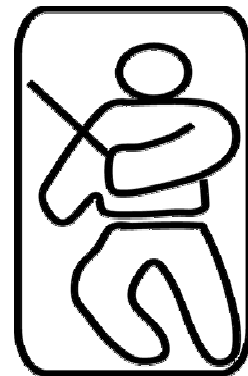


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National rules established by the NVBK decoy union

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Foreword

It is thanks to the decoy that our sport crumbles down or holds upright. It is also for him that a national statute and a national working method thus were considered to be necessary, and were made by progressive people of the NVBK which could count on the collaborators and the recognition of the Board of directors. The time when the decoy was bogymen for the master and dog is a part of the past. The statute and the national working method will now help it to carry out the imposed tasks in a worthy, honest and sporting way.

With the younger generation of decoys, this will be useful only as a point of support and the effective discussion thread and will teach them the respect for the master and the dog. The decoy must understand that it is an essential link in order to show to the whole world why and how our federation exists. That he exists to bring success to the federation and our program, naturally always according to imposed rules' and the competence of the master and the dog. After having taken knowledge of his own statute and national working method, the decoy must know his own rights, but also his duties and to be convinced that only one word can serve our sport: honesty.

The national and local commissions will have to continue to work and work on information and the formation to make our decoys elite. Via this means, the national administration makes a point of thanking all the altruistic workers originating in all the provinces which collaborated in a climate of confidence and sportivity in the development of the statute and national working method of our decoys.

In the current of 2004, this method was re-examined.

The goal was:

- To preserve the current working method as much as possible and to withdraw the "ancestral" methods
- To take into account new elements
- To respect our predecessors
- To improve the reading thanks to the modern means while holding account as much as possible initial text.

Therefore also a chapter called "Nostalgia" at the end of this rulebook.

This in order to give our new decoys an image of the evolution of our sport, and that thanks to our predecessors.

## 1.2 The statute of the decoy corps

### 1.2.1 Running for candidate

- 1) The candidature must arrive at the administration of the club to which the decoy belongs. The administration of the club will be always responsible for its non-licensed decoys.
- 2) The minimum age is 15 years.
- 3) The minimal size is of 1.60m.
- 4) Candidate decoy must be member of the NVBK.
- 5) The candidate must have a good health and physical condition. He cannot have any lack, which hinders the good execution of its task.
- 6) A decoy licensed by another federation, is not regarded as a licensed decoy of the NVBK and does not have to put up with these statutes.

### 1.2.2 Treatment of the candidature

- 1) The club which accepts the decoy will notify the local and national commission of decoys (by letter, e-mail, or with the help of the intended forms of national secretariat NVBK).
- 2) The decoy must follow the course for the decoys, if he wishes to obtain the national diploma.
- 3) If a decoy, graduate or not, wishes to take part in an official match, he must follow lessons in a locality and this for the period preceding the sporting season in question.

### 1.2.3 The decoy

- 1) The decoy which is the member of a NVBK club and officially recognized by the "Decoy Body", will subject himself to the payments and the statutes of this body.
- 2) Decoy is entitled to the minimal compensation of 1,50 € by dog by training.
- 3) Decoy is entitled to a compensation for traveling fixed at 38 € + 0.20 € per km, this for all the official matches.

The civil decoy, when asked, has the right to a compensation of 25 € + 0.20 € per km and has also right to the dinner and drinks.

These arrangements apply as well to the matches who last one whole day or a half-day. The compensation is doubled for two-day match.

For the "Great price of the Provinces", provincial and national Championships, the compensations are:

Decoy: 38€ + 0.20€ per km.

Civil decoy: 25€ + 0.20€ per km

Ring helper: 25€ + 0.20€ per km.

- 4) Decoy (and his rights) is under the protection of the national Commission of the decoys.
- 5) If a decoy wishes to file a complaint, he will send it to the local commission which will carry out the survey and will take action about the complaint.
- 6) If the decoy wishes to appeal a decision of the national commission, he must send his request to the national administration of the NVBK.
- 7) If this complaint is purely technical (with regard to the program itself), it will be examined by a commission for complaints made up of the Office of autonomous Council for decoys and the Commission of the judges.
- 8) The decoy that follows the official course can after having finished 3 matches with a good appreciation in the course of 2 sporting seasons and after having a successful theoretical exam, comes in line of account for the Decoy national diploma.
- 9) Only the decoy who has a national diploma and who has during the sporting season in progress finished at least one match successfully, can come in line of account for the participation in the Championships of Belgium and the "Great price of the Provinces".  
The decoys (3 in total) for the provincial championships will be selected by the administration of the local Commissions of the decoys and pointed out to the provincial Administration.

10) To come in line of account as a candidate for the national championships, the Great price of the Provinces and the provincial championships, one must:

-1: attend 2 lessons minimum in the current year

- 2: exceptionally, 1 valid excuse will not harm the candidature.
- 3: when a graduate decoy brings two consecutive years an excuse, the administration will re-examine his candidature.
- 4: attend the local meetings regularly.

11) A drawn decoy for the national Championships, the Great price of the provinces or the provincial championships must be present at 06.30 AM.

12) Two delegates from national administration of the Decoy body will hold pulling between the candidates and defining and distributing the tasks, this on the spot the day of the demonstration.

13) With the drawing of lots, a decoy cannot of his own initiative replace the Ring assistant. A decoy who due to wounds or family circumstances etc cannot take part as candidate must warn the national administration (president) in time so that the reserve can be called in reinforcement.

14) The national delegates who make pulling will follow closely all explanations given by the judge to the decoys on imposed work.

15) The decoy drawn for one of the three tasks can always call upon administration's deputy national which carried out pulling. Understand well that it is only with regard to the technical part of the Ring program.

16) Each decoy of the Decoy Body belongs to a local commission. A commission or a locality is a group which is created in a province or the area where the course for the decoys can be followed. This course contains theoretical and practical lessons.

17) To become member of the administration of this local commission, the decoy must send his written candidature for the local commission on December 1st. Every three years, the administration of a local commission is eligible or re-eligible. The 1st year the president, the 2nd year the vice-president, the 3rd year the secretary. The administration of the local commission will be elected in second half of January, after the expiry of the mandate.

18) A decoy who has obtained his national diploma, will be withdrawn from the responsibility for his club with regard to the working method, and will depend on the national committee for the decoy. A club which does not have any decoy for its contest can solicit a decoy at the local commission.

NB: a locality which does not have decoys possessing necessary conditions to contribute at provincial championships can be addressed to another locality, or invite a graduate decoy from another locality.

#### 1.2.4 Decoy with national diploma

After three favorable reports/ratios of competence, over two sporting seasons minimum, the local commission will make a request so that the decoy can obtain a national diploma. The examination of theory must be successful with 80% of the points and approved by the national commission. A decoy has the national diploma then and enters in line of account for the participation in a national match. He must then also satisfy item 1.2.3. described above.

See also hereafter.

## 1.3 Goal & organization of the Body

### 1.3.1 The goal

The goal of the Decoy body is general-purpose. Inter alia, we want to realize:

- To establish at the national level a simple working method
- To uniform clothing, shoes and sticks
- Clear control over width of the sleeves and leggings
- To give the same compensation through the country
- To recognize decoys by the NVBK
- To point out the rights and the duties of the decoys
- To hold the annual general Assembly (minimum 3), to discuss and solve the problems
- The development of the organization until the annual tests of the capacities and the theoretical exam
- To write reports/ratios of each decoy
- To follow the decoy through the matches and to give him the necessary moral support
- To invite to the Office of the autonomous Congress Council of the judges

...

### 1.3.2 The organization

#### 1.3.2.1 The local commission

In a number of six localities, several groups will be created in order to organize courses for the decoys without them having to travel enormous distances. The groups thus formed, we will call them the Local Commissions. Each decoy will be indexed in the local commission and its own administration. Each local commission has a president, a vice-president and a secretary.

