

Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds

Amended to July 2023

Published by The American Kennel Club

NOTE: This rulebook contains the following insert:

*** Green Insert - Page 20 Effective January 1st, 2026**



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®**

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB'S MISSION STATEMENT

The American Kennel Club® is a not for-profit organization dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC® and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB:

Records dogs parentage, but is not itself involved in the sale of dogs and cannot therefore guarantee the health and quality of dogs in its registry.

Sponsors more than 20,000 dog competitions each year held by licensed and member clubs. Only dog clubs may be AKC members.

Supports and promotes the sport of purebred dogs.

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Customer Service	919-816-3908
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E-mail	pointingbreeds@akc.org www.akc.org

Pointing Breeds webpage:
www.akc.org/sports/pointing-breeds

For any additional rule changes that were passed after the publishing of this book visit:
<https://www.akc.org/sports/pointing-breeds/field-trials/rules/>

For faster service, clubs are encouraged to send us their event application via email to the address listed above.

Clubs are also encouraged to email us copies of their trial results to: performanceresults@akc.org

**Revisions to the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds* and the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds*
Effective January 1, 2026**

This insert is issued as a supplement to the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds* and *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds* as approved by the AKC Board of Directors August 2025.

Replace existing chapters and sections with the following:

Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds

**CHAPTER 13 WHAT HAS TO BE SENT TO THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB AFTER A FIELD TRIAL
Event Service Fee**

At every licensed or member club field trial held under the Rules of The American Kennel Club, an event service fee of **\$4.50** per entry is required. The event service fee is to help defray expenses involved in maintaining the records and administrating the events. The Board of Directors shall determine, from time to time, whether an event service fee shall be required and the amount of it.

Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds

CHAPTER 1 General Regulations

Section 18. Submission of Records. AKC will collect a **\$4.50** AKC Event Service Fee for each entry in all AKC licensed and member hunting tests. The event service fee is to help defray expenses involved in maintaining the records and administrating the events. The Board of Directors shall determine from time to time the amount of the service fee.

Green Insert
Issued Nov 2025
RFTPNT (3/25)
RHTPNT (5/22)

FOREWORD

The American Kennel Club was formed principally for the protection and advancement of purebred dogs.

The State of New York by Special Act of its Legislature incorporated The American Kennel Club and granted it a charter in Section 2 of which the objects of the corporation are described to be “to adopt and enforce uniform rules regulating and governing dog shows and field trials, to regulate the conduct of persons interested in exhibiting, running, breeding, registering, purchasing and selling dogs, to detect, prevent, and punish frauds in connection therewith, to protect the interests of its members, to maintain and publish an official stud book and an official kennel gazette, and generally to do everything to advance the study, breeding, exhibiting, running and maintenance of the purity of thoroughbred dogs.”

Section 2 of this charter further states that “for these purposes it,” The American Kennel Club, “shall have power to adopt a constitution, bylaws, rules and regulations, and enforce the same by fines and penalties, which it shall have the right to collect and enforce by suit, or by suspension or expulsion from membership, or by a suspension or denial of any or all of the privileges of said corporation.”

Competition in conformation and performance events can best demonstrate the progress that has been made in breeding for type and quality, and/or for practical use, stamina and obedience. The American Kennel Club has therefore adopted bylaws, rules and regulations by which to govern and administrate these events; the clubs that wish to hold them; and the individuals who exhibit, compete or take part in them. This book contains such bylaws, rules and regulations as affect the above.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	
General Explanations.....	Page 5
CHAPTER 2	
Field Trials Defined	Page 5
CHAPTER 3	
Making Application To Hold A Field Trial.....	Page 5
CHAPTER 4	
Ribbons And Prizes.....	Page 8
CHAPTER 5	
Judges	Page 8
CHAPTER 6	
Appointment Of Field Trial Secretary, Appointment, Responsibilities And Authorities Of Field Trial Committee.....	Page 10
CHAPTER 7	
Premium Lists, Entry Forms, Closing Of Entries, Drawing Of Entries.....	Page 12
CHAPTER 8	
Eligibility Of Dogs For Entry, Full Completion Of Entry Forms.....	Page 13
CHAPTER 9	
Cancellations Of Awards	Page 17
CHAPTER 10	
Protests Against Dogs	Page 18
CHAPTER 11	
Field Champions And Amateur Field Champions.....	Page 19
CHAPTER 12	
Judges' Award Of Merit.....	Page 19
CHAPTER 13	
What Has To Be Sent To The American Kennel Club After A Field Trial	Page 20
CHAPTER 14	
Rules For Pointing Breed Trials	Page 21

Standard Procedure For Pointing Breed Field Trials	Page 40
Schematic Course Diagrams For Pointing Breed Trials.....	Page 59
Glossary Of Terms.....	Page 64
Pointing Breed Field Trial Judges Guidelines.....	Page 67
Pointing Breed Field Trial Gallery Etiquette	Page 68
Tracking Collars.....	Page 69

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL EXPLANATIONS

SECTION 1. The word “dog” wherever used in these Field Trial Rules and Regulations includes both sexes.

SECTION 2. The words “United States of America” wherever used in these Field Trial Rules and Regulations shall be construed to include all territories and possessions of the United States of America and all vessels sailing under the American flag.

CHAPTER 2 FIELD TRIALS DEFINED

A MEMBER FIELD TRIAL is a field trial at which championship points may be awarded; given by a club or association which is a member of The American Kennel Club®.

A LICENSED FIELD TRIAL is a field trial at which championship points may be awarded, given by a club or association which is not a member of The American Kennel Club, but which has been specially licensed by The American Kennel Club to give the specific field trial designated in the license.

A SANCTIONED FIELD TRIAL is an informal field trial at which dogs may compete but not for championship points, held by a club or association, whether or not a member of The American Kennel Club, by obtaining the sanction of The American Kennel Club.

CHAPTER 3 MAKING APPLICATION TO HOLD A FIELD TRIAL

SECTION 1. Each member club or association (*as determined by the AKC®*) is entitled to hold one show and/or one field trial a year without payment of a fee to The American Kennel Club, but must pay a fee of fifteen (\$15.00) dollars for each other show and/or field trial which it may hold during the same calendar year.

SECTION 2. Each member club or association (*as determined by the AKC*) which has held a field trial or field trials in any one year shall have first right to claim the corresponding dates for its trial or trials to be held in the next succeeding year.

SECTION 3. A member club or association (*as determined by the AKC*) must apply to The American Kennel Club at least three (3) months prior to the closing date for leave to hold a field trial, stating in the application the day or days upon which and the place where it desires to hold such field trial. This application will be referred to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club which will consider

the same and notify the member club or association of its approval or disapproval of the dates and place selected.

SECTION 4. The use of a club's name for field trial purposes cannot be transferred.

SECTION 5. **Number of Events Per Year.** *Local clubs are limited to a maximum of four licensed field trials within a calendar year. No more than three of these trials may be "horseback" trials. Holding horseback trials is not mandatory. A club may hold up to four "all-walking" trials per calendar year.*

SECTION 6. **Event Application.** If a non-member club or association (*as determined by the AKC*) wishes to hold a field trial it must apply to The American Kennel Club at least three (3) months prior to the closing date, on a form which will be supplied by The American Kennel Club upon request, for leave to hold such field trial stating in the application the day or days upon which and the place where it desires to hold such field trial and giving to The American Kennel Club such information with regard to the names of the officers and members and other information as The American Kennel Club may demand and shall pay a license fee for the privilege of holding such field trial, the amount of which fee shall be fixed and determined by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. This application will be referred to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club which will consider the same and notify the non-member club or association of its approval or disapproval of the dates and place selected.

Once an event application is approved, information on the application may not be modified except as approved by the Performance Events Department.

If the Board of Directors shall disapprove the application, the license fee will be returned to said non-member club or association.

SECTION 7. **Parent Club Permission.** A non-member specialty club may be licensed to hold a field trial, if the consent in writing that it may be given first shall be obtained from the member specialty club formed for the improvement of the breed sought to be run which first was admitted to be a member of The American Kennel Club. Such a member club is commonly known as the Parent Club.

If a Parent Club unreasonably shall withhold its consent in writing to the holding of such field trial the non-member specialty club may appeal to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club at any time after one month from the time when said consent was requested and a committee of said Board appointed by said Board or between sittings of said

Board appointed by the President of The American Kennel Club or in his absence by the Executive Vice President of The American Kennel Club shall hear the parties who may present their respective contentions either orally or in writing and in its discretion may issue a license to the non-member specialty club to hold such field trial.

SECTION 8. If a member or nonmember club or association wishes to hold a sanctioned field trial, it must apply to The American Kennel Club for leave to hold such field trial, stating in the application the date or dates upon which and the place where it desires to hold such field trial, the names and city, state of the officers of the club or association, and the names and city, state of the Judges. The application will be referred to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club, which will consider the same and notify the club or association of its approval or disapproval of the dates, place and Judges selected. No fee is charged by The American Kennel Club for holding a sanctioned field trial.

Sanctioned field trials shall be governed by such simple rules and regulations as from time to time shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Active licensed Pointing Breed Hunt Test clubs that desire to hold Pointing Breed Field Trials should contact the Performance Events Department at performanceclublicenses@akc.org in order to become licensed for Pointing Breed Field Trials.

SECTION 9. The Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club will not approve applications for field trials where dates conflict unless it be shown that the granting of such application will not work to the detriment of either field trial club which has applied.

SECTION 10. **Advertising.** Clubs may advertise corresponding dates, locations and stakes, plus club contact information, prior to an event receiving AKC approval. Clubs may not advertise an event prior to AKC approval if the dates or location differ from the previous year's corresponding event. Premium lists cannot be made available nor can entries be accepted until the event and judges panel has been approved by the AKC.

SECTION 11. **Changing Location or Cancelling an Event.** If circumstances prior to the first day of a trial require a club to change the approved location or to cancel an approved licensed or member field trial, the club must notify the Performance Events Department of The American Kennel Club as expeditiously as possible, giving good and sufficient reasons for the proposed location change or cancellation.

Should circumstances during a trial preclude prior AKC notification of a change in location or the cancellation of the trial, a full report on such action(s) must be made to the AKC within seven days.

CHAPTER 4 RIBBONS AND PRIZES

SECTION 1. A club holding a licensed or member field trial shall offer prize ribbons or rosettes of the following colors in the regular stakes:

- First Prize—Blue.
- Second prize—Red.
- Third prize—Yellow.
- Fourth prize—White.
- Special prize—Dark Green.

SECTION 2. Each ribbon or rosette at a licensed or member field trial shall be at least 2 inches wide and approximately 8 inches long and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of The American Kennel Club, the words Field Trial, the name of the prize, the name of the club holding the field trial, and the date of the trial.

SECTION 3. If ribbons or rosettes are given at Sanctioned Field Trials, or in nonregular stakes at licensed or member field trials, they shall be of the following colors:

- First prize—Rose.
- Second prize—Brown.
- Third prize—Light Green.
- Fourth prize—Gray.
- Special prize—A combination of any of these colors.

SECTION 4. If money prizes are offered, a fixed amount or a percentage of the entry fee for each prize shall be stated.

SECTION 5. All prizes not money which may be offered shall be accurately described or the value stated. Stud services shall not be accepted as prizes.

CHAPTER 5 JUDGES

SECTION 1. **Eligibility.** Persons judging field trials are not required to obtain licenses and a field trial club may submit the name of any reputable person who is in good standing with The American Kennel Club for approval to judge at its field trial. Such approved Judges may run dogs in any stakes in which they are not judging, except as otherwise provided for in these Rules.

As a matter of policy, judges must be a minimum of 18 years of age.

As a condition of approval, all Judges must have a record of having handled a dog or dogs to five (5) placements in adult stakes in any Pointing Breed field trials, exception being made for persons that have judged ten (10) or more assignments at AKC field trials.

In order to be approved to be published in the premium list, the two Judges of each stake must have a combined record of having judged at least five (5) adult stakes in AKC or American Field field trials. For example, if one Judge has judged two adult stakes, the second Judge must have judged at least three adult stakes at AKC-licensed and member club trials.

Persons that have never judged an AKC field trial must take a self-administered test prepared by AKC and successfully apprentice twice at AKC Licensed or Member Club field trial(s) at the stake level to be judged or higher. *The two apprenticeships must be done under different judges.* Approved American Field Judges are exempt from the apprentice requirement.

The AKC strongly recommends that all prospective Judges attend an AKC-sponsored field trial seminar. Persons who have judged at ten (10) or more field trials are exempt from the five placement requirement, the self-administered test and apprenticeship requirement.

SECTION 1A. Apprentice Judges. Just as with judges, it is strongly recommended that clubs select as Apprentice Judges individuals with broad and extensive background experience in handling and working with Pointing Breeds in the field. All such individuals are encouraged to educate themselves by reading the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds. In addition, they must have placed a dog at the level that they intend to apprentice. Apprentice Judges shall evaluate dogs while under the supervision of the Judges, however their opinions as to the dogs' abilities shall not be considered in any way by the Judges as part of their official evaluation. The Judges shall from time to time invite the Apprentice Judge to discuss how and/or why the Apprentice evaluated a dog the way he or she did. Apprenticeships will not count as a judging assignment.

When a club invites persons to judge, the club shall at that time advise the prospective judges of the club's intent to have a person apprenticing at the level that they are being requested to judge. Clubs shall obtain the consent of the Judges accepting the assignment at that level before authorizing an Apprentice to judge. The event-giving club will not be responsible for any Apprentice Judges' expenses, including but not limited to: travel, rooms, meals, providing a horse, etc.

SECTION 2. Substitute Judges. A substitute Judge may be appointed by the Field Trial Committee holding the trial if it is impossible for an advertised Judge to fulfill or complete his assignment. Such substitute or additional Judges shall be persons who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club. Prompt notification shall be sent to the AKC, in advance of the trial if possible, of any substitute Judges officiating at a licensed or member trial, and of the reasons for the change.

If a substitute judge is used in a stake where the premium states the number of entries in the trial are limited in any way, anyone that has entered that stake is entitled to withdraw their entry and receive a full refund of their entry fee. Out of courtesy, the trial secretary shall be notified of this action as soon as possible. No entries may be withdrawn for this reason once the stake has started.

SECTION 2A. Additional Judges. In a trial in which the entry is not limited, either numerically or by the number of available daylight hours, or if a club utilizes the flexible format option, additional Judges can be appointed by the Field Trial Committee if the number of entries would otherwise prevent completion of the trial during the days listed in the premium list, or if unforeseen circumstances arising after the scheduled time for starting the trial would prevent such completion. If judging panels are revised in advance of the trial, the changes must be submitted to AKC prior to the event. (fieldtrials@akc.org or (919) 816-3908.

