



# 2024 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PULL OUT TRUFFLE SEARCH RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

## INFORMATION AND GENERAL RULES

“Truffle Pull out Search” is a dog-centric activity that turns Truffle hunting into a competitive sport. Open to anyone from the neophyte who wants to teach their dog to look for truffles, to the already expert truffer who wants to better the management of their dog.

Open to everyone and any dog (aged at least five months.)

This is a sport aimed at promoting the well-being of the dog and its owner.

This discipline benefits both the owner and the dog. The owner because it improves the relationship with the dog and the dog because it is satisfyingly using its main sense; it's sense of smell!

Training for Truffe Pull Out Search is based on a relationship of respect, collaboration and mutual trust.

## COMPETITION ORGANIZATION

- The TRUFFLE-PULL OUT SEARCH competitions can be held in CSEN-affiliated dog centers or in areas set up to be suitable for competitions.
- The Dog Center or the Association interested in organizing the TRUFFLE SEARCH-PULL OUT competition must communicate it to the Regional contact person for the discipline and to the National representative at least 2 months before the competition.
- The Regional Coordinator and the National Manager will have the task of evaluating the request.

The Dog Center or the Association that requests to be able to organize a competition, undertakes to comply with all the CSEN Dog Rules of the discipline.

- The Dog Center or the Association must also declare that it has an area and equipment suitable for carrying out the competition, in accordance with the Regulations. The place where the competition takes place must be equipped with toilet facilities and refreshment facilities.
- The Dog Center or the Association undertakes to nominate people necessary for the correct conduct of the competition, such as: the personnel assigned to the burial of



the truffles, the person assigned as time-keeper a secretary who will have the task of registering members, drawing up rankings and other administrative tasks.

The Dog Center or the Association must provide one judge per a maximum of 25 participants. Should more than one judge be required, all the necessary assistants as listed above will be provided.

The competition judge delivers all the results of the competition to the Regional or National Registrar, who from the following day will insert the data on the CSEN site of the Discipline.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

- Dogs of at least 5 months of age, duly registered in the Canine Registry and with the relevant updated health booklet with the latest vaccinations can participate in the competitions. The booklet can be requested at the time of registration.
- The competing pair must be members of an association affiliated to FIDASC.
- Registrations that are not received within the time, or other limits established by the organizing body cannot be accepted.
- Each dog can participate in the competition in only one category and must finish the championship in the same one except for the Junior category.
- The dog and the handler receive a unique code, which is recorded at their first trial.
- The dog can compete with two different handlers provided that it is entered in a different category.
- During the competition, a fixed collar or a harness is allowed on the dog. The use of sliding collars is not permitted.
- To compete in the competition, the dog's conductor must be at least 14 years old.

## THOSE THAT CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPETITION

Dogs that:

- are affected by infections and/or contagious diseases;
- are injured;
- are recovering from surgery;
- are in an advanced state of pregnancy;
- manifest obvious problems of aggression towards people and/or other dogs.



## JUDGES AND JUDGMENTS

The judge's decision is final.

The judge has the right to interrupt the competition if the dog shows an obvious inability or disinclination to perform. Evaluations and results are entered on the attached evaluation forms.

All participants are required to behave correctly and civilly, under penalty of exclusion from the competition. No form of coercion or physical, verbal or psychological violence against the dog is tolerated, both during the competition and during the entire event. Any attitude considered disrespectful towards the dog will result in immediate exclusion from the competition. Any decision rests unquestionably with the Judge, without any possibility of response from the participants.

Judges may not compete in competitions for which they are the judge.

## FIELD ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE COMPETITION

As already specified in point 1.1, the organizing committee undertakes to make available the field and the equipment suitable for the correct conduct of the competition, including:

- The ground of the ring can be sand mixed with earth, earth, grassy lawn, lawn with trees.
- The competition ring for the Junior category must measure 10m x 10m (100m<sup>2</sup>).
- For the Junior category, a central corridor 1.5 meters wide starts from the entrance and ends on the opposite side of the entrance. The corridor can be delimited either by tape positioned on the ground or by white chalk powder or by a line of white spray paint.
- The competition ring, for the Intermediate, Expert-small and Expert-medium large categories, must measure a minimum of 10m x 10m (100m<sup>2</sup>) and a maximum of 15m x 15m (225m<sup>2</sup>).
- For all categories the entrance door to the ring must be 1.5 meters.
- For all categories the perimeter of the ring must be defined. Materials to be used can be of various types eg: iron rods, wooden posts, rigid plastic posts, pickets or other sorts of post, these joined together with some type of plastic tape or barrier material.