The goal of these groups is:

- a) To give theoretical and practical courses and to work on the national working method
- b) To turn in notes on the reports/ratios of the judges about the decoys of the locality (at the time of matches)
- c) To draw up the reports/ratios of the decoys and to return them to the national commission
- d) After three favorable reports/ratios, over two sporting seasons minimum, the local commission will make a request so that the decoy can obtain a national diploma
- e) The theoretical examination must be successful with 80% of the points and approved by the national commission
- f) The local commissions depend on the national commission. The president, the vice-president and the secretary of the local commission belong automatically to the national commission (in total three people per locality).

The administration of the local commission which depends on the national commission can announce the meetings, can give lessons and directives as far as she wants it and does it correctly. The agenda of each meeting must however be subjected to the approval of the administration of the national committee (with the president of the national committee). A special form for the decoy will be added to the reports/ratios of the judges. The judges will send this form to the national president of the Body who will forward the special forms to the president of the local commission. On this special form will be marked the clothing, the shoes, the sticks, etc...

But will also be mentioned on this form: his working method, the neutral attitude, the endurance, manner of carrying out the contest and the manner of applying the directives of the judges...

The present judges will also see to draw up a report/ratio about the civil decoy, and to mention if he's a none-graduate or even if he is not at all decoy.

### 1.3.2.2 The national commission

All the presidents, the vice-presidents and the secretaries of the local commissions belong to the national commission.

National commission selects a president, two vice-presidents and a secretary. They form the Office of the autonomous Council of the body of the decoy, possibly supplemented by the president and the secretary of each locality.

The national commission will meet at least once per annum under the presidency of the president of the body which announces the meeting and determines the agenda. The agenda of the General meeting will be proposed for approval to the national administration.

The meeting of the national commission must always be indicated by the especially designated members of the administration of the NVBK. They do not have any voting rights. The national president of the NVBK which is qualified by the nature of its function can attend each meeting and mix in the debates without voting rights.

The national president or his agent preserve the right to take the direction of each meeting, each time the gravity of the situation would legitimate a similar thing. In this exceptional case, he will intervene only as neutral observer.

The secretary of the body of the decoys will write the report/ratio of each General meeting and will send a copy to the national administration. The national president will receive an invitation to each General meeting. The national administration can always modify certain items on the agenda, remove some or add some.

The administration of the national commission is re-eligible every three years for half i.e. the president and a vice-president, after six years the second vice-president and the secretary. The election takes place during the first meeting of the office of the current year (May), after the expiry of the mandate.

The person, who wishes to stand as a candidate for the administration of the Body of the decoys, or the national committee, can do this by sending a letter registered to the local president, three months before the end of the mandate of the administration in progress.

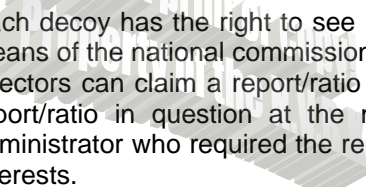
The national committee supervises the local commissions. If the local committee forwards the report/ratio of the one of its decoys towards the national committee, this will go from pair with a request of the delivery of the national diploma.

The decoy in question will then be subjected to a theoretical and practical test where he must obtain 80% of the points to succeed. This test will continue at the end of each sporting season and will be approved by the presidents of the localities, the national president and the national secretary of the body of the decoys. The decoy who has received his national diploma, can come in line of account for the national championships, the great price of the provinces and the provincial championships.

The national commission will examine the candidature of the decoy for the national championships and the great price of the provinces, and the administration of the national commission will indicate the decoy, this using the reports/ratios of the judges who will be examined anonymously. The national commission makes the working method of the decoys uniform and also tries to obtain uniform clothing for each decoy.

The national commission will program the national working method and will recognize then the decoys (DIPLOMA) under supervision of the national administration of the NVBK. Each graduate decoy will receive a license and will have the free access to all the sporting events of the NVBK except for the national championships, of the great price of the provinces and the provincial championships.

The national commission will apply the decoys rights but will also insist on their duties. The making of the reports/ratios of the graduate decoys will be a part of their function. The national commission has the direction and the protection of the Body, it will treat the technical complaints and will enclose the verdict; the appeal at the national administration is possible for all the parties. The national commission depends on the national administration.



Each decoy has the right to see his report/ratio and to know the contents of it. He can claim this by the means of the national commission or by the means of his local commission. Each member of the Board of directors can claim a report/ratio of a decoy: He asks this to the national secretary, which requests the report/ratio in question at the main body commission of the decoy in order to transmit it to the administrator who required the report/ratio. It should well be understood that it cannot serve the personal interests.

Voting rights to the national commission: By three members of administration of each locality, only one vote will be emitted. As far as they work to improve the goal of the organization, or make improvements to the working method of the decoy. When however this vote concerns people, each member of administration will vote anonymously.

At the General meeting, one will try to discuss and solve the needs and the complaints of the decoys from last year. There will be presented and discussed possible proposals concerning the Ring program. The invitations at the meetings must arrive eight days in advance. The decoys who wish to place certain points on the agenda, make of it the proposal with their localities which will introduce them at the administration. All the decisions of the General meeting are constraining for the body, after approval by the national administration.

Composed and made in the meeting of the national commission of the Body of the decoys on October 9, 1974 in ANTWERP, Kronenburgstraat.  
Approvals by the national administration on November 16, 1974.

## **2. General Informations**

### **2.1 Decoy**

#### **2.1.1 What is a Decoy?**

This question seemingly so simple is not easy to encircle. It is enough to think of the general notion of the decoy to conclude that several problems arise around these essential figures for our sport.

A fact is certain: much is required our decoys and one loses sight of the fact sometimes that the majority of the decoys can count only on oneself in many situations. Without wanting to make a martyr of the decoy, we want to however enumerate here some essential points which belong to its task:

1. He must in general worry that his equipment is always in perfect shape.
2. He must always be present.
3. He is the 1e and the last man on the working premises.
4. If the dog fails, it is him which will be very often blamed.

From these points the importance of the decoy comes out well. A club stands or falls thanks to him. A danger can thus reside in the fact that he is thus essential. The decoys who would misuse their dominant position to put pressure on the club and its amateurs do not have their place in this sport. Similar people are always at the base of arguments and disputes.

However, the love of a decoy for his work and his club must thus impose on each one the respect. He deserves it.

#### **2.1.2 How one becomes decoy?**

This question generates so many answers which we want to limit only to principal.

1. By Necessity: a similar thing happens more often than thought. A club is temporarily or definitely without decoy, and one of the members of the club tries the decoy suit on with help of his/her friends... This service cannot be estimated at its right value, but if our occasional decoy will become a "definite" decoy, only the future can tell us.
2. The one who thinks to join the useful to pleasant by "playing" the decoy and believes to make sport in an active way. Pleasant consists here primarily in the advantages of "beverages", and it is almost certain that our good man will not continue his doing for a long time.
3. The one who believes that he can do at least as well as anybody else and who wants to show for once and for all how the things shall be done. These decoys certainly do not last a long time.
4. The one finally puts on the decoy suit for love of the sport and on whom the suit exerts an attractive influence. He finds essential to bring his small contribution and is quite conscious that much sorrow and patience will be required of him. This decoy is made out of solid material and there is a serious chance that he would remain decoy for a while.

#### **2.1.3 How to remain decoy?**

This question generates so many answers which we want to limit only to principal:

1. The one who doesn't impose himself but has the wisdom submissively to listen to the others.
2. The one who accepts criticism.
3. The one who is in good physical condition.
4. The one who has a good decoy suit.
5. The one whose marital status makes it possible to be decoy.
6. The one who is persevering and desires to be useful.

