behaviour	D	D	D
Gun shy	D	D	D
Hard mouth	D	D	D
Leaving the handler without permission/running in	B	B	B/D
Refuses to retrieve game	B	B	D
Changing retrieving object. From one to another.	B	B	D
Steals game from other dog/dogs		B	D
Bad heel work	A	B	B
Slow work without initiative	B	B	B
Inefficient hunting	B	B	B/D
Poor handling / carrying of game	B	B	B/D
Refusing to pick up and retrieve the tolling tool	A	B	B
Poor and inexperienced handling of game	A	B	D
Resistance to deliver to the hand of the handler	B	B	B
Resistance to deliver during tolling	A	B	B
Unnecessary noisy handling (Handler)	B	B	B
Disobedience	B	B	B
Poor ability to mark the point of impact	B	B	B
Does not want to work in cover	B	B	B/D