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SCHEDULE 5C(3) – HPR

1. GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF FIELD TRIALS

1.1. DEFINITIONS

1.1.1. Licensing and Show Regulations

Regulations relating to licensing and to all other matters to do with trials as set out in Schedule 3 (Championship Shows) and Schedule 4 (Non Championship Shows) of the Constitution of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa ("KUSA") shall apply to Field Trials in so far as they do not conflict with the specific terms of this Schedule 5C(3).

KUSA means the Kennel Union of Southern Africa

FTLC means the Field Trial Liaison Council of KUSA

FC means the Federal Council of KUSA

NFTA means the National Field Trial Association

1.1.2. Stakes

1.1.2.1 PUPPY STAKE is open only to dogs which are not more than twelve (12) months of age on the date the trial is being run. The dogs remain a puppy candidate for that season, irrespective of prizes won.

1.1.2.2 DERBY STAKE is open only to dogs which are not more than twenty-four (24) months of age on the date the trial is being run. The dog remains a Derby candidate for that season, irrespective of prizes won.

1.1.2.3 MAIDEN STAKE is confined to dogs which have not been placed first, second or third in a previous Maiden, Open or Championship stake at a Field Trial for HPR breeds prior to the date of closing of entries.

1.1.2.4 OPEN STAKE is open to all HPR breeds without restriction as to age or previous performance. In order for an Open Stake to carry Championship (qualification) status, the minimum number of dogs to actually participate in the Stake shall be eight (8).

1.1.2.5 CHAMPIONSHIP STAKE shall not be held more than once per year within the area of jurisdiction of the KUSA. The conditions, qualifications and organization governing this Stake shall be decided by the FTLC subject to approval by the Federal Council. Entries shall be limited to those dogs placed first or second in an HPR Open Stake run at any time previous to the closing date for the Championship Stake. The minimum number of dogs to actually participate in the Stake shall be eight (8).

1.1.2.6 FIELD QUALIFYING STAKE is for dogs that have won a Reserve Challenge Certificate or Challenge Certificate.

1.1.3. Awards

1.1.3.1. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

A Certificate of Merit (C.O.M.) does not constitute a placing.

1.1.3.2. FIELD TRIAL CHAMPION

A dog which wins two (2) first prizes at two (2) Field Trials in Open Stakes for all Breeds which Hunt, Point and Retrieve or the winner of the Championship Stake for dogs which Hunt, Point and Retrieve.

1.1.3.3. MASTER HUNTER (MH)

A Master Hunter is defined as a dog which has earned at least three (3) placings in Derby, Maiden or Open Stakes in Field Trials, provided that at least one (1) of these awards has been earned by placing first or second in an Open Stake. In order to qualify as a Master Hunter, the dog must have earned these awards in at least three (3) Field Trials.

The Master Hunter title (MH) is intended to recognise those dogs, which exhibit outstanding performance in Field Trials.

The title may be carried as an affix only after the dog's name.

1.1.3.4. SENIOR HUNTER (SH)

A Senior Hunter is defined as a dog which has earned at least two (2) placings and one (1) Certificate of Merit in Derby, Maiden or Open Stakes in Field Trials. In order to qualify as a Senior Hunter, the dog must have earned these awards in at least two (2) Field Trials.

The Senior Hunter title (SH) is intended to recognise those dogs that exhibit a high standard of performance in Field Trials.

The title may be carried as an affix only after the dog's name.

1.1.3.5. JUNIOR HUNTER (JH)

A Junior Hunter is defined as a dog, which has earned at least two (2) placings or Certificates of Merit in Derby, Maiden or Open Stakes in Field Trials. In order to qualify as a Junior Hunter, the dog must have earned these awards in at least two (2) Field Trials.

The Junior Hunter title (JH) is intended to recognise those dogs, which exhibit a good standard of performance in Field Trials.

The title may be carried as an affix only after the dog's name.

GUIDE TO POINTS 1.1.3.3. – 1.1.3.5.

Dogs are entitled to carry the title of MH, SH or JH as an affix. However, should any higher title be earned at any time, then the lower title will fall away automatically. Hence, dogs will only carry one of these affixes at any given time.

1.1.3.6. FIELD QUALIFYING (F.Q.)

11.3.6.1 Field Qualifying certificate shall be issued to a dog which has satisfied the F.Q. Stake requirements and has been awarded a Reserve Challenge Certificate or Challenge Certificate prior to the closing date of entries for the trial.

11.3.6.2 A dog which has been placed in a Maiden, Open or Championship Stake and has been awarded a Reserve Challenge Certificate or Challenge Certificate may also qualify for a Field Qualifying Certificate.

1.1.3.6.3 The title (FQ) may be carried as an affix only after the dog's name.

1.1.3.7. PLACE

A first, second or third place in any Stake but not Certificate of Merit.

1.1.3.8. PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING AN AWARD

Written application, together with supporting documentation, to be made to KUSA, giving all relevant details of the dog's performance and events in which the dog earned the right to the award applied for.

1.2. DATES FOR FIELD TRIALS

1.2.1. Application for dates to hold Field Trials

Affiliated clubs shall, in the first instance, apply for dates to hold Field Trials to KUSA, such application to state proposed date, venue, type of Trial and Stakes to be run.

1.2.2. Field Trial programme for season

FTLC will draw up a programme of Field Trials for the season and will forward to KUSA for approval and/or comment.

1.2.3. Publication in official Kennel Union Journal

The approved programme for the season shall be published in the Official Kennel Union Journal.

1.3. PRE-TRIAL REQUIREMENTS

1.3.1. The Schedule

1.3.1.1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1.3.1.1.1 A club holding a Field Trial must issue a schedule which is to be treated as a contract between the Club and the entrants.

1.3.1.1.2 The schedule, together with the prescribed application form to hold the Trial and the licence fee (cheque payable to KUSA), to KUSA for final approval and issuing of the licence.

1.3.1.1.3 No schedule shall be issued to the public before being approved by the Federal Council.

1.3.1.2. CONTENTS

The schedule shall contain, inter alia

- 1.3.1.2.1 The name of the Club and the Officers thereof.
- 1.3.1.2.2 The type of Trial, the gun dog breeds which may be entered, the Stakes to be run and the definition thereof.
- 1.3.1.2.3 The date and venue of the Trial.
- 1.3.1.2.4 The names of the Judges for each stake.
- 1.3.1.2.5 The amount of the entry fees.
- 1.3.1.2.6 The latest date for receiving entries.
- 1.3.1.2.7 The order in which stakes will be run and the starting time of each stake.
- 1.3.1.2.8 Notice to exhibitors that :
 - 1.3.1.2.8.1 Bitches in season are forbidden within the precincts of the trial.
 - 1.3.1.2.8.2 Castrated, cryptorchid and monorchid dogs and spayed bitches are eligible for entry but will only qualify for a Certificate of Merit. Furthermore, Judges will use their discretion as to allowing such dogs to participate in the decisive rounds of a trial.
 - 1.3.1.2.8.3 Registration certificates of KUSA and NFTA registered dogs must be produced or a copy submitted with the entry form.
 - 1.3.1.2.8.4 Conditions attracting immediate disqualification are set out in Regulation 31 of Schedule 3 of KUSA Regulations for Championship Shows (Breed) subject to Regulations 1.2.8.1 to 1.2.8.3 above.
 - 1.3.1.2.8.5 Only those dogs that are actually taking part in the Field Trials are allowed at the venue.
 - 1.3.1.2.8.6 The Judges' decision is final.
 - 1.3.1.2.9. A list of prizes
 - 1.3.1.2.10. The time, date, venue and conditions of the draw for numbers of the running order of the dogs.
 - 1.3.1.2.11. Details of any restrictions on minimum and maximum numbers to be accepted for each Stake.
 - 1.3.1.2.12 All notices of forthcoming Field Trials which are published by affiliated clubs shall contain a statement that all exhibitors/handlers are personally responsible for the control of their dogs at all times and shall be personally liable for any claims which may be made in respect of injuries which may rise or be caused by their dogs. Such notice shall be prominently displayed at the venue on the day of the show in such a manner and in such places so as to ensure that any person entering the venue will see the said notice.
- 1.3.1.3. DETAILS REGARDING DOGS
 - 1.3.1.3.1 Name and KUSA number or NFTA number of the dog.
 - 1.3.1.3.2 Name of the owner.
 - 1.3.1.3.3 Breed of the dog.
 - 1.3.1.3.4 Sex of the dog.
 - 1.3.1.3.5 Date of birth of the dog.
 - 1.3.1.3.6 Names of sire and dam.
 - 1.3.1.3.7 Name of breeder.
 - 1.3.1.3.8 Name of handler.
- 1.3.2 **The Draw**
 - 1.3.2.1 Per the Schedule
 - The draw shall take place at the time and venue and under the conditions stated in the Schedule. At the Trial each dog shall be given the number according to the draw.
 - 1.3.2.2 Handlers with more than one (1) dog
 - The draw must make allowance for situations when a single handler has more than one (1) dog entered in a particular stake.
- 1.3.3 **The Programme**
 - 1.3.3.1 Contents
 - The club holding a Field Trial must publish a programme which must contain :
 - 1.3.3.1.1 The name of the Club
 - 1.3.3.1.2 The breed(s) for which stakes are run at the Trial.
 - 1.3.3.1.3 The date(s) of the Trial.
 - 1.3.3.1.4 The names of the Judges, Field Trial Stewards and KUSA representative the Chief Judge's name to appear first.
 - 1.3.3.1.5 The venue of the Trial.
 - 1.3.3.1.6 A definition of each stake to be run in the Trial.
 - 1.3.3.1.7 The prizes offered.
 - 1.3.3.1.8 Entries listed in numerical order of running, as follows:
 - 1.3.3.1.8.1 Registered name and number of the dog.
 - 1.3.3.1.8.2 Name of the owner
 - 1.3.3.1.8.3 Breed of the dog
 - 1.3.3.1.8.4 Sex of the dog.
 - 1.3.3.1.8.5 Date of birth of the dog.
 - 1.3.3.1.8.6 Registered names of sire and dam.
 - 1.3.3.1.8.7 Name of the breeder.
 - 1.3.3.1.8.8 Name of the handler.
 - 1.3.3.1.9 A list of names and addresses of owners of all dogs in the Trial, in alphabetical order. The Secretary of the club shall send to KUSA, within one (1) week of the meeting, a copy of the entry card with all awards marked thereon.
 - 1.3.3.1.10 A statement that the Trial is held under KUSA Field Trial Rules and Regulations.
 - 1.3.3.1.11 A statement that the club holding the trial accepts no responsibility for injury, loss or damage to person or property, however occasioned.
- 1.3.4 **Copy of the KUSA Field Trial Rules and Regulations**
 - A copy of the KUSA Constitution Show Regulations and Schedule 5C(3) for HPR Breeds shall be retained by the Field Trial Committee and shall be available to any participant at the venue during a Trial.
- 1.4. **APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES**
 - 1.4.1. **List of Judges for Field Trials**
 - 1.4.1.1. ACCEPTANCE OF LIST FOR FIELD TRIALS
 - A club holding a Field Trial shall appoint Judges from the List of Judges for Field Trials as approved by the Federal Council, who shall, if permanently domiciled in the KUSA area of jurisdiction be members of the Kennel Union or NFTA, in good standing, both at the time of accepting an invitation and undertaking an appointment. Before approving a foreign Judge the Federal Council shall be satisfied that such Judge is recognised to judge the same Trials in his country of permanent residence as it is proposed he shall judge in the KUSA area of jurisdiction.
 - 1.4.1.2. RECOMMENDATION TO PANELS
 - A person may be recommended to a Judges' panel from the List of Judges for Field Trials by a Club holding Field Trials. Such recommendations to the Federal Council shall be made by the club, via the FTLC.
 - 1.4.1.3. OVERSEAS JUDGES
 - Recognised overseas Judges shall be entitled to judge any stake. Overseas Judges may not be the Chief Judge of a Stake.
 - 1.4.1.4. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE "LIST"
 - The List of Judges for Field Trials, as issued by the KUSA shall contain the addresses and telephone numbers of the Judges.