#### **2.1.4 Who is a good decoy?**

1. The one who is always entirely equipped properly so that as well as leg biters or arm biters can work suitably.
2. The one who is always honest. And this is also worth outside the matches.
3. The one who is in good physical condition.

4. The one who has the technique necessary and required perspicacity, and who applies it.
5. The one who during the match proceeds to the assigned task for each dog in an identical and honest way.
6. The one who has the necessary knowledge of the program and the correct reflexes, to react normally and in the regular manner in all the situations.

### **2.1.5 Who is a bad decoy?**

Of course the one who sins heavily against the six above mentioned points.

Some heavy failures here after:

1. The one who, in a conscious or unconscious way, tries to affix its personal seal on a match.
2. The one who misuses his experience and dexterity to favor or handicap the dogs in an unimportant way.

### **2.1.6 Insurance**

During the training, each decoy must get information that each client is insured, unless the club did it itself.

## **2.2 Decoy's equipment**

### **2.2.1 Clothing – Suit**

1. The regulations of the NVBK say that the suits exist only out of natural fibers. The suit can be colored. The colors must be neutral. They cannot give in any case the aspect of the decoy resembling to a clown. On the other hand, the pieces of leggings or sleeves must be plain. The original jute color was only allowed.  
The logos and publicity can only be worn on the chest and the back.
2. The suits consist out of a jacket and trousers, must be made so that the decoy can preserve maximum freedom of movement, while it is also protected to its maximum. The combination top and the bottom of the costume is allowed.
3. The suit must be of a similar quality for ALL DOGS that as well leg biters or arm biters can work suitably. Too large or too thin costumes, or stuffed sleeves or leggings are proscribed. It is allowed for the decoy to wear extra protection underneath the suit. This mustn't however damage his mobility.
4. The stitching of rags which are easily removable must be avoided.
5. It goes without saying that the ideal suit does not exist. The suit also often depends on the personal style of the decoy. The strong physiques will work more easily in a heavy costume than weaker physiques.
6. It is advised that the decoys consult each other and possibly test the costumes at least once.

#### **COSTUME CUT**

The chosen combination doesn't matter but it is necessary to respect the following sizes:

FRONT ARMLEVER = contour of 54 cm to 58 cm.

LEG = contour of 63 cm to 67 cm.

PUNCTURE = square of 4 cm by 4 cm.

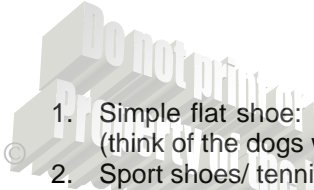
LENGTH OF THE SLEEVES: to cover:

- Arm = minimum 45 cm length
- Leg = minimum 60 cm length

### **2.2.2 Shoes**

The importance of a good adapted shoe is obvious. It is enough to think only of our good climate and of the state in which our grounds can then get. The danger to slip on the soaked grounds is thus real. Everyone understands that a decoy can quickly down on the ground. For this reason, it is necessary to think of the shoes! Of solid quality, they contribute largely to the safety of the decoy.

#### **2.2.2.1 Various kinds**

- 
1. Simple flat shoe: 100% against its use - danger of slipping and misses protection of the ankles (think of the dogs which bite very low)
  2. Sport shoes/ tennis shoes: same as above
  3. Football shoes: No danger of slipping, but the ankles are still insufficiently protected. The nails are not without danger. Things can get entangled in them.
  4. Heavy work shoes: (high shoes) Combined with adapted leggings, they seem to be the best solution, provided that the soles are provided with rubber cramps in order not to slip.

#### 2.2.2.2 Maintenance

So that the shoe keeps its flexibility and remains impermeable, it should regularly be coated with a special and adapted product.

Notice: It is important that the laces of shoe are constantly tied carefully. It has already arrived several times that laces make stumble and fall the person.

#### 2.2.3 Mask

The mask is essential in certain imposed exercises, or if the dog is likely to attack too high. Each master must inform the decoy if his dog bites high (throat or face). The decoy (thus also the civil one) must always dispose of a mask.

#### 2.2.4 Gloves

During matches, wearing gloves is mandatory. It should be noticed that the decoy must not only wear gloves during championships but also during regular training, if not the insurance company does not cover the expenses of possible wounds. The kind of gloves to be used isn't determined, but it seems well that the regular gloves are the best. If the decoy refuses to wear gloves during a match, the judge must ask him for a written confirmation (also applicable to the civil decoy).

#### 2.2.5 Sticks

##### 2.2.5.1 Miscellaneous

To use sticks in a not very judicious way is dangerous. The material, of which the sticks are manufactured, can also be a dangerous weapon. NVBK regulations consider only the use of wooden branches or sticks. Car antennas, glass fiber, pipe or similar objects are consequently prohibited.

##### 2.2.5.2 Various kinds of sticks

1. Oak: Without danger (without danger of wounds if passed very close to). They do not undergo deformations with time. Disadvantage: Break easily.
2. Large sawn bamboo: (hollow or full) Advantage: Resisting. Disadvantage: Because of acute, dangerous ends for the dog.
3. Thin stems of bamboo gathered together: Advantage: light and resistant. Disadvantage: On the end, the sticks of bamboo will spread which is not without danger to the dog.
4. Plastic or synthetic sticks: synthetic or plastic sticks are allowed if they are not too heavy and wounding.
5. Always avoid working with pointed sticks.
6. LENGTH: can vary between 50 and 65 cm.

### 2.3 Obligations of the club

Each club must have a sufficient protection and solid shells for the civil suit. It is often thought only of the protection of the arms and the chest. How many dogs do not box however on the legs and the stomach? Those must also be protected in an effective way. The decoy must be equipped sufficiently so that the special parts of equipment are the least possible visible; an overall must be used. Each decoy must if

necessary insist at his club, so that he can have a solid suit and an overall. Gloves and shoes: see the concerned Chapter.

If a club does not have a decoy who has the necessary knowledge of the national working method, there is always the possibility of enrolling a decoy from another club with the necessary capacities. This manner of work offers additional possibilities to the decoys for their candidature for the national matches or for obtaining the national diploma.

That is also worth for "the civil decoys". An "occasional civil decoy" can carry out good performances during the practice. On the matches, it's not the same. The final goal of the body of the decoys is to let the civil decoys who also wish to take part in the national contests or wish to obtain the national diploma carry out matches. This does not prevent that "the occasional civil decoys" carry out a very good work and they should certainly be encouraged to come to the practice. The body wants also to grant the necessary respect to them. The final goal must be however to let "active" civil or regular decoys take part in the matches.

## **2.4 Physical condition and behavior of the decoy**

### **2.4.1 Decoy before match**

1. The decoy will drink only fairly during a match (to imagine the disadvantage of a hangover the following day!)
2. The decoy must take care that his clothing, his shoes or sticks and keep them in an impeccable state.
3. He is imperative to have some spare material necessary in order to cure the unforeseen cases.
4. A case provided with medical means for the first help at the time of accidents is also necessary.

### **2.4.2 Decoy during a match**

1. The consumption of alcohol and "exciting means" is proscribed. Thirst is by no means satisfied and perspiration increases.
2. Best cooling consists of a short cleaning of the face and arms.
3. If possible during the midday pause to put itself under the shower, cooling followed by Fresh clothing.
4. A decoy, who SPONTANEOUSLY gives to the judges his opinion about the quality of a bite, gives a very bad impression. When his opinion is required of him, (e.g. in a stopped attack) he will answer honestly. At the time of bites in the hiding-place, the decoy is generally the single person able to answer. It is up to his duty SPONTANEOUSLY to communicate it to the judges if necessary.
5. The decoy who gives his jacket during first exercises must do this for all dogs at the same time and the same place.
6. The same thing applies to the decoy who recovers outside the working field. He must have sat for all dogs at the same place, and as much as possible behaving in same manner.
7. As far as possible, he will avoid leaving the ground during exercises in order not to influence the dog.
8. He will take care that the sticks are always within immediate reach. To disperse his material on the ground gives a very bad impression.
9. The exuberant decoy must hold account that dogs are not lions! The question is to know if these "BURNING" decoys will work "INTENSELY" for the last dog as for the first. A normal manner, by distributing the forces throughout the contest, is of greater interest.
10. A good decoy will certainly hold account of the kind of contest in which he takes part. Especially in category III and II, he will be definitely more attentive to his work than in category I, where the dogs have more experience.
11. The decoy is always conscious that he must understand well his mission at the time of the establishment of the program and certainly at the time of the explanation of imposed work, that the mission for him is feasible while following the rules and certainly without any danger.

