



## **Atlantic Canada Scent Detection Spring Challenge**

**Held in conjunction with the Atlantic Sports and RV Show, March 13-15, 2020**



**DARWIN EVENT GROUP**  
Complete Trade Show and Convention Services

### **Rules for Participants**

- Judge for the event is Jean-Marc Dugas of New Brunswick
- Dogs do not need to be registered with any organization to enter this competition.
- Teams must be available to participate throughout all 3 days of competition.
- Handlers will be required to submit a short bio on their dog (a form shall be forwarded to handlers to complete prior to the event) as well as a photograph of their dog
- Competition odours shall be Wintergreen (*Gaultharia procumbens*) and Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)
- Competition shall be held in a spectator rich environment. Please consider this before entering. Any dogs showing signs of aggression for the duration of the event will be removed from the competition. "Pat and chat" with spectators is not required as part of this competition.
- Dogs must remain on leash at all times while on the premises of the event, except while in competition.
- Handlers must clean up after their dogs in and around the venue.
- Any dogs eliminating during competition will receive a NQ (no qualifying score) for that round

-Dogs may wear non-restrictive harnesses, flat collars, or martingales to compete. Leash can be any length during competition but shall not be retractable or made of chain. While moving throughout the building when not in competition, dogs shall be on a leash of 6 ft or less and must be under the handler's control. No harsh or abusive handling is permitted on the grounds. Any infractions will result in the dog and handler being removed from the competition.

-Entries are limited.

-All dogs entered will be permitted to compete in the preliminary rounds on Friday and Saturday. Scores shall be assigned based on a total number of correct hides found and time. The top 5 scoring dogs (highest number of passes will be given priority, followed by shortest time to finish finds) shall proceed to the final competition. (if a dog that is participating in both dock diving and scent detection does not rank in the top, the highest ranking dog participating in both shall proceed to the finals as well. This dog shall be participate in the final competition on a versatility demonstration basis). The dog that has been voted on by the audience over the weekend as the audience favorite shall also be invited to attend the final competition on a demonstration basis.

-In all rounds there shall be a known hide that the handlers may use for acclimation purposes at any time during their round. This shall be located outside the designated search area. The use of this hide is optional and does not count towards the team's score, however time shall not be stopped while the team is at the known hide.

-Hides in all rounds may be buried, submerged, elevated and may be accessible or inaccessible. Hides shall be no higher than 3 ft above a stable surface that dogs and handlers can easily access.

-Time limits shall be set for each round. Teams that do not call all hides within the time shall points only for the hides for that round. Teams that call an incorrect hide (as determined by judge with allowances for airflow) shall receive a NQ score for the round and time shall be stopped.

-In the preliminary rounds, there shall be a known number of hides.

-In the finals, there shall be an undetermined number of hides and there may be intentional distractors. The handler must inform the judge when the team has finished the search.

-In all rounds, the handler must raise their hand to notify the judge and the audience that the dog has found the hide. Time will stop once all hides are found in that round or when an incorrect hide is called. Handlers may reward their dogs at any time in any manner throughout the search, but may not contaminate the search area.

-The final winner shall be based solely on the outcome of the final search competition. The winner shall be the team that finds all the hides the shortest time. Should there not be a team that finds all hides, then the winner shall be the team that has found the greatest number of hides in the shortest time. Should there be a tie in both number of correct hides and time, then a search scenario with a single hide shall be set and the team that finds the hide successfully in the shortest period of time shall be declared the winner.

We are grateful for the following companies for their sponsorship of the event.