- 1.4.1.5. **NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR A STAKE**
The minimum number of Judges for any Stake, including a Field Qualifying Stake shall be three (3), excluding a Learner Judge. One (1) must be a Senior/Chief Judge.
- 1.4.1.5.1 **Chief Judge**
The Chief Judge of a stake can only be nominated from the ranks of “A” Panel Judges.
- 1.4.1.5.2 **Field Stewards/Learner Judge/Deputy Stewards**
There may not be more than one (1) Learner Judge per Stake. The Field Steward may appoint as many deputies as are required to assist him in running the Stake, including the “Guns”. Deputy Stewards may NOT sit in on the Judges' deliberations. The Field Steward and Learner Judge's remarks and observations on the dogs competing will be heard only at the invitation of the Chief Judge.
- 1.4.2 **Qualifications for appointment to Judges' List**
- 1.4.2.1 **“B” Panel Judges**
Applicants may qualify for recommendation as “B” Panel Judges by satisfying the requirements of either Regulations 1.4.2.1.1. or 1.4.2.1.2. as follows :
- 1.4.2.1.1 An applicant must have served as a Field Steward and/or a Learner Judge in no less than four (4) qualifying Field Trials and that he/she must have competed in qualifying Field Trials over a period of at least three (3) years. The recommendation by a club to the Field Trial Liaison Council to appoint the applicant as a “B” Panel Judge must be based on reports (written or verbal) by the qualified HPR Judges officiating in the qualifying Field Trials, that indicate that the applicant has demonstrated a sound knowledge of the Schedule 5C(3) (HPR) Field Trial Rules and Regulations, and has the ability to interpret practically and apply them.
- 1.4.2.1.2 An applicant must have served as a Field Steward and/or a Learner Judge in no less than two (2) qualifying Field Trials, have attended no less than three (3) judging courses based on mock or tuition Field Trials run by qualified HPR Judges and he/she must have competed in qualifying Field Trials over a period of at least three (3) years. The recommendation by a club to Field Trial Liaison Council to appoint the applicant as a “B” Panel Judge must be based on reports (written or verbal) by the qualified HPR Judges officiating in the qualifying Field Trial and judging courses, that indicate that the applicant has demonstrated a sound knowledge of the Schedule 5C(3) (HPR) Field Trial Rules and Regulations, and has the ability to interpret practically and apply them.
- 1.4.2.2 **“A” Panel Judges**
The minimum requirement for recommendation as an “A” Panel Judge, is that an applicant must be a “B” Panel Judge, must have judged no less than four (4) qualifying Field Trials and that he/she must have competed in qualifying Field Trials over a period of at least five (5) years. An applicant must also have trained and competed a dog that has been placed in a Field Trial. The recommendation by a club to the Field Trial Liaison Council to appoint the applicant as an “A” Panel Judge must be based on reports (written or verbal) by the applicant's co-Judges in the qualifying Field Trials that indicate that he/she has a sufficiently sound knowledge of the Schedule 5C(3) (HPR) Field Trial Rules and Regulations and their interpretation and application to be competent to serve as a Senior Judge in a licensed Field Trial.
- 1.4.2.3 **Qualifying field Trials**
For the purposes of the qualification of “A” and “B” Panel HPR Judges, qualifying Field Trials shall include Hunt, Point and Retrieve (HPR) Field Trials for which a KUSA licence has been issued, or Pointer and Setter Field Trials run under the auspices of the National Field Trial Association.
- 1.5. **THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF JUDGES**
The duties of the Judges shall include, inter alia:
- 1.5.1. In a Field Trial all the officially appointed Judges have an equal say. No Judge, including the Chief Judge, can dictate to another Judge or the other Judges on how to mark the work of a dog or where to place a dog at the end of a trial, which is based on the consensus decisions of the Judges.
- 1.5.2. To assist the Committee of the Club holding the Field Trial by setting, in conjunction with the Field Steward, a Field Trial course that will test the standard of the dogs.
- 1.5.3. To liaise with the Field Steward regarding the efficient running of the Trial.
- 1.5.4. The Chief Judge shall position the other Judges and shall act as their spokesman.
- 1.5.5. The Chief Judge shall co-ordinate the placing of the dogs at the end of the Trial.
- 1.5.6. The Chief Judge shall control and issue instructions on all matters connected with the dogs under Trial and shall call the Field Steward or members of the Committee to their assistance if they think fit.
- 1.5.7. To decide the duration of the rounds.
- 1.5.8. To turn out of a Stake any dog whose handler does not obey him or wilfully interferes with another competitor or his dog.
- 1.6. **THE APPOINTMENT, POWERS AND DUTIES OF A FIELD STEWARD**
The Field Steward shall be appointed by the club holding the Trial. He conducts the running of the Trial and is the person through whom all instructions must be issued. He shall be responsible for:
- 1.6.1. The running of the Field Trial,
- 1.6.2. A Field Steward must be acquainted with the ground to be covered during the Trial.
- 1.6.3. The Field Steward can, jointly with the Judges, decide on which ground to re-use or otherwise what new ground to try, if necessary.
- 1.6.4. To act as timekeeper for the time lapsed during the rounds, which has been decided in terms of Regulation 1.5.7 above.
- 1.7. **DRAWING OF DOGS**
- 1.7.1. All dogs, unless previously eliminated, shall be entitled to be down for at least the first two (2) rounds.
- 1.7.2. All dogs, except those previously eliminated or those specifically stated by the Judges through the Field Steward, as having been discarded, must remain available for further participation until discarded, or the termination of the event.
- 1.7.3. A card or counter bearing a corresponding number shall be assigned to each entry. These numbered cArds or counters then being placed together and drawn randomly.
At the conclusion of each of the first two (2) rounds, the Judges shall perform a fresh draw or pairing for the next round from amongst the dogs they consider to have shown sufficient merit to entitle them to remain in the Stake.
The Judges may then run such dogs in pairs as they think fit and place them in order of merit, subject to the condition that the first prize winner shall have been down with the second placed dog unless both are handled by the same handler.
- 1.7.4. In the second draw the Judges and Stewards shall ensure that dogs which have met in the previous round shall not run together a second time.
- 1.7.5. Where one (1) handler in a Stake is competing with two (2) or more dogs, the dogs shall be guarded in every round, where possible, when the draw or pairings take place, so that the handler does not have to run a heat handling two (2) dogs at once.
- 1.8. **MANAGEMENT OF A FIELD TRIAL**
- 1.8.1. **Management entrusted to a Club**
The management of a Field Trial shall be entrusted to the Club holding such a Field Trial or Stake.
- 1.8.2. **KUSA Representative**
It shall be necessary for a KUSA representative, who must be a member of KUSA, in good standing, at the time of appointment, to be present at a stake carrying Championship status, and at Field Qualifying Stakes and Natural Ability Tests.

- The KUSA representative shall be nominated by the Club holding the Field Trial and approved by the FTLC and Federal Council.
- 1.8.3. **Procedure in the Case of an Objection**
Should an objection be raised at any Field Trial, the following procedure shall be adopted :
- 1.8.3.1. The objection can be raised only by a handler participating in the Field Trial, save and except an official complaint raised under Schedule 1 (Disciplinary Rules).
- 1.8.3.2. The objecting person shall lodge the prescribed fee with the Club Secretary, or representative, in order for the objection to be heard.
- 1.8.3.3. The Club Secretary, or representative, shall notify the Committee Members of the club present at the trial that there is a dispute.
- 1.8.3.4. The dispute shall be decided within thirty (30) minutes from the time the dispute was lodged by a majority of non-participating Committee Members at the Field Trial and their decision shall be final.
- 1.8.3.5. In the event of the objection being settled in favour of :
- 1.8.3.5.1. the objector, he shall be refunded the prescribed fee. In this case, the Judges must remedy the cause of the objection so that the objector is not prejudiced.
- 1.8.3.5.2. the Club, then the club shall retain the prescribed fee concerned and this amount shall be forwarded to the Federal Council with a full report by the Club, signed by all the Committee Members present at the objection, within two (2) weeks of the Field Trial and a copy sent to the FTLC.
- 1.8.4. **Field Stewards**
The Field Stewards (See Regulation 1.6 above) shall be responsible for running the Field Trial and for the setting of the course, which must be approved by the Chief Judge elected for that Field Trial.
- 1.9 **FIELD QUALIFYING STAKE**
- 1.9.1 **General Regulations**
- 1.9.1.1. A Field Qualifying Stake for HPR breeds may only be run at the same time as, and in conjunction with an HPR Maiden Stake according to this Schedule 5C(3) HPR.
- 1.9.1.2. A minimum of three (3) Judges awarding the Field Qualifying Certificates must be appointed, at least one (1) of which must come from the "A" Panel List of Judges for Field Trials (HPR). All remaining Judges must come from the "A" or "B" Panel List of Judges for Field Trials (HPR).
- 1.9.1.3. Only clubs, which hold HPR Field Trials may run HPR Field Qualifying Stakes.
- 1.9.1.4. Permission to run a Field Qualifying Stake must be applied for through FTLC and upon approval, a license must be obtained from KUSA.
- 1.9.1.5. The club Secretary shall notify KUSA of the numbers and names of the Field Qualifiers. These shall be published in the Official Kennel Union Journal. These dogs shall be entitled to carry the designation "F.Q." after their names.
- 1.9.1.6. A dog shall either be passed or failed by the Judges, whose decision is final. The dogs which Field Qualify shall not be placed in order of merit.
- 1.9.1.7. The dogs shall be expected to Hunt, Point and Prove game, to exhibit an efficient range and pace according to the terrain, to exhibit a sufficient degree of steadiness and staunchness in the presence of game to be able to present that game to the gun, shall show the ability to hunt with a bracemate without unduly interfering in the bracemate's work, shall be expected to retrieve game on land and from water and shall show no signs of gunshyness.
- 1.9.1.8. Only natural gamebirds or released gamebirds may be used in a Field Qualifying Stake. Should released game be utilised, then the Rules for the Release of Game must be followed.
- 1.9.1.9. The names of the dogs must be entered on the programme for the meeting. Entry fees shall be at the discretion of the club.
- 1.9.1.10. There shall be no limit to the number of times a dog may be entered in a Field Qualifying Stake.
- 1.9.1.11. The minimum number of dogs entered in the Maiden Stake run in conjunction with a Field Qualifying Stake as contemplated in Clause 1.1 above, shall be eight (8).
- 1.9.2. **FIELD REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FIELD QUALIFYING STAKE**
The FQ Stakes will be conducted according to the same Rules, Regulations and Standards for Maiden Stakes under this Schedule. Before signing the Field Qualifying Certificate, the Judges must be satisfied that the dog has amply demonstrated its natural abilities and a standard of performance roughly equal to that expected of the "average" Maiden Stake entrant. The dog must fulfil these requirements without committing any eliminating faults.
- 1.9.2.1. Dogs in the Field Qualifying Stake shall be hunted in braces. Field Qualifying Stake entrants must be entered in the draw and braced with the Maiden Stake dogs or with the other dogs participating in other Stakes in the Field Trial. After the second round, Judges may either elect to brace the Field Qualifying Stake entrants with one another or they may continue to run them together with the other Field Trial entrants.
Dogs are expected to Hunt, Point, Prove and Retrieve game during this segment of testing. A minimum appropriate level of performance would be comparable to that expected in the Maiden Stake, although Judges should not necessarily expect the same degree of experience, style and polish that would be required in order to earn an award in the Maiden Stake. Dogs must display an eagerness to find game, a good nose, a convincing point, and are required to be sufficiently staunch to allow the handler to move in to flush the game. The pointing dog will be required to complete the retrieve of the shot bird. It is permissible for the handler to use checking commands (though not excessive) to ensure that the dog remains staunch and/or does not break in on wing or shot.
Ideally, the bracemate should back the pointing dog, although it is sufficient that the handler merely be able to control the dog so as not to interfere with the pointing dog in any way, either by stopping or calling the dog to heel.
The retrieve of the shot bird must be to hand or within hand's reach.
Once the Judges have satisfied themselves that an entrant fulfils the above requirements, then that dog may be retired from running in further rounds. Should that dog also be entered in other Stakes in the Trial, then he will continue to participate in those Stakes, but will no longer be under judgment for the Field Qualifying Stake. Dogs which have committed an eliminating fault or which are failed for any reason will be called up immediately, and will not compete further in the Field Qualifying Stake.
- 1.9.2.2. Dogs in the Field Qualifying Stake must demonstrate their ability to swim and retrieve from water by satisfying the requirements of Rule 20 "Water Test" at the Field Trial.
- 1.10. **MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL PROVISIONS**
- 1.10.1. **Awards**
Equal placings at a Field Trial are prohibited.
- 1.10.2. **Record of Entries**
The Secretary of the club holding the Field Trial shall preserve all entry forms for twelve (12) months after the meeting and produce any of them to any official body inquiring into an objection or dispute.
- 1.10.3. **Handling of Dogs**
- 1.10.3.1. **Deputy Handling a Dog**
If a deputy handles a dog the owner may walk with the deputy but may not take part in the working or handling of his dog.
- 1.10.3.2. **Maximum Number of Dogs**
No handler may handle more than three (3) dogs in a single Stake.