*He will make, if necessary, all the remarks to the judges, without more. They indeed take the final responsibility for the match. The judges will hold account of these remarks. If one cannot arrive at an agreement concerning the remarks of the decoy, it will be taken notice of it in the report/ratio of match.*

*The test dog (the white dog) is certainly an advantageous instrument. Indeed, it helps to examine the aptitude of the ring personnel and makes it possible to see whether imposed work is understood and feasible.*

12. If the decoy was not protected or less at one particular place, and he was bitten there and wounded, the pain - that judge a cannot be able to notice - which he cannot support any more will be clearly announced, preferably by raising the arm or the sticks in the air.

### 3. The decoy & the Ring program

#### 3.1 Various attacks

##### 3.1.1 NVBK Rules

1. The attacks on the decoys lying on the ground or motionless were prohibited.
2. In Cat. II and Cat. III, the least noise (speak or shout) after the departure of the dog during the second and the third attack is prohibited.
3. In Cat. I, the voice can always be used after the departure of the dog except in the stopped attack. This is also worth for the shots.
4. The arm and leg biters must have equal chances.
5. The challenge will be done before the departure of the dog and until the moment that the dog approached at least 5m.

##### 3.1.2 Decoy during attacks

1. POSITION: its arms like legs must be sufficiently mobile and accessible to all the types of biters.
2. RIGHT AND LEFT-HANDED DECOYS: One must try to function with flexibility with his two arms. A similar thing is especially important with the sticks, or if the sticks must be held in the "bad hand" (decoy must work on the right and on the left).
3. RECEPTION OF AN ATTACK:  
A/ The decoy always starts to work from the same starting point indicated by the judge.  
B/ He will always await the sign of the judge to start working.
4. RECEPTION OF THE DOG  
A/ As well for the dog as for the decoy, it is bad to receive the dog behaving like a rock. The reception of the dogs must always be flexible and supple.  
B/ With regards to the arm biters, it is imperative to hold the arm at the height of the chest. The higher held arm prevents the dog from biting full for its body is practically fully stretched, which generates by consequence a bad attack.  
C/ The arm held too low generally causes a bad reception (think of the ascending re-entry of the dog).  
D/ For dogs with an energetic rise (impact), one will avoid agitating the arm. The danger to break teeth is existing.  
E/ It goes without saying that the fact of pulling away the body, or withdrawing the arm or the leg with the goal to make the dog miss its entry, is very dishonest behavior.  
F/ At the time of the contact, the decoy will take care that the dog can carry out its attack correctly, meaning he will never work with shocks with the intention to make the dog let go. He will never try to twist the dog in the costume, (what is often the consequence of a bad costume) and he will not try to withdraw the leg, but especially the arm, out of the dog's mouth (one thinks here especially of violent tractions of the leg and of arm).  
G/ How to manage a bite when the dog bites in the arm which holds the sticks?  
To change the sticks of hand will very often have as a consequence that the dog lets go. For this reason is difficult to give a right response to this problem. All depends on the place where the dog will bite: in the arm and at the top of the elbow, inside etc.... For this reason it seems in theory judicious to avoid changing hands. To take again the sticks was allowed without disadvantage for the dog.

H/ How to manage when the dog misses its entry or passes aside?

If the dog passes, the decoy will turn away and avoid it. This must arrive preferably while using the sticks. When a similar thing is impossible, considering the danger to the eyes of the dog, he will avoid using the top of the slats. To push the dog back vocally is not allowed.

### **3.1.3 While the dog is biting**

The decoy will turn himself slightly so that at least one judge can estimate the value of the bite, without favoring or harming the dog.

A/ Working with sticks

1. Always strike the back, in order to never wound the dog: to always avoid the head, the legs and certainly the belly!
2. The striking with sticks must be given in the same tempo and with the same power (ordinary counting etc. 21,22,23 etc...., faster 1,2,3...).
3. Not absolutely want to strike the dog which attacks from behind and whose back is difficult to reach. The best solution is to strike the legging of the trousers which is most far from the dog.

B/ How to manage a dog which avoids the sticks?

Never try to reach it by turning, but try to make the dog come in a normal position in front of the decoy. If this isn't be possible, the decoy must act as at the point 3.1.3.a.3. mentioned above.

C/ How to react if the dog releases during the attack?

The decoy must prevent the dog from biting in a normal way but never pushing the dog back with the top of the sticks. When the dog releases but cannot be pushed back, the decoy must continue working as for an ordinary attack, until the dog lets go following its master's command or to the bell of the judges. The dog can never be pushed back with the voice.

D/ How to react if the decoy falls when the dog is still biting?

First of all protect the face with the arm or the sticks and don't let the dog out of sight.

E/ When the decoy drops his sticks?

When the decoy drops his sticks at the time of the contact or of the entry of the dog, he will not try to pick them up. He will continue to work as if he had a fictitious weapon and as if nothing happened.

### **3.1.4 Refusal to attack**

A/ The decoy will only cease working when the dog refuses to bite. Not to decide only when the handler calls the dog back.

B/ Never influencing the dog by whispering (to make it bite more ardently or prevent from letting go). A similar intervention is extremely antisportive and fakes the match image. The message is to keep it quiet.

C/ When the dog refuses to bite but does not turn away towards its handler, or when it's running towards his handler, the decoy must continue to remain motionless. The least movement or noise with the sticks can influence the return of the dog.

D/ If the dog returns towards the decoy AFTER the recall of the handler and at that time bites the decoy, he will try never to push back the dog, but indeed grant the bite, and not start working again.

### **3.1.5 Various attacks**

#### **3.1.5.1 Fleeing from the left to the right**

As for the majority of the attacks it is important to leave and receive each dog at the same spot. This consequently generates never to lose sight of the dog.

**Pay attention**, especially when the handler waits a long time before giving the command of departure. At the time of an anticipated departure, the decoy will start working when the dog passes the starting line with its 4 legs.

#### **3.1.5.2 Fleeing in opposite direction**

Same remark as in item 1 above. This attack is however difficult to carry out, because one is constantly obliged to look back, in order to keep an eye on the dog.



### 3.1.5.3 Attack through an object

A/ Try using an object with handles (in the middle).

B/ Always be at the same distance from the object (distance to be asked from the judges).

C/ Ask the judges if during the attack one must continue to hold the object or if it can be dropped. When one must drop the object and if the dog has possibly fringes or similar in its mouth, continue holding the object if he thinks that the dog could be wounded by it. That is also valid for attacks with sticks. Never withdraw sticks of the dog's mouth.

D/ For each dog, adopt the same attitude, meaning to hold the object on the right or on the left, close to the body (distance to set with the judges).

E/ Ask the judges if the dog **MUST** pass through the object. In yes, and when the dog wants to avoid the object, the decoy will push back the dog in a suitable way, without wounding it however. At a contrary, when the dog **CAN** go around it, the decoy will continue to be motionless.

### 3.1.5.4 Attack over an obstacle

A/ Ask the judges where one must be: directly behind the obstacle or at a distance (which?)

B/ Ask the judges if one can push back the dog which wants to avoid the obstacle

C/ Avoid working much too close to the obstacle (danger of wounds for the dog). Try to move away in a normal way from the obstacle.

