

QF CHAPTER Shoot-to-Retrieve Trials

Updated September 2016—See # 13

RULES OF JUDGMENT

Six birds will be placed in the field for the first brace. 5 birds will be planted for each subsequent brace regardless of the number of birds removed (or moved) from the field in the previous brace. Same format as NSTRA trials.

Trial will be conducted on a non-subjective point system as described below:

POINTING

- 1) A score of '1' will be awarded for each productive point.

Criteria: Point must be established without encouragement from handler.

Handler may command the dog after 5- count is complete.

Style, intensity, head or tail movement are not in judgment.

Dogs must hold point for a '5 count'

Judges must count aloud so that handler can hear the count.

If the dog takes a step during the 5-count, the judge will tell the handler to re-establish point and stand for another 5-count.

Handler and/or dog can flush the bird. Designated shooter (if used) must flush the bird.

Pointed bird must be in bounds—All of mowed strip on perimeter is out of bounds.

RETRIEVING

- 2) A score of '1' will be awarded for each retrieve.

Criteria: Only scored birds from #1 above can be used for a retrieve.

Bird must be retrieved to within one step and a reach of the arm.

Handler can command the dog during a retrieve.

Handler must remain in position where shot was taken. Handler must move immediately after the shot to the immediate location of the designated shooter if one is used.

Bird must be retrieved within 60 seconds of being located dead.

A score of one (1) will be awarded for a bird flushed into a safety zone.

only if the dog scores a retrieve on a different bird during the brace. If a dog has all safeties or interferences on his scorecard, when the brace is finished the dog will have the opportunity to show it will retrieve. The handler will throw a freshly killed bird into an area of moderate cover for the dog to retrieve. The thrown bird must land a minimum of 40' from the handler/dog. The dog will have 60 seconds to retrieve upon locating the dead bird. If successful, each safety (or interference) becomes a scored retrieve.

No score will be given for a partial retrieve.

BACKING

- 3) A score of '1' will be awarded for the first 'back' honoring a bracemate's point.

Criteria: Dog must establish 'back' without encouragement from the handler.

Handler can command dog after 'back' is established.

Handler must hold dog until the pointing dog's handler has attempted to flush for 15 seconds. After 15 seconds, the backing dog can be leashed and walked away so as not to interfere with the pointing dog.

The pointing dog does not have to produce a bird for the backing dog to receive a score.

Neither the pointing dog nor the backing dog has to be in bounds to score a 'back'.

Dog must "back" at the first opportunity he has in the brace. Failure to do so will prevent a score for backing from being awarded later in the brace. Example: dog 1 is on point and in the judge's opinion dog # 2 saw dog # 1 and failed to back at that time.

Dog # 2 will not be awarded a score for backing at a subsequent opportunity during the brace.

This is a judgment call on the judge's part and shall not be challenged as the Field Marshall will not have knowledge of the full set of circumstances that occurred at the time of infraction.

- 4) No score can be awarded for work performed on a marked bird.

A marked bird is any bird flushed in any manner that was not in judgment under #1 above. A bird shall stay 'marked' for a period of 3 minutes.

No bird can be scored upon twice in the same brace. Example: Shooter # 1 misses a bird pointed and scored upon by Dog # 1. The missed bird lands in bounds. Dog # 2 cannot be awarded a score on the bird that shooter # 1 missed.

- 5) All ties will be broken with "time to first scored flush" in # 1 above. Judges will mark the **time of the flush of the first bird scored by each dog.**
- 6) Mowed boundary strips are out of bounds. Dog does not have to be in bounds to score a point or a back. Handler can be out of bounds. Retrieves can be made from out of bounds.
- 7) Judge can assist in locating the dog he is judging. Judge **must always be within 10 paces of the handler during the entire brace. Judge cannot walk about the field to locate the dog he is judging.**
- 8) Beeper collars can be worn. E-collars are not allowed whether activated or not. **NEW: DECEMBER 2014**—tracking collars without electrical stimulation capability are allowed. Example: Garmin Astro 320 (no stimulation capability) is allowed. The Garmin Astro 100 is not allowed as it has the stimulation feature included.
- 9) Designated shooters will be allowed. Designated shooter must stay within 5 paces of handler except when flushing/shooting the bird. Designated shooter **CANNOT** assist the handler in any way other than flushing and shooting. Handler will move to stand side by side with the designated shooter at the point where shot was fired during the retrieve. Violation will result in the judge pulling the dog from the field.
- 10) Bumped Birds—Any dog that bumps 3 birds into areas that are out of bounds will be pulled from the field as this situation denies the brace mate its fair opportunity to score on birds that were placed in the field.
- 11) If a dog jumps in and picks up a bird after a 5-count has been completed, the handler must gently take it from the dog so as not to hurt the bird. Handler will then throw the bird at least 40' in attempt to make it fly. Handler must be ready to shoot the bird should it fly away. Dog must retrieve the bird in order to score a retrieve whether the bird flies or not.
- 12) It is the Judge's responsibility to tell the shooter where others in the field are located prior to shot being fired.
- 13). **No shot size larger than # 8 can be used in any trial.**

Judges scores and Trial Marshall's rulings are final. Calcutta split shall be 50% / 30% / 20%. Do not load your gun until the brace has started. Unload immediately after the sound of the horn.

BRACES WILL BE RUN FOR 25 minutes.