Whatever type of materials are used it is important that the ring be clearly defined.

(If using iron rods or poles the tip must be covered by a cap mushroom)

- The traced area, called "The Box," for the Expert classes, must be positioned inside the ring and adjacent to the entrance to the competition field and must be 1.5 meters



x 1.5 meters in size. The Box can be drawn either by tape placed on the ground or by white chalk powder or by a line of white spray paint.

- Up to 30 dogs can compete in a ring; other rings will be set up if there is a larger number of competing pairs.
- Bitches on heat are judged after all dogs and must be kept off the grounds until all other pairs have finished competing.
- A waiting area needs to be defined outside the ring. This is to provide a zone where the following participant is to wait. (This being to speed up the change-over time between participants.)

### PLACEMENT OF TRUFFLES

- A special tool is used for digging the truffle holes. This tool determines the official depth for all categories. For the Youth category, the dig must be 5 centimeters, while for all other categories it must be 10 centimeters.
- The positive truffle sniffers (for all categories and in each field) must be buried at least one hour before the start of the competition.
- Before the following pair compete, the positive and negative bags are repositioned in the same holes and the empty holes remain empty.

### OTHER MATERIALS/EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR THE COMPETITION

The Dog Center or the Association that organizes the Truffle Search-Pull Out competition must provide:

- Truffle bag kit which includes the regulation fabric bags
- Sufficient quantity of fresh truffles which are placed inside the regulation fabric bag. Each bag must contain a minimum quantity of 8 grams of truffles to a maximum of 15 grams.
- Weighing scale.
- The official bags where the competitor places the truffles found during their turn.
- Measuring stick used to establish the official depth of the holes • Timing tools eg stopwatch, Iphone etc.
- Container to hold the bags to be counted
- Administrative forms.
- White indelible felt-tip pens.



## THE COMPETITION:

The competition is held in a single heat

The order of entry of the pairs and the assigned competition ring, is drawn by lot by the organizing committee the day before the competition.

The order of entry will be displayed outside the competition rings.

During the competition, the dog competes to find the largest number of truffles buried inside a ring in a maximum pre-established time.

The trial ends when all the hidden truffles are found or when time runs out.

The number of truffles found and the time it took to find them are added together to draw up the final order

Awards are given to the top three pairs of each category with the greatest number of truffles found in the shortest time.

## DOG CATEGORIES

### YOUNG CATEGORY

Dogs aged between 5 months and 16 months old.

From 17 months and onward, the handler must decide whether to participate in the intermediate category or the small-expert or medium-large-expert, category.

At the discretion of the owner a dog can change category at nine months old.

In the event of a category change points achieved cannot be transferred.

The competitor must, before starting the competition, declare to the Judge if he intends to reward the dog with food during the competition. The athlete who does not intend to reward the dog with food earns a bonus of 0.25 points.

Each pair is awarded 0.50 points for participation in the competition.

Dogs that do not relieve themselves (poo or pee) inside the ring during the competition are rewarded with .25 points.

At the beginning of each trial, at the judge's signal, the dog is released for the search from the entry line, and no further.

For this category (Young Dogs) the handler, having released the dog, can move freely within the corridor.



Time is taken every time the handler raises his arm holding the bag containing the truffle and uses the vocal term "PULL".

The handler can only exit the corridor when the dog starts digging. The handler goes to where the dog is digging and signals the presence of the truffle by raising his arm with the truffle sack in hand and says "PULL" loudly and clearly. This is to ensure that the judge hears and to confirm the discovery. After this the handler must return inside the track; unless the dog has already started the next dig.