### 3.1.5.5 Attack against an obstacle

Pay attention to the pieces which stick out in a dangerous way like irons or supports. Move away from the dangerous objects in a normal way.

### 3.1.5.6 Attack against the fence

Avoid working the dog against the fences.

### 3.1.5.7 Attack while throwing objects (Thrown, rolled or kicked)

For each dog, the object will be used at the same time and the same distance.

### 3.1.5.8 Attack while the decoy is sitting

Pay attention that one places the chair well. Place yourself in order not to fall at the time of the entry of the dog and later on during the attack. Protect yourself with a mask.

N.B.: the attacks lying down, motionless, while jumping, while moving forward, and inside the arm are prohibited, this to avoid the wounds and also for protecting the decoy in an optimal way.

## 3.1.6 Important remarks

1. When the dog for one or the other reason attacks its handler a judge or no matter who of the ring personnel, it is then the duty of the decoy to attract the dog on himself, considering the gravity of the situation all means are allowed.

2. When at the time of building a match program, a decoy suspects that in whatever part a danger could arise for the dogs or for him, it is then his duty to inform the judges. It is finally those who have the whole responsibility of the match.

## 3.2 Stopped attack

### 3.2.1 NVBK Rules

1. The dog is sent towards the decoy in the same way as for the ordinary attack.

2. The dog cannot bite the decoy, nor touch him with the open muzzle.

3. To touch with the closed muzzle is not sanctioned.

4. The decoy cannot take in account the fact that it is a stopped attack, meaning he must work in the same way as for an ordinary attack.

5. In this exercise, the decoy cannot use a gun.

### 3.2.2 Decoy's behavior

1. The decoy will always leave from the same spot, and this as well as at the time of a fleeing attack (or ordinary), towards the left or the right-hand side. That is also worth for an attack where the decoy moves towards the dog or flees it.

2. He will hold the same tempo for each dog. The exception is made when the handler lets the dog go tardily. What to do if the dog leaves anticipatively? React more quickly.
3. For motionless stopped attack, he will remain at the same spot for each dog and will strike sticks with a same tempo.
4. Before starting to work, he will await the sign from the judge.
5. He will carry out his work with the same flexibility as for ordinary attacks and will keep as well his arms as legs available to all dogs. It is necessary especially to underline the following: formerly, the decoy usually did not know which attack would be the stopped attack. Now that he knows it, he must pay well attention to his working method, worrying that it remains identical to that of the ordinary attacks. The danger is indeed real that the decoy unconsciously moves slightly to avoid the contact with the dog considering he is accustomed to do so at regular practice.
6. When the dog is near the decoy, he will always take care that the sticks are not between him and the dog.
7. At the time of alternatives to the normal stopped attack, like those accompanied by noises, throwing of objects, jumping of a chair etc, the decoy will always ask the judge at which distance of the dog he must carry out his task. He will then do this for each dog at the same distance. To jump or throw themselves on the dog is prohibited.
8. With the approach of the dog, he will never withdraw the arm or the leg or will not change his attitude in order to influence the dog. When the dog called back but it remains in front of the decoy, its head turned in his direction, the decoy will continue working.
9. When the dog passes the decoy, the decoy cannot challenge any more. The same thing is worth when the dog while returning to its handler, turns around towards the decoy. As long as the dog hasn't arrived near its handler, the decoy must remain quiet and immobile, but the bite is granted if the dog prepares to bite.
10. It is also prohibited for the decoy to leave his spot before the dog joins its handler.
11. The decoy will be invited by the judge to give his opinion on possible bites or contacts with the open muzzle. He cannot do so from his own initiative.
12. At the time of the possible disagreement between the judges on the bite or not, the decoy can even less give his opinion if he's not invited to do so.
13. The decoy gives only his opinion if he's invited to do so by the judge. If he's not 100% certain of its assertions, he shan't give any comments.
14. A good decoy also avoids giving his opinion AFTER the match.

### **3.3 The research**

#### **3.3.1 NVBK Rules**

1. The decoy hides in a hiding-place and will remain motionless in order not to draw the attention of the dog. He will position himself in order to see the dog coming. The hiding-places must be arranged so that the dogs can immediately see the decoy as they enter. He cannot be positioned in height (chair – stairs etc).
2. If the dog bites at the time of discovery, the decoy must communicate it to the jury.
3. The decoy will fire while fleeing. Each club must be in a possession of a gun ready for use.
4. Three escapes will be carried out. During the first, one cannot fire.
5. As soon as the handler calls for his dog, the decoy must be motionless, even if the dog bites again after having released.
6. When after the 3<sup>rd</sup> tentative of escape the dog attacks once again, the decoy will go normally in direction of the point of end of exercise. He continues to go until the end, if the dog stops biting. If not, he continues until the end of the exercise is sounded.

#### **3.3.2 Introduction**

1. At the time of the program establishment, the decoy will pay attention to the way that he must follow and where he must undertake the three escapes. Under the normal circumstances, he must work for each dog in the same way.
2. He must be aware of the manner in which he must carry out the escapes (questions to the judge). It is necessary especially for the dogs which escort from behind (always to flee while moving away from the dog).
3. He must take care that his gun is loaded. The checking must be done during obedience. A conscientious decoy does not forget his gun.

### **3.3.3 To hide**

1. Always wait until the handler and his dog are out of sight and also the sign of the judge before hiding.
2. The decoy goes in a normal way towards the hiding-place. To run is too noisy and can draw the attention of the dog to the hiding-place.
3. He is obliged to hide if possible, with the back against the fence or in the corner, therefore never with his face against the wall. Ask for the mask to the judge.
4. During research and at the time of the discovery, the decoy will continue to always be motionless, attentive to a dog jumping towards the face. He must also adopt a protective attitude (arm at height of the chest).

### **3.3.4 To discover**

1. When the dog discovers the decoy, the decoy shan't, by any trick, encourage or prevent the dog from barking or biting. How to manage bouncing dogs? If there is danger, the decoy can protect himself.
2. The decoy must hold the dog within sight to determine whether it bites or not. This must be evaluated by the decoy in a sporting and honest way. He must also know that there is an effective difference between biting and pushing hard.
3. If the dog bites, he will immediately communicate it to the judge at the end of the exercise.
4. As soon as the handler has his hands on the decoy in the hiding-place and the dog has bitten, that counts as bite in the escort and not as bite in the hiding-place.

### **3.3.5 To escort**

1. When the handler comes at the hiding-place to escort the decoy, the decoy waits until the handler has seized him on the shoulder before leaving the hiding-place. Unless another variation was imposed by the judge (see item 3.3.6 - 4 variations in the escapes).
2. When he leaves the hiding-place and throughout all the duration of the exercise, the decoy will walk in the same pace for each dog, meaning even tempo, even swinging of arms, etc.
3. He must particularly pay attention not to step on the dog's paws.
4. When he leaves the hiding-place and the dog bites and continues biting, the decoy carries on his walk. That is also worth for all the duration of the exercise.
5. If the decoy arrives at the spot of the escape, but the dog bites before the true escape, the decoy will carry on his walk. If in this phase the dog stops biting before the bell, the decoy will undertake his true escape immediately after the dog released.
6. The escapes in normal circumstances are carried out at the pre-determined places and not when the decoy considers the moment favorable (e.g. if the dog is inattentive).
7. If during the escort and after the 3e escape, the dog comes in contact with the decoy, and is always in contact when the end of the exercise is reached, the decoy will carry on his walk and will change direction if needed until the moment the bell will announce the end of the exercise or if the dog lets go.
8. If the decoy is consulted by the jury with regard to the bite when he left the hiding-place or during the escort, the decoy will give his opinion only if he is 100% sure of his assertions.
9. If during the escort, or any time, the decoy hears the handlerspeak to his dog, or hears him excite the dog to attack, he will spontaneously communicate it to the jury.