- 1.10.3.3. **Family of Judges Running in a Trial**
There is no objection to the immediate family of Judges running in a Field Trial.
- 1.10.3.4. **Switching Handlers**
During the course of a trial the handler of a dog may be switched at the discretion of the Judges.
- 1.10.3.5. **Intimidation**
No handler may use any form of intimidation, or carry any object that may potentially be used to intimidate the dog. Handlers will be requested by the Field Steward to hand over leads and any other objects, including collars, that the Judges deem to be potentially intimidating. The Field Steward will retain these for the duration of the round.
- 1.10.4. **Removal from Trial for various Causes**
Should the members of the committee of the club, after consultation with the Judges or veterinary surgeon, consider a dog unfit to compete by reason of sexual causes or of any contagious disease or from an attack of hysteria occurring on the Field Trial ground, or any cause which interferes with the safety, or chance of winning of his opponents, such dog must be removed immediately from the ground and from the Trial. Any such case is liable to be reported to the KUSA and dealt with under Schedule 1 (Disciplinary Rules).
- 1.10.5. **Unpunctuality**
A dog which is not present within fifteen (15) minutes when required by the Judges may be disqualified by the Judges.
- 1.10.6. **Withholding Prizes**
- 1.10.6.1. The Judges are empowered and instructed to withhold any prize or award if, in their opinion, the dogs competing do not show sufficient merit.
- 1.10.6.2. If, in the case of technical disqualification, a prize winner is disqualified, the dogs next in consecutive order of merit, if so placed by the Judges and awarded first, second or third place, may be moved into the higher places in the prize list at the discretion of the Judges, and such places thereupon become the awards.
- 1.10.7. **Withdrawal of Dogs**
- 1.10.7.1. No dog entered for competition, and once under judgment at the trial, may be withdrawn from the stake without the consent of the Judges.
- 1.10.7.2. No competitor may withdraw from a stake without the permission of the Judges and any dog withdrawn without permission is liable to be disqualified.
- 1.10.8. **Weather and/or Venue Conditions**
If the club considers the weather and/or venue unfit for holding the trial, the meeting may be held at a different venue or postponed. The stakes that have not yet been decided upon may be abandoned and the entry fees refunded, or a fresh draw may be made and a fresh date fixed for the postponed stakes.
- 1.10.9. **Impugning Decisions**
Anyone taking part in a Trial who openly impugns the decisions of a Judge or Judges shall render himself liable to be reported to KUSA under the provisions of Schedule 1 (Disciplinary Rules) unless he or she is availing themselves of Regulation 1.8.3.
- 1.10.10. **Contingencies**
Any event not provided for in the Rules & Regulations shall be decided upon by the Committee Members of the Club present but not competing in the trial, assisted by the Judges and their decision is final.
- 1.10.11. **Entering in more than one Stake simultaneously**
For practical reasons the club may elect to hold Derby, Maiden and Open Stakes simultaneously. Dogs may also enter more than one (1) Stake simultaneously provided they qualify for the specific Stakes. A dog will be eliminated from all Stakes entered during that Trial, on committing an eliminating fault. On committing major or penalizing faults, the dog may be downgraded to a lower standard Stake at the Judge's discretion and in accordance with the standards of the specific Stake provided that the dog has been previously entered in that Stake.
- 1.10.12. **Remuneration**
Any form of remuneration for handling of dogs in HPR Field Trials is prohibited.
- 1.10.13. **Terrain**
HPR Field Trials must use natural or released game as described, on natural terrain or on terrain where game occurs naturally.

2. REGULATIONS FOR THE JUDGING OF FIELD TRIALS

2.1. PREAMBLE

"Rules" bind the Judges and are to be adhered to in the judgments.

"Guides" are not rules and are merely to assist Judges in their interpretation of the "Rules".

The term "Breeds which Hunt, Point and Retrieve" will hereinafter be referred to as "HPR BREEDS".

2.2. GENERAL GUIDE 1 - OBJECTIVES

2.2.1. Objectives of this Document

2.2.1.1. To promote greater understanding of the logic that goes to make up a Field Trial for HPR BREEDS.

2.2.1.2. To achieve greater conformity in the running of Field Trials.

2.2.1.3. To achieve consensus in the judging of the performances of the dogs competing at Field Trials.

2.2.1.4. To further the above aims insofar, only and entirely, as they are meant to improve and/or maintain the working standards of the HPR BREEDS in South Africa.

2.2.2. The Objectives of Field Trials

2.2.2.1. To determine the relative merits of HPR BREEDS in the Field Trials.

2.2.2.2. To bring to the notice of the public a level of performance best suited to perpetuate the most desirable qualities possessed by HPR BREEDS of the highest order.

2.2.2.3. To provide competition of the highest calibre so as to stimulate enthusiastic training and competition of these dogs.

2.2.2.4. To conduct Field Trials on terrain and on quarry best suited to the breeds' performance characteristics and standards, with quarry in sufficient numbers so as to minimise the element of luck and to give each competing dog an equal opportunity when being judged.

2.2.3. The Objectives of Judging Field Trials

2.2.3.1. To judge a dog on its TOTAL performance, which performance is to measure against an ultimate standard, which in turn is dictated by each of the breeds' performance characteristics and standards in relation to their intended functional use, which is ultimately dictated by the quarry being hunted and the conditions where found. That is further provided that the performance characteristics of the breeds are not impinged upon.

2.2.3.2. That it be desirable that the winners be charged with no errors or faults. It is also better practice to award a title to a dog that displays all of the characteristics of THE STANDARD even though such dog be charged with some minor error or breach of manners, than to award a title to a dog lacking many of these qualities. A dog should be named for brilliance of performance in spite of trivial error rather than on a basis of errorless mediocrity.

2.2.3.3. The responsibility of the Judges is to determine how much weight they shall give to certain types of exceptional performance and how much penalty to assess because of various individual faults, or the repetition of the same faults or combinations of various faults. Some faults by themselves, are sufficiently serious to justify elimination from a Stake, whereas others may justify only a moderate or minor penalty and some of the latter may be so minor that, on occasions, they are relatively so