Time is taken every time the handler raises his arm holding the truffle bag and says "PULL".

If the dog leaves a positive bag far away from where it was found inside the ring, the Dog handler must recover the bag and reposition themselves at the hole of the last excavation and only then can signal its discovery by raising his arms calling "PULL". After which the handler must return inside the track; unless the dog has already started the next dig.

The dog must leave the bag to the handler only inside the ring. Positive bags left outside the competition area are considered void.

13 holes are dug, 10 of which contain the truffle inserted inside a black bag with a yellow band (positive holes) and the remaining 3 holes are empty.

The allowed time to find a maximum of 8 truffles is 4 minutes.

The number of truffles found and the discovery times in the round are added together to draw up the final order.

The top three pairs in each category are awarded.

In the case of equal times and truffles found, the time taken to find the last truffle is taken into consideration. In the event of a further tie, the time taken to find the penultimate truffle and so on will be taken into consideration.

At the end of each trial, the truffles delivered must correspond to the collected number indicated by the Judge, otherwise the round is restarted.

In this (Young) category, the use of vocal and/or tactile reinforcements is allowed. It is allowed to reward the dog with small treats and/or games.

## **YOUNG CATEGORY PENALTIES**

For the first and second penalty, a penalty (of a number of seconds) will be added to the time taken for finding EACH truffle.

All truffles found after the maximum time limit, including penalties, will not be considered.



Example: if a competitor has received a 10-second penalty, this penalty is added to the time it takes to find each truffle. Truffles counted after the maximum time are not considered.

A third penalty will mean the loss of 1 truffle found from the total.

A fourth penalty means disqualification of the competitor.

Penalties will accumulate each time a transgression has been made. (ie a penalty is given for each transgression.)

- The early entry of the pair, IE before the Judge's signal, is penalized by 5 seconds.
- The conductor is obliged to stay within the traced area called "the track." Early exit with both feet is penalized by 5 seconds.
- The handler cannot indicate to the dog with gestures. The penalty will be the addition of 10 seconds.
- The handler who drops food on the ground is penalized with the addition of 15 seconds.
- The competitor is prohibited from pretending to throw earth or other material. The penalty will be the addition of 10 seconds.
- It is forbidden to put the truffles into one's pockets. They must be placed in the bag provided. The handler who does not use this bag but places the truffles elsewhere is disqualified
- If during the competition the dog should leave the ring for 50 seconds or more continuously the pair will be disqualified.

## INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY

Dogs over 9 months old.

The competitor has the responsibility, before starting the competition, to declare to the Judge if he intends to reward the dog with food during the trial. The owner who does not intend to reward the dog with food earns a bonus of 0.25 points

Each pair is awarded 0.50 point for participation in the competition.

Dogs that do not relieve themselves (pee or poo) inside the ring during the competition are rewarded by a bonus of 0.25 points.

At the beginning of the trial, at the judge's signal, the dog is released to search from behind the entry line.



The handler goes to where the dog is digging and signals the presence of the truffle by raising his arm with the truffle sack in hand and says "PULL" loudly and clearly. This is to ensure that the judge hears and to confirm the discovery.

The time is taken every time the handler raises his arm holding the bag containing the truffle and shouts, "PULL". The handler must remain stationary at the site of the last dig while the dog searches for the next truffle.

The dog must leave the bag to the handler only inside the ring. Positive bags left outside the competition area are considered void.

If the dog leaves the bag far from the place where it was found inside the ring, the Athlete must recover the positive bag and reposition himself at the last dig made by the dog and only then can he signal its discovery by raising his arm shouting "PULL".

14 holes are dug, 8 of which contain a truffle inside a black bag with a yellow band (positive holes); 3 are negative holes filled with the empty black bags with a red band and 3 holes are empty.

The maximum time allowed to find truffles is 3 minutes.

The number of truffles found and the time taken to find them are combined to draw up the final order.

The top three pairs in each category with the greatest number of truffles found in the shortest time are awarded.

Only in case of equal time and truffles found is the time taken to find the last truffle taken into consideration. In the event of a further tie, the time taken to find the penultimate truffle (and so on) will be taken into consideration.