### **3.3.6 Fleeing attempts**

1. The attempts must be truly fleeing. Never let the arms hang along the body or stretch the arms along the body laterally. Quite to the contrary, the decoy will adopt a protective attitude. The protective attitude means: the arm at the height and in front of the chest.  
On one hand not to escape at ease from the master's grip, but on the other hand not either to establish a fleeing record. During attempts at escape, and before the dog is in contact, the decoy cannot turn around (to challenge dog) to reception of the dog.
2. At the time of each attempt, equal chances must be given to the arm and leg biters.
3. At the time of contact between the dog and the decoy, this one will move away from the handler at least 3 meters, except if imposed differently.
4. In the normal circumstances, the escape will be carried out for each dog at the same spot.
5. If the dog does not attack the decoy, this one will not hold account of the distance which separates him from the dog.
6. The escapes in the immediate entourage of the obstacles will be carried out with necessary circumspection. In order not to wound the dogs, the recommendation is to flee far from the obstacles, unless it was imposed differently by the judges.
7. If the dog is in contact with the decoy and the handler did not call out his dog yet, the decoy must work as at the time of ordinary attacks, therefore keep on moving.

8. When the handler calls out his dog, the decoy must stop any work, even if the DOG CONTINUES TO BITE (to immobilize itself). If the dog releases at the order and then bites again, the decoy must also stand still.

9. Before going back in movement, the decoy will wait until the handler is back close to him and that he has seized him on the shoulder, unless it was imposed differently by the judges, (e.g. to flee immediately).

10. To judge the bite in the escapes doesn't fall under the decoy's competence, thus he will never mix in the possible discussions between the judges.

11. When the dog lets go but grips the decoy again, the decoy must push it back and continue to flee in a normal way. When the dog releases and does not prepare to bite again, the decoy will flee normally then until the judge sounds the end of the exercise. He cannot push the dog back by the voice.

12. If the handler prevents the decoy from fleeing, this one will inform the judge at the end of the exercise.

13. If the decoy is pushed forward before the indicated spot for the escape, this will not be regarded as a flee attempt and the decoy will continue on his path (after the exercise this must be communicated to the judges).

#### 14. POSSIBLE VARIATIONS IN ATTEMPTS TO ESCAPE

A/ It was prohibited to the decoy to carry out the attempts directly at the exit of the hiding-place, and this is valid for all the categories. In Cat.1, after the contact of the handler with the decoy, and after the exit of both out of the hiding-place (accompanied by the dog), an attempt can be undertaken. In cat.2 and 3, there will always be an escort and a contact between the handler and the decoy after each attempt to escape.

B/ The attempt before which the decoy must be motionless before fleeing: the lapse of time during the immobility must be the same one for each dog. The simplest solution is to count the same number of seconds for everyone (ex.21, 22, 23, etc...).

### **3.3.7 Use of a gun**

1. It is never fired during the 1<sup>st</sup> escape, only during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

2. To immediately shoot after a good entry of the dog.

3. To always avoid firing in direction of the dog (or of the handler).

4. If the dog bites in the arm of the hand which holds the weapon, the decoy of should not fire.

5. If the decoy receives an instruction to shoot during the 2<sup>nd</sup> escape but finds himself in situation depicted in Item 3, he awaits in this case the 3<sup>rd</sup> escape to shoot. If the same case arises again, the jury must then decide of continuation. (Also if the weapon is temporarily out of use during the escapes).

6. If the dog lets go with the shot, the decoy must avoid making gestures which could attract the dog to bite again, he will continue his escapes normally (push back normally). Decoy must differentiate "Letting go" and "Chewing".

7. Gauge:

In Cat.3 and 2, only 6mm bullets, single loading.

In Cat.1, 6mm or 9mm, single loading.

## **3.4 Handler defense**

### **3.4.1 NVBK Rules**

1. While he walks, the handler is informed by his dog that the decoy follows them. This arrives on approximately 5 meters of distance.

2. After having followed at least during 10 meters, the decoy will proceed to the point of hand shake. This meeting arrives tacitly, unless being imposed differently by the judge.

3. Then the decoy, armed with sticks, will throw literally himself on the handler. This contact must be characterized by a combat body to body. That does not include/understand a persistent combat but well a contact between the handler and the decoy on which no doubt can remain.

4. On the order of the handler to the dog to let go, the decoy will have to remain motionless.

### **3.4.2 Introduction**

The handler defense is recognized as being one of the most difficult exercises of the Ring program, and this owing to the fact that it consists of different phases. For this reason, one must devote to this exercise a particular attention and concern. It is imperative for the decoy to be well aware of his task. For this reason, in case of doubt, never hesitate to ask the complementary explanation to the judge.

### **3.4.3 Start**

1. In the normal circumstances, the decoy will always follow the handler and the dog at the same spot.

2. When the decoy must initially cross the master before following him, he will start for each participant the same spot. It should be noticed that at the time of crossing or passing by, the decoy will not do anything special to attract the dog, unless it was expressly ordered to him to carry it out. To push back the dog is obviously bad, because it attracts in an irregular way or even encouraged the dog to bite.
3. At the time of the departures, the decoy will care to follow or flee at the same spot for all, the concern being that this is held for each participant in the identical manner.

#### **3.4.4 Following**

1. Once the handler has passed by the decoy and that this one begins to follow him, this will always begin at the same distance from the handler, if the dog remains close to its handler. This distance is 5 m. The simplest solution is for the decoy to leave a pre-determined spot.
2. If at the time of the crossing, the dog continues to follow the decoy instead of his handler, the decoy must cease following the handler and remain on the spot or change direction. In both cases, a clear proof is provided that the dog left its handler.

#### **3.4.5 Handshake**

1. When the participant arrives at the spot indicated for that, the decoy shakes hands with him.
2. Shaking hands must happen in the same way for each participant and in the same direction. It is extremely antisportive to come on one dog but not for another.
3. The hand is given for everyone in the same manner, meaning according to the exercise. The simulated movements are always wrong.
4. Before giving the hand, the decoy will always take care that his hand is free. The sticks must thus change hand in time. Changing hand must be done for everyone in the same way and it is certainly necessary to avoid touching the dog.
5. If the handler does not follow the indicated path, is at the bad spot for the handshake, (that is worth also for the spot of contact with the decoy) the decoy will not pay the attention and will position himself at the pre-determined spot.
6. The decoy must always follow the path indicated by the judges except in order to provide the proof that the dog moves away from its handler.

#### **3.4.6 Aggression of the handler**

1. When the decoy comes in contact with the handler, he will always keep an eye on the dog and this to be able to carry out the "approach" and secondly in order to prevent the handler himself gets bitten. But not in any manner to advantage or disadvantage the exercise. The simulated attacks must arrive on at least 1 meter of the handler.
2. The contact itself (sat or upright) must arrive vigorously and for each dog after the same lapse of time. After the handshake, for example, the seconds can be counted, 21,22,23, etc.... when the handler still walking must be attacked, this attack must always happen at the same spot. This last exercise is much more difficult because the decoy must determine his tempo according to the tempo of the handler.
3. When the dog does not react immediately at the time of the contact, the decoy will continue to hold the handler until the dog bites or until the moment when the exercise is sounded by the judge. It should be specified that to offer the arm or the leg to the dog at the time of the contact is antisportive.
4. During the bite, the decoy must work in the same way as at the time of ordinary attacks, carry out the stick strikes at the same tempo and with the same force, not withdraw arm and legs and if possible take care that at least one judge can appreciate the value of the bite. The decoy must continue to work until the dog lets go or until the moment that the end of the exercise is sounded. As soon as the dog has released him, the decoy must remain motionless until the dog has returned close to its handler. To push back the dog if required when it releases while in bite will be made in the same manner as for the ordinary attacks. The dog can certainly not be pushed back by the voice.

