



**American
Kennel Club**



We have been getting many questions from exhibitors and trial secretaries as to what constitutes a “comparable” title for the purposes of exclusion from the “A” section of the Novice class.

The purpose of the “A” section is to provide a refuge for true beginners, so that they are not being pitted against seasoned competitors. The searches are exactly the same, the judging criteria are exactly the same. The only difference is the pool of competitors for placements.

What follows are the titles that exclude a dog from the “A” section of the Novice classes. Anyone with any of the titles found below the element (or any higher titles, ex: NW2) MUST enter Novice B for that element.

You may wish to follow the spirit of the law, rather than the letter. Your dog may technically be eligible for Novice A, but you do not consider yourself to be a true beginner. You are encouraged to enter the “B” section if that is the case, but you will not be penalized if you choose to enter the “A” section.

Must enter “B” for that element if dog has earned any of the following, or any higher titles:

	Container	Interior	Exterior	Buried	Handler Discrimination
NACSW	NW1, L1C	NW1, L1I	NW1, L1E	-	-
UKC	NN, NC	NN, NI	NN, NE	-	NHD
USCSS	DDCN, N-C	DDCN, N-I	DDCN, NE	-	-
PSD	SDN, SD-NC	SDN, SD-NB	SDN, SD-NE	-	-

Classes in CWAGS, K9SD, and SDS are sufficiently different from AKC (not “comparable”), so those titles do NOT disqualify a dog from the “A” section. But if you have any titles in those organizations you may wish to enter Novice B, to leave the Novice A class to the true beginners.

Please feel free to share this message.

Thank you,

Stephanie R Kennerley
Sports & Events Project Coordinator