SECTION 3. Judge Affirmation Form. Before any advertised Judge shall be eligible to judge a licensed or member field trial, he shall first sign an agreement certifying that he has a thorough knowledge of the Rules, Regulations and Procedures, and will judge in strict accord with them.

SECTION 4. Judges Decision is Final. The decisions of the Judges shall be final in all matters relating to the field trial performance of the dogs. Full discretionary power is given to the Judges to withhold any or all awards for want of merit.

CHAPTER 6

APPOINTMENT OF FIELD TRIAL SECRETARY APPOINTMENT, RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES OF FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. A club that has been granted permission by The American Kennel Club to hold a licensed or member field trial must appoint a Field Trial Secretary and submit his or her name to The American Kennel Club for its records on a form that

will be supplied by the AKC. Any qualified person who is in good standing with The American Kennel Club may act as Field Trial Secretary.

SECTION 2. A club that has been granted permission by The American Kennel Club to hold a licensed or member field trial must appoint a Field Trial Committee which will have complete responsibility for the planning and conducting of the trial. This committee shall be comprised of at least five individuals and may include the Field Trial Secretary. All members of the field trial committee must be members of the host club.

A judge of an event must not be a member of the Field Trial Committee.

SECTION 3. The Field Trial Committee and Field Trial Secretary shall be held responsible for compliance with all of the Field Trial Rules and Procedures except those coming under the sole jurisdiction of the Judges. In cases where the field trial committee questions whether the judging of the stake is in accordance with Rules and Procedures, the committee has the right and responsibility to bring this to the attention of the judges.

When a dog is seriously injured or dies in connection with an event, the Event Committee must conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if negligence or the willful conduct of an individual caused the injury or death. If the preliminary investigation determines that there was no negligence or willful conduct causing the injury or death, then a written report of the findings of the preliminary investigation must be submitted to the AKC (Attn: Executive Secretary), 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10178 within five (5) days. If the Event Committee determines that negligence or willful conduct may have caused the death or serious injury, the Event Committee must hold an Event Hearing.

SECTION 4. The Field Trial Committee of a club holding a licensed or member trial shall have the authority to decide upon any matter arising during the running of the trial, except a matter coming within the jurisdiction of the Judges, but such committee decisions must be made in accord with these Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures.

SECTION 5. **Weather.** Weather is an important consideration for the field trial event committee. The safety of participants and animals is of utmost importance. Extreme weather such as lightening, strong winds, heat or cold, snow or heavy rain can create hazardous conditions. The field trial event committee, in consultation with the judges, has the responsibility to decide if an event should be halted

due to weather and at what point the event shall resume.

If a weather delay results in an entrant being unable to participate, the refund of entry fees, in whole or in part, will be at the discretion of the event committee.

If an entire event or part of an event is cancelled due to weather, the refund of entry fees, in whole or in part, will be at the discretion of the event committee.

CHAPTER 7 PREMIUM LISTS, ENTRY FORMS, CLOSING OF ENTRIES, DRAWING OF ENTRIES

SECTION 1. After a club has been granted permission by The American Kennel Club to hold a licensed or member field trial and before its premium list is printed, it must send to The American Kennel Club, for approval, one copy of an Event Application (supplied by the AKC) which will give the exact location of the trial, the dates on which it will be held, and set forth in detail the stakes to be run and their conditions; a complete list of the money, ribbon prizes and other prizes which it wishes to offer; a list of the names and city/state addresses of the Judges and the stakes they are to judge; the names and city/state addresses of the officers of the club, including the mailing address of the Field Trial Secretary; the name and city/state address of the Chairman and the names of the other members of the Field Trial Committee; the date, hour and place of the closing of entries; and the date, hour and place of the drawing of entries.

The place where entries are to be drawn need not be identical with the place where entries are received. Each premium list shall specify that the Field Trial Secretary or a designated entry service provider is to receive entries.

The purpose of the Premium list is to set forth the conditions of an event in which a participant is entering. It shall contain all the information specified on the Event Application Form as submitted to and approved by the American Kennel Club, except the addresses for the judges, trial chair and club officers need only include the city/state. The conditions of an event may not be changed by the host club unless approved by the AKC Performance Events Department for legitimate reasons as determined by the AKC. The premium shall be from 5¹/₂ by 8¹/₂ inches to 6 by 9 inches.

A premium or any document pertaining to a trial may not state a clubs preference regarding how a

participant chooses to enter. For example, a club may not state that it prefers walking handlers not enter the Open Limited Gun Dog stake, or that dogs with FC titles not enter the Open Gun Dog stake. AKC rules provide eligibility requirements that govern an event. A club may not deviate from these requirements either specifically or through inference unless permission is granted by the Performance Events Department. In addition a club may not price similar stakes in an unreasonably different manner in order to effect how a participant chooses to enter.

The Field Trial Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that the conduct of the draw is public and the place assigned to each competing dog is determined by random chance insofar as possible. See *Standard Procedure 4 (page 42)* for information regarding drawing and bracing.

SECTION 2. Entry Forms. Every premium list shall contain one or more copies of the official American Kennel Club entry form as approved by the Board of Directors of the AKC. Any club may obtain a sample of the official entry form applicable to the particular type of trial to be held. Requests should be in writing, addressed to The American Kennel Club. (Also available on the AKC website: <http://images.akc.org/pdf/AFN999.pdf>).

SECTION 3. Send Premium to AKC. A copy of the premium list and entry form must be mailed or emailed to The American Kennel Club at time of distribution to prospective entrants (fieldtrials@akc.org).

SECTION 4. Field Trial Committees may make such regulations or additional rules for the government of their field trials as shall be considered necessary, provided such regulations or additional rules do not conflict with any rule of The American Kennel Club. Such regulations or additional rules shall be printed in the premium list and violations thereof shall be considered the same as violations of the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club.

CHAPTER 8 ELIGIBILITY OF DOGS FOR ENTRY, FULL COMPLETION OF ENTRY FORMS

SECTION 1. No dog shall be eligible to be entered in a licensed or member field trial unless it is an eligible breed that is at least six (6) months of age and is either individually registered with the AKC or individually registered with a foreign or domestic registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration and is registered with that registry. Dogs from eligible breeds that have been

granted limited registration are eligible to enter Pointing Breed Field Trials. Spayed and neutered dogs are eligible. Dogs recorded in the purebred alternative listing program (PAL) are not eligible to enter Pointing Breed Field Trials. For a list of eligible breeds, see <https://www.akc.org/sports/pointing-breeds/field-trials/eligible-breeds>.

A dog that is individually registered with a foreign or domestic registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration may be entered in licensed or member field trials that are held not later than 30 days after the date of the first licensed or member field trial in which the dog was entered, but only provided that the individual foreign or domestic registration number and the name of the country of birth are shown on the entry form, and provided further that the same name, which in the case of an imported dog must be the name on the foreign or domestic registration, is used for the dog each time. If a dog registered with an AKC recognized foreign or domestic registry is awarded a placement, the event secretary must indicate the name of the registry and the dog's registration number on the results sent to the AKC.

SECTION 2. No individually registered dog with a foreign registry organization that has not been individually registered with The American Kennel Club when first entered in a licensed or member field trial shall be eligible to be entered in any licensed or member field trial class that is started more than thirty (30) days after the first entry in a licensed or member field trial unless the owner has received from The American Kennel Club an extension notice authorizing further entries of the hound for a specified period of time with its foreign registration number. No such extension will be granted unless the owner can clearly demonstrate, in a letter addressed to the Performance Events Department of The American Kennel Club requesting such extension, that the delay in registration of the dog is due to circumstances for which he is not responsible. Any such extension notice will be void upon registration of the dog or upon expiration of the period for which extension has been granted, but upon application, further extensions may be granted.

SECTION 3. Every dog must be entered in the name of the person who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed. The right to enter and run a dog cannot be transferred. A registered dog which has been acquired by some person other than the owner as recorded with The American Kennel Club must be entered in the name of its new owner at any field trial for which entries close after the date on which

the dog was acquired, and application for transfer of ownership must be sent to The American Kennel Club by the new owner within seven days after the last day of the trial. The new owner should state on the entry form that transfer application has been mailed to The American Kennel Club or will be mailed shortly. If there is any unavoidable delay in obtaining the completed application required to record the transfer, The American Kennel Club may grant a reasonable extension of time provided the new owner notifies the Field Trial Department of The American Kennel Club by mail within seven days after the trial, of the reason for the delay. If an entry is made by a duly authorized agent of the owner, the name of the actual owner must be shown on the entry form.

SECTION 4. Each entry form must be completed in full and the information given on the form must be that which applies to the entered dog. Each entry form must be signed by the owner or his agent duly authorized to make the entry. *For the orderly running of the trial, every effort should be made to list the true handler. However, a different handler may be used if conditions warrant.*

SECTION 5. No entry shall be knowingly accepted from any person who is not in good standing with The American Kennel Club on the day of the closing of the entries.

SECTION 6. No entry shall be made under a kennel name unless that name has been registered with The American Kennel Club. All entries made under a kennel name must be signed with the kennel name followed by the word "registered." An "entrant" is the individual, or, if a partnership, all the members of the partnership entering in a field trial. In the case of such entry by a partnership every member of the partnership shall be in good standing with The American Kennel Club before the entry will be accepted; and in case of any infraction of these rules, all the partners shall be held equally responsible.

SECTION 7. Owners are responsible for errors made in entry forms, regardless of who may have made such errors.

SECTION 8. **Communicable Diseases.** No dog shall be eligible to compete at any field trial, no dog shall be brought into the grounds or premises of any field trial, and any dog which may have been brought into the grounds or premises of a field trial shall immediately be removed, if it

(a) shows clinical symptoms of distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease, or

(b) is known to have been in contact with

distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease within 30 days prior to the opening of the trial, or

(c) has been kenneled within 30 days prior to the opening of the trial on premises on which there existed distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease.

SECTION 9. No Special Inducements. A field trial-giving club shall not accept an entry fee other than that published in its premium list or entry form, or in any way discriminates between entrants. No club or member of any club shall give or offer to give any owner or handler any special inducements, such as reduced entry fees, rebates, allowances for expenses or other incentive of value for a certain number of entries or shall give or offer to give in consideration of entering a certain number of dogs, any prizes or prize money, except the officially advertised prizes or prize money, which prize money shall be for a stated sum or a portion of the entry fees. Except a club, at its discretion, may allow for a reduced entry fee for dogs handled by juniors. The reduced entry fee may only apply to specific stakes or may apply to any stake in the trial. The reduced entry fee shall be published in the premium list. A junior is defined as someone less than 18 years of age on the first day of the event. The junior must handle the dog in the event to qualify for the reduced entry fee. If the dog is entered under this provision but the junior does not handle the dog, the owner must pay the regular entry fee as published.

SECTION 10. “Just Cause” Rule. A Field Trial Committee may decline any entries or may remove any dog from its trial for cause, but in each such instance the club must notify the AKC Performance Events Department in a timely manner regarding the good and sufficient reasons for its actions.

SECTION 11. Dogs Must Compete. Any dog entered and present at a field trial must compete in the stakes in which it is entered unless excused by the Event Committee at the trial. *In deciding if a dog may be excused, the Event Committee shall consider the handler’s safety concerns for the dog, the safety of the handler’s required future travel, or other unique considerations relevant to the situation. Refund of entry fees in whole or in part for excused dogs will be at the discretion of the Event Committee. A handler that refuses to run a dog or leaves without the approval of the Event Committee is subject to the “just cause” rule and may have entries rejected at future events hosted by the club. A handler may not start a dog and immediately pick it up for the purpose of maintaining points or counting dogs defeated. It is expected that*

all starters in a stake are legitimate contenders. Dogs that are walked to the line but not released or started and quickly picked up for the purpose of maintaining points or counting dogs defeated shall not count as a starter. Handlers that do this and judges that allow it to occur are violating the intent of the rules and may be disciplined. Event Committees also have the responsibility to prevent this practice. Clubs that allow this to occur at their event may be disciplined.

SECTION 12A. Injured/Sick Dogs. Entry fees paid for a dog withdrawn because of an injury or illness, or for a dog that dies, shall be refunded in full by the event giving club. Prior to paying such refund, the club may require an appropriate veterinary certificate.

SECTION 12B. Bitches in Season. The entry fees of bitches withdrawn at any time because of coming in season shall be refunded, except in those trials where bitches in season are allowed to run. *This section intends that entry fees paid for a bitch withdrawn because of coming in season at any time after payment of the entry fee and prior to running in the stake in which it is entered shall be refunded in full by the trial-giving club unless the premium list specifies that bitches in season may compete.*

SECTION 13. DQ by Event Committee. Any dog that in the opinion of the Event Committee or The American Kennel Club, attacks a person or a dog at an AKC event, resulting in injury, and is believed by that Event Committee or The American Kennel Club to present a hazard to persons or other dogs shall be disqualified. When the dog is disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed immediately with the Executive Secretary of The American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not again compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to The American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated.

CHAPTER 9 CANCELLATIONS OF AWARDS

SECTION 1. If an ineligible dog has been entered and run in any stake at a licensed or member field trial, or if the person or persons named as owner or owners on the entry form are not the person or persons who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed, or if a dog is run in a stake for which it has not been entered, or if its entry form is deemed invalid by The American Kennel Club under these rules, all resulting awards shall be cancelled by The American Kennel

Club, and such dog shall not be counted as having been in competition in determining championship ratings.

SECTION 2. If the win of a dog shall be cancelled, the dog next in order of merit shall be moved up, and the win of the dog moved up shall be counted the same as if it had been the original award.

SECTION 3. If the win of a dog shall be cancelled by The American Kennel Club, the entrant of the dog shall return all prizes for such win to the Secretary of the field trial-giving club within ten (10) days of receipt of notice from The American Kennel Club of said cancellation.

CHAPTER 10 PROTESTS AGAINST DOGS

SECTION 1. Any person who is a member of a member club of The American Kennel Club, or who owns a dog entered in the field trial, or who handles a dog competing in the trial, may make a written protest to the Field Trial Committee against any dog competing in the trial, either before or after the dog has been judged, alleging that it is ineligible to compete in the trial or in the stake in which it is entered. Such a protest shall be in writing, shall identify the dog protested and specify the basis for the protest, shall bear the signature and address of the person who makes it, and shall describe his qualifications for making the protest. It shall be filed with the Field Trial Secretary or with the Chairman of the Field Trial Committee before the closing of the trial, and shall be accompanied by a deposit of \$10.00 which shall be returned if the protest is sustained, or which will be retained by the club if the protest is not sustained.