- unimportant that for practical purposes they can be ignored. On the other hand, minor faults can summate into moderate or serious faults through repetition or through a combination of several types of fault.
- 2.2.3.4. That the judging of HPR BREEDS in Field Trials can best be described as an attempt at an objective interpretation of the rules, with a view to awarding such placings and Certificates of Merit to those dogs who acquitted themselves sufficiently on the day. Much of the subjectiveness of Field Trials can be overcome with the requirement that the successful Judge has a firm grasp of his subject and full knowledge of the fundamentals and logic of Field Trials. This can be complicated at times by the varying opinions as to what constitutes an acceptable standard for a dog's performance whilst competing the various Stakes. Whilst it is impossible to put into words a standard of performance that will cover all spheres of the working abilities of HPR BREEDS, this is no reason why an attempt should not be made.
- 2.3. **GENERAL GUIDE 2 - STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE FOR HPR BREEDS**
 The performance is one where the very action of the dog denotes a great interest in his work. This work is full of animation and at all times the dog must be searching for game in an independent and intelligent manner by using the wind or lack thereof correctly and productively. His performance must reflect a credit to his breed, and the dog should move with the least obvious exertion for the greatest effect. The dog must have the desire to Hunt and Point game with the fire and intensity that makes his work spectacular or, at least, pleasing. The dog must be adjustable and self-adjusting, controllable and self-controlled.
 The dog serves best when covering the most ground in the least time and he must take the different types of cover and conditions as he comes to them and negotiate each productively, going wide, far, fast, slow, close and/or narrow as the conditions dictate. The dog must do this of his own accord, naturally or through training and experience.
 The dog's performance must be total in every respect and must consist of a positive display of manners, game finding, controlling and pointing and holding abilities, staunchness, steadiness and a willingness and ability to acknowledge the flush of game and the finds and points of other dogs by "backing" spontaneously and holding the "back" for as long as is necessary without interference to the staunchly pointing dog or the game being pointed.
 He must retrieve the shot game on command in a quick and expeditious manner without unduly disturbing too much ground and should deliver tenderly to hand.
 The dog must hunt and handle all game, whether fur or feather (see Guide to Gamebirds), and above all he must be in total harmony with the handler for no other purpose than to give him the opportunity to shoot the pointed game in a manner befitting sportsmen.
- 2.4. **GENERAL GUIDE 3. COMMON AREAS OF EVALUATION**
- 2.4.1. **Application**
 Application of these standards during trials varies only in the matter of degree. For example, it is not expected that a young dog competing in a Derby or an inexperienced dog in a Maiden Stake to display the same finesse and workmanship expected of an older, more experienced dog competing in a Championship Stake. The basic principles however, apply generally across the board.
 The Judges must approach these common areas of evaluation and their related performance standards with the knowledge that each area relates in some way to each of the others. For this reason, no one area can be considered in isolation when judging the performance of a dog. For instance, of what use is a good nose if the dog is totally unco-operative? What sort of search or questing can one expect of a dog lacking desire?
- 2.4.2. **Use of Nose**
 The quality of a dog's nose, more than any other single factor, determines its usefulness as an HPR BREED. However, quality of nose is not in itself sufficient. As the dog develops it must learn to use its nose if maximum effectiveness is to be achieved.
 A dog that finds birds rapidly and repeatedly under various conditions has a good nose. Conversely, a dog that continuously bumps birds or fails to find birds compared to its brace-mate, certainly leaves much to be desired as far as nose is concerned.
 Short checks of scent spots where game has been without pointing indicates a good nose as well as the ability to discriminate between scents. Consistent "false pointing" i.e. assuming a pointing stance without producing game, may be an indication that the dog has only a fair to poor nose. Pointing dead game may also be an indication of an uncertain or inexperienced nose.
 A dog will sometimes scent game at a great distance and, while checking the scent, will move up on the game as if being pulled to the spot by an invisible string attached to the nose. The relative distance from the point the scent is first detected, to the point where the game is found can be an indication of the quality of the nose
 A dog is said to "bump" a bird when it runs into it and causes the bird to flush without giving any indication that the dog was aware of the bird's presence. This is more apt to happen when the dog is questing downwind in a stiff breeze and under these conditions is not considered a major fault. To bump a bird while working into wind without showing any awareness that game is present may be an indication of a deficient nose. However, poor scenting conditions, as indicated by other dogs in the trial, may also result in birds being bumped.
 Weather, the conditions of ground and cover, the type of game, even air pollution, are all factors to be considered while judging a dog, for all these elements have an important influence on a dog's scenting ability.
 The pointing instinct must not be equated with the quality of nose. An intense point is a manifestation of desire, not nose
- 2.4.3. **Search (Questing)**
 From start to finish, the search should indicate but one purpose - to produce game for the gun. The good dog will leave the impression that in the terrain covered by the search no game has been missed.
 No time should be wasted in searching obviously barren ground or by returning to cover that which has already been thoroughly searched.
 An eager, co-operative dog will readily adapt to the terrain and cover over which it is being hunted regardless of its "home ground" experience and it will not hesitate to search rough cover if the situation demands it.
 Throughout the search, the dog should display eagerness, interest and stamina. The dog that goes to heel before the end of the run and from then on must be pushed, not only says that the owner has possibly not conditioned the dog but also raises serious doubts about the dog's desire and basic stamina.
 Sufficient independence to leave the handler in order to check likely cover is desirable, particularly if the dog later checks back with the handler.
 Apparent use of eyes rather than nose to search for game is a serious fault; however, use of the eyes to maintain contact with the handler is a natural result of the dog's desire to please.
 The dog should conduct its search at a practical distance from the gun depending on the terrain. For example, in open terrain with short grass cover the dog will be most efficient if he hunts far and wide to locate coveys. Conversely, in dense bushveld areas the dog will only be efficient if he hunts a short distance from the gun. Therefore, considerations of terrain, cover and other variables, make it manifest that practical range cannot be measured in metres. Rather, it must be measured in terms of covering the maximum amount of likely game cover without loss of control or sacrificing the all important co-operation that must exist between dog and hunter. Suffice it to say that the uncontrolled dog running out of sight most of the time is of little use to the on-foot hunter, as is the one that remains so close to the gun that it constitutes an underfoot nuisance. It is the hallmark of a brilliant dog that he will adapt to any kind of terrain.
 During the search the dog may work with its head high or low depending on the scenting conditions and game species. For example, the dog may be more efficient in short grass areas in locating game by hunting with his head high as opposed to the bushveld areas, where searching with his nose lower to the ground may be more efficient in locating game
 The dog's search must take advantage of the air currents. Running downwind for excessive distances without turning into the wind in an effort to fix game between dog and gun must be faulted. Likewise, working for a long distance into the wind without quartering is not using air currents to best advantage.

The general pattern of search should be in a forward direction; however, "back casting" (passing in rear of the gunner as he moves forward) should not be faulted unless done too often, particularly not when the gunner makes an abrupt change of direction and the dog passes to the rear in order to re-establish itself ahead of the gun.

Tireless and successful efforts are to be rewarded more highly than eye-catching style combined with unproductive casts. Dogs that repeatedly and definitely miss game during the search are to be severely penalised.

2.4.4. **Pointing**

The instinct to point must be clearly evident in the dog.

Pointing and questing are the two major aspects of the dog's work "before the shot". An industrious search and a productive point are a thrilling spectacle. Little game is crippled or lost when the hunter can approach game prepared for a clean shot.

The pointing stance must be intense, convincing and unmistakable as a point and, in the end, the point must be productive. No dog must be favoured more for a certain "style" of pointing as long as these criteria are met.

The dog must demonstrate an instinct to point scent as opposed to merely pointing on sight. Again, however, the pointing instinct must not be equated with the quality of the nose.

A dog is to be rewarded rather than faulted for creeping low to the ground for short distances in order to re-establish point on a runner. "Blinking", i.e. deliberately avoiding birds or pointing and then leaving game before the handler can arrive to flush the bird, or leaving the point for any reason other than re-establishing point on a running bird is to be severely penalised. However, a young dog in a Puppy Stake may break and chase after clearly establishing point without being penalised.

All points should be on game. Pointing turtles, sparrows and the like has no bearing on the work at hand, which is the production of game. However, a very young dog might be forgiven for a point on a non-game species if not done too frequently and the point could be favourably considered as an indication of the presence of the pointing instinct. This latter would be the case only if the dog had no fair opportunity to point actual game. Pointing non-game species must be considered a grave fault in the case of an older dog.

2.4.5. **Steadiness on Game**

A good HPR dog should display self-control in the presence of game and when the gun is fired. The dog should remain steady through the flush, shot and fall of the bird and until commanded by the handler to begin the retrieve. (In the case of a miss by the Gun the dog should remain steady until commanded to continue the search). However, the dog faced with an obstructed view that takes a few steps forward after the shot in order to mark the fall of the game and then halts of its own free will should be rewarded rather than penalised.

The handler will flush the bird as he would if armed and actually hunting. The handler must not deliberately place his body between the dog and bird with the intent to physically block the dog from breaking. Neither should he attempt to physically intimidate the dog for the same purpose. If carried, leashes and flushing whips must be handed to the Field Steward for the duration of the round. Talking to the dog in a soft, calm voice is permissible as a matter of course.

To demonstrate steadiness to fall, there should be a distinct time interval between the fall of the bird and the handler's command to fetch, but no specific time is prescribed and the Judges will not signal the handler to send his dog. An experienced handler with confidence in his dog will probably achieve this time interval with something like "One thousand - Two thousand - Fetch". (The handler's command to fetch, whether it be done by voice, whistle or hand signal, must be clearly recognisable by the Judges so that there can be no doubt as to whether the dog acted on command or on its own initiative).

2.4.6. **Retrieve of Shot Bird**

A good HPR dog will accomplish the retrieve quickly, happily and eagerly.

On command, the dog should go quickly to the fallen bird, pick it up and return directly to the handler and then wait calmly until told to release the bird to hand. Putting the bird down anywhere en route before being commanded to release it must be penalised, except that the Judges should be alert for any situation which might legitimately call for a change of a dog's hold on the bird. The dog should hold the bird gently but firmly with a balanced grip. Unduly damaging the bird during the retrieve must be faulted. The Judges will examine each retrieved bird for signs of "hard mouth" and determine whether any significant damage was the result of shot or mishandling by the dog.

2.4.7. **Desire to Work**

The desire to work is the hallmark of a good HPR dog and this desire is expressed in every phase of the work from beginning to end, whether on land or in water. The dog must demonstrate that it wants to find game and is willing to work hard to that end.

The desire, or lack thereof, provides a clear index of the dog's character and usefulness. A dog with proper desire will manifest it as an attitude, a force, a compulsion as it were, and the dog's work will reflect determination and a strong sense of purpose.

Aimless running hither and yon, whining and barking, must not be confused with desire. Dogs that go to heel after running for a short time and have to be coaxed repeatedly to continue their work must be penalised.

2.4.8. **Co-operation**

Co-operation can be defined as voluntary willingness on the part of the dog to apply its own initiative and special talents while working with the master in pursuit of a common goal - in this case, bringing game to bag.

When both master and dog know their tasks, co-operation appears as a silent thing that is like an invisible bond cemented with mutual trust.

Over-dependence on the master must not be confused with co-operation. The co-operative dog is sure of himself and his work displays eagerness. An overly dependent dog appears suppressed or disinterested and lacking spirit.

The intelligent co-operative dog seems to sense his master's wishes and movements. Even while on a solid point, the HPR dog will often slowly turn his head to make sure the hunter is moving up. A co-operative young dog will maintain contact with his handler. For example, when a puppy chases a bird and returns of his own volition, he demonstrates co-operation.

2.4.9. **Stamina**

Stamina is the physical counterpart of the dog's desire to work.

Without stamina, even the most willing dog cannot be fully effective for any length of time. The dog should display a smooth and even movement which permits him to cover the ground effortlessly. The dog must display good stamina throughout its work.

2.4.10. **Handling and Obedience**

A good HPR dog must be controllable at all times. Experienced hunters are aware that during any outing in the field, occasions can arise when obedience on the part of the dog must take first priority. The safety of the dog and simple "good citizenship" on the part of both the dog and the master demand it.

Also, the natural success of the hunt can hinge on an obedient dog that will willingly suppress its natural instincts and desires and obey commands when the master decides to change the scenario, so to speak. The dog should readily take hand, voice or whistle signals as a matter of course when a change of direction by the handler or the end of the work demands it.

A calm, understanding handler and an eager, co-operative, yet controlled dog working as a team are a joy to watch and it has been proven that the less unnecessary fuss and noise made by the handler as they go about their work, the better the obedience, assuming, of course, that the dog understands the commands in the first place. Although the dog and not the handler is under judgment in a Field Trial, the handler who loses his sense of values and constantly screams and shouts and "leans on the whistle" to the utter consternation of the dog, is doing the animal a terrible injustice.