At the end of the competition, the truffles delivered must correspond to the collected number indicated by the Judge, otherwise the round is restarted.

In this category, the use of vocal and/or tactile reinforcements is allowed. It is allowed to reward the dog with toys and food.

### **INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY PENALTIES**

For the first and second penalty, a penalty of a number of seconds will be given and will be added to the time for finding each truffle.

All truffles found after the time limit, (including penalty seconds added), will not be considered.

Example: if a competitor has received a 10-second penalty, this penalty is added to the time it takes to find each truffle. Truffles counted after the maximum time including the penalty seconds are not considered.





A third penalty means the loss of 1 truffle from the total found.

A fourth penalty means disqualification.

Penalties will accumulate each time a transgression has occurred. (ie a penalty is given for each transgression.)

Reasons for Penalties.

- Early entry of the dog, before the Judge's signal, is penalised By the addition of 5 seconds.
- The handler can only enter the competition area when the dog begins the first dig; early entry is penalized with the addition of 5 seconds.
- The handler who moves away from his or her position, before the start of the next dig by the dog, is penalized with the addition of 5 seconds.
- The handler cannot indicate to the dog with gestures. The penalty will be the addition of 10 seconds.
- Any handler who drops food on the ground is penalized with the addition of 15 seconds.
- It is forbidden for the competitor to simulate throwing earth or other material. The penalty will be 10 seconds.
- It is forbidden to put the truffles into one's pockets; they must be placed in the bag provided. The handler who does not use said bag but who places the truffles elsewhere is disqualified.

If during the competition the dog should leave the ring for 40 seconds or more the pair will be disqualified.

## **EXPERT SMALL- EXPERT MEDIUM/LARGE CATEGORY**

This category is divided into the following height classes:

- ✧ Small: height of the dog at the withers less than or equal to 350 mm; "
- ✧ Medium-Large: height of the dog at the withers greater than 350 mm

The height of the competing dogs must be recorded on the entry form. Dogs must be measured by an expert Judge of Search of truffles-Pull Out CSEN Cinofilia.

The competitor must, before starting the competition, declare to the Judge if he intends to reward the dog with food during the trial. The handler who does not intend to reward the dog with food earns a bonus of 0.25 points.

Each competitor is awarded 0.50 points for participation in the competition.



Dogs that do not relieve themselves (pee or poo) inside the ring during the competition are rewarded by 0.25 points.

At the beginning of the trial, at the judge's signal, the dog must be released to search behind or on the entry line.

For this category, the handler must remain within the area, called "The box," positioned at the entrance to the ring. The handler cannot leave "the box" for the entire course of the trial.

The dog must find the maximum number of buried truffles and deliver them only to the handler's hands. Truffles not delivered adequately will be evaluated as null, not found.

The time is recorded for the truffle to be brought back and the handler raises his arm holding the bag containing the truffle and shouts "PULL".

14 holes are dug, 8 of which contain the truffle inserted inside a black bag with a yellow band (positive holes); There are 3 negative holes that are filled with empty black bags with a red band and there are 3 empty holes.

The time allowed to find all the truffles is 3 minutes.

The number of truffles found and the time taken to find them are added together to draw up the final order.

The top three pairs in each category with the greatest number of truffles found in the shortest time are awarded.

Only in case of equal time and truffles found is the time taken to find the last truffle taken into consideration. In the event of a further tie, the time taken to find the penultimate truffle (and so on) will be taken into consideration.

At the end of the competition, the truffles delivered by the handler must correspond to the collected number recorded by the judge, otherwise the round will be redone.

In this category, the use of vocal and/or tactile reinforcements is allowed. It is allowed to reward the dog with toys and food.

### **EXPERT SMALL- EXPERT MEDIUM/LARGE CATEGORY PENALTIES**

For the first and second penalty, a penalty of a number of seconds will be added to the time recorded for finding each truffle.

All truffles found after the time limit, including penalty time added, will not be allowed.

Example: If a competitor has received a 10 second time penalty, this time penalty is added to the time of discovery of each truffle. Truffles counted after the maximum time are not considered.