SECTION 2. If such a written protest is received, the Field Trial Committee shall hold a meeting as soon as possible. In order to ensure impartiality, no person that owns or co-owns the dog being protested or any member of the owners household, no professional trainer that has trained or handled the dog within the past year, and no owner or handler of a dog who may benefit as a result of the Committee's decision may serve on the Committee hearing the protest. The Committee may vote to excuse anyone from the Committee if there are unique situations that cause the Committee to question an individual's ability to be impartial. The person who has made the protest must be present, and the Committee shall give all parties concerned an opportunity to be heard and to present witnesses and evidence. The Committee may call for additional evidence from other qualified persons present at the trial. After hearing all of the evidence,

the Field Trial Committee shall consider the matter and shall, if possible, reach an immediate decision and inform the persons involved.

A report of the meeting, giving all of the essential evidence and the Committee's decision, together with the original written protest, must be mailed to The American Kennel Club within 7 days of the trial.

SECTION 3. A written appeal to The American Kennel Club from a decision of a Field Trial Committee on any such protest, may be made by either the owner of the dog protested or the person who made the protest. The written appeal must be received by The American Kennel Club Performance Events Department within 30 days after the date of the Field Trial Committee's decision, and must be accompanied by a deposit of \$25.00 which shall be forfeited if the decision is sustained.

SECTION 4. For a protest concerning the amateur status of a person handling a dog in an amateur stake, if the Committee determines the person is not an amateur, the Committee's decision shall initially apply to that field trial only. If no written appeal is filed within 30 days, the person shall be considered not an amateur and shall be ineligible to enter future amateur stakes. If a written appeal is filed, the person's status shall not be finalized until the AKC Performance Events Department has reviewed the information and made a determination.

CHAPTER 11 FIELD CHAMPIONS AND AMATEUR FIELD CHAMPIONS

A dog that has completed the requirements for a Field Championship or Amateur Field Championship as described in the various Chapters of these Rules, when registered in the AKC *Stud Book*, will be recorded a Field Champion or an Amateur Field Champion by The American Kennel Club, and a championship certificate will be issued to the owner.

A Field Champion may be designated as "Dual Champion" if it has also been recorded as a show Champion.

Any dog which has been awarded the titles of Champion of Record, Obedience Trial Champion and Field Champion may be designated as a "Triple Champion."

CHAPTER 12 JUDGES' AWARD OF MERIT

At any licensed or member field trial the Judges may make a "Judges' Award of Merit" in any stake to any unplaced dog for particularly excellent work. The

name and registration number of each dog to which such an award is made shall be noted on the back of the page in the judges' book for the stake in which the award was made.

CHAPTER 13

WHAT HAS TO BE SENT TO THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB AFTER A FIELD TRIAL

At the conclusion of the judging of each stake, a club holding a licensed or member field trial shall provide, for the Judges' signatures, a results form showing all placements in each stake, including full particulars of all dogs placed. An official catalog may be submitted in lieu of the results form. The Official catalog must be marked with the placement awarded to the dog, beside the dog's name, signed and certified by the Judges and Field Trial Secretary. If all placements are withheld in a stake, so indicate on the judge's certification page. Mail one copy to the American Kennel Club, keep one copy for your records. At the conclusion of the trial, the Field Trial Secretary shall certify to the Judges' signatures on each results form and shall certify to the number of entries and starters in each stake.

The Placement Result form, inserted in the covers of the judging book, signed judges' affirmations, and a full report of the trial, shall be sent to The American Kennel Club no later than seven days after the closing date of the trial. Clubs may send their copies via email to: performanceresults@akc.org. The club must retain all entry forms for a minimum of one year after the conclusion of the trial. An official catalog or AKC Placement Result Sheet must be signed and certified by the Judges and Field Trial Secretary and marked with the placement awarded to the dog, beside the dog's name. Penalty for non-compliance will be twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars, and five (\$5.00) dollars for each day's delay beyond the deadline, and other such penalties as may be imposed by the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club.

The Field Trial Secretary Report shall contain a list of the names of all members of the Field Trial Committee who were present at the trial, the names and complete addresses of all the Judges, and the name and address of the Field Trial Secretary.

Event Service Fee

At every licensed or member club field trial held under the Rules of The American Kennel Club, an event service fee of \$3.50 per entry is required. The event service fee is to help defray expenses involved in maintaining the records and administrating the events.

The Board of Directors shall determine, from time to time, whether an event service fee shall be required and the amount of it.

CHAPTER 14

RULES FOR POINTING BREED TRIALS

SECTION 1. Held by all breed Field Trial Clubs or Specialty Clubs for the following Breeds:

BRITTANYS

POINTERS

GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTERS

GERMAN WIREHAISED POINTERS

ENGLISH SETTERS

GORDON SETTERS

IRISH SETTERS

SPINONE ITALIANO

VIZSLAS

WEIMARANERS

WIREHAISED POINTING GRIFFONS

A specialty club formed for the improvement of Brittanys, Pointers, German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, English Setters, Gordon Setters, Irish Setters, Spinone Italiano, Vizslas, Weimaraners, of Wirehaired Pointing Griffons may be approved to hold field trials for its breed or its breed plus any or all of the above named breeds. The premium list shall name the breeds that may be entered. Unless all the breeds so specified may be entered in any of the stakes offered, the conditions of each stake for the breeds eligible for entry shall be named.

SECTION 1A. **All Pointing Breed Field Trial Clubs.** A club that has been formed for the improvement of all eligible pointing breeds may be approved to hold field trials open to all eligible pointing breeds.

SECTION 1B. **Conflicting Trials.** AKC will not approve a trial open to all breeds if it is within 100 miles of an existing trial open to all breeds unless the club has obtained written permission from the club that historically holds the date. Trials that restrict entries by breed in any stake(s) at the trial are considered a restricted breed trial. A trial open to all breeds may be approved within 100 miles of a restricted breed trial.

SECTION 2. **Regular stakes that may be offered:** *A club may not offer more than one of these stakes at any given trial. A dog may only be entered once per stake at any given trial.*

Puppy Stake (Open and/or Amateur Walking) for dogs 6 months of age and under 15 months of age on the first advertised day of the trial (e.g., a dog

whelped on January 30, 1989, would not be eligible for entry in a Puppy stake at a trial which starts on April 30, 1990). Horseback handling is not permitted in Amateur Walking Puppy stakes.

Derby Stake (Open and/or Amateur Walking) for dogs six (6) months of age and under two (2) years of age on the first advertised day of the trial (e.g., a dog whelped on January 30, 1989, would not be eligible for entry in a Derby stake at a trial which starts on January 30, 1991). Horseback handling is not permitted in Amateur Walking Derby stakes.

Gun Dog Stake (Open and/or Amateur) for dogs six (6) months of age and over on the first advertised day of the trial.

All-Age Stake (Open and/or Amateur) for dogs six (6) months of age and over on the first advertised day of the trial.

Limited Gun Dog Stake (Open and/or Amateur) for dogs six (6) months of age and over on the first advertised day of the trial which have placed first, second, third or fourth in any Gun Dog Stake, or a placement in an Open Derby stake. A field trial-giving club may give an Amateur Limited Gun Dog Stake in which places that qualify a dog have been acquired in Amateur Stakes only. The stake must be advertised as such in the premium list and any additional advertising that may be done.

Section 2B. Derby Placements That Qualify a Dog to Participate in Limited Stakes. Dogs that place in a Derby stake are qualified to enter Limited stakes according to the following schedule.

of Starters

1 to 3 None

4 to 7 1st place

8 to 12 1st – 2nd place

13 or more 1st thru 3rd place

First place in an Amateur Walking Derby Stake qualifies the dog to enter an Amateur Limited Gun Dog Stake only.

Grand Open Limited Gun Dog Stake and/or **Grand Amateur Limited Gun Dog Stake** for dogs six (6) months of age and over on the first advertised dog of the trial which have placed first through fourth in any Gun Dog Stake (open or amateur), or a first place in an Open Derby stake. First place in an Amateur Walking Derby Stake qualifies the dog to enter a Grand Amateur Limited Gun Dog Stake only. Note #1: Grand Limited stakes are different than Limited Stakes in that Grand stakes must be run for at least 60 minutes per brace. Note #2: Dogs that have not earned the FC or AFC title may enter Grand Limited stakes. Points earned by these dogs will be credited toward their FC or AFC title. Points will not

be split between FC/AFC titles and GFC/GAFC titles.

Limited All-Age Stake (Open and/or Amateur) for dogs six (6) months of age and over on the first advertised day of the trial which have placed first, second, third or fourth in any All-Age Stake, or a first place in an Open Derby stake. A field trial-giving club may give an Amateur Limited All-Age Stake in which places that qualify a dog have been acquired in Amateur Stakes only. When a club elects the latter option, the stake must be advertised as such in the premium list and any additional advertising that may be done.

First place in an Amateur Walking Derby Stake qualifies the dog to enter an Amateur Limited All-Age Stake only.

Grand Open Limited All-Age Stake and/or **Grand Amateur Limited All-Age Stake** for dogs six (6) months of age and over on the first advertised dog of the trial which have placed first through fourth in any All-Age Stake (open or amateur), or a first place in an Open Derby stake. First place in an Amateur Walking Derby Stake qualifies the dog to enter a Grand Amateur Limited All-Age Stake only. Note #1: Grand Limited stakes are different than Limited Stakes in that Grand stakes must be run for at least 60 minutes per brace. Note #2: Dogs that have not earned the FC or AFC title may enter Grand Limited stakes. Points earned by these dogs will be credited toward their FC or AFC title. Points will not be split between FC/AFC titles and GFC/GAFC titles.

In an Amateur Stake at a licensed or member field trial all dogs must be handled by persons who, in the judgment of the Field Trial Committee, are qualified as Amateurs.

Definition of an Amateur for Pointing Breed Trials

An Amateur is a person who, during the period of two years preceding the trial has not accepted remuneration in any form for the training of a hunting dog or the handling of a dog in a field trial.

For purposes of this definition the word remuneration means payment in money, goods or services.

No member of the household of a person who does not qualify as an Amateur under this definition can qualify as an Amateur.

There are a number of indicators that can be used to assess whether an individual is a "member of a household." Certainly this includes those persons living together in the same shared dwelling. However there can be other indicators of a household member which may apply in some cases. In keeping with good sportsmanship

and the intent of this Rule, it is expected that household members will act as responsible participants by acknowledging their relationship with a professional trainer and not handle dogs in amateur stakes.

An Amateur (as defined above) may run any number of dogs wholly owned by him or her, or members of his or her immediate family (as defined in Chapter 14, Section 5) but shall not run more than three dogs that are not so owned in any amateur stake.

Nonregular stakes: A club that has been approved to hold a licensed or member field trial may, subject to the approval of The American Kennel Club, offer additional nonregular stakes for dogs not less than 6 months of age, provided a clear and complete description of the eligibility requirements and performance requirements for each such stake appears in the premium list. Nonregular stakes may not be used as training sessions prior to a dog being run in a regular stake. Nonregular stakes must not interfere with the running of regular stakes.

Any or all of such regular and nonregular stakes, except Open Puppy, may be offered as Retrieving Stakes.

SECTION 3. The premium list for a licensed or member trial shall specify date, time and place for the closing of entries, and time and place for the drawing of all stakes. The specified closing hour may be no later than the published hour for the drawing which must be held not later than the night preceding the running of the first stake. However, at a trial at which a Limited Gun Dog or Limited All-Age Stake is offered, additional entries of particular dogs which first qualify at that trial for such a stake may be accepted and the drawing of the stake may occur immediately before the running of the stake, provided that such stipulation has been printed in the premium list.

SECTION 4. **Bitches in Season.** Bitches that are in season or which, in the opinion of the Field Trial Committee, appear to be in season, are ineligible to compete in licensed or member field trials unless the premium list specifies the stake or stakes in which bitches in season may compete. Males shall not be run until the following day on any course or part of any course where bitches in season have been run.

SECTION 4A. The Field Trial Committee may remove any dog from the field trial grounds if it considers that such removal is necessary for the smooth running of the field trial.

SECTION 4B. **DQ by Judges.** A dog is not eligible to be entered or to compete in any licensed or member

trial in any stake if the dog has on two occasions been made the subject of the following report: If a dog, while under judgment, attacks another dog, and if the Judges are unanimously of the opinion that such attack was without reasonable cause, the Judges shall identify the offending dog on the judging sheet and the name of the offending dog shall be listed in the report of the trial sent to The American Kennel Club.

An attack does not require an injury for the judges to disqualify the dog.

SECTION 5. Dog's Eligibility to Enter Under a Judge. A dog is not eligible to be entered in any field trial stake in which championship points are given, if a judge of that stake or any member of his or her family has owned, sold, held under lease, boarded, trained or handled the dog, within one year prior to the date of the field trial starting date.

For the purpose of this Section, the words "any member of his or her family" shall include a spouse, domestic partner, sibling, parent or child, whether natural or adopted, of the judge, but shall not extend to other blood or legal relationships. Note – This restriction does not apply to parents and adult children or adult siblings living in their own separate households.

In addition, a dog is ineligible to be entered under a judge if the owner or handler of the dog is a person cohabiting in the same household as the judge.

SECTION 6. A Judge who has started to judge a stake may not handle a dog in another stake until the stake that he or she is judging has been fully completed.

SECTION 7. The requirements for a dog of one of the pointing breeds competing in field trials under these Rules to be recorded a Field Champion or Amateur Field Champion shall be established by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club.

FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

At present a dog of one of the Pointing Breeds will be recorded a Field Champion after having won 10 points under the point rating schedule below in regular stakes in at least three licensed or member field trials, provided that 3 points have been won in one 3 point or better Open All-Age, Open Gun Dog, Open Limited All-Age, or Open Limited Gun Dog Stake, that no more than 2 points each have been won by placing first in Open or Amateur Walking Puppy and Open or Amateur Walking Derby Stakes, and that no more than 4 of the 10 points have been won by placing first in Amateur Stakes;

EXCEPT THAT a German Shorthaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer, Vizsla, or Weimaraner,

shall not be recorded a *Field Champion* unless it has earned at least 4 retrieving credits in *Retrieving Stakes* at licensed or member club field trials;

AND EXCEPT THAT a *German Wirehaired Pointer*, or *Weimaraner*, shall not be recorded a *Field Champion* unless it has also been certified by two of the approved judges to have passed a *Water Test* at a licensed or member field trial or hunting test held by a pointing breed club. In the case of a *Weimaraner*, if it has been certified by the *Weimaraner Club of America* to have passed an *All-Age Water Certification Test*, or to have been given a rating of *Novice Retrieving Dog*, *Retrieving Dog* or *Retrieving Dog Excellent*, it shall be considered to have met the *Water Test* requirement.

The number of points shall be based on the actual number of eligible starters in each stake according to the following schedule:

Placement	1st	2nd
4 to 7 starters	1 point	
8 to 12 starters	2 points	
13 to 17 starters	3 points	
18 to 24 starters	4 points	
25 or more starters	5 points	2 points

Only points won by placing first in junior stakes (*Puppy/Derby*) are credited toward a *Field Championship* title.