- 2.5. **RULE 1 - ORDER IN WHICH DOGS ARE TO BE RUN**
 Before commencement of a round, the field steward in announcing the pair drawn for that round, must also announce the next pair to be on standby.
 Every dog shall be brought up in its proper turn without delay. If absent for more than a quarter of an hour, when called, that dog shall be liable to be disqualified by the Judges and its opponent shall run a bye or with another dog if required by them to do so. If both dogs be absent at the expiration of the quarter of an hour after being called, the Judges shall have the power of disqualifying them both.
- 2.6. **RULE 2 - MANNER OF HANDLING**
 A person handling a dog may speak, whistle and work him by hand signals as he thinks proper, but he can be called to order by the Judges, through the field steward, for making unnecessary noise, and if he persists in doing so, they can order the dog to be taken up and put him out of the stake. The extent to which any dog is commanded shall be taken into account by the Judges at their discretion when deciding the merits of that dog's performance. If the opponent's dog points game, or is roading or drawing on game, the other dog is not to be intentionally drawn across him so as to take the point.
 Any handler who considers that the behaviour of the other handler is unsettling his dog, may, through the field steward, appeal to the Judges against such behaviour.
- 2.7. **RULE 3 - METHOD OF WORKING TERRAIN**
 Dogs must be worked together and their handlers must walk within a reasonable distance of one another as though shooting together, and also in the direction indicated by the field steward. After a caution, the Judges may have the power of disqualifying the dog whose handler persists in neglecting this rule.
- 2.8.1 **Rule 4 - The number of times a dog Points Game**
 The Judges shall not necessarily decide the merits of a dog's performance by the number of times he finds and points game but rather from the quality of his total performance, ensuring that his finds were the result of intelligent searching and not the outcome of the opposing dog's questing.
- GUIDE TO RULE 4**
- 2.8.1.1 Nothing should make a dog voluntarily relinquish a point so long as he winds game and nothing but the wish to continue his point should make him neglect the acknowledgement of flush and shot.
- 2.8.1.2 Undue credit should not be given to the dog who is brought to the point either by the other dog's work or by the handler on marked birds, or who has done no spade work of his own in locating the quarry.
- 2.9.1 **RULE 5 - BACKING**
 The Judges should attempt to give an otherwise outstanding dog who has not had the opportunity to back every chance of doing so. If the pointing dog be held on point by order of the Judges for the purpose of securing a back he should not incur a penalty for misbehaviour in reference to that particular point (it being recognised that the dog is being subjected to unusual restraints).
 If a dog, which has otherwise performed outstandingly, fails to secure a back on account of failure by its bracemates to find game first, the Judges at their discretion may set up a back by calling up that dog during a point in another brace in such a way as to provide the dog the opportunity to back. The dog must be cast off out of sight of the pointing dog.
- GUIDE TO RULE 5**
- 2.9.1.1 Command backing is not desirable, but may be exercised in an emergency by a handler, without incurring the Judge's displeasure. This does not mean that the dog would not be faulted.
- 2.9.1.2 Judges should be aware of the nervous handler who unintentionally checks his dog, and, if in doubt as to the handler's intention, request that he refrain from doing so, so that the dog's spontaneity to back on sight can be put to the test. This also applies to other aspects of a dog's work, such as the acknowledgements to flush and shot
- 2.9.1.3 Especially when in heavy cover and where a "back" is required by a dog, the handler of the dog requiring the back shall be permitted to bring to the attention of his dog the pointing dog.
- 2.9.1.4 The prime task of a HPR BREED is the finding of game for himself and the less he looks to the other dog for a back, the more zealously he will attend to his task of hunting, point and bringing game to bag. It is quite enough that the dog backs when the opportunity arises.
- 2.9.1.5 A dog should back spontaneously the moment he is able to see the other dog pointing. The backing dog's reaction should be only to that of sight of the pointing dog and should have nothing to do with scent.
- 2.9.1.6 The backing dog is permitted to move forward cautiously while the pointing dog remains stationery but not jealously ahead or beyond the position where he could disturb the pointing dog or quarry, nor should he get in the way of the handler whilst the handler is approaching his dog to prove the point.
- 2.9.1.7 When the pointing dog moves and is no longer adopting the rigid motionless attitude or pose that is the expression of a determination not to disturb the quarry, the backing dog may, without word from his handler assist in the search of the game provided that in doing so, the game is not accidentally flushed.
- 2.9.1.8 If the pointing dog hesitates and is unsure of the location of his quarry (generally indicated by not being motionless on the point) the backing dog could take over the initiative. This may indicate a better nose and/or more decisive hunting of game. However, if he races jealously forward and flushes the quarry he must be faulted, irrespective of the position of the flushed quarry.
- 2.9.1.9 Taking over initiative also applies when the first dog is roading or drawing on game over cautiously. A more decisive dog can overtake the over cautious or uncertain "leading" dog. This overtaking must be done without flushing the quarry.
- 2.9.1.10 At least one of the Judges should position himself behind and in line with the pointing and backing dogs so that without much effort he can see and have both dogs in view at all times.
- 2.9.1.11 A dog need no longer back a pointing dog if whilst so doing he locates and points his own game. This generally happens when the leading dog is roading or drawing on game or when a covey splits up or when a bird is left behind or to one side of the leading dog.
- 2.9.1.12 Judges are advised to caution handlers not to obscure the view of the backing dog by standing or crossing between it and the pointing dog. If the backing dog repositions itself for the above reason and flushes game in the process, he may be forgiven for doing so, provided his repositioning does not constitute "stealing the point".
- 2.10 **RULE 6 – FIRING OVER DOGS**
- 2.10.1 Before a prize or a Certificate of Merit can be awarded to a dog the Judges must be satisfied that the dog is not gun-shy.
- 2.10.2 Firing must be a reasonable hunting distance from the dog and within reasonable killing distance from the flushing bird.
- 2.10.3 Stringent safety measures must be observed at all times.
- 2.11.1 **RULE 7 – BREAKING**
 Breaking occurs when a dog makes a deliberate movement with intent to retrieve or chase during the flush, shot or fall of the bird. In order to demonstrate steadiness, there should be a distinct time interval between the time the bird hits the ground and the command to retrieve by the handler. The backing dog must remain steady until the retrieve is completed.
 In the Derby and Maiden Stakes only, breaking on shot by the pointing dog is a major penalising fault. However, breaking on the flush of the bird must be construed as a chase and remains an eliminating fault unless the dog can be stopped within a short distance.
- 2.11.2 **GUIDE TO RULE 7**
 If a dog creeps or jumps forward a reasonable distance short of breaking as birds are shot and no effort is made by the handler to stop or restrain him, the Judges should not interpret such as a deliberate intent to retrieve, since nothing was done to stop the dog. A dog may, however, take a few steps forward after the shot in order to mark the fall of the bird as long as it halts of its own free will.
 Whilst the pointing dog is retrieving the handler of the brace mate (backing dog) must ensure that his dog is kept under control so that in the opinion of the Judges it does not interfere with the work of the retrieving dog or disturb game. The Judges may caution a handler that if a dog is not kept under control and remains within reasonable distance from the handler, he is liable for elimination for being out of control.

In the Derby and Maiden Stakes, breaking on shot which results in a retrieve is only allowed for the pointing dog. Breaking on shot by the backing dog will more often than not result in stealing the retrieve and interfere with the positive work of the pointing dog. Therefore, unless the backing dog can be brought under control without interfering with the pointing dog's work, breaking by the backing dog should be an eliminating fault in order to protect the pointing dog. In the event of both dogs pointing at the same time and breaking at the same time, the Judges should give the benefit of the doubt to both dogs.

2.12 **RULE 8 – DIRECTIONS ON THE FALL**

The Judges, when requested, should give reasonable directions to the handler as to the area where the Game has fallen.

2.13.1 **RULE 9 – SILENCE / MOVING**

Judges, guns and Field Stewards should refrain from talking to anybody while a dog is out working on a retrieve. They should furthermore be careful not to influence this phase of the Trial by moving around excessively, or by standing directly behind or in front of the handler and thus confusing the dog.

Handlers may not move up to the fallen bird with the intention of pointing out the bird to the dog.

2.13.2 **GUIDE TO RULE 9 – ENSURING A CLEAR VIEW**

From the moment a dog starts to retrieve a Judge should make every effort, bearing in mind the provision of Rule 8 above, to keep that dog in view and so place himself when the dog is sent out for a retrieve, to enable him to observe every move of the dog until the game is delivered to hand.

A handler may reposition himself or move slightly forward in order to direct the dog by command towards the fallen bird in the case of an unsighted fall.

2.14. **RULE 10 – ADVICE TO THE HANDLER**

The Judges must ensure that during a retrieve, while the dog is out working, no person other than a Judge may give advice to the handler as to the position of the dog.

2.15 **RULE 11 – LOST BIRD**

In the case where a dog is sent but fails to find the bird, the Judge may elect to send out the other dog in the brace to do the retrieving. If, however, the brace mate also fails to find the bird and the Judges and the Stewards have made all reasonable attempts to find the bird and have failed, the retrieve must be annulled and completely disregarded by the Judges.

2.16.1 **RULE 12 – DOUBLES**

Where the guns have shot more than one bird out of a rising covey, the Judges may elect to share the retrieving between the pointing dog and the backing dog, thus giving each the opportunity to retrieve. The pointing dog should be sent out first. The backing dog may only be sent out after the pointing dog has completed his retrieve, and only at the command of the Judges.

2.16.2 **GUIDE TO RULE 12 – DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY**

The Judges must take cognisance of the fact that the backing dog may well be presented with a 'blind retrieve' due to the position he was backing from and must mark the retrieves according to their degree of difficulty.

2.17.1 **RULE 13 – GATHERING OF GAME**

All wounded game must be gathered in as soon as possible and killed at the earliest opportunity.

2.17.2 **GUIDE TO RULE 13 – DELIVERY OF THE GAME**

Delivery of the bird should be made to the handler directly upon return from the retrieve and should be given up willingly. A dog should not "freeze" or be unwilling to give it up. He should not jump after the bird once the handler has taken it from him. Dogs should not be faulted for stopping to reposition the bird in the mouth as long as the dog does not release its hold on the bird.

2.18.1 **RULE 14 – INSPECTION OF RETRIEVE GAME / HARD MOUTH**

All game retrieved and delivered to the handler shall be inspected by one of the Judges for any damage indicating hard mouth in the retrieving dog. Where a case of hard mouth is suspected the Judge shall offer the game in question to all the other Judges for their opinion. Dogs displaying hard mouth must be eliminated from the Stake.

In all cases of doubt, the benefit should be given to the dog. In the cases where the Judges have eliminate a dog for hard mouth, the damaged bird shall be shown to the handler in the presence of the Judges.

2.18.2 **GUIDE TO RULE 14 – HARD MOUTH**

The accepted measure of "hard mouth" is based on the game having been so severely damaged by the dog as to make it unfit for the table "Unfit" is generally accepted to mean that the game is in an unfit condition to be served intact, primarily as a result of a crushed or collapsed ribcage or missing body parts.

Hard mouth can sometimes be visually evident when the external damage is severe, and the game is obviously damaged with torn or missing body parts or with a crushed and/or flattened skeleton. In such instances the dog often demonstrates obvious signs of damaging the game, such as chewing, shaking, tearing at or clamping its jaws down on the game. Many hard mouthed dogs, however, will give no obvious indications of damaging the game. Conversely, many dogs which mouth game never actually damage the game, and are not guilty of hard mouth.

