



Protection Sports Association

Certified PSA Decoy / Specialist Event Official Role & Protective Sporting Equipment Explanation Protection Sports Association (PSA)

What Is the Protection Sports Association?

The Protection Sports Association (PSA) is an international amateur canine sporting association that has sanctioned competitive canine protection-sport events for 25 years.

PSA has affiliated clubs and sanctioned competitions in multiple countries, including Canada and the United States, and sanctions hundreds of licensed trials and events annually.

PSA establishes the rules, performance standards, judging requirements, and certification standards governing its sanctioned competitions.

What Is a Certified PSA Decoy?

A Certified PSA Decoy is a specialist event official who performs standardized protection exercises during a sanctioned PSA competition so that competing dog-and-handler teams may be safely, consistently, and fairly evaluated by the presiding PSA judge.

A PSA trial decoy is not simply an individual selected by the hosting club to work or train dogs.

PSA decoys must satisfy established certification requirements demonstrating knowledge of competition routines, technical proficiency, physical capability, and the ability to safely perform the prescribed exercises with competing dogs.

Decoys are selected for sanctioned competitions based upon their PSA certification, qualifications, experience, and the level of competition being conducted.

What Does the Decoy Do During Competition?

During a sanctioned PSA competition, the certified decoy performs prescribed protection exercises under the direction and authority of the presiding PSA judge.

The decoy's official duties include:

- Presenting standardized protection exercises prescribed by PSA competition rules;
- Safely receiving and engaging competing dogs during designated exercises;
- Following the instructions of the presiding judge;
- Providing consistent presentations so each competing team can be evaluated under comparable conditions; and
- Using specialized protective sporting equipment necessary to safely perform these exercises.

The decoy does not determine scores, placements, or competition results. The presiding PSA judge evaluates and scores the competitors.

The decoy's function is therefore a specialized and controlled competition-officiating role, rather than general dog training or private instruction.

Why Does a Decoy Travel With a Bite Suit?

A certified PSA decoy may travel with personally owned specialized protective sporting equipment necessary to safely perform the prescribed competition exercises.

This equipment may include:

Protective Bite Suit

A heavily constructed protective sporting garment worn by the decoy during designated competition exercises to protect the decoy while safely receiving the competing dog.

Protective Sleeves

Specialized protective sporting equipment worn on the arm and used during prescribed competition exercises.

Hidden/Concealed Protective Sleeves

Protective equipment worn beneath or incorporated into clothing when required by particular competition exercises.

Related Competition Equipment

Other specialized protection-sport equipment required by PSA rules or the exercises established for the sanctioned competition.

This equipment is personal protective sporting equipment used by the certified decoy in performing official competition duties.

When carried by an international PSA official for a sanctioned event, the equipment is not merchandise being imported for sale, rental, or commercial distribution and is intended to leave Canada with the official following completion of the event.

Relationship to the Canadian Host Club

An international PSA decoy appointed to a Canadian competition is serving as a certified PSA specialist event official.

The official is not traveling to Canada to:

- Provide general dog-training services;
- Conduct private training;
- Solicit clients;
- Sell or distribute sporting equipment; or
- Enter into employment with the Canadian host club.

PSA officials serving in this capacity are unpaid volunteers. A Canadian host club may provide or reimburse reasonable travel-related expenses such as transportation, lodging, meals, and local transportation.

Canadian International Amateur Sporting Events

For Canadian PSA competitions, the event is sanctioned and organized under the rules and authority of the Protection Sports Association, an international amateur sporting association, and hosted by a Canadian PSA-affiliated organization.

R186(m) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations addresses judges, referees, and similar officials involved in international amateur sports competitions who may perform those functions without a work permit.

A certified PSA decoy serving at a sanctioned competition performs a prescribed specialist event-official function under the direction of the presiding judge.

The ultimate determination regarding entry into Canada and the application of Canadian immigration requirements rests with the examining Canada Border Services Agency officer at the port of entry.

Verification

Questions regarding PSA, decoy certification, competition-official responsibilities, or the role of specialized protective sporting equipment may be directed to:

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