



Field Trial Rule Book

Handlers

1. Handler is not to fire gun without judge's permission.
2. Handlers are expected to be on line when called by the judges. If handler is not on line when it is time to run, he is given ten minutes. If he is not on line in ten minutes, the dog is disqualified.
3. Handler is not to shoot bird on ground without permission from the judges.
4. Handler is to load gun with one shell only.
5. If handler's dog is pointing and brace mate is backing, he must wait for the backing dog to be collared before flushing. If he does not, then no points will be awarded to pointing dog for the find or retrieve.
6. Guns must be carried unloaded. Automatics should be carried with bolt locked open. Single/double barrels should be carried broken open so it can be seen they are unloaded. Shells may not be carried in the gun's magazine. Guns are to be unloaded immediately if not fired during a find.
7. Handlers are allowed to ride during other braces, but are expected to be on line at their appointed time. (See rule 2)
8. Safety is each handler's responsibility. There is no tolerance for any handler that is deemed to be unsafe to other handlers, judges, or the gallery. If so, the handlers dog(s) will be disqualified and will be asked to leave the grounds immediately.
9. The handlers in each brace are expected to set a good walking pace suitable for both. However, the judges can have the handlers speed up, slow down or wait as necessary. If a handler's walking pace is too slow, the judge can require him to ride.
10. Handlers that are riding are still required to keep a walking pace, even if they have called behind the other handler.
11. When a dog points or falls behind, the other handler may continue to move forward at a regular walking pace to handle his dog.
12. All handlers are expected to act in good sportsman manner.
13. Handlers should be mindful of excessive noise while handling their dogs.
14. Handlers are responsible for turning in required information for winning dogs.
15. Handlers are to only use 7.5, 8, or 9 shot.
16. When handler leaves the course to shoot bird or for any reason, he is to go back to where he left course and take dog back. Handler or dog should not be allowed to get ahead of other handler.

Dogs

1. Dogs will not be added to trial after drawing has been completed.
2. Females in season will not be allowed to run in trials.
3. If dog leaves the area during a find or flushing attempt by handler, he will not be awarded points for find. If other dog points bird, he can be awarded points for that find.
4. If a dog is out of judgment for 10 minutes in 30 minute trial or 20 minutes in 60 minute trial, he will be disqualified by the judges.
5. Any dog that does not have a brace-mate will be given a brace-mate chosen by judges, marshal or furnished by people putting on the trial. If dog chosen is entered in trial he must have already run and have lowest score on board. Judges call.
6. Any dog that is disciplined during brace will be disqualified.
7. Any dog that causes fight may be disqualified. Judges call.

Interference

1. Interference can be called when a dog flushes their pointed brace-mate's bird, or if dog refuses to back. If dog backs and the pointed dog moves, causing backing dog to move, then no interference will be called. Judges call.
2. Interference on retrieve is when the dog that did not have the find comes into the area of the dog retrieving the bird, or actually makes the retrieve. If the retrieve is made by the dog that had the find, points can still be given regardless of interference. Judges call.
3. The first time a dog is called for interference the handler will be given a warning. If called a second time, the dog is disqualified and should be caught/picked up immediately.

Safeties

1. If gunner is unable to shoot bird for danger of hitting other individuals or animals, he must call a "safety". If safety is awarded by judges, the score for find will be awarded as is. The retrieve scores will be an average of scored retrieves.
2. Judges can call safety anytime if they deem a situation is unsafe.

Courses

1. Courses for weekend trials should be 30 minutes. If course is shorter than 30 minutes, then all dogs must run the same course.
2. Once first brace is run, all dogs are to run same course.
3. All boundaries are to be explained before first brace is run.
4. Any special rules for course are to be set and explained by people putting on trial before first brace.
5. Dogs and handlers are to move forward on course. Any dog that goes behind handler can be ruled out of bounds by judges. Judges call.

Setups for Retrieves or Finds

1. In a setup for a retrieve, a bird is to be planted. Then the dog can be turned loose or led up to bird on leash. The bird is to be flushed and shot. The dogs score on the retrieve will be his average.
2. In a setup for a find, a bird is to be planted. Then dog must be turned loose to point bird. Score from the time point is called through flush, will be average. Judges can also ask that dog be turned loose on course to have find. Score from time dog points through flush will be average.

Finds

20 Point Find- The dog stays still from the time point is called, through flush.

15 Point Find- The dog moves after point is called by handler but does not make bird leave. The dog does not move during flush.

10 Point Find- The dog moves around or relocates on his own during flush but does not make the bird leave.

5 Point Find- The dog flushes or catches bird during flush.

Scoring starts when point is called, but no point can be given until judge gives permission to load gun.

1. A point can be called only if dog is standing still. If point is called and dog moves, then points will be deducted for the find.
2. A find is scored only after judges give the handler permission to load gun or interference is called on brace-mate.
3. No score awarded for pointed dead birds.
4. A divided find is when both dogs are found pointing same bird or judges see dogs point bird at same time. Judges call will stand. Judges will tell one handler to flush and shoot bird. Both dogs to stay during flush and retrieve. Both dogs can be turned loose to retrieve on divided find with permission from judges, or handler can pick up bird. The average of scored finds and retrieves are to be awarded for divided finds.
5. Handler can relocate dog during flush with permission from the judges. If dog relocates on his own, points will be deducted.
6. Average of scored find to be awarded for interference if it occurs out front. If interference occurs during flush, then dogs score up until interference will stand.
7. A maximum of 6 finds in 30 minute trial and 12 finds for 60 minute trial.
8. Only scores from first 6 or 12 can be counted.
9. If dog maxes out on finds, he can continue running. Only scores for backing will be awarded if so. Any birds pointed are to be flushed, but not shot or killed. (Handler may fire gun in a safe direction)
10. When a dog has a find, he is to be removed from that find at a reasonable distance, before another find can be scored. Judges call.