Open Retrieving Credits. Dogs from the four retrieving breeds must earn a minimum of four retrieving credits according to the following schedule to be awarded the *FC* title:

# of Starters	Placement			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
4 to 7	1	0	0	0
8 to 12	2	1	0	0
13 to 17	3	1	1	0
18 to 24	4	1	1	1
25 or more	5	2	1	1

Retrieving credits earned in amateur stakes may count toward a dog's *Open Retrieving Credits* provided the credits were earned by winning first place in an amateur retrieving stake.

GRAND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

A dog that has previously earned its *Field Champion* title will be recorded a *Grand Field Champion (GFC)* if it subsequently earns 6 points according to the *FC* point schedule in *Grand Open Limited All Age* or *Grand Open Limited Gun Dog* stakes, provided the points include at least one first place win of 3 points or more. A dog may be awarded a *GFC* title followed by a number (*GFC#*)

for each additional 6 Grand points and additional 3+ point wins it earns in Grand Open Limited stakes. For example, a dog that has earned 12 Grand Open Limited points and two 3-point wins in Grand Open Limited stakes shall be awarded the GFC2 title.

Dogs that are not Field Champions that earn points in Grand Open stakes will have the points credited toward their Field Championship title. Points earned by a dog in a Grand stake will not be split between FC and GFC titles.

The GFC title will supersede the FC title on a dog's pedigree. A higher numbered GFC title shall supersede a lowered numbered GFC title on a dog's pedigree.

AMATEUR FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

At present, a dog of one of the Pointing Breeds will be recorded an Amateur Field Champion after having won 10 points under the point rating schedule below in regular Amateur Stakes in at least 3 licensed or member field trials, provided that no more than 2 points each have been won by placing first in Amateur Walking Puppy and Amateur Walking Derby stakes and that it has been awarded 2 first placements, one of which must be a first placement in a 3 point or better Amateur All-Age, Amateur Gun Dog, Amateur Limited All-Age, or Amateur Limited Gun Dog Stake;

EXCEPT THAT a German Shorthaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer, Vizsla, or Weimaraner, shall not be recorded an Amateur Field Champion unless it has earned at least 4 retrieving credits in Amateur Retrieving Stakes at licensed or member club field trials;

AND EXCEPT THAT a German Wirehaired Pointer shall not be recorded an Amateur Field Champion unless it has also been certified as having passed a Water Test at a licensed or member field trial or hunting test held by a pointing breed club.

AND EXCEPT THAT a Weimaraner shall not be recorded an Amateur Field Champion unless it has also been certified as having passed a Water Test with an amateur handler (as determined by the Field Trial or Hunting Test Committee in accord with the Definition of an Amateur found in Chapter 14, Section 2, at a licensed or member field trial or hunting test held by a pointing breed club. In the case of a Weimaraner, if it has been certified by the Weimaraner Club of America to have passed an All-Age Water Certification Test, or to have been given the rating of Novice Retrieving Dog Retrieving Dog or Retrieving Dog Excellent, with an amateur handler, it shall be considered to have met the Water Test requirement.

Amateur Championship points shall be credited to dogs placed first, second, or third, in regular Amateur stakes in accordance with the following schedule, based on the actual number of eligible starters in each stake:

Placement	1st	2nd	3rd
<i>4 to 7 starters</i>	<i>1 point</i>		
<i>8 to 12 starters</i>	<i>2 points</i>		
<i>13 to 17 starters</i>	<i>3 points</i>	<i>1 point</i>	
<i>18 to 24 starters</i>	<i>4 points</i>	<i>2 points</i>	
<i>25 or more starters</i>	<i>5 points</i>	<i>3 points</i>	<i>1 point</i>

Championship points from first placements in Amateur Stakes that are credited towards a Field Championship, will also be credited towards an Amateur Field Championship.

Only points won by placing first in Amateur Walking Puppy or Amateur Walking Derby are credited toward an Amateur Field Championship title.

Amateur Retrieving Credits. *Dogs from the four retrieving breeds must earn a minimum of four retrieving credits according to the following schedule to be awarded the AFC title:*

# of Starters	Placement			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
<i>4 to 7</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>8 to 12</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>13 to 17</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>18 to 24</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>25 or more</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

GRAND AMATEUR FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

A dog that has previously earned its Amateur Field Champion title will be recorded a Grand Amateur Field Champion (GAFC) if it subsequently earns 6 points according to the AFC point schedule in Grand Amateur Limited All Age or Grand Amateur Limited Gun Dog stakes, provided the points include at least one first place win of 3 points or more.

Dogs that are not Amateur Field Champions that earn points in Grand Amateur stakes will have the points credited toward their Amateur Field Championship title. Points earned by a dog in a Grand stake will not be split between AFC and GAFC titles.

The GAFC title will supersede the AFC title on a dog's pedigree.

REGIONAL FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Regional Championship titles -

A dog that wins first place in a Regional Championship event with a minimum of 13 starters shall earn a Regional Champion title. There shall be four Regional Champion prefix titles - Regional

Field Champion (RFC), Regional Amateur Field Champion (RAFC), Regional Walking Field Champion (RWFC), and Regional Walking Amateur Field Champion (RWAFC). Dogs that win more than one Regional Championship of the same type shall have a number added after the title. Dogs placing in Regional Championship events shall earn points under the regular point schedule. If the dog is not a FC or AFC, the points shall be credited toward these titles. If the dog is a FC/AFC, the points shall be credited toward the Grand Field Champion (GFC) or Grand Amateur Field Champion (GAFC) title.

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

Regional Championship format -

• A Regional Championship event must be a Grand Limited stake. This means each brace must be run for one hour or longer and all dogs entered must meet the Limited stake criteria. There is one stake per Regional Championship event. A Regional Championship event may be run as a Grand Open Limited Gun Dog stake, Grand Amateur Limited Gun Dog stake, Grand Open Limited All-Age stake, or Grand Amateur

Limited All-Age stake. A Gun Dog stake may be designated as a walking stake. An All-Age stake may not be designated as a walking stake.

• A Regional Championship may consist of multiple series provided that at least one series runs for one hour or longer.

• There must be a minimum of 13 starters for the event to count as a Regional Championship. If there are less than 13 starters, the stake reverts to a regular Grand Limited stake, which counts for points but not a Regional Championship title.

• The course must be sufficient in size that dogs will not hunt the same ground a second time in the same brace. The course may cross over itself to reach new ground.

• Birds must be planted throughout the course. No bird field or designated planting area are allowed.

• Regional Championship events may be retrieving stakes at the option of the host club. Retrieving shall not be done in bird fields or designated shooting areas. Retrieving can be done on course or call backs.

• Regional Championships hosted by a Parent Club or a local specialty club may be open to their breed only, or it may be open to all breeds. Host clubs may not open the event to a selective group of breeds unless permission is obtained from the Director of Performance Events.

• Each Parent Club that has been approved to hold a National Championship Field Trial will be granted the right to hold Regional Championship events, with the

number indexed off the breeds participation in the sport. The Performance Events Department will determine the number of Regional Championship events per Parent Club.

- The Parent Club may hold Regional Championship events under their name or may designate local specialty clubs to hold Regional Championships. Parent Clubs are not obligated to utilize all of their Regional Championship events.

- The AKC Performance Events Department may, at its option, work with local clubs to hold all breed Regional Championship events.

- Host clubs are encouraged to give a Regional Championship a unique, descriptive name which indicates the type of stake and location of the event. This name should appear in the event premium.

- It is expected that Regional Championship events will be provided for all segments of the sport – All-Age/ Gun Dog; Open/Amateur; Horseback/Walking; and in all regions of the country where practical. The Parent Club schedules Regional Championship events for their breed; however, the Performance Events Department reserves the right to work with Parent Clubs to insure reasonable coverage.

1A Regional Championship event is comprised of one stake. Each Regional Championship has its own unique event number. A Regional Championship event may be held in conjunction with a local field trial, in which case the clubs must submit two application forms – one for the local field trial and one for the Regional Championship event.

- Regional Championship events do not count against a club's annual limit on the number of trials.

- Regional Championship events must be applied for on a special application form developed by the Performance Events Department.

- The normal mileage restriction between events does not apply for Regional Championship events and local field trials. However, the mileage restriction will apply to Regional Championships of the same type that are open to the same breeds.

WATER TEST

If a club wishes to hold a Water Test in conjunction with its licensed or member field trial, hunting test or as a "stand-alone" event, request for approval of the Water Test must be included on the application for the event. If approved, the Water Test must be specified on the questionnaire form and announced in the premium list. It shall be open to all pointing breeds six months of age or over on the first day of the event. The Water Test shall be judged by two approved field trial or hunting test judges. The dog shall retrieve a dead game bird

or pigeon from the water after a swim of about 20 yards to the bird. A blank pistol shall be fired while the bird is in the air. The handler shall stand (6) six feet from the water and the dog may be restrained by holding its collar. The dog must demonstrate its willingness to enter the water, to swim, and to retrieve, at the direction of its handler without being touched or intimidated. The dog shall retrieve the bird to within two steps of the handler. The handler may give multiple commands. However, at some point the judges must conclude the dog is unwilling to retrieve the bird and the dog shall fail. Style shall not be considered. The dogs shall not be placed, but shall either pass or fail. The judges shall certify on the judging sheets the particulars of each dog that passed the test. The "stand-alone" test will not count against the number of annual field trials/hunting tests that a club is allowed to hold.

Any qualifying water test pass earned at a self-administered Virtual Water Test will be recorded and count the same as a water test pass earned at a stand-alone water test or water test held at a field trial or hunt test.

Information about Virtual Water Tests can be found at: <https://www.akc.org/sports/pointing-breeds/virtual-watertest/>

National Championship Events

Any qualifying water test pass earned at a self-administered Virtual Water Test will be recorded and count the same as a water test pass earned at a stand-alone water test or water test held at a field trial or hunt test.

Information about Virtual Water Tests can be found at: <https://www.akc.org/sports/pointing-breeds/virtual-watertest/>

In order to qualify as a National Championship stake, a minimum standard of competition must be achieved. The minimum standards are: (1) There must be 13 starters; (2) The minimum qualification to enter the stake shall be one AKC broke dog field trial placement or an AKC Master Hunter title; (3) At least one series of the stake must be run a minimum of 45 minutes. The AKC may periodically review and update these standards.

Parent Clubs may establish qualifications that exceed this minimum standard.

No AKC National Championship event may be dual-licensed with another organization except those that were dual-licensed prior to January 1, 2018.

SECTION 8. A National Open All-Age Championship Stake for German Shorthaired Pointers shall be for dogs over 6 months of age, which by reason of wins

previously made in All-Age Stakes qualify under special rules approved by the Board of Directors. This stake shall be run not more than once in any calendar year by the Parent Club of the breed. The winner of such stake shall become a Field Champion of Record if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, and shall be entitled to be designated "National German Shorthaired Pointer Open All-Age Field Champion of 20__."

SECTION 9. A National Open Gun Dog Championship Stake for German Shorthaired Pointers shall be for dogs over 6 months of age, which by reason of wins previously made in Gun Dog stakes qualify under special rules approved by the Board of Directors. This stake shall be run not more than once in any calendar year by the Parent Club of the Breed. The winner of such stake shall become a Field Champion of Record if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, and shall be entitled to be designated "National German Shorthaired Pointer Open Gun Dog Field Champion of 20__."

SECTION 10. A National Amateur Championship Stake for German Shorthaired Pointers shall be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for dogs which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations submitted by the Parent Club and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club which shall file an application for permission to run it under procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. The winner of this stake, if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, shall be recorded an Amateur Field Champion by The American Kennel Club and shall be entitled to be designated "National Amateur German Shorthaired Pointer Field Champion of 20__."

SECTION 11. A National Amateur Gun Dog Championship Stake for German Shorthaired Pointers shall be for dogs over 6 months of age, which by reason of wins previously made in Gun Dog stakes qualify under special rules approved by the Board of Directors. This stake shall be run not more than once in any calendar year by the Parent Club of the Breed. The winner of such stake shall become an Amateur Field Champion of Record if registered in the American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, and shall be entitled to be designated "National German Shorthaired Pointer Amateur Gun Dog Champion of 20__."

SECTION 12. A National Open All-Age Championship Stake for Brittanys may be run not more than once in

any calendar year, by the Parent Club for the breed. The stake shall be for dogs 6 months of age or over, which by reason of wins previously made in All-Age Stakes qualify under regulations made by the Parent Club, all of which regulations shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The winner of this stake, if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, shall be recorded a Field Champion by The American Kennel Club, and shall be entitled to be designated "National Brittany Open All-Age Field Champion of 20__." (NFC)

SECTION 13. A National Open Gun Dog Championship stake for Brittanys shall be for dogs over 6 months of age, which by reason of wins previously made in Gun Dog stakes qualify under special rules approved by the Board of Directors. This stake shall be run not more than once in any calendar year by the Parent Club of the Breed and shall be designated a horseback stake. The winner of such stake shall become a Field Champion of Record if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, and shall be entitled to be designated "National Brittany Open Gun Dog Field Champion of 20__." (NGDC)

SECTION 14. A National Amateur Gun Dog Championship Stake for Brittanys shall be for dogs over 6 months of age, which by reason of wins previously made in Gun Dog stakes qualify under special rules approved by the Board of Directors. This stake shall be run not more than once in any calendar year by the Parent Club of the Breed and shall be designated a horseback stake. The winner of such stake shall become an Amateur Field Champion of Record if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, and shall be entitled to be designated "National Amateur Brittany Gun Dog Champion of 20__." (NAGDC)

SECTION 15. A National Amateur All-Age Championship Stake for Brittanys shall be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for dogs which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations submitted by the Parent Club and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club which shall file an application for permission to run it under procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. The winner of this stake, if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, shall be recorded an Amateur Field Champion by The American Kennel Club and shall be entitled to be designated "National Amateur Brittany Field Champion of 20__." (NAFC)

SECTION 16. A National Open Walking Gun Dog Championship stake for Brittanys shall be for dogs over 6 months of age, which by reason of wins previously made in Gun Dog stakes qualify under special rules approved by the Board of Directors. This stake shall be run not more than once in any calendar year by the Parent Club of the Breed and shall be designated a walking stake. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships. The winner shall be entitled to be designated "National Walking Brittany Gun Dog Champion of 20__." (NWGDC)

SECTION 17. A National Amateur Walking Gun Dog Championship stake for Brittanys shall be for dogs over 6 months of age, which by reason of wins previously made in Gun Dog stakes qualify under special rules approved by the Board of Directors. This stake shall be run not more than once in any calendar year by the Parent Club of the Breed and shall be designated a walking stake. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Amateur Field Championships. The winner shall be entitled to be designated "National Amateur Walking Brittany Gun Dog Champion of 20__." (NAWGDC)

SECTION 18. A National Championship Stake for Weimaraners may be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club which shall file an application for permission to run it under procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships, and, if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, shall be entitled to be designated "National Weimaraner Field Champion of 20__."