Each bird must, therefore, be inspected for internal as well as external damage. Judges must satisfy themselves that the damage was caused by the dog and not by the shot, fall or capture. In the event of doubt as to the cause of damage, the dog must be afforded the benefit of the doubt. Judges should be aware that a difficult capture or a strong runner being retrieved by an inexperienced dog may result in damage which, if not too severe, need not result in that dog being eliminated.

To examine game for evidence of hard mouth the game should be placed in the palm of the hand, breast downwards with the head facing forward. The ribs should be felt with the finger and thumb of the opposite hand. The ribs should be round or oval and firm. In the absence of doubt as to the cause of the damage, the following are clear indications of hard mouth.

- Either one or both sides of the ribcage are collapsed or flattened, with an obvious cavity where the ribs should be rounded.

- The ribcage is "loose" and is completely detached from the backbone, in addition to being flattened and/or collapsed.

2.19 **RULE 15 - ELIMINATING AND MAJOR PENALISING FAULTS**

A pair of dogs should be called up during a round immediately one or both dogs commits an eliminating fault. The reason being firstly to guard the innocent dog and secondly to leave no doubt as to the elimination of the offending dog from the stake. However, if the innocent dog is unaffected and busy working scent, pointing or retrieving the Judges may, at their discretion, allow the round to continue for as long as it takes the innocent dog to complete its current work.

A dog committing an eliminating fault will be eliminated from all stakes entered during a specific trial with the exception of the specific criteria as described for Derby, Maiden and Puppy Stakes under 2.28.3 and 2.28.4.

2.19.1 **ELIMINATING FAULTS – OPEN AND CHAMPIONSHIP_STAKES**

2.19.1.1 **LACKING ABILITY**

The ability of a dog will be gauged against the average standard required of the competitors in a particular stake and, if considered by the judges to be below the standard required in the event, the dog shall be discarded by elimination.

2.19.1.2 **CHASING**

A dog making a DISTINCT chase shall be taken up immediately.

2.19.1.3 **OUT OF CONTROL**

A dog is considered to be out of control if it hunts for the major portion of his round out of sight of the handler and fails to respond to being called in. Also when the dog displays lack of self-control resulting in :

- Breaking in on shot
- deliberate breaking in on game from a point or whilst roading or drawing in on moving game;
- obvious snapping at game;
- refusing to back, when a dog either blatantly ignores a pointing dog, or steals the point or attempts to steal the point;
- hunting trail;

- blinking;
 - failure to deliver;
 - refusal to enter water;
 - stealing the retrieve.
- 2.19.1.4 GUNSHYNESS
Indicated by a dog being easily frightened by the report of the gun and either bolts or turns timid and trails his handler and/or stops hunting.
- 2.19.1.5 REFUSAL TO RETRIEVE
- 2.19.1.6 HARDMOUTH
- 2.19.1.7 EXCESSIVE WHINING OR BARKING WHILE HUNTING OR RETRIEVING
- 2.19.2 MAJOR AND PENALISING FAULTS – OPEN AND CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES
These are to be considered to be serious and whilst not in themselves eliminating faults, they could in some instances (Regulation 2.2.3.3) if perpetrated, result in a dog being excluded from gaining an award.
The perpetration of these faults can at times be a question of degree and result in a fault being adjudged as trivial. It is therefore important that the Judges use their discretion and be guided by the recommendations put forward under Regulation 2.2.3.
- 2.19.2.1 MAJOR AND PENALISING FAULTS WHILST HUNTING
- not making good ground;
 - failing to use available wind;
 - repeated flushing and failure to nail birds;
 - repeated failure to acknowledge flush;
 - repeatedly leaving birds behind;
 - flushing birds on taking over from an overly cautious or sticky dog;
 - following up of marked birds;
 - reluctantly steady to flush and/or shot;
 - obvious reluctance to back;
 - repeatedly back-casting to return to scent;
 - trailing;
 - pottering;
 - stickiness on point and/or scent;
 - obvious false pointing;
 - insistence of the dog to hunt behind the handler;
 - inability of the handler to get the dog to hunt the course;
 - the obvious tendency of the dog to draw or pull his handler off the intended course;
 - failure of the dog to adjust to the cover conditions;
 - where a dog will only respond to excessive and/or noisy handling;
 - when a handler attempts to cover up the failings in a dog, or tries to do the dog's work for him;
 - not making out the covey;
 - persistent barren pointing;
 - when the handler has to command the dog to remain steady during he point, back flush, shot or fall of the bird. However, talking to the dog in a soft, calm voice is permissible as a matter of course;
 - backing only under command by the handler.
- 2.19.2.2 MAJOR AND PENALISING FAULTS WHILST RETRIEVING
- picking up more than one (1) bird at a time;
 - switching birds / areas of fall;
 - failure to mark;
 - failure to find;
 - disturbing the ground;
 - freezing on the bird;
 - urinating / defecating on way to fall;
 - reluctance to enter cover or water.
- 2.19.3 ELIMINATING OR MAJOR PENALISING FAULTS - DERBY AND MAIDEN STAKES
In these stakes, eliminating and major penalising faults apply as for Open and Championship stakes with the following exceptions:
- Breaking in on shot is a major penalising fault.
 - A dog which has started to chase and is immediately and easily checked by his handler may still be a good and certainly obedient dog and should be given credit for obedience and not be eliminated for this alone.
 - Refusal to back is a major penalising fault provided that the dog is kept under control by the handler in order not to steal the point, which remains an eliminating fault.
- 2.19.4 PUPPY STAKES
In a puppy stake, of prime importance, is to look for the dog with the most potential and the dog need not point, back, be fired over or be steady, and with the exception of lack of ability, none of the eliminating or penalising faults will apply.
- 2.20. **RULE 16 - BYES**
The Judges shall decide whether a bye be run or not, and if it be run, with what dog the competitor shall run it off. If not run, a dog drawing a bye shall be run in the first pair of the following round.
- 2.21 **RULE 17 - AWARDS**
- 2.21.1.1 OPEN AND CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES
No dog shall be placed first, second or third unless it has found, pointed and proven game, been fired over, backed and retrieved satisfactorily on land and in water.
- 2.21.1.2 MAIDEN STAKE
No dog shall be placed first unless it has found, pointed and proven game, been fired over, backed and retrieved satisfactorily on land and in water.
No dog shall be placed second or third unless it has found, pointed and proven game, been fired over and retrieved satisfactorily on land and in water.
- 2.21.1.3 DERBY STAKE
No dog shall be placed first unless it has found, pointed and proven game, been fired over, backed and retrieved satisfactorily on land.
No dog shall be placed second or third unless it has found, pointed and proven game, been fired over and retrieved satisfactorily on land.
- 2.21.1.4 PUPPY STAKES.
In a puppy stake, of prime importance, is to look for the dog with the most potential and the dog need not point, back or be steady.
- 2.21.1.5 CERTIFICATES OF MERIT
In all stakes, other than a puppy stake, no dog which has not found, pointed and proven game, and been fired over shall be awarded a Certificate of Merit.

2.21.1.6 GUIDE TO RULE 17 - AWARDS

If a dog, which has otherwise performed outstandingly, fails to secure a back on account of failure by its braced mates to find game first, the Judges at their discretion may set up a back by calling up that dog during a point in another brace in such a way as to provide the dog the opportunity to back. The dog must be cast off out of sight of the pointing dog.

If a dog, with otherwise outstanding performance fails to secure a retrieve on account of a miss by the guns or another dog stealing its bird, the Judges at their discretion may set up an artificial retrieve. A shot is fired, a dead bird is thrown as high as possible by a hidden thrower to land not less than 40 metres from the stationary dog. The dog should remain steady throughout the throw, shot and fall of the bird without any command or intimidation by the handler. As the dead bird reaches its maximum height, a second shot is fired. The handler sends the dog on command. The same guidelines for the water retrieve apply to the artificial land retrieve.

2.22 RULE 18 - CERTIFICATES

Dogs which have been placed first, second or third shall be entitled to Certificates specifying the Stake and details of the Award.

2.23 RULE 19 - POWER TO WITHHOLD PRIZES

The Judges will be empowered to withhold any prize or prizes if, in their opinion, the competing dog do not show sufficient merit.

2.24.1 RULE 20 - WATER RETRIEVE

Before a prize can be awarded to a dog in an Open, Championship or Maiden Stake, or be awarded a Field Qualifying Certificate, the dog must demonstrate its ability to do a water retrieve by means of an artificial water test.

2.24.2 GUIDE TO RULE 20

2.24.2.1 GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE WATER RETRIEVE

All dogs reaching the final round in the Open, Championship and Maiden stakes of the trial must be tested with a water retrieve. Additionally, all dogs entered in the Field Qualifying Stake that have satisfied the other field requirements must be tested with a water retrieve.

For this purpose a suitable dam or stream of appropriate size and depth must be available.

Dogs will be required to retrieve a saluted gamebird, preferably a waterfowl, at an approximate distance of forty (40) metres. The water must be deep enough to require the dog to swim in order to reach the game bird, and the bank of the dam or stream must be wide enough to allow the handler and dog to position themselves approximately three (3) metres from the water's edge.

The dog should remain steady throughout the shot, throw and fall of the bird. When the bird has landed in the water, the handler will command his dog to retrieve. The handler must remain in the designated position as the dog executes the retrieve. The dog should deliver to hand.

The gallery may watch the water test from a position indicated by the field steward, but not closer than 25 meters from the dog under judgment. Dogs not being tested may remain out of sight or earshot, as the handler wishes, but must be prompt in coming into the line when called. Should the handler and dog remain with the gallery in order to watch the test, then the dog must remain quiet and under control. Should such a dog disrupt the test by whining or other means, the steward will instruct the handler to remove his dog to a position where it cannot be a nuisance. If, in the opinion of the Judges, a dog in the gallery has induced misbehaviour by the dog under judgment, the dog under judgment must be afforded a second opportunity to be tested, without penalty.

2.24.2.2 EXECUTION OF THE WATER RETRIEVE

The Field Steward will marshal all competitors prior to the water retrieve, and the Chief Judge, or another Judge in the Stake, will explain in detail how the water test will be run, and what will be expected of the handler and dog.

The Field Steward will call the handler and dog into line and will also announce the next dog to be tested.

The handler will proceed to the position indicated by the Judge, who will repeat the requirements of the test at this time. If necessary the Judge will explain or answer any questions that the handler may have. Once the Judge is satisfied that the handler understands the test requirements, he will give the handler an opportunity to settle his dog. The handler will then prepare the dog for the retrieve, speaking and handling him as he/she so wishes, and when satisfied that the dog is settled and is ready to commence with the water retrieve, will hand his lead and any other objects that could be used to intimidate the dog to the Judge.

At that point, the Judge will indicate to the handler that the dog is under judgment for the water retrieve, and once the Judge has done so, the handler may not speak to or touch his dog without incurring a penalty and/or elimination.

The judge will signal the gun and thrower to proceed.

A shot will be fired and a dead bird will be thrown as high as possible by a hidden thrower to land in the water not less than forty (40) metres from the stationary dog on the bank.

The handler will command the dog to retrieve only after the bird has landed in the water. The handler must remain stationary, and under no circumstances move closer to the water until the dog has delivered to hand, at which time the Judge will take the bird and return the lead to the handler. At that point, the dog and handler will cease to be under judgment, and may retire from the line.