N.B: When the contact with the handler ought to be done in the immediate proximity of the obstacles, the palisade, or the hiding-place, etc...., one will always put aside these obstacles. Think of the possible wounds for the dog.

#### **3.4.7 The dog moves away from its handler**

1. To take the dog away must always be made in a fair-play way. In any phase of the exercise, either at the time of the crossing, before or after the handshake, he will always avoid the head of the dog to attract it (with or without the simulated movements). To whisper, make noise with the sticks or other nonfair-play acts are naturally considered very badly. In any case, the decoy should not pay anymore attention to the

indicated path. He must only pay attention not to increase the distance between the dog and its master until the end of the exercise is sounded.

2. Before the handler arrives at the spot of the handshake or the approach, the decoy can as mentioned above provide the proof that the dog left its handler. When the handler arrives at the place of the handshake or the approach, the decoy must shake his hand or attack regardless the distance between the dog and the handler.

3a. If the handler arrives at the spot of the handshake or of the approach but is turned in the opposite direction, the decoy must carry out the handshake or the attack, even possibly by behind, while keeping in mind the danger that the handler could get bitten. See also the Ring rules.

3b. Relates to the fact of taking away the dog: a decoy will never seek "to embark" the dog.

Ex. A handler must sit down on a chair for the handshake; the dog stands +/- 2m behind its handler and the chair. The decoy must after the handshake set his work up. If the dog is not in its trajectory, the decoy cannot "embark" this dog. If the dog is well in its trajectory, the decoy can try to take the dog away in a normal way; the dog must then prove that it remains close to his handler.

### **3.4.8 Anticipated bite**

If the dog bit before the handshake, during or between the handshake and the contact with the handler, the decoy should not react too quickly and must continue to carry out the imposed exercise (to count 21.22..etc.).

### **3.4.9 Using an objet**

1. The use of the objects before or after the handshake must be done for each dog in the same manner.
  2. To knock on the palisade or other obstacles: even number of knocks given in the same tempo.
  3. During the use of rolling objects: pay attention that the dog doesn't get wounded.
  4. The same remark is true if throwing small objects: to at least 1 meter from the handler.
  5. At the time of escapes: take care that a similar thing always arrives at same distance from the master: at least 1m of the handler.
  6. If one sits on a chair or stands up: not to be abrupt for one and slow for the other. The examples are numerous.
- But in general, we always come to the same conclusion: To work for everyone in the same way.

## **3.5 Object guard without muzzle**

### **3.5.1 NVBK Rules**

1. If the dog goes towards the decoy (or civil) and bites (or touches) and that decoy is not yet in motion, considering the exercise did not start yet, the decoy (or civil) must continue to be motionless and await the sign of the judge to possibly begin the exercise.
2. When the dog is in the proximity of the object, the decoy will approach so that the guarded object is between him and the dog.
3. When the dog obviously deviates from the guarded object to go towards the decoy, the decoy will move right towards the dog.
4. When the dog deviates from the object and continues to remain on the spot, the decoy will enter the circles so that the object is always between him and the dog.
5. When the dog is upright or lying on the guarded object, the decoy will arrive in direction of the dog's head (along the body).
6. Inside the last circle (on less than 1,5m), the decoy may not turn around the dog. The decoy must go right towards the object.
7. If the dog bites, the decoy must try to go backwards from the object in a natural way. He cannot turn around to take the dog along.
8. If an object must be taken along, one cannot hold it lower than the knee.
9. During the first or second trial, the decoy can never put down a second object within less than 3,5m from the initial object (or in the circles).
10. It is allowed to the decoy to remove the object with the foot.
11. The decoy must adopt a defensive attitude as soon as the dog wants to attack (thus arm not along the body). The defensive attitude means arm in height of the chest in front of the body.

### **3.5.2 Decoy's way of acting**

1. Before beginning the exercise, the decoy must wait until the handler disappears entirely from the dog's sight.

2. He will await the sign from the judge before starting to work, or at least will wait until the judges are ready to pay attention to his action.
3. When the dog moves the object, the decoy must hold that in sight and move the circles automatically too. These circles are indeed purely imaginary.
4. When the dog goes out of the circles (with four legs), the decoy must continue to be motionless, until the sign from the judge.
5. At the time of the entry in the circles, he must hold item 3.5.1 in sight. In case of doubt, the decoy must consult with the judge before taking action.
6. The decoy must see that he enters the circles in the same way for all dogs. He must proportion his forces in order to intervene with the same force as well for the first as for the twentieth dog.
7. At the time of the entry in the circles, he will avoid going on the lines of the circle, this to avoid all discussion.
8. When the dog attacks or prepares to attack the decoy, this one can still hesitate or remain motionless. To accelerate his step or to slow down to influence the dog is absolutely wrong.
9. The decoy must adopt a defensive attitude as soon as the dog wants to attack it.
10. If the dog bites, the decoy must try to go backwards from the object in a natural way. He cannot turn around to take the dog along. There are decoys who apply their know-how and the experience of several years by using all kinds of tricks to stick to the dog. The attention is drawn to the fact that arm biters are often handicapped if done so. One holds the arm in the same position as at the time of the beginning of the contact with the dog, meaning not to lower or pull up the arm, or to tighten it against the body if the dog bites inside the sleeve.
11. If the dog does not let go, the decoy will try to move away the dog from his object until the bell sounds the end of the exercise (when the dog remains more than 10 sec. at a distance of more than 3,5m from his object). If outside the circles and when the dog lets go but remains outside, the decoy must remain motionless until the dog goes back to its object or until the moment that the end of the exercise is sounded.
12. The exit of the decoy (with or without dog) must be done at same the place from where he entered. The decoy who takes the dog with him must however make attention to the possible obstacles on his way (objects, ditch, hedge...). In this case, he will go around these obstacles to prevent himself or the dog of being wounded, or, to prevent that these obstacles influence the behavior of the dog.
13. In the immediate entourage of the guarded object, the decoy will restrain from jumping with the intention to take possession of the object, or to offer to arm biters his left arm and to take the object with the right hand and vice versa. No simulated movements are allowed.
14. He will also restrain from giving the dog a chance of abnormal bite. The opposite is also valid.
15. Once inside the circle (thus within less than 1,5m of the guarded object), the decoy will go straight towards the object and will not turn around the dog to take away the object.
16. When the dog lets the object be taken by the decoy, he will leave on the same side through which he came in.
17. It is allowed to remove the object with the foot. It is also allowed to then take it by hand (no abuse can however be made of it). It was not allowed however to remove the object with a stick or similar objects.
18. When the decoy is in possession of the guarded object and the dog is still biting, he will then put the object down at the very moment the dog starts biting. When a similar thing arrives during the first trial, then he will have to hold account of the distance from the object before starting the following trial.
19. If he pushes the dog back with the guarded object, the decoy will have necessary care not to wound the dog.

### **3.5.3 Various trials during the object guard**

Using a foreign object:


1. At the time of the entry in the circles, the object should never be held lower than the knee, if this object is entirely closed.
2. While approaching the dog, the decoy will avoid pushing back the dog with the second object. He should never work brutally and always avoid wounding the dog.
3. During the first or second trial, the decoy can never put the second object down within less 3,5m of the initial object (or in the circles).

### **3.5.4 Objects used as obstacles**

**Cut: Max. 1,20 m. - Max. Height = 1,50 m.**

Made as rectangle with mobile objects, like: ribbons - tire tubes - branches...

Fixed objects as a framework almost entirely closed with bags or boards, must have an opening of at least 60 cm of diameter, so that the arm and leg biters have equal chances. All the objects used cannot be deeper than the length of the decoy's arm.