SECTION 19. A National Amateur Championship Stake for Weimaraners may be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for dogs over 6 months of age, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club which shall file an application for permission to run it under procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club.

Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Amateur Field Championships, and, if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, the winner shall be entitled to be designated “National Amateur Weimaraner Field Champion of 20__.”

SECTION 20. A National Walking Gun Dog Championship for Weimaraners may be held not more than once in any calendar year. The stake must be held or sponsored by the Parent Club. The event shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age. The WCA may develop entry qualifications that exceed the AKC minimum standard for a National Championship. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships and the winner shall be entitled to the designation “National Walking Gun Dog Champion of 20__.” (NWGDC)

SECTION 21. A National Championship Stake for Vizslas may be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for dogs over 6 months of age, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club which shall file an application for permission to run it under procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships, and, if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, shall be entitled to be designated “National Vizsla Field Champion of 20__.”

SECTION 22. A National Amateur Championship Stake for Vizslas may be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club which shall file an application for permission to run it under procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Amateur Field Championships, and, if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, the winner shall be entitled to be designated “National Amateur Vizsla Field Champion of 20__.”

SECTION 23. A National Gun Dog Championship for Vizslas may be held not more than once in any

calendar year, and shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club which shall file an application for permission to run it under procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships, and, if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, the winner shall be entitled to be designated "National Vizsla Gun Dog Champion of 20__."

SECTION 24. A National Championship Stake for Irish Setters may be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club which shall file an application for permission to run it under procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships, and, if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, shall be entitled to be designated "National Irish Setter Field Champion of 20__."

SECTION 25. A National Gun Dog Championship for Irish Setters may be held not more than once in any calendar year. The event shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age. The stake must be held by the Parent Club. The ISCA may develop entry qualifications that exceed the AKC minimum standard. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships and the winner shall be entitled to the designation "National Irish Setter Gun Dog Champion of 20 __." (NGDC)

SECTION 26. A National Amateur Championship Stake for Irish Setters may be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for dogs over 6 months of age, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club which shall file an application for permission to run it under procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with

championship points in accord with the schedule for Amateur Field Championships, and, if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, the winner shall be entitled to be designated “National Amateur Irish Setter Field Champion of 20__.”

SECTION 27. A National Championship Stake for German Wirehaired Pointers may be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for dogs over 6 months of age, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club which shall file an application for permission to run it under procedures approved in advance by the The American Kennel Club. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships, and, if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, shall be entitled to be designated “National German Wirehaired Pointer Field Champion of 20__.”

SECTION 28. A National Amateur Championship Stake for German Wirehaired Pointers may be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for dogs over 6 months of age, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club which shall file an application for permission to run it under procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Amateur Field Championships, and, if registered in The American Kennel Club *Stud Book*, the winner shall be entitled to be designated “National Amateur German Wirehaired Pointer Field Champion of 20__.”

SECTION 29. A National Championship Stake for Gordon Setters may be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for dogs over 6 months of age and registered with the AKC, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations and procedures submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club, which shall file an application for permission to run it under the regulations and procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. Such qualifications, regulations and procedures which apply to the running of the Championship shall be published in the premium list. Dogs placing in this

stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships, and shall be entitled to be designated "National Gordon Setter Field Champion of 20__."

SECTION 30. A National Gun Dog Championship for Gordon Setters may be held not more than once in any calendar year. This shall be a walking stake. The stake must be held by the Parent Club. The event shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age. The GSCA may develop entry qualifications that exceed the AKC minimum standard. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships and the winner shall be entitled to the designation "National Gun Dog Champion of 20__." (NWGDC)

SECTION 31. A National Amateur Championship Stake for Gordon Setters may be held not more than once in any calendar year and shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age and registered with the AKC, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations and procedures submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. The stake shall be held by the parent Club, which shall file an application for permission to run it under the regulations and procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. Such qualifications, regulations and procedures which apply to the running of the Championship shall be published in the premium list. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with Championship points in accord with the schedule for Amateur Field Championships and shall be entitled to be designated "National Amateur Gordon Setter Field Champion of 20__."

SECTION 32. A National Championship Stake for Pointers may be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age and registered with the AKC, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations and procedures submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club, which shall file an application for permission to run it under the regulations and procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. Such qualifications, regulations and procedures which apply to the running of the championship shall be published in the premium list. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships, and shall be entitled to be designated "National Pointer Field Champion of 20__."

SECTION 33. A National Amateur Championship Stake for Pointers may be held not more than once in any calendar year and shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age and registered with the AKC, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations and procedures submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club which shall file an application for permission to run it under the regulations and procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. Such qualifications, regulations and procedures which apply to the running of the championship shall be published in the premium list. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Amateur Field Championships, and the winner shall be entitled to be designated "National Amateur Pointer Field Champion of 20__."

SECTION 34. Pointing Breed Gun Dog Championship stakes consisting of a retrieving stake and a non-retrieving stake and a walking stake may be held not more than once in any calendar year. The stakes shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age and registered with the AKC, which by reason of previous wins (and other qualifications as might be approved) qualify under regulations and procedures approved by the AKC Board of Directors. The stakes may be held by the AKC, a club or association formed for that purpose, or a combination of the AKC, a club or said association, which shall file an application for permission to run them under the regulations and procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. Such qualifications, regulations and procedures which apply to the running of the Championship stakes shall be published in the premium list. Dogs placing in these stakes shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships and shall be entitled to be designated "AKC Gun Dog Stake Champion of 20__" (NGDC) or "AKC Retrieving Gun Dog Stake Champion of 20__" (NGDC) or "AKC National Walking Gun Dog Stake Champion of 20__" (NWGDC)

The AKC Performance Events Department may approve a breed National Championship to be held as an embedded event within the AKC National Gun Dog Championship provided no National Championship for that breed was held the prior year. Approval of the embedded event shall be at the discretion of the Performance Events Department depending on the specifics of the situation.

SECTION 35. A National Championship Stake for English Setters may be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age and registered with the AKC, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations and procedures submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club, which shall file an application for permission to run it under the regulations and procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. Such qualifications, regulations and procedures, which apply to the running of the championship, shall be published in the premium list. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships, and shall be entitled to the designated “National English Setter Field Champion of 20__.”

SECTION 36. A National Amateur Championship Stake for English Setters may be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for dogs over 6 months of age and registered with the AKC, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under regulations and procedures submitted by the Parent Club for the breed and approved by the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club. The stake shall be held by the Parent Club, which shall file an application for permission to run it under the regulations and procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. Such qualifications, regulations and procedures, which apply to the running of the championship, shall be published in the premium list. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Amateur Field Championships, and the winner shall be entitled to be designated “National English Setter Amateur Field Champion of 20__.”

SECTION 37. A National Walking Gun Dog Championship for English Setters may be held not more than once in any calendar year. The stake must be held or sponsored by the Parent Club and must be designated a walking stake. The event shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age. The ESAA may develop entry qualifications that exceed the AKC minimum standard for a National Championship. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships and the winner shall be entitled to the designation “National Walking Gun Dog Champion of 20__.” (NWGDC)

This addition will be retroactive back to November 2023 in order to acknowledge a Walking Championship stake held by the Parent Club.

STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR POINTING BREED FIELD TRIALS

Held By Specialty Clubs For The Following Breeds:

BRITTANYS

POINTERS

GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTERS

GERMAN WIREHAISED POINTERS

ENGLISH SETTERS

GORDON SETTERS

IRISH SETTERS

SPINONE ITALIANO

VIZSLAS

WEIMARANERS

WIREHAISED POINTING GRIFFONS

Held by Pointing Breed Field Trial Clubs that have been formed for the improvement of all eligible pointing breeds. A club that has been formed for the improvement of all eligible pointing breeds may be approved to hold field trials open to all eligible pointing breeds.

PROCEDURE 1. STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE

1-A Puppy Stakes. Puppies must show desire to hunt, boldness, and initiative in covering ground and in searching likely cover. They should indicate the presence of game if the opportunity is presented. Puppies should show reasonable obedience to their handlers' commands, but should not be given additional credit for pointing staunchly. Each dog shall be judged on its actual performance as indicating its future as a high class bird dog. Every premium list for a licensed or member trial shall state whether or not blanks are to be fired in a Puppy Stake. If the premium list states that blanks will be fired, every dog that makes game contact shall be fired over if the handler is within reasonable gun range. At least 15 minutes and not more than 30 minutes shall be allowed for each heat. Championship points will be withheld if a dog has not run for the required time.

1-B Derby Stakes. Derbies must show a keen desire to hunt, be bold and independent, have a fast, yet attractive, style of running, and demonstrate not only intelligence in seeking objectives but also the ability to find game. Derbies must establish point but no additional credit shall be given for steadiness to wing and shot. If the handler is within reasonable gun range of a bird which has been flushed after a point, a shot must be fired. For acceptable use of blanks please refer to Section 1-G Blank Guns. A lack of

opportunity for firing over a Derby dog on point shall not constitute reason for non-placement when it has had game contact in acceptable Derby manner.

Derbies must show reasonable obedience to their handlers' commands. Each dog is to be judged on its actual performance as indicating its future promise as a high class bird dog for Gun Dog or All-Age stakes. Preference should not be given to one potential over another. Application is more important than range in a Derby. At least 20 minutes and not more than 60 minutes shall be allowed for each heat. The length of the Derby stake shall be stated in the event premium list.

Championship points will be withheld if a dog has not run for the required time.

All placed dogs must have established a point.

1-C Gun Dog – Limited Gun Dog Stakes – Grand Limited Gun Dog. A Gun Dog must give a finished performance and must be under its handler's control at all times. It must handle kindly, with a minimum of noise and hacking by the handler. A Gun Dog must show a keen desire to hunt, must have a bold and attractive style of running, and must demonstrate intelligence in quartering and in seeking objectives, stamina, and the ability to find game. The dog must hunt for its handler at all times at a suitable Gun Dog range, and should show or check in front of its handler frequently. It must cover adequate ground but never range out of sight for a length of time that would detract from its usefulness as a practical hunting dog. The dog must locate game, must point staunchly, and must be steady to wing and shot. Intelligent use of the wind and terrain in locating game, accurate nose, and style and intensity on point, are essential.

*Walking Handler Gun Dog range—In Walking Gun Dog Stakes, the dog's range should be suitable for the walking handler. Horseback Handler Gun Dog range—In Horseback Handling Gun Dog Stakes, the dog's range should be suitable for a horseback-mounted handler taking into consideration the cover and terrain.

A dog that does not point cannot be placed. A dog should not be called back to point after the running of its brace except under the most extreme and unusual circumstances.

At least 30 minutes shall be allowed for each brace of a Gun Dog or Limited Gun Dog stake. At least 60 minutes shall be allowed for each brace of a Grand Limited Gun Dog.

Championship points will be withheld if a dog has not run for the required time.

1-D All-Age – Limited All-Age Stakes – Grand

Limited All-Age. An All-Age Dog must give a finished performance and must be under reasonable control of its handler. It must show a keen desire to hunt, have a bold and attractive style of running, stamina, and must show independence in hunting. It must range well out in a forward moving pattern, seeking the most promising objectives, so as to locate any game on the course. Excessive line-casting and avoiding cover must be penalized. The dog must demonstrate its independent judgment in hunting the course, but must show a willingness to handle when called upon. The dog must find game, must point staunchly, and must be steady to wing and shot. Intelligent use of the wind and terrain in locating game, accurate nose, and style and intensity on point, are essential.

A dog that does not point cannot be placed. A dog should not be called back to point after the running of its brace except under the most extreme and unusual circumstances.

At least 30 minutes shall be allowed for each brace of an All-Age or Limited All-Age stake. At least 60 minutes shall be allowed for each brace of a Grand Limited All-Age stake.

Championship points will be withheld if a dog has not run for the required time.

An All-Age stake of any type must allow both horseback and walking handlers. An All-Age stake cannot be designated for walking handlers only.

1-E Honoring in gun dog, all-age, limited gun dog, and limited all-age stakes. A dog encountering its bracemate on point must honor. Failure of a dog to honor when it sees its bracemate on point must be severely penalized, and the intentional avoidance by a dog or a handler of an honoring situation must also be severely penalized. A dog that steals its bracemate's point must be ordered up by the Judges.

A dog honoring a retrieving situation must honor through the completion of the retrieve. However, if the retrieving dog is taking overly long to find the downed bird, the judge may allow the honoring dog to move on. If allowed to move on, the handler shall proceed in a manner which does not interfere with its bracemate's attempt to flush, relocate, or retrieve.

1-F No gun dog, all-age, limited gun dog, or limited all-age stake shall be run in heats of more than 30 minutes at a licensed or member trial unless the running time is given in the premium list.

1-G Blank Guns. In any stake, except in puppy or derby stakes, a blank cartridge must be fired by the handler over any dog on point after the game has been flushed. Handlers should be aware of the

potentially harmful impact the repeated discharge of a blank gun can have on the hearing of people, dogs and horses. The following Regulations apply to the use of blank guns/ammunition.

Blank pistols used to fire a blank cartridge must have a solid barrel incapable of discharging live ammunition. All calibers up to .32 are acceptable. Blank pistols that fire shotgun 209 primers are also acceptable. The .22 caliber "acorn" crimps shall not be used. For .22 caliber blanks produced for other purposes (not specifically for blank pistols), handlers should be guided by the recommendation of the manufacturer with regard to the safety of their use in blank pistols.

The .410 gauge shotguns with blank shells may be permitted if specified in the premium list. No shotgun larger than .410 gauge is allowed. Shotguns must be fired skyward and away from the direction of the gallery and judges.

The handler must shoot within the time that would be required to kill a bird at natural shotgun range. Any deliberate delay in shooting must be severely penalized.

1-H A reasonable move of a dog to mark a bird flushed after a point is acceptable, but this shall not excuse a break or a delayed chase.

PROCEDURE 2. JUDGES

2-A Each Stake must be judged by at least two Judges.

2-B The Judges may place the dogs 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th in each stake.

Judges should withhold 2nd place in an Open Stake if the performance of that dog would not merit championship points should the dog placed 1st be found to be ineligible.

Based on the number of starters in an Amateur Stake, Judges should withhold either 2nd, 3rd, or 4th placements if the performance of a dog would not merit championship points should one of the dog's placing either 1st, 2nd or 3rd be found to be ineligible.

The decisions of the Judges shall be final with respect to the running and placement of the dogs, and in all questions concerning the merits of the dogs. They shall have full power to turn out of any stake any dog that does not reasonably obey its handler or that interferes with the work of its bracemate, and any handler who, in their opinion, willfully interferes with another handler or his dog.