2.24.2.3 JUDGEMENT OF THE WATER RETRIEVE

The purpose of the water retrieve is to test the dog's ability to efficiently execute a retrieve from water. This comprises the dog's steadiness and self-control at the water, willingness to enter water and to swim, game handling skills, as well as co-operation with the handler by the return and delivery of the game to hand. Good HPR's should easily satisfy all of these requirements, and the judgment of this test should reflect the fact that these are essential aspects of an HPR's performance.

2.24.2.3.1 Steadiness – The steadiness requirements of the water retrieve are exactly the same as those that apply in the fieldwork. Once the handler and dog are under judgement, the Judges must strictly enforce the steadiness requirements of each individual Stake. Any dog that displays a total lack of self-control by whining excessively while under judgment will be eliminated.

2.24.2.3.2 Willingness to Enter Water and Swim – The dog must enter water readily without influence by the handler. It is unimportant whether the dog leaps into the water or enters in a slower manner; it is only important that the dog enter willingly. Should a handler have to command the dog more than once to retrieve in order to make it enter water, that dog will be faulted. Repeated, unsuccessful efforts by the handler to make the dog enter water and retrieve will result in elimination for either failure to retrieve or to enter. Dogs should be able to swim with ease, although it should be recognised that an excited or an inexperienced dog may splash or paddle upwards in its efforts to reach the bird.

2.24.2.3.3 Game Handling – Dogs should readily grasp the game in the water and return with it without dropping or leaving the game anywhere en route. Repositioning the game to get a better grip will not be faulted, but putting the game down to nose or mouth it, or leaving it at the water's edge will be faulted in relation to the degree and number of times the fault is repeated.

2.24.2.3.4 Delivery – Dogs will display their co-operation and, to a certain extent, their training, by their immediate return with the game and delivery to hand. Dogs that refuse to deliver to hand may have poor game handling skills or they may be simply unco-operative. Either cause is to be faulted, in relation to the seriousness of the misdemeanour, and in relation to the Stake requirements. Open dogs should deliver willingly to hand without fuss, and Open dogs that require several commands to deliver to hand will be seriously faulted, while those that require excessive commands will be eliminated for being out of control. Maiden and Field Qualifying entrants will be allowed some leniency in their delivery and game handling skills. Hardmouth remains an eliminating fault, regardless of Stake

3. GUIDE TO THE DUTIES OF THE FIELD STEWARD

3.1. INTRODUCTION

It cannot be over-stressed that the responsibility of the Field Steward is to ensure that a carefully planned Field Trial is satisfactorily completed. He is in charge of the event from start to finish. In terms of the Rules and Regulations, all instructions to competitors are issued through him. Competitors and spectators must obey his instructions and requests implicitly.

The Field Steward may be required to deviate from his course at the request of the Judges. In turn he may ask for their co-operation to achieve his main objective which is to run the event on time, in a time-saving manner, and in such circumstances as to present the competing dogs to the Judges most advantageously.

- 3.1.1 **Duties**
- 3.1.1.1 To run the Trial while the Judges are required to judge the dogs under trial.
- 3.1.1.2 He is to sit in on the deliberations of the Judges but may not take part unless, in terms of the General Regulations, he is asked for his opinion. All information gleaned during such deliberations must be treated in the strictest confidence.
- 3.1.1.3 The Field Steward must also appoint two (2) persons to act as the "Guns" for the duration of the Trial and must ensure that they have both guns and ammunition before the commencement of the Trial.
- 3.1.1.4 He must control the movements of spectators and followers so that they do not obstruct the working of the dogs or observation by the Judges.
- 3.1.1.5 He must enforce the "no smoking" rule strictly in the interests of safety but is empowered to announce smoking breaks when applicable.
- 3.1.1.6 He must relieve handlers of their leads and any other objects, including collars, that the Judges deem to be potentially intimidating to the dog. These must be retained for the duration of the round.
- 3.1.1.7 He must assist the Guns in negotiating fences by temporarily relieving them of the shotgun.

3.1.2 **Guidelines**

- 3.1.2.1 The Field Steward shall get the first round off strictly on the scheduled starting time, proceeding as rapidly as possible with the draw which has been previously made.
- 3.1.2.2 He shall personally brief each pair of handlers as to direction in the presence of each other.
- 3.1.2.3 He shall insist that the handlers maintain the indicated direction unless a handler's dog is off course because of working a scent or roading game.
- 3.1.2.4 Should game in a given area prove to be abundant, with each dog of the brace having a "point" and a "back", to save time and conserve ground, the Field Steward may request the Judges' permission to call them up and put the next brace down.
- 3.1.2.5 A dog that has committed an eliminating fault should be taken up immediately. However, this can only be done with the sanction of the Judges. In such a case, a dog which has drawn a bye may be brought forward to finish the round with the remaining dog.
- 3.1.2.6 At the end of the Judges' deliberations after the first round, the Field Steward must ensure that he is ready for the next draw to take place. Thereafter, armed with the knowledge of how many brace are left in, he must bear in mind that it is preferable that no dog should be worked later than 11h00 or 11h30 to avoid the midday heat, if possible, and depending on climatic conditions. It may therefore be necessary to limit the rounds according to the time available, no matter how short the rounds may be. The time allowed for each pair of dogs in every round is the decision of the Judges.
- 3.1.2.7 At the end of the second round, and after the deliberations of the Judges, the further draws or pairings will take place. The Field Steward will announce the starting times and location of all rounds, together with the draw or pairings.
- 3.1.2.8 The third round proceeds in accordance with the draw or pairings under the full control, as before, of the Field Steward. After the completion of the round the Judges will make available the names of the dogs which they wish to see run again. All other handlers should be encouraged to follow, as this may not be the Judges' final selection.

The foregoing is not a comprehensive list of the duties of a Field Steward, but rather, some of the less obvious requirements of stewarding. In due course, competent stewarding can lead to the honour of being invited to judge a Field Trial event being extended to an experienced and competent Field Steward. These persons render an invaluable service at the various Trials and it is from this experience that they gain so much know-how

4. **GUIDE TO THE GAME BIRDS BEST SUITED FOR FIELD TRIALS**

4.1. Listed below are the species of Terrestrial Game Birds most commonly found and utilized in Field Trials in Southern Africa, due mainly to their suitability and acceptable range of habitat etc.:

- 4.1.1. Greywing Francolin;
- 4.1.2. Redwing Francolin;
- 4.1.3. Shelleys Francolin;
- 4.1.4. Orange River Francolin.

These are typical grassveld species occurring from mountain slopes to savannah. They generally sit tight and are very acceptable for field trial purposes.

4.2. Others are:

- 4.2.1. Swainsons Francolin.
Generally works well for field trial purposes but can have a tendency to be runners if found in certain conditions. They inhabit a wide spectrum of habitats, from bushveld to open grassland, and frequent heavy cover around lands and contour strips and are well adapted to cultivation. A good and abundant field trial bird if found in suitable conditions.
- 4.2.2. Coqui Francolin.
Occur in territorial coveys in open bushveld and often found in Protea veld. These birds, if found in reasonably open grassland, are ideal for use for field trial purposes.

4.3. The other Francolin species such as the:

- 4.3.1. Red Billed Francolin;
- 4.3.2. Natal Francolin;
- 4.3.3. Red Necked Francolin;
- 4.3.4. Crested Francolin;
- 4.3.5. Cape Francolin.

are not really suited for field trial purposes as their habitat is generally riverine or heavy bush and they are also very limited in numbers. However, if encountered, the dog must work them and be judged accordingly.

4.4. The Helmeted Guinea Fowl.

This species presents a good field trial prospect when there are young pullets, chicks or doting hens. They are found in late summer or early autumn and in open grassland conditions. Unfortunately, at this time of the year trials are not normally held.

If, during the winter, one is able to split a flock of guinea fowl and they settle and sit tight in fairly heavy vlei type cover, they would be acceptable for field trials as the dogs could then hunt them. This is not always possible or practical and if hunted the unsplit troops lead even a good dog a "merry dance" by just running out of range and always pulling the dogs to the limits of their control and often beyond. Accordingly, guinea fowl are not considered satisfactory for field trial purposes. It is not uncommon for a Chief Judge to allow a handler to call his dog off a troop of guinea fowl or to instruct the Field Steward to avoid them completely.

4.5. Quail (all varieties)

When around in sufficient quantities and in their restricted geographical areas, these birds can be successfully used in field trials but unfortunately, this mainly occurs in mid-summer when trials are not held.

The occasional one is found, or flushed, in the winter but not in sufficient numbers to be seriously considered as ideal for field trials. Many dogs are also trained to ignore them due to their close resemblance to ground larks which also have a fairly good scent. Mainly due to scarcity, many a dog rarely has an opportunity to work or train on these timid birds.

In judging a dog on quail it is recommended that a dog doing positive work on them should be given all the credit he deserves and should be elect to work them and faults whilst doing so, he should be penalised accordingly but should a dog choose to ignore them he must NOT be faulted for doing so even after having previously done positive work on quail.

This also applies to the quasi game birds such as the various bustards and snipe and jackal, meerkat, feral cat, ducks, etc and all species of buck and hare.

It is desirable to use only wild game in natural veld and every effort must be made to achieve this end. However, in instances where there is a lack of naturally occurring game, and no other venue available, reared gamebirds may be used in HPR trials as described in Regulation 5.

5. **RULES FOR THE RELEASE OF GAME IN FIELD TRIALS**

5.1. **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

In instances where there is a lack of, or scarcity of, naturally occurring wild game, reared game birds may be used in HPR field trials. Reared birds may be used to either supplement natural game or they may be utilised exclusively, but only as a last resort to natural game. Clubs should make all efforts to find suitable venues to run field trials on natural game, however, if this is not possible and reared birds must be utilised, then it is essential that the host club adhere to certain guidelines for the use and release of game. These guidelines are discussed below.

The most important consideration when using reared game birds is that the birds should be released in such a manner as to simulate trialing conditions on natural game. As in a natural trial, the competing dogs should earn their opportunities by way of their superior game finding abilities; and they can only do so if birds are released relatively sparingly and over a large area. Under no circumstances are birds to be released in such numbers as to give all dogs a "point" or a "full house". The host Club must therefore use integrity and common sense to avoid the temptation to release game birds in such a way as to make the trial easy to run or solely in order to have a result.

5.2. **GENERAL RULES**

5.2.1. **GAME BIRDS THAT CAN BE USED**

Reared pheasant, guineafowl, francolin or partridge of various species may be utilised successfully in field trials. It is essential that the correct cover conditions exist over the area the trial is to be run. It is also essential that the birds are strong, healthy and good flyers.

Releasing gamebirds is most successful when the cover is sufficiently thick and high for them to hide completely, and particularly when the cover is sufficiently thick to prevent them running ahead of the dogs and handlers. The fynbos of the Western Cape, for instance, is reasonably thick and high, but has little cover between thick bushes and therefore encourages pheasant to run ahead of the dogs and handlers, much like guinea fowl do in sparse cover. It is not always possible to tell whether the cover will hold the gamebird or not simply by looking at it, so it is strongly recommended that clubs test various areas before the trial in order to determine whether or not the cover will be suitable. "Suitable" can be taken to mean that the cover will hold the birds so that they act in a reasonably natural manner, being able to take cover and hide and sitting fairly tight on approach of the dog, yet still flushing when under pressure by the dog or handler.