### To bring an object over/through which the dog must go

1. It will be always done with an object having a handle in the middle.
2. At the time of the establishment of the match program, the decoy will always ask the judge if the dog MUST to go through or over the object.
3. If the dog doesn't have to go through or over the object, the decoy will not hold account of the dog going around it, but he must go straight towards the guarded object.
4. When the dog in its circular motion attacks the decoy from behind, this one will move away from the object backwards.
5. When the decoy removes the guarded object from the dog, then he can hold this object in front of his own object and thus push back the dog.
6. When the dog has to go through a second object but refuses and tries to go around it, the decoy must turn away normally and in any case avoid pushing brutally the dog back or picking up an object from the ground.
7. When during the third trial, the dog bites through the second object and lets go, the decoy can then leave this object on the spot and leave it there. It is so avoided for the dog's legs to get caught in the object.

### **3.5.5 Throwing object on the dog**

1. If it is necessary to throw objects towards the dog, the decoy must request the instructions from the judge: to throw on or over the dog.
2. The decoy must work in the same way for each dog, meaning throwing from the same distance at the dog and caring that the objects land at the same spot each time.
3. One cannot throw violently, but pay attention that for each dog one acts in the same way.

### **3.5.6 Talking to the dog**

For each dog, adopt the same tone of voice and at the same spot.

### **3.5.7 Threatening trial**

As usual, start at the same spot. Always avoid touching the dog.

### **3.5.8 Put a second object down outside the circles**

1. To place far enough the object outside the circles (thus at least 1m).
2. To take the dog outside in a normal way.

### **3.5.9 Decision**

If at the time of the program establishment, the decoy thinks that in one or the other exercise remains a danger for him or for the dog then he must report it to the judge. It is finally the judge who has the full responsibility of the match. The fixed trials can be imposed by the judge, this only in Cat. I. For this reason, require full explanation with regard to: How? Where? Etc.

## **3.6 Object guard with muzzle**

Shortly, the civil decoy must act in the same way as the decoy in costume. He must carry out only two instead of three trials. The civil decoy never enters in the circles by presenting the arm. He waits for the moment "to catch" the dog, if this one shows that it will attack. The most usual error of many decoys is that they do not give the chance to the dogs by the very fact that they start to doubt at the time of the approach (of fright???) , some do not continue to advance the head held high and will even slightly turn their body. A similar deed counterfeits the image of the match. It is necessary moreover to pay attention that we don't push the dog (by provocative movements) to continue on boxing. A similar thing causes of the abnormal "pulling" of the dog.

When one works with two decoys, (fake and right), and the dog boxes on the bad one, the right decoy will not hold account of it and will continue to walk normally. If the decoy thinks that the imposed way of work makes impossible to protect his face, he can complain to judge on this subject. The trials without arm protection can be carried out with the approval of the decoy and this only when the face is protected in an optimal way and in all circumstances. At the time of the "double work", the fake "civil" (the decoy or protected ring commissioner) continues normally his work even if the dog goes outside the circles and comes to box. The decoy will proceed normally to his imposed task at the moment imposed by the judge. If there is any doubt: ask the judge concerned for explanation before the beginning of the match.

## Nostalgia

Drawn from the previous version:

### A. CLOTHING - SHOES - MASK - OTHERS

1. NVBK rules prescribe only the ordinary fabric. This cannot be colored.
2. The tops and bellows of the suits must be made so that the decoy preserves a maximum freedom of movement, while it is protected to the maximum.
3. The suit must be of a similar quality for ALL DOGS that as well leg biters or arm biters can work suitably. Too large or too thin suits, or stuffed sleeves or leggings are proscribed.
4. The stitching of rags which are easily removable must be avoided.
5. It goes without saying that the ideal suit does not exist. The suit also often depends on the personal style of the decoy. The strong physiques will work more easily in a heavy suit than weaker physics.
6. It is advised that the decoys consult each other and possibly test the suits at least once.

### B. SUIT COVERS

Each club should have at least one SUIT COVER.

We can distinguish three kinds of them:

1. Trousers and normal jacket: Those were generally made by superposition of two rags. On the thighs, the arms and the legs, 2 to 4 rags are bent for the reinforcement. On the back, the chest and the armpits there is no reinforcement. One should try to have EVERYWHERE from 4 to 6 rags. The decoy is protected not only better but the dog is likely to bite full EVERYWHERE.

2. SUIT cover without the lower part: This type of suit was manufactured with 5 or 6 rags and can be possibly filled with "foam" or light felt. The interior is bent with thin shell. This kind of suit has the advantage of offering an effective protection everywhere, and moreover gives to the dog an equivalent chance to full bite. It allows sitting rather easy and offers a complete freedom of movement. For the use of a similar suit, it however seems advised to provide an additional protection around the arm, the leg and the knee. These places have the preference of our dogs.

#### 3. Suit cut:

FRONT ARMLEVER = contour of 54 cm to 58 cm.

LEG = contour of 63 cm to 67 cm.

PUNCTURE = square of 4 cm by 4 cm.

LENGTH OF THE SLEEVES: to cover:

- Arm = minimum 45 cm length

- Leg = minimum 60 cm length

### C. REPAIRING A SUIT

1. The fiber is to be chosen among the various kinds of jute bags (bags in which one packs products).
2. The seam of only one rag is not advised under penalty of being damaged too quickly. This disadvantage does not exist naturally for someone who has much time.
3. The preference is given to the doubled rags and "piques" in squares. Those are 5 times stronger than the normal ones.
4. Kinds of seam wire: cotton yarn and the ordinary cord (aren't advised: pitch or the wire of nylon).
5. It appears sometimes necessary to soften the new suits. This is done best by soaking them in cold or luke water. Pay attention that the fabric however does not lose its finish. The best method seems well to hang the suit during a time in a cellar or a humid place.
6. Irritations by the straps: this can be avoided by papering the interior side with felt, then to coat the skin with petroleum jelly or oil and to treat the skin irritations with cream.

### D. LOWER SUIT PART

(IS NOT USEd EVERYWHERE, SEE Par.2/B).

#### OTHER

One can surely affirm that the lower part of the suit is the most important integral part of the decoy's clothes. A decoy cannot accept that his club does not have a solid under-costume. The under-costume is indeed the clothing which offers the most protection and this at all the places of the body. It is for this reason necessary that it is manufactured in a solid way, but also to allow the decoy to feel at ease and keep a maximum freedom of movement. What else to say about its function!? A decoy proud of his blue

spots and bruises is not one of the best kind! Many materials can make a good under-costume, here are the principal ones:

1. Strong leather: do not give satisfaction and is to be avoided.
2. Combination leather and felt: very good.
3. Combination of veil and felt: very good.
4. Fine carpet with fine leather reinforcements at the significant places: very good.

Variations and various executions.

1. Only protection of leg and arm: absolutely not advised.
2. The sleeves of the under-costume which are tight at the end (by means of the rubber band or of the lace) are dangerous. The decoy cannot indeed withdraw his hand in the sleeve when the dog goes for the hand.
3. Trousers and jacket in 1 part: seldom give satisfaction.
4. Trousers in 2 parts, jacket in 2 parts: advised.
5. Protections of arm or leg, with the possible knee rags: good, especially for a decoy who does not have a solid under-costume.

The advantage for the hand: protection of arm is easily manufactured and cheap (old cover, good protection and easily replaceable and washable, think of hygiene).

Disadvantage: One needs experiment to wear protections. Too loose, they fall; too tight they prevent blood circulation.

6. For additional protection at the most vulnerable places, bath towels can also be used.

#### **E. SUIT MAINTENANCE**

The maintenance of the under-costume is of greater interest; especially leather. Maintenance is done by regular frictions with special grease inside as well as outside. To air the under-costume regularly is not an exaggerated luxury. One thinks only of the surplus sweat of the decoy.

In conclusion: As insane as that can seem, certain decoys carry straps outside the suit trousers (thus visible). It is not for esthetic reasons that this is disapproved, but well because the danger is indeed quite real that the legs of dogs remain stuck up there... "