2-C **Misconduct.** Any person who, during the running of a stake, strikes or otherwise abuses or mistreats a dog, or conducts himself in a manner prejudicial to the best interests of the sport, must be expelled from that stake by the Judges who shall

also report the matter to the Field Trial Committee for action under the guide for the Event Committees *Dealing with Misconduct*. A report of the incident and the action taken shall be sent promptly to The American Kennel Club by the Field Trial Secretary.

Failure to act on and report such incidents may result in AKC disciplinary action.

2-D Additional Series. Any additional running of the dogs after the first series of heats has been completed, or after completion of any further series specified in the premium list, shall be entirely at the discretion of the Judges. The Judges shall determine the length and scope of any subsequent series, as well as the bracing of the dogs, conforming with any specific requirements for subsequent series that are described in the premium list.

2-E If the two handlers with their dogs become separated while both are on course and under judgment, one Judge shall accompany each handler; except that a Judge should not follow a dog that cuts the specified course in order to reach the bird field.

Judges should not follow a handler that roams off the designated route of the course. Judges must not gallop to keep pace with handlers that move faster than at a flat walk (refer also to Procedure 6-L).

2-F Apprentice Judge. Each stake may also include one apprentice judge who is a member of the Judging panel for the stake but is considered as a judge-in-training. The selection of individuals shall rest with the host club prior to the start of the assigned stake(s). Apprentice judges shall conduct themselves in the manner customary for judges, shall be identified to all participants and shall be bound by all Rules and Procedures applying to judges. Apprentice judges may not serve in other working capacities (marshals, bird planters, official gunners, etc.) during their judging assignments and any costs incurred by a club for permitting apprentice judges may be passed along to the individuals serving as apprentice judges. Apprentice Judges shall score dogs while under the supervision of the Judges, but their scores and opinions as to the dogs' abilities shall not be considered in any way by the judges as part of their official evaluation in determining placement of the dogs. The Judges shall, from time to time, invite the Apprentice Judge to become involved in conversation with them such as the Judges discussing how and/or why the Apprentice scored a dog the way that he or she did. Persons acting as Apprentice Judges will not receive judging assignment credits and clubs shall obtain the consent of the Judges accepting the assignment before authorizing an Apprentice Judge.

PROCEDURE 3. FIELD TRIAL MARSHALS

3-A The Field Trial Committee shall appoint one or more field trial Marshals. It shall be the duty of one Marshal to assist the Judges and to carry out their instructions, including regulating and controlling the gallery, and seeing to it that the gallery is kept separate from and behind the Judges, and that no one in the gallery talks to the Judges while the dogs are down, and shall advise the handlers and Judges as to the direction and limits of the course. Other Marshals shall see to it that braces are ready when called, and assist the Field Trial Committee in all other matters necessary for the smooth and expeditious running of the trial.

3-B No person shall serve as Marshal assisting the Judges in any stake in which he has entered or will handle a dog.

PROCEDURE 4. DRAWING AND BRACING

4-A **Colored Collars.** The dogs shall generally be run in braces, and each dog in a brace must have a separate handler. The dogs in each brace must be easily identifiable by the judges. The judges may require the dogs to wear different colored collars. If required, the top dog will wear either an orange or red collar. The bottom dog will wear either a yellow or lime collar. Different colored collars may be allowed at the discretion of the judges.

4-B If every dog entered in a stake at a licensed or member field trial has a different handler, the bracing of the dogs in that stake shall be established by a straight drawing and the braces shall then be run in the order drawn.

4-C **Handler with Multiple Dogs.** If two or more dogs with the same handler are entered in a stake at a licensed or member field trial, such entries shall be segregated for the drawing for bracing so that no two dogs handled by the same person can be drawn for the same brace. The running order for all complete braces shall then be determined. If, during the drawing for running order, any handler is drawn to handle in more than two consecutive braces in the same stake, and if there is a later brace to be drawn in which he has no entry, the next brace drawn in which that handler has no dog may be moved up to run following the second consecutive brace, so that the handler would not be required to run in more than two consecutive braces. However, this shall not apply if an alternate handler has been named.

In order to efficiently run an "out and back" course, a club may choose to conduct the draw as follows: First, draw the handlers at random. If a handler in the odd number braces (the "out" braces) has three or more entries, the club may automatically assign

that handler to the following even number brace (the "back" brace). After the handlers have been drawn in this manner, the dogs for each handler shall be drawn at random from the handler's entries. This same logic of bracing handlers back-to-back if they have three or more entries may also be applied to continuous courses if the club determines the stake will be run more efficiently. Handlers should not be required to run in more than two consecutive braces if possible.

4-D Scratches. The bracing and running order established by either method shall not be changed under any circumstances; *except that*

(1) In the case of a scratch or absentee, the bracemate of the absent dog shall be moved down and run with the dog in the next known incomplete brace. If there is no known incomplete brace, it may be run alone, but it must be run in the order drawn for its brace.

(2) If the foregoing procedure would result in the bracing together of two dogs handled by the same person, the two odd dogs shall be rebraced consecutively with the two dogs in the last brace in the stake in which that handler has no dog.

(3) Any new brace or braces so created must be run in the running order drawn for one of the two dogs in the brace, as the Field Trial Committee may decide.

4-E Bye-Dogs. If a bye-dog remains after all the braces have been run, its bracemate shall be selected by the Judges at their sole discretion from among the dogs that have run in that stake; or the Judges may run such a bye-dog without a bracemate. The Judges alone shall decide whether or not any bracemate they select for such a bye-dog shall be under judgment, and if under judgment, for what portion or portions of the heat, and their decision shall be publicly announced before the brace is started.

4-F Bitches in Season. In a stake in which bitches in season are permitted to compete under Chapter 14, Section 4, they shall run immediately after all other entries in the stake have run, and the bracing and running order of such bitches shall be established by a second drawing to be held immediately after the drawing of all other entries.

All of the above Procedures for drawing and bracing shall apply, except that:

(1) any bitch that comes in season after the drawing shall be moved down to run at the end of the day, or at the end of the stake, to run last, as or with the bye-dog if a bitch;

(2) when an incomplete brace occurs for any reason, if the bracemate of the absent dog is a male and the dog in the next known incomplete brace is a bitch in season, the male may be run alone, but must

be run in the order drawn for its brace.

4-G Bracing Walking Handlers Together. In horseback handling stakes, walking handlers shall be braced together if possible provided the event secretary is aware of the walking handler prior to the draw. Walking handlers must indicate on their entry form that they will be walking. When the first walking handler is selected during the random draw, another walking handler shall be selected randomly as the brace mate. This process shall continue until all walking handlers have been braced.

4-H Running Order. A listing showing the running order for each stake, giving the full AKC-registered name of each starting dog and the name of its handler must either be available for each contestant or displayed throughout the running of the stake.

4-I Options Regarding Number of Entries. A club hosting a licensed or member field trial may choose from three options regarding the number of entries they are willing to accept. The option selected is at the discretion of the club based on the resources available and consideration for participants.

4-I (1) Fixed Format Trial. Limit Entries to the Number That Can Be Run Under the Format Shown in the Premium. If this option is selected:

- The premium shall state a limit regarding the number of entries for the trial, or for each or any stake, or as the number of entries that can be judged within the daylight hours available on the dates of the trial and that entries will close when the limits have been reached if this occurs prior to the specified closing time.
- The trial must be run as stated in the premium and it must be completed in the days specified.
- The club can not reserve the right to rearrange the running order of the trial or add/rearrange judges.

4-I (2) Unlimited Trial. The trial must accommodate all entries. In order to accomplish this, the unlimited trial shall be run as follows:

- The premium shall not in any manner state a limit to the number of entries that will be accepted. Further, it shall state the club reserves the right to rearrange the running order if conditions warrant.
- A club is obligated to accommodate all entries received prior to closing.
- In order to accommodate all entries, a club can add courses, rearrange the running of the stakes, add/rearrange judges, and add days to the end of the trial.
- If judges are added/rearranged, the club is under

no obligation to refund entry fees if a participant decides to withdraw except for dogs and/or people that become ineligible to run under the revised judging panel.

- The right to modify the trial format from that explained in the premium only applies when there is a need to accommodate an entry larger than can be reasonably handled by the original format. In other words, the unlimited format trial does not allow a club to modify the trial format for reasons other than a larger than expected entry.

4-I (3) **Flexible Format Trial.** Specify a Maximum Number of Entries – Reserve Right to Rearrange Running Order. If this option is selected:

- The premium shall state that the trial is being run under the flexible format option and the club reserves the right to rearrange the running order of the stakes and add/rearrange judges if the size of the trial cannot be accommodated by the plan stated in the premium.
- The premium shall state a maximum number of entries that will be allowed, either by stake or the trial in total or as the number of dogs that can be judged within the daylight hours available on the dates of the trial and that entries will close when the maximum number of entries has been reached if this occurs prior to the specified closing time.
- The trial must be completed in the days specified.
- The format specified in the premium shall depict the manner in which the club expects to run the trial based on its previous experience.
- On the occasion that an unexpectedly large or small entry occurs which can be more efficiently accommodated by a different format than the one stated in the premium, the flexible format option allows a club to rearrange the running order of the stakes and add/rearrange judges.
- The club must decide how to format the trial before the drawing. The trial should be run as closely as possible to the original format.
- The club must make a reasonable effort to inform all affected participants and AKC if the trial format changes from the one shown in the premium. The event secretary must be available to take calls.
- If judges for a stake are changed from those shown in the premium, the club must refund entry fees if a participant decides to withdraw due to the change in judges. No entries may be withdrawn for this reason after the stake has started.

In the case of extenuating circumstances occurring prior to the trial which results in a need to format the trial outside of the conditions of these options, the club should contact the Performance Events Department at fieldtrials@akc.org or (919) 816-3908 (North Carolina).

PROCEDURE 5. COURSES AND BIRDS

5-A Stakes at licensed or member field trials may be run on any of the following types of course, all of which must include sufficient acreage, adequate cover for birds, and suitable objectives.

(1) **Single Course With Bird Field** consisting of a back course and a bird field which has sufficient cover to hold birds and which is of adequate size to permit a dog to hunt naturally without excessive hacking. A bird field must not be less than five (5) acres, and 10 acres is recommended. At a licensed or member trial no less than two birds must be liberated in the bird field for each brace in first series in all stakes except the Puppy Stake. Additional birds must be liberated either in the bird field or on the back course for each brace. Prior to starting a stake, the back course must have sufficient birds liberated to provide good opportunity for dogs to demonstrate their pointing ability while on course. It is recommended that no less than five (5) birds be liberated. Birds should be replaced for each brace as required to present equal opportunity for each brace.

(2) **Single Course Without Bird Field** consisting entirely of a course without any specific bird field, on which birds are liberated in suitable places around the course. At a licensed or member trial a minimum of two birds must be liberated between each brace at a suitable place on the course in all stakes except the Puppy Stake.

It is recommended that no less than ten (10) birds be initially liberated at the start of the day in order to salt the course. Birds should be replaced for each brace as required to present equal opportunity for each brace.

(3) **Out and Back Course Without Bird Field** alternating breakaway and pick-up points consisting entirely of a course without any specific bird field. Braces shall be run in alternating directions from each breakaway and pick-up point. At a licensed or member field trial on less than two (2) birds must be liberated for each brace at suitable places on the course in all stakes except the Puppy Stake(s).

It is recommended that no less than ten (10) birds be liberated initially. Replacement birds should be liberated behind each running brace for subsequent braces as required to present an equal opportunity for each brace.

(4) **Multiple Courses With Bird Field(s)** consisting of more than one back course, each with a designated breakaway and each with either its own or a common bird field, with the back courses being used in systematic rotation. At a licensed or member trial, a minimum of two birds must be liberated in the utilized bird field between each brace in first series except the Puppy Stake. Additional birds may be liberated either in the bird field or on the back course.

(5) **Multiple Courses Without Bird Field(s)** consisting of more than one back course, each with a designated breakaway, which are used in systematic rotation. At a licensed or member trial, a minimum of two birds must be liberated between each brace at suitable places on the utilized course in all stakes except the Puppy Stake.

(6) **A Continuous Course** consisting of a series of courses on which each brace starts where the last brace was picked up. On such a course it is assumed that there is adequate natural or liberated game.

5-B A stake may be run without a bird field for the first series with additional series consisting of nothing but bird field work for the dogs, provided this is specified in the premium list. Birds for additional series shall be liberated as directed by the Judges.

5-C The same requirements for liberated birds that apply to other stakes at a licensed or member trial shall also apply to the Puppy Stake unless the premium list specifies that no birds will be liberated in the Puppy Stake.

5-D No liberated bird shall be removed from the course or from the bird field unless dead or crippled in which case it should be picked up.

5-E Regular stakes at a licensed or member trial shall be run only on recognized game birds, and the birds should be strong, healthy, full-feathered and clean; except that in Puppy Stakes non-game birds may be used if specified in the premium list.

5-F Birds should, if possible, be liberated in natural cover rather than in artificially created cover. They should not be placed in holes nor in such cover as will impede their ability to fly or run. Birds may be rocked or dizzied but not to such an extent as to affect their ability to fly. Game Stewards should wear gloves and should not hold birds against their bodies. Successive birds should not be liberated in or near the same spot.

Bird planting prior to your own brace, or prior to the running of dogs owned by close associates, creates the perception of favoritism and is discouraged.

5-G The premium list for a licensed or member trial shall specify the type of course and species of

game to be liberated in each stake.

5-H Wild Bird Trials. Trials run on wild birds are encouraged. As a general guideline, a wild bird trial should not cover the same course more than twice a day and once a day is preferable. Regulations pertaining to bird planting do not apply if a trial is a wild bird trial.

PROCEDURE 6. RUNNING AND HANDLING

6-A Five Minute Rule. The duty of having a dog ready in place when required for judging rests solely with its handler or owner. All dogs should be ready on the grounds well in advance of the scheduled times for their braces so that the Judges will not be held up in case of an absent brace. If a dog is not present at the place where it is to start within 5 minutes after it is called for by the Judges to run in any series, it must be disqualified. The Judges are responsible for keeping the time.

6-B No more than one brace shall be run on a course or on any part of a course at the same time, irrespective of whether the dogs are in the same stake or in different stakes.

6-C Time in Bird Field. In a stake on a single course with bird field the time of each heat shall include no more than 8 minutes in the bird field, except that in Puppy Stakes the time in the bird field shall not exceed 6 minutes. The time shall start when the first dog enters the bird field, except that a dog may be disqualified if it has cut the specified course in order to reach the bird field, in which case time starts when the second dog enters. Otherwise the Judges, or the Marshal if instructed by the Judges, shall see to it that both dogs in each brace are directed to the bird field at as nearly the same time as possible. If one dog has strayed or is otherwise held up on the course, the bracemate and its handler may ordinarily proceed on the course and enter the bird field unless otherwise directed by a Judge.