Retrieves

20 Point Retrieve- The dog delivers the bird to hand.

10 Point Retrieve- The dog delivers the bird to within one step of handler.

5 Point Retrieve- The dog finds the bird but does not bring to handler. Handler must have bird in hand to receive score.

0 Point Retrieve- If score for find is awarded and handler does not get bird in hand for any reason, other than interference or safety, awarded by judge. If dog catches bird during flush and no safety or interference is called.

0 Point retrieves are to be counted in averages.

1. Bird must be flushed and shot for points to be awarded for scored retrieve.
2. Handler must have bird in hand to receive any points for scored retrieve.
3. Handler must make good attempt to make bird fly for shot. If he cannot get the bird to fly then it may be shot on ground with judge's permission, if safe to do so.
4. If find scored and judges rule bird cannot fly, then an average of scored retrieves to be awarded. Judges call.
5. Retrieve scores for safeties and interference calls to be an average of scored retrieves.
6. Handler to stand where he shoots bird unless he gets permission from judges to move to lighter cover and are not to move any closer to dead bird.
7. Handler is to stand still during retrieve. He cannot go towards dog, but can kneel or squat.
8. If handler moves from original position, he cannot receive over 5 points for retrieve, then only if dog finds dead bird.
9. A maximum of 6 retrieves in a 30 minute trial and 12 retrieves in 60 minute trial.
10. Retrieves to be scored or averaged from first 6 or 12 finds in trial.

Backing

1. A dog is not required to back but he cannot interfere with brace-mate.
2. A dog should back on its own but can be “whoa-ed” into a back.
3. Dogs that are seen by judges refusing to back are not to be given a backing score on that find. Judges call.
4. Dogs are to be awarded 8 points per back.
5. A maximum of 2 backs in a 30 minute period trial and 4 in a 60 minute trial.
6. Once a dog is backing, a handler may collar him. After a reasonable amount of time, a judge may allow backing dog to move forward on the course. He is to be taken far enough that he will not come back and interfere. If dog does come back and interfere he will be warned if first interference. If second interference, dog will be disqualified and picked up ASAP.
7. If backing dog’s handler is not nearby, then a judge can collar the dog or have someone else collar the dog.
8. If a pointing dog moves out of area and the judge determines he is no longer trying to find the bird, then the backing dog can be released. If the bird is found at that time by either dog, it can be scored as a find. Judges call.

Miscellaneous

1. Handlers have the option of checking the bird bag before and after planting birds in the field. This is done to assure that the proper number of birds are planted. It is a check and balance system to prevent human error.
2. All trials have 2 judges. Judges may be paid an appropriate amount.
3. Judges will be allowed to enter their dog in a trial they are judging.
4. All participants must be 12 years of age and have valid license with a hunter's safety card, if born after 1970. A shooter is required if under 16 years of age.
5. Ties for first, second, third and fourth place shall be decided by the dog with the quickest find from the start of the brace when a point is called by handler. The judge will be responsible for keeping track of the time for the first find.
6. Gallery allowed per approval of landlord.
7. No alcoholic beverages or consumption will be permitted on grounds. Participants who have consumed alcohol may be required to have a gunner or have dog scratched from trial, as determined by field Marshall.
8. Marked birds that go forward are fair game for both competitors after 3 minutes. The 3 minute rule would not apply to birds. If they land forward of the second handler, they are fair game for the brace-mate.
9. When the judges announce time is up for the brace, the handler will put leads on the if and take shortest route off course. This will allow the next brace to start on time.
10. Handlers will be allowed to use a gunner for flushing and shooting of birds. Otherwise, a handler will act as the gunner. Gunners will walk with the judge behind the handler can do nothing but flush and shoot birds. The gunner and handler will trade positions when point is established. Handler must designate shooter at beginning of trial. Designated gunner must obey all gun safety rules. Underage is less than 16 years old.
11. The use of tracking collars per NBHA will be allowed. The judge will keep the receiver and it cannot be powered on except by the handler. If handler asks for the receiver during brace, his dog will be disqualified. Judges will not be allowed to power up the receiver. Weighted collars are prohibited. Dogs cannot be corrected on the course during the brace or will be disqualified.
12. The questioning, harassment and/or intimidation of the judges by members of the gallery or handlers, will not be tolerated. Offenders will be warned and then asked to leave the grounds if continues.
13. Handlers will be allowed to ride in motorized cart or ATV if unable to walk the course. They cannot go any faster than their walking opponent. If they are separated or both contenders need to ride, there is a max speed of 5 MPH.
14. After time runs out, handler has 2 minutes to flush and get retrieve. At 32 minutes the brace is over.
15. Judges should always have stop watch. Some of the times could be very important to dog's score.
16. If a dog (not in the current brace) gets loose on the course, it must be removed immediately. If the loose dog points a bird before it can be removed, and a dog in the current brace backs, then the dog in the brace receives points for a back.

Rain/Inclement Weather

If the weather conditions warrant, due to safety concerns, stake manager shall have the right to eliminate the retrieve requirement and give points for finds and backs only. The dog will have to remain steady while handler takes bird in hand or flushes, to earn full points. The handler will be required to fire his gun into the air in safe direction. If, during the running of a sporting dog stake the weather conditions change, the stake manager has the right to eliminate the retrieve requirements. By doing so, he negates all points for retrieves earned in previous braces. This maintains fairness to all dogs. Also, the stake manager can cancel the trial and refund all entry fees.