

## Changes to the IGP Rules Effective 1/1/2025

USCA is working to update our rulebook with this information and additional criteria for the handlers. Until the 2025 USCA IGP Rulebook is released, the following information will be the most significant changes. For diagrams, refer to the 2025 FCI International Utility Dogs Regulations.

USCA will continue to offer the 2025 IGP titles - BH, IGP 1-2-3. TR and OB 1-2-3 FH-1-2-3, STP, and RH1-2 all conducted under the rules effective 1.1.2025

USCA will also continue to offer and promote our USP 1-2-3, which will be slightly modified to reduce any logistic burdens on the clubs and incorporate improvements without sacrificing the integrity of the test.

### **BH**

1. The dog may be praised/freed up after each exercise. In the past, "light" praise was allowed after each exercise. That can be a little more to help bring up the drive, reduce stress, and build focus.
2. Heeling On Leash – (30 pt) The heeling on leash exercise no longer has right turns, a second about turn, and an automatic sit. The exercise starts from a correct basic position with the handler holding the leash in their hand, connected to a dead ring of the dog's collar, and hanging loose (not pulling on the dog). The pattern is now straight down the field a minimum of 50 paces – about turn – 10 to 15 normal paces – 10-15 fast paces – 10-15 slow paces – 10-15 normal paces – halt (stop) wait 3 sec. Then, proceed to the group, showing a figure eight pattern (left and right turn in any order) with an automatic sit near a person in the group. Upon the judge's instruction, the handler will return to the basic position to start the following exercise (Sit).
3. Sit – (10 pt) The sit exercise remains unchanged from the pre–2025 rules. It may be shown either with a 3 sec pause and the command "sit" or performed "in motion" with no pause.
4. Down with Recall – (10pt) The Down with recall remains unchanged from the pre-2025 rules. It may be shown either with a 3 sec pause and the command "down" or performed "in motion" with no pause.
5. Down Under Distraction – (10) The Down Under Distraction remains unchanged except that the handler only leaves the dog approx. 10 meters (the judge will determine the handler's position) and stands sideways to the dog (no longer back to the dog).
6. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the BH, "Traffic Safety or Examination in Traffic remains unchanged and may be performed as determined by the judge.

### **Obedience**

The obedience field must be clearly marked with the following:

A basic position for the start of exercises.

Long down positions for the male and female dogs.

A line for the handler's position for "Retrieve on the Flat," the dumbbell throw must be in the direction of the sendout (as previously done), the new addition to the Retrieve on Flat is a square box 4 x 4 meter in size must be marked on the field 8 meters from the handler line for the "Retrieve on the Flat.

A line for the minimum distance that the handler may be to the hurdle and wall (this is the closest that the handler may be to the hurdle/wall; the handler may position back further from the line). This is marked at 4 meters from the hurdle/wall (as previously done). On the other side of the hurdle and wall, starting at 6 meters from the hurdle/wall, a rectangle box must be marked as 2 meters wide x 4 meters long. When the handler throws the dumbbell it must land in the marked areas for the retrieves.

If the dumbbell is not within the 4 x 4 square on the flat retrieve or the 2 x 4 rectangle on the hurdle/wall, a "field assistant" will pick up the dumbbell, holding it in a way that the dog can see it and will place it in the middle of the marked area. The handler may send the dog for the retrieve when the assistant/judge is back by or behind the handler.

The Wall (A-Frame) is set to 160 cm (previously 170cm)

## **IGP 1**

### Tracking

1. No changes to the length, # of articles, aging time, or points. The only change is the tracking line length is now 5 meters.

### Obedience

1. The dog may be praised/loosened up after each exercise. In the past, "light" praise was allowed after each exercise. Now, the praise can be more to help bring up the drive, reduce stress, and build focus.
2. "Sit and Down" exercise in IGP 1 may be performed in either of the same ways as in BH. The handler may give the command with a 3-second pause or while in motion.
3. There is no longer a retrieve over the hurdle in IGP 1. This exercise has been replaced by "2 jumps without retrieving over the hurdle". It is executed by the handler sitting the dog in basic position at or behind the line. Then, with a "sit command," the handler leaves the dog and proceeds to the other side of the hurdle (just as in the recall over the scaling wall exercise that has been required for IGP1). The handler stands at approx. 5 meters from the hurdle, calls the dog with the command to jump, and when the dog is in the air, a recall/heir command. The dog must clear the hurdle and come quickly to the handler's front position. After 3 seconds, it is followed by a command to move the dog to the basic position. Then, the exercise is repeated in the opposite direction, finishing the exercise with the dog in basic position in the direction it started with the first jump.
4. Long Down for IGP 1 is executed the same as for BH. The handler goes 10 meters away from the dog and may stand sideways.

### IGP 1 Protection

1. "Blind Search" (search for the helper) is now changed back to a 2-blind search. The handler and dog take basic position in the middle of the field between in line with blind 5, facing down the field. The handler raises a hand to let the judge know they are ready (this is the report in protection). The judge will acknowledge, and then the handler with the heel command may turn toward the number 5 blind and, with the dog in basic position facing the number 5 blind, sends the dog to search. The dog must go around blind 5 and is then recalled by the handler, passing in front of the handler, and sent to blind 6.

2. "Attack on Dog Out of Motion" (Long Bite/Courage test) in IGP1, when the handler picks up the dog, they will remain in that position, and the helper will move away from the dog to the required distance (in the previous way the handler and dog had to heel away from the helper).

## **IGP 2**

Tracking – no changes

### Obedience

1. The point allocation of the Sit out of Motion is now 10 pt.
2. There is no retrieve over the Scaling Wall in IGP 2. This is replaced by the same exercise as IGP 1, a "Recall Over the Scaling Wall" (10pt), and is executed the same way as in IGP1.
3. "Long Down," the distance the handle is away from the dog is now 20 paces with the handler back to the dog.

### Protection

No changes to IGP 2 Protection.

## **IGP 3**

Tracking - No changes

### Obedience

1. The point allocation of the Sit out of Motion is now 10 pt.
2. The point allocation of the Retrieve Over the Scaling Wall is now 10 pt.
3. The distance for the Long Down is 30 paces with the handler out of sight (in a blind).

### Protection

1. No changes to IGP 3 Protection

## **Master Tracking Titles – FH**

1. FH 1. Laid by the handler, 800 paces long, 4 corners / 5 legs, 3 of the handler's articles, aged 90 minutes
2. FH 2. Laid by a stranger, 1200 paces, 6 corners, 5 of which are 90 degrees and the last corner is "acute at 30 – 60 degrees", 5 articles, cross-track 30 minutes before the track starts by a different tracklayer across 2 legs (not the first or last leg and not within 40 paces of a corner), aged 120 minutes.
3. FH 3. 1800 paces, 8 legs, and one leg must be an arch (semi-circle) starting or ending at a 90-degree corner, 7 corners 5 are 90 degrees, and 2 of them must be acute corners 30-60 degrees, 7 articles, cross-track 30 minutes before track starts by a different tracklayer across 2 legs (not the first or last leg and not within 40 paces of a corner), aged 180 minutes.