6-D Time out shall not be called when a dog is on point in the bird field unless so specified in the premium list. If time out is called when a dog is on point in the bird field, its bracemate shall be stopped.

6-E In a Derby Stake, if the second dog is not on point or backing, its handler may, without penalty, hold or otherwise control the dog if there is any likelihood that it would interfere with the dog on point.

6-F A dog that is on point, roading, or obviously on game, when time is up, shall be allowed a reasonable time to complete its work.

6-G Excessive Noise. Judges must discourage and may penalize for continuous or excessive noise or loud vocalizing by handlers in any stake, and

particularly in Gun Dog Stakes. Failure to heed the Judges' instructions may result in disqualification.

6-H Any intimidation or blocking to restrain a dog from breaking to wing or shot shall be severely penalized.

6-I A dog that works with a minimum of handling or commands must be given credit in a Gun Dog, All-Age, Limited Gun Dog or Limited All-Age Stake, whether Amateur or Open Stakes.

6-J **Out of Judgment.** A dog that is out of judgment for a continuous period of more than 5 minutes, or for more than 1/6 of the time specified for the heat if over 30 minutes, shall not be placed unless seen on point by a Judge or unless, in the opinion of the Judges, the dog's absence was due to unusual conditions. At the end of the brace, if the clock has started due to a dog's absence, the handler shall be given the remaining time to show the dog.

If at the conclusion of a brace, a dog has not been seen for a noticeable period of time, the handler must produce the dog. The 1/6 of the time of the brace rule shall apply.

6-K No person shall in any manner assist a handler in controlling his dog. The Judges may disqualify any dog if its handler receives assistance in controlling the dog or if the dog receives direction of any kind from anyone except its handler.

After a riding handler has dismounted and collared his dog on course, the handler may give the dog to a scout while the handler mounts his horse. The scout may move the dog to a location which affords a clean breakaway.

6-L **Scouting.** Any scouting for a dog shall be done by a scout appointed by the handler of that dog. The scout shall be named prior to the start of the brace and shall act solely with permission of one or more of the Judges. A scout must not handle a dog in any manner, except at the direction of a Judge, and except as provided for in the second paragraph of Procedure 6-K, above. Such violation will be cause for the dog to be immediately ordered up by the Judges. When a dog has returned to the course and is under the handler's control, the scout must immediately return to the gallery. A scout shall not engage in out-riding. If a judge feels a scout is out-riding, the judge shall instruct the scout to return to the gallery. When not scouting, the scout shall ride behind the Judges.

Scouts who disregard or disobey the instructions of the Judges must be excused from further scouting by the Judges. Judges may also order a dog picked up for abuse of any of these provisions by the scout.

In amateur stakes, only an amateur shall be utilized as a scout.

6-M **Pick Up a Dog on Course.** Any handler

wishing to pick up his dog during the running of a brace must, out of courtesy, inform the judge and receive acknowledgement from the judge prior to picking up the dog.

6-N No one shall be permitted in the bird field at any time during the running of a stake; except for the Judges, the Official Guns, and the handlers of the competing dogs while the dogs are in the bird field; and except for the Game Stewards to the extent necessary to release game.

6-O Promiscuous firing of guns or blank pistols on the field trial grounds is prohibited. The handler of a dog shall fire one blank and no more for each flush of one or more birds.

6-P There shall be no training of dogs anywhere on the course until the trial has been concluded.

This Procedure also intends that a check cord cannot be used while a dog is under judgment in any stake at an AKC-licensed or member club trial.

6-Q **Roading Behind the Gallery.** Rooding behind the gallery is intended solely for the purpose of exercising a dog. Safety and not interfering with the event are of primary importance. At a trial, rooding a dog behind the gallery will be allowed at the host club's discretion under the following conditions:

- If the host club does not want to allow rooding at a trial, it shall state this in the premium.
- Dogs being rooded must follow the course, remaining a safe distance behind the gallery so as to not interfere with dogs under judgment.
- A person rooding a dog may not intentionally position themselves in order for the dog to observe birdwork or practice honoring.
- No rooding is allowed in stakes where gunning occurs on course or in a bird field.
- Rooding is only allowed off horseback or on foot.
- No more than two dogs at a time may be rooded by a person.
- A club that allows rooding can specify the total number of dogs that may be rooded at the same time if they feel this is a potential issue.
- Either the judges or the event committee may decide that an individual is not rooding safely or is abusing this privilege and not allow the individual to continue this activity.

6-R **Training Collars** used to control and train dogs including but not limited to collars with prongs, electronic collars used with transmitters, muzzles and head collars may not be used on dogs while on the grounds at AKC events.

6-S **Tracking Devices.** For regulations governing the use of tracking devices see page 65. Belled collars

are permissible. Beeper collars are not permitted.

6-T Vests. Vests are not to be worn by dogs while under judgement except in cases of lactating females or for medical reasons.

6-U Misconduct. The Field Trial Committee and the Judges shall not permit severe training, correcting or disciplining of dogs on any part of the field trial grounds. The Committee shall investigate any reports of such conduct or of any other conduct prejudicial to the best interests of purebred dogs, field trials, or The American Kennel Club. Any person who conducts himself in a manner prejudicial to the best interests of the sport shall be dealt with promptly, during the trial if possible, after the offender has been notified of the specific charges against him, and has been given an opportunity to be heard in his own defense, in accordance with the *Dealing with Misconduct Guide*.

6-V Horseback Handling. The premium list for any licensed or member field trial must specify whether or not handling from horseback will be permitted in any or all stakes. If handling from horseback is permitted in any stake, the club should attempt to provide horses.

The Judges shall see to it that any mounted handler uses his horse only as a means of conveyance on the course and never as an active aid in handling. The handlers shall remain on the specified course in front of the Judges and in the Judges' line of travel, except as necessary to handle a dog that is seen on point. The Judges shall control the pace, whether both handlers are on foot or both are mounted. If one handler is mounted and the other is on foot, the Judges shall set a reasonable pace to accommodate the foot handler. Mounted handlers must keep their horses at a flat walk at all times unless otherwise authorized by a Judge.

A handler must always dismount before handling his dog on game and before firing. No handler's horse may be brought into the bird field.

6-W Appointing a Second Handler. The Judges may appoint a second handler to take over during the running if the original handler becomes injured or otherwise incapacitated and is unable to finish the brace.

PROCEDURE 7. RETRIEVING STAKES

7-A The premium list for any licensed or member field trial must identify any Retrieving Stake, and must specify each stake in which birds are to be shot.

It is mandatory that the Judges, gunners, handlers of the working dogs and Marshals wear a blaze orange outer garment (vest or jacket

as a minimum) in any Retrieving Stake. When gunning is on course, gallery must also wear a blaze orange outer garment (vest or jacket as a minimum).

As to how much orange is required, clubs should follow the hunting regulations of the State where the event is being held.

7-B All shooting in any licensed, member or sanctioned field trial shall be done by Official Guns only, and the Judges shall have complete authority over all such shooting. They may require a change of Official Guns at any time, and may bar from further shooting in that trial any Official Gun who does not abide strictly by safe gunning rules.

Only breaking-type shotguns of open choke of at least 20 gauge but not greater than 12 gauge shall be used by the Official Guns. Gunners must be 21 years of age or older.

7-C Two Official Guns are required for each brace, one to accompany each handler. Provision must also be made for alternate or stand-by Guns in case they should be required.

7-D Official Guns must be familiar with all of the requirements of this Procedure.

7-E One Official Gun must join each handler as he enters the bird field, or if a bird field is not used, at a designated place on the course. The Official Gun must always keep himself in the correct position for safety of dogs and persons.

7-F Game should be shot cleanly, in a sportsmanlike manner, in full flight, at a distance that will give the dog a reasonable retrieve. An Official Gun represents the handler up to the time that game is shot, but must not interfere or assist in any manner with his work nor direct the work of the dog.

7-G Game flushed by a free running dog or birds that flush wild shall not be shot except on instructions from a Judge. If a bird does not fly after an attempt to flush by a handler, it shall not be shot on the ground except on instructions from a Judge.

7-H Official Guns should wear game bags.

7-I The AKC strongly recommends that gunners wear appropriate hearing and eye protection.

7-J Gunners shall not tell handlers where birds were released or flush a bird for a handler. However, after a dog has established point, if the gunner sees the bird while the handler is searching for it, the gunner may point the bird out to the handler.

7-K Retrieving is required in all Retrieving Stakes and counts as an important part of a dog's performance. After the shot, the handler shall not command or signal the dog to retrieve until the dog's steadiness to wing and shot has been positively

demonstrated. The dog must retrieve promptly, tenderly and absolutely to hand in all retrieving stakes.

A dog that demonstrates a less than satisfactory retrieve shall not be placed. A reasonable retrieve satisfies the purpose of conserving game.

If any dog that is being considered for placement in a Retrieving Stake has not had an opportunity to retrieve, the Judges must set up a retrieve for the dog. A live game bird shall be planted and the dog allowed to establish point. In a call back situation, the dog must be turned loose to hunt for and point the bird. A dog cannot be heeled into a point. The handler shall flush the bird, and the shooting shall be done by no more than two Official Guns.

7-L Once a dog has demonstrated steadiness to wing and shot, and has been sent for the retrieve, if it encounters a second bird, the dog may, without penalty, point, stop to flush or attempt to retrieve the bird. If the retrieve is completed, the dog shall be credited with a complete retrieve with no penalties.

PROCEDURE 8. MOTORIZED VEHICLES

Motorized vehicles may be used in Pointing Breed Field Trials for the following purposes at the option of the club, provided land use regulations allow:

(1) A motorized vehicle may serve as a gallery wagon or to pull a gallery wagon,

(2) A motorized vehicle may serve as a dog wagon,

(3) All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) or Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs), may be used for the purpose of liberating birds on course.

(4) If the stake calls for gunning on course, ATVs/UTVs may be used by the gunners,

(5) ATVs/UTVs may be used for other unique purposes as approved by the Performance Events Department.

ATVs/UTVs must meet all applicable government, state, and federal requirements. ATVs/UTVs are not allowed in bird fields.

Operators of motorized vehicles must be aware of their impact on horses and must not endanger mounted participants.

**SCHEMATIC COURSE DIAGRAMS FOR
POINTING BREED TRIALS (see Procedure 5)**

Time in birdfield:
Puppy stake: 6 minutes maximum
All other stakes: 8 minutes maximum

Birdfield

(Min. 5 acres-10 acres recommended)

Back Course

Time on back course (excluding Birdfield)

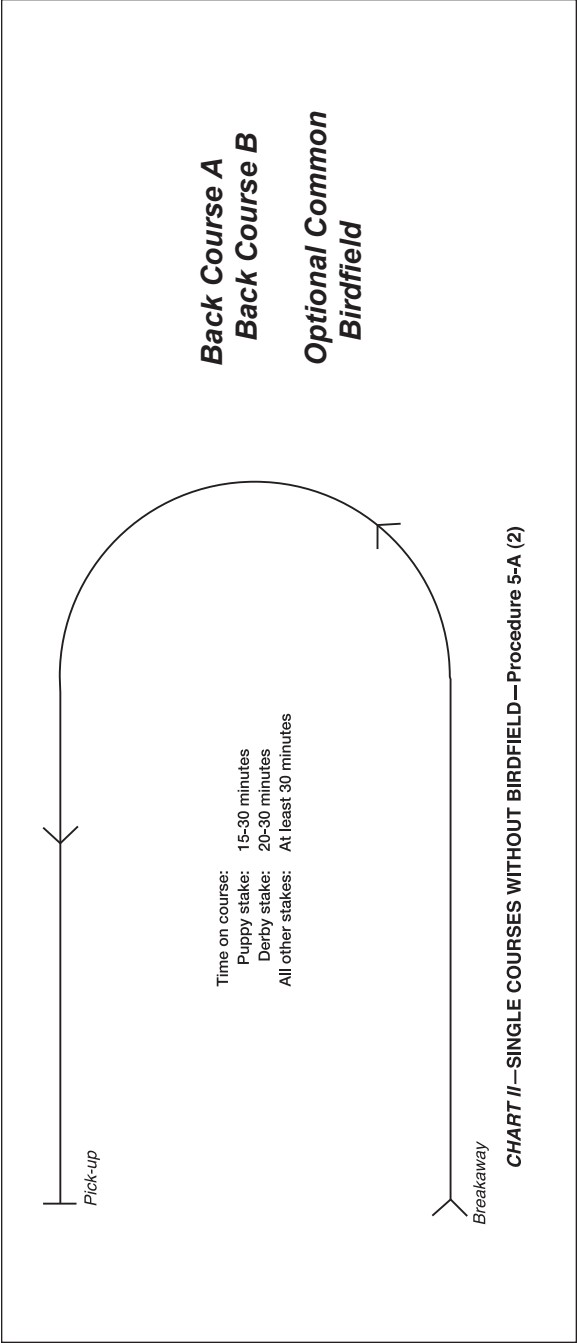
Puppy stake: 9-24 minutes

Derby stake: 12-22 minutes

All other stakes: At least 22 minutes

Breakaway

CHART 1—SINGLE COURSE WITH BIRDFIELD—Procedure 5-A (1)



Back Course A
Back Course B
Optional Common
Birdfield

Time on course:
 Puppy stake: 15-30 minutes
 Derby stake: 20-30 minutes
 All other stakes: At least 30 minutes

CHART II—SINGLE COURSES WITHOUT BIRDFIELD— Procedure 5-A (2)

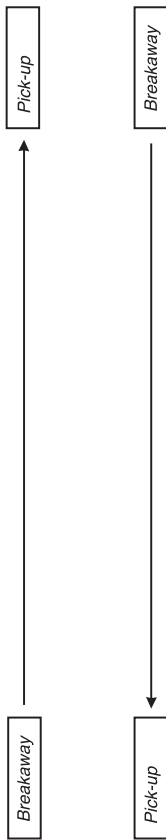


CHART IV—SINGLE COURSE AS AN ALTERNATING COURSE OUT & BACK

See Charts I and II
For Back Course/Birdfield Times

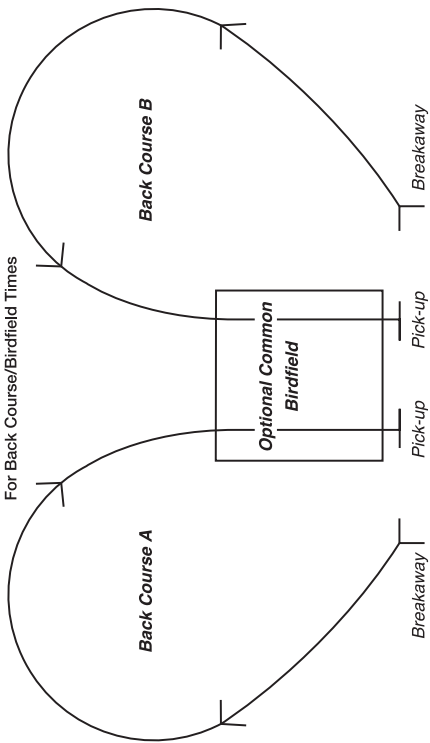


CHART III—MULTIPLE COURSES WITH/WITHOUT BIRDFIELD—Procedure 5-A (3) & (4)