The third penalty means the loss of 1 truffle from the total number found.

A fourth penalty will result in disqualification.

Penalties will accumulate each time a transgression has been made. (ie a penalty is given for each transgression.)

- Early entry of the dog, before the judge's start signal, will be penalized with the addition of 5 seconds.
- The handler must stay within the traced area. Exiting with both feet will be penalized by 5 seconds.
- A handler who drops food on the ground is penalized by 15 seconds.
- The handler must not indicate to the dog the position of the truffle with gestures. The penalty will be 10 seconds.
- It is forbidden for the competitor to pretend throwing earth or other material. The penalty will be the addition of 10 seconds.
- It is forbidden to put the truffle bags into one's pockets, they must be put in the bag provided. A handler who does not use this bag but puts the truffle bags somewhere else will be disqualified.
- If during the competition the dog should leave the ring for 40 seconds or more continuously, the pair will be disqualified.

## **SPECIAL PERSON CATEGORY**

This is the category for people with functional limitations.

The rules for the Special Person category are the same as for the other categories except for the following:

In this category the handler may be accompanied by a collaborator called the "guide handler".

## **SPECIAL DOG CATEGORY**

This is the category for dogs with functional limitations.

The rules for the Special Dog category are the same as for the other categories; except for the following:

Depending on its pathology or functional limitations, the dog can compete with aids, it can signal the presence of the bag containing the truffle in different ways and the retrieve can be carried out in different ways.



The handler of a blind dog can use a long leash.

## **SPECIAL CATEGORY FOR CHILDREN AND SPECIAL “WHITE” DOG**

Children from 6 to 13 years old and dogs from 3 or more months old (“white dog”) can participate in their chosen category.

There will be no final order given and everyone will be rewarded for participating.

The white dog can participate by simulating the search with the aim of getting used to environmental stimuli.

This Special Children's category was created to get little ones used to handling the dog while having fun and to encourage a positive dog culture from an early age.

The measurements of the ring will be 10 by 10 meters.

Only 10 bags containing truffles are buried inside the ring (so-called positive holes).

The allowed time to find the truffles is 2 minutes.

The handler can move freely inside the ring and there are no penalties.

## **COMPETITION SCORING FOR ALL CATEGORIES**

Participants in each competition accumulate points towards a championship in their own area,

This is divided into the Northern area (Trentino Alto Adige, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Lombardy, Valle d'Aosta, Piedmont and Liguria) in the Central area (Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, Marche, Lazio, Umbria, Abruzzo and Sardinia) and in the southern area (Molise, Campania, Puglia, Basilicata, Calabria and Sicily).

Each competitor is awarded 0.50 points for participation in each competition.

Dogs that do not pee or poo inside the ring during the competition are rewarded by obtaining a bonus of 0.25 points

The handler who does not reward the dog with food earns a bonus of 0.25 points.

## **FINALIST RANKING SCORE**

First place: 3 points

Runner-up: 2 points

Third place: 1 point



Fourth place: 0.75 points

Fifth place: 0.50 points

Sixth place: 0.25 points.

From 7<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> place .15

From 16<sup>th</sup> onwards 0.10

## NATIONAL FINAL

CSEN Cinofilia awards the title of National Champion (for each category) on the day of the National final.

To participate in the championship final, you must have competed in at least 2 TRUFFLE SEARCH-PULL OUT CSEN Cinofilia competitions.

The rules will be subject to possible variations.

Last updated December 2023.

The search for truffles-Pull Out, as already specified at the beginning of these rules, is a sporting discipline that aims to promote activities for dogs with the aim of their psycho-physical well-being.

In this sport, in some categories, it involves retrieving the bag containing the truffle.

In Italy, the collection of truffles is bound by a regulation, which provides, in addition to other rules, the closure of the holes made, in order to preserve the life cycle of truffle.

For this reason it is important to be at the side of the dog during the extraction of the truffle, and to be able to close the hole with the same earth removed.

It is only the Regions that organizes the exams and issues the authorization, commonly termed "the tessera", which is mandatory for collecting truffles throughout the Italian territory.