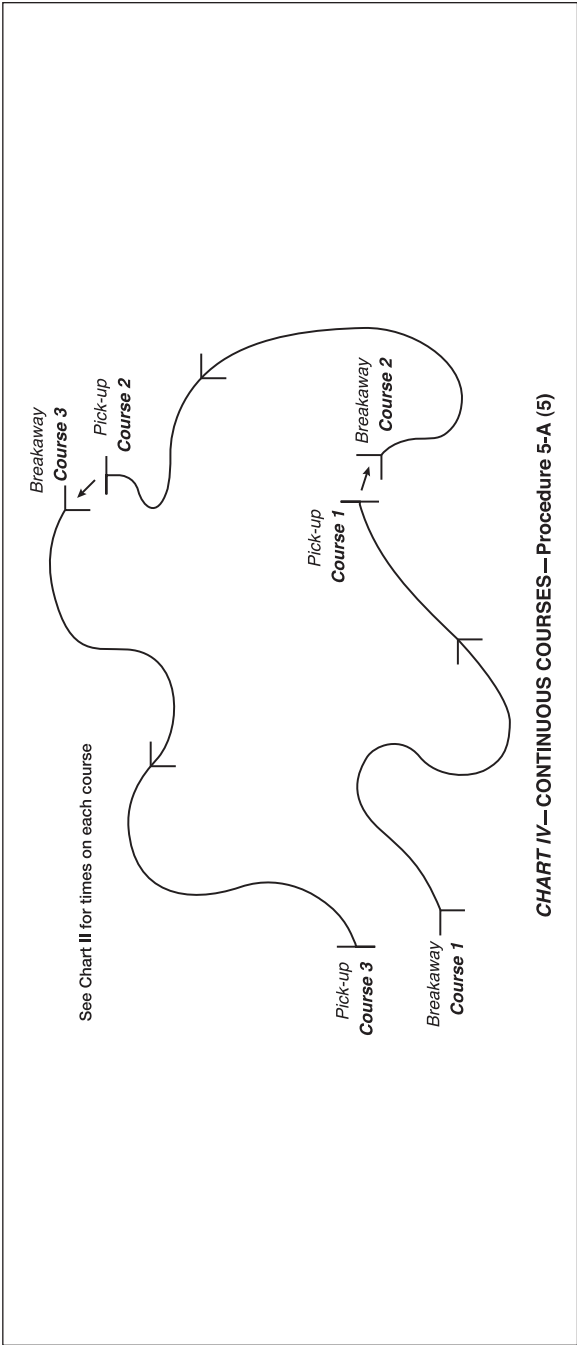


CHART IV—CONTINUOUS COURSES—Procedure 5-A (5)

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Acting Birdy** – Demonstrating the presence of game.
- Alternate Handler** – A second person designated on the official entry to handle a dog in a field trial.
- Attacking Dog** – A dog willfully attempting to do physical harm to another dog.
- Backing** – See Honoring.
- Birdless** – A dog completing its brace without finding game. Except in Open Puppy stakes, birdless dogs are generally eliminated from consideration for placement.
- Blinking Birds** – Scenting but deliberately avoiding game.
- Brace** – A pair of dogs (2 dogs).
- Break Away** – The point at which a course begins.
- Breaking** – Leaving before, or without having been sent.
- Bumping Birds** – Scenting and then causing game to fly without establishing point.
- Bye-Dog** – A dog drawn as the last dog in a stake without a bracemate.
- Call Back** – An opportunity afforded a dog by the Judges after completion of its initial run. This is done to give a dog an opportunity to compete further, or to allow a dog to demonstrate a stake requirement, such as retrieving or honoring.
- Cast** – The direction and range demonstrated by a dog while seeking game.
- Collaring** – The act of grasping a dog's collar to control it or cast it in another direction.
- Course** – The designated route on which the dogs will perform.
- Course Objectives** – Variations in the terrain and/or vegetative cover which could hold game.
- Cover** – The vegetation on course.
- Delayed Chase** – Running in the direction of flushed game after either pointing, honoring or stopping to flush instead of obeying the handler's command to cast off in a different direction.
- Fetch**—One of a number of commands that can be given to a dog to release it to demonstrate a retrieve.
- Find** – Game located when a dog is hunting.
- Flash Point** – momentary pause, not acceptable for a Derby placement.
- Gallery** – Observers of a field trial.

- Game** – Upland birds, except in Open Puppy were pigeons can be used.
- Gunshy** – Afraid of gunfire.
- Hacking** – Verbal intimidation of a dog.
- Handler** – The person handling a dog in a trial.
- Heeling Off** – The act of verbally causing a dog to walk at a handler's side.
- Honoring** – When a dog stops immediately or within a few steps, usually in a pointing stance, upon observing a brace mate on point.
- Interference** – When a dog willfully hinders or impedes the performance of a brace mate.
- Line Running** – Running in a straight away manner without quartering or seeking objectives.
- Mark** – The characteristic of a dog to watch, or mark, the flight and/or fall of a bird.
- Order Up a Dog** – The Judges' command to a handler to remove his dog from the course upon completion of judging or for an infraction that disqualifies the dog.
- Pick Up a Dog** – When a dog is removed from further judgement.
- Pointing** – When a dog indicates the presence and position of game by standing immobile and directing its muzzle toward it.
- Pointing Intensity** – Same as above but with exceptional concentration, power or force.
- Pointing Style** – The degree of intensity, loftiness or elegance a dog demonstrates while pointing.
- Quartering** – To laterally traverse (back and forth) an area of ground while advancing forward.
- Range/run** – The distance at which a dog works from the handler.
- Release a Dog** – To send a dog on.
- Relocate a Dog** – To release a dog from a point or honor and move the dog on, usually to relocate moving game.
- Retrieve** – To find and bring back shot game.
- Roading a Bird** – The repeated pointing and relocating demonstrated by a dog while following the ground scent trail of a bird.
- Running Order** – A listing of the bracing and running order of dogs entered in all stakes in a field trial.
- Running Style** – The manner in which a dog traverses a course, including speed and efficiency in movement.

Scout – A person, generally mounted, dispatched by a handler, with the approval of a judge, to seek out and report the presence and behavior of a dog under judgement.

Scratch a Dog – To withdraw a dog from competition after the drawing but before competing.

Severely Penalize – To impose a punishment or handicap upon a dog for a breach of manners or some other serious fault. Generally, a dog that has been severely penalized once during judgement should not receive championship points. A dog that has been severely penalized more than once should not receive a placement.

Shotgun Range – The effective range of a shotgun, generally about 20-50 yards.

Stake – A competitive category in a field trial. See Chapter 17, Section 2.

Steady-to-Shot – Maintaining a point during the flight of, and the shot(s) for a flushed bird.

Steady-to-Wing – Maintaining a point during the flight of a flushed bird.

Stealing Point – A dog that steals a point makes continued movement into the area where the game is present after observing another dog on point, rather than honoring.

Stop-to-Flush – When a dog stops after observing the flush of a bird.

Tracking – To follow using scent.

Whoa a Dog – A command used to cause a dog to stop and stand.

POINTING BREED FIELD TRIAL JUDGES GUIDELINES

1. Mounted handlers must keep horses at a flat walk. Judges control the pace.
2. Instruct your handlers to remain on the course.
3. Do not allow handlers to ride off with their dogs or push their dogs into birdy areas.
4. Instruct your Marshal to control the gallery at all times.
 - A. Stay together.
 - B. Do not gallop to a dog on point.
 - C. Do not handle a dog.
5. A scout cannot handle a dog in any manner except at the direction of the Judges. Only an Amateur can act as a scout in Amateur stakes.
6. In retrieving stakes, handlers must never pick up the bird and throw it, unless unusual circumstances exist, and the Judge instructs the handler to do so.
7. Handlers should never block the dog's view or restrain it from breaking to wing or shot. This is severely penalized.
8. Judges should make every effort to allow the dog to demonstrate its steadiness to wing and shot. Dogs should be sent to retrieve only after demonstrating steadiness with the bird on the ground.
9. Dogs must retrieve absolutely to hand in retrieving stakes.
10. In retrieving stakes, one of the official guns must join each handler as the handler enters the bird field or at a designated place on the course when following on horseback.
11. Judges must discourage and may penalize handlers for continuous or excessive loud vocalizing when handling dogs, particularly in a gun dog stake.
12. No electronic or dummy electronic devices may be worn by a dog while competing, except for an approved electronic tracking collar.
13. Severe training or correction is not permitted on the field trial grounds.
14. Remember, dogs must find and point birds in the Derby stake.
15. Dogs must find and point birds and demonstrate steadiness in all adult stakes.
16. Dogs in Gun Dog and All-Age stakes must honor when encountering their bracemate on point. In order to execute a proper honor, a dog must see the pointing dog before being commanded

to stop, and must clearly demonstrate that it is honoring and not merely held by command. A dog that honors naturally, requiring no command to stop, must be given more credit for bird work than a dog requiring a command.

17. A dog that is out of judgement for a continuous period of more than five minutes (or for more than 1/6 of the running time if over 30 minutes) cannot be placed unless seen on point by a Judge, or unless in the Judge's opinion the absence was due to unusual conditions.

POINTING BREED FIELD TRIAL GALLERY ETIQUETTE

Members of the field trial gallery must remember that they are spectators and should do nothing that would distract dogs in competition, handlers, or judges. The following Gallery Etiquette should help make everyone's experience a good one.

- The gallery must not fan out across the field or straggle too far behind.
- It is important to be courteous to the other members of the gallery.
- Do ride quietly and do not volunteer information unless it has been requested.
- The marshal is in control of the gallery at all times. The gallery may not move in front of the marshal, judges or handlers. Do not ride past a handler who is mounting a horse after casting off, or after bird work. If the dogs in a brace become separated, only the appointed scout may move forward (in the case of a National, the scribe and judge's marshal may also move up) with the handler and judge; unless given permission by the judge to move on, other members of the gallery must remain behind the marshal.
- If a dog or handler is trying to come up through a mounted gallery, move aside and let them through. When a dog is called on point, do not gallop to the dog, but ride quietly behind the marshal to a place where the bird work may be observed. (Can you imagine what thundering hooves must feel and sound like to the birds, or the dog?)
- AKC regulations prohibit members of the gallery from talking to the judges. Please keep this in mind and do not distract the judges. It only takes a split second to miss an opportunity to evaluate a dog working.

Be sure to practice good sportsmanship and safe horsemanship; riding in the gallery should be fun for all.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF TRACKING DEVICES IN AKC POINTING DOG EVENTS

The use of tracking devices is solely for locating the dog once the dog is no longer under judgement. Information obtained through the use of a tracking device must not be used to aid the handler, scout or judges. If the host club allows tracking devices, the following regulations on their use will apply:

1. AKC Approved – Only tracking collars approved by the AKC Performance Events Department will be permitted. The collar and receiver must be used as received from the manufacturer. No modifications may be made other than name tags may be added. The collar surface against the dog's neck shall be flat. Approval will include both the collar and the receiver. See approved tracking devices at www.akc.org/trackingdevices/.
2. Carrying Receivers – The scout may not carry a receiver or device capable of receiving a tracking signal, wireless or hardwired, from a receiver. The handler may carry a receiver with the permission of the Judges. The receiver tracking the dog must be turned off while the dog is under judgment.
3. Receivers at any other locations such as the gallery, clubhouse, campsite, vehicle, trailer, etc. and in the Gallery Must Be Turned Off – No one in the gallery shall track the dogs while the dogs are under judgment. This includes receivers in the parking area.
4. No "Outside" Communications – No one shall communicate in any manner with the handler, scout, judges or gallery any information obtained through the use of a tracking device while the dogs are under judgment. This includes the use of cell phones.
5. Receivers May Only Be Used Once the Dog is No Longer Under Judgment – Receivers shall only be activated once judgment has concluded. If a dog is gone at time, the dog is still under judgment until the judges indicate otherwise.
6. Dogs Lost From Previous Braces – If a dog is lost from a previous brace, the handler and scout may use their receivers during the next brace solely for the purpose of locating their dog. Once the dog is located, they must immediately turn off their receivers. They must not communicate any information they obtain through the use of their receivers concerning the dogs currently under judgment.
7. Judges May Not Consider Information Obtained Through Tracking Devices – Judges are not to

- consider any information obtained through the use of a tracking device. No one shall use information from a tracking device to attempt to influence a judge or to discredit the judge's decision.
8. The use of a tracking collar is an elective and it is the handler's responsibility to furnish the device. The running of a stake shall not be held up due to the lack of a tracking device.
 9. Two-Collar Rule – A dog may wear no more than two collars except one flea/tick collar may be worn in addition to the two collars. All collars shall be worn on the dog's neck. If the handler elects to use a tracking collar, it shall remain on the dog during the entire time the dog is under judgment. If the handler removes the tracking collar, the dog shall be considered out of judgment. *Only one of the two collars may be a tracking collar.*
 10. The use of tracking devices is at the discretion of the host club. For Field Trials, the premium list must state that tracking devices are not allowed, otherwise they will be allowed.
 11. Rescinding Use – Use of specific tracking devices may be rescinded at any time by the AKC Performance Events Department if the regulations pertaining to their use become overly difficult to enforce or in the case of repeated misuse.
 12. Tracking devices may be worn during call backs, including a call back for retrieve, except if a dog did not wear a tracking collar during the running of its brace, it may not wear one in a callback.

Note: Electronic flashing collars are not allowed in AKC Pointing Breed field events.

Penalty for Misuse of Tracking Devices

If an Event Committee determines a violation of these Regulations may have occurred, the accused (which includes anyone involved in the misuse of the tracking device including the act of communicating improperly obtained information) shall be charged with misconduct. An Event Committee hearing must be held. If the Event Committee determines through the hearing process that a violation did occur, the accused shall be immediately suspended from all forms of participation in AKC Pointing Breed field events. The dog shall be disqualified from the stake.

REFERENCE

Applications.....	Chapter 3
Premium Lists.....	Chapter 5; Section 2, Chapter 7
Procedure	1-I through 6-R, 6-P
Judges.....	Chapter 14; Section 6
Entries	Chapter 8, Chapter 14; Section 4 & 5
Running Order	Chapter 5, Section 2
Procedure	4

AKC Code of Sportsmanship

PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

NOTICE

The *italicized* portions of this book are not rules but are either regulations, explanations or Board policy.

Complete text of booklet available at: www.akc.org

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