5.2.2. **CARE OF THE GAME**

As discussed above, only very healthy and strong birds should be used for field trials. In order to get the best results from these birds the following guidelines must be followed:

5.2.2.1. If birds are to be kept in crates, then they should be kept there for the minimum period of time logistically possible and certainly not for more than twenty-four (24) hours at a time.

5.2.2.2. Ideally, birds should be collected and crated as soon as possible before the start of the trial. If birds are to be collected more than twenty-four (24) hours before the start of the Trial, then a release pen should be available in which to keep them until such time as they are transported to the Trial venue.

5.2.2.3. If birds are to be kept at the Trial venue for more than twenty-four (24) hours, then a release pen must also be available for them there.

5.2.2.4. A game steward, or another designated person, must be responsible for the care, watering and feeding of the game. The game must have access to food and fresh water at all times, except when they are in transit for short periods of time.

5.2.2.5. The game steward will also be responsible for keeping the shot game in good condition and for keeping live game and dead game separate at all times.

5.2.3. **DUTIES OF THE FIELD STEWARD AND/OR THE GAME STEWARD**

The club should appoint a person or persons to be responsible for the release of game. This may be the field steward or the game steward or both may work together. Their duties include the following:

5.2.3.1. To liaise with the club to determine when, where and how the game is to be released.

5.2.3.2. To be responsible for supervising the transport and release of game.

5.2.3.3. To indicate to the Judges the general areas or course over which game has been released. The field steward will follow the main fairway of the course, and may not under any circumstances lead the dogs to the exact positions where game has been released or indicate to Judges or competitors those positions.

5.2.3.4. To see that the guidelines for the release of game are adhered to.

5.2.4. **RULES FOR RELEASING THE GAME**

The club will have determined, prior to the trial, a suitable course over which birds will be released, the number of birds to be released and a suitable density of birds for that particular trial. These will be determined by a number of factors such as cover and terrain, the area of ground the dogs are expected to cover, the average duration each brace runs during the rounds, the number of dogs running and, to some extent, scenting and temperature conditions. Generally only one (1) bird per ten (10) minute round should be released. The "course" will essentially be a large fairway along which the game is to be released, and an effort should be made to release game at the extremities of this course as well as the main areas.

Neither the field trial Judges nor any handler may be involved in the actual release of game, nor may they know the exact positions where game has been released. Judges will, however, participate in determining the areas in which the various rounds of the trial are to be run and also in determining the density of birds to release for each round. For instance, Judges may prefer less game contact in the first few rounds, or to work the dogs over more difficult terrain in the last rounds, and if the field steward is in agreement then the game may be released accordingly.

The following guidelines must be adhered to when releasing game:

5.2.4.1. Persons handling the game must wear clean cotton gloves so as to minimise the amount of human scent on the birds. Birds should not be held to the body or come in contact with anything other than the gloved hand. The gloves should be kept in the crate or release pen in which the gamebirds are stored, again in order to minimise the amount of human scent on the glove.

5.2.4.2. Birds must be released. They may not be "planted" in cover, and the use of cages, hobbles or any other form of tethering the birds to prevent them moving is not permitted under any circumstances. Dizzing the birds in order to make them sit still for a period of time is also expressly prohibited, and should be unnecessary if the proper cover is used.

5.2.4.3. Birds are to be released either by letting them out of the crate, one (1) or two (2) at a time, or by launching them from one's hand. The birds should be released or thrown in such a way as to let them find a suitable place of their own choice to land. They should fly or move a reasonable distance away from the point of release.

5.2.4.4. The birds should be released at random intervals along the course, alternating between the farthest left and right of the course and the middle areas of the course.

5.2.4.5. Game must be released at least one (1) hour prior to the start of each round or session.

5.2.5. **WOUNDED BIRDS**

All reasonable efforts should be made to recover wounded game. If a bird has been wounded and the competing dogs cannot find it, then dogs selected by the field steward shall proceed immediately in an effort to recover the bird. Birds that have been released and are not found after the round is completed may be recovered after the trial is finished.

6. **A GUIDE TO THE IDEAL FIELD TRIAL TERRAIN**

Firstly, the ideal terrain is one where there are enough but not an overabundance of evenly distributed game birds and where there is a variety of terrain to test the dogs' ability to adapt to different terrain.

Secondly, the type of terrain which does not impinge on their performance characteristics and intended functional use such as terrain which will inhibit the dogs' free running style and make it difficult to see even at close quarters. Likewise, barren grasslands or swampy vleis, standing crop lands or other areas which are criss-crossed with fences into small camps and/or camps which are heavily populated with accepted species of game birds (making it a "chicken run") are undesirable.

Some of the undesirable aspects of terrain as described above are always found, even in the best field trial venues. This factor must be recognised and accepted as a "local condition" but Field Stewards should endeavour to avoid these where possible.

Accepting the above description of a "local condition" i.e. "different types of cover and conditions" as referred to in "the Standard", a good dog must handle them as described therein.

It is desirable that the climatic conditions on the ideal field trial terrain be such for a time of year when holding trials, that does not have extremes in temperature and long enough so that there can be an even flow of dogs competing on as equitable a basis as possible, which includes "cover, conditions, birds, direction of wind, etc".

Lastly, if all the foregoing criteria can be met and the area still caters for the trial management infrastructure such as access, accommodation, etc, the ideal trial terrain will have been found.

7. **A GUIDE TO FIELD TRIAL TERMINOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS**

7.1. **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

7.1.1. **Of Flush**

is when a dog reacts by either stopping or pausing or dropping to the flush of game, usually within close proximity of the flush.

7.1.2. **Of Shot**

as above and generally coupled to the flush, but applies to the reaction of the shot, i.e. stopping, pausing or dropping.

7.2. **BACK CASTING**

When a dog returns to an area after already having moved away from the area he has already made out (as in "making out") once the handler is well past the area in question.

7.3. **BACKING**

Is the acknowledgement of a point of another dog which is in sight of the backing dog by stopping spontaneously and adopting an intense attitude or pose. This done without the scent of game and only by sight.

7.4. **BACKING THE GUN**

Is when a dog cannot see his brace mate and backs (as above) his stationary handler.

7.5. **BARREN GROUND**

An area where there is no game.

7.6. **BARREN POINT**

A dog gives every indication of the presence of game but after a brief pause or period of enquiry, quickly makes up his own mind that the recently present living game has moved on and carries on hunting or readily moves off when the handler fails to prove the point. The opposing dog acknowledges the presence of scent in contrast to false pointing where no interest is shown.

7.7. **BLIND RETRIEVE**

Is a retrieve where the dog does not have sight of the bird as it falls through the air.

7.8. **BLINKING**

Is a dog that turns away from game which is in the open, or which flushes and retreats towards his handler or when striking scent, instead of locating and pointing the game, declines to do so and moves away. Also a dog which deliberately leaves a point on eventually proven game (usually by the other dog) and carries on hunting. Not to be confused with recasting from a point to eventually prove the game.

7.9. **BORING**

Is when a dog runs straight into the wind instead of quartering.

7.10. **BREAKING IN ON SHOT**

Is when a dog makes a movement on the shot with deliberate intent to retrieve or chase before the bird is on the ground irrespective of being ordered to do so by his handler or not.

7.11. **BREAKING IN ON GAME**

When a dog deliberately and without instruction from its handler rushes in on game from a point, usually associated with Chasing and out of control.

7.12. **BUCK**

Larger species of antelope normally not hunted with a shotgun.

7.13. **BUMPING**

See FLUSH accidental

7.14. **CAST**

The dog himself can make a cast in his effort to re-pick up scent, usually downwind of the bird.

7.15. **CAST OFF**

To start the dog hunting.

7.16. **CHASE**

When a dog deliberately chases with malicious intent any animal or bird, often associated with "giving tongue".

7.17. **COMMAND BACK**

Is when a handler checks and/or commands his dog to back, when it is not backing spontaneously.

7.18. **DISTURBING THE GROUND**

This occurs when a dog on a retrieve moves through an area which is considered to be outside the area of the fall, thereby causing possible accidental flushing of game or disturbing other dogs.

7.19. **DRAWING ON GAME**

The dog, having winded or pointed game advances, usually in an attitude of stealth and at varying speeds according to temperament and/or circumstances, so as to get nearer the game, and coming onto point when correctly distanced. "Drawing on Game" normally occurs when the dog is only guided by scent as distinct from "Roading Game" which is as above, but generally advancing on visual contact with game.

7.20. **DROPPING TO FLUSH OR SHOT**

The dog drops to a crouch when game is flushed, or a shot is fired. Sitting or remaining standing is acceptable. (See Acknowledgement)

7.21. **FAILURE TO ENTER**

Failure to enter rough cover, water, ice, mud or other situations involving unpleasant going for the dog.

7.22. **FALSE POINT**

The dog assumes a pointing stance, and obstinately holds it, when there is no evidence of game and apparently no scent as evidenced by the lack of interest on the part of the opposing dog.

- 7.23. **FEATHERING**
The dog is arrested and/or preoccupied by scent in a restricted area, expecting to find game nearby. Normally making short excited casts in the immediate area.
- 7.24. **FLUSH**
7.24.1. Accidental
Disturbing birds by running into them without having been aware of their presence; acknowledgment, however, must follow the flush.
7.24.2. Deliberate
The handler or handler and dog, or the dog only, are required to flush birds by moving forward to prove the point and the dog's steadiness to flush and shot.
- 7.25. **FREEZING**
Freezing on the bird occurs when the dog is reluctant to release the retrieved bird to his handler.
- 7.26. **FUR**
Hare or small buck, which can be hunted with a shotgun over pointing dogs and which, can be regarded as fair game for the pot.
- 7.27. **GAME**
See separate heading "Game best suited for Field Trials", meaning accepted game birds, hare or buck.
- 7.28. **GIVING TONGUE**
Yelping or barking while quartering or, more commonly, when giving chase.
- 7.29. **GOING OUT OF HIS WAY**
Going out of his way to a fall without certainty of purpose or to avoid going into the water in a water retrieve.
- 7.30. **GUNS**
Persons appointed by the Field Steward to do the shooting on behalf of the handlers during a field trial.
- 7.31. **GUNSHY**
When a dog is unnerved by gunfire, usually characterised by staying close to the handler and exhibiting reluctance to continue hunting.
- 7.32. **HARD MOUTH**
Hard mouth occurs when, on a retrieve, a dog badly damages the game, which, in the opinion of the Judges, was not caused by either the shot or the fall.
- 7.33. **HEADING**
When a dog, in an attempt to intercept running birds, makes a wide cast round the birds and comes in to head them off. It is generally from the pointing dog, if at all, that heading would come but either dog may do so provided, always, that the outcome of the exercise proves his intent.
- 7.34. **HOLDING THE POINT**
A dog which holds its point until such time that the quarry can be presented to the gun and is flushed usually by its handler.
- 7.35. **HUNTING OBJECTIVES**
Dog proceeding from one bit of cover to the next in search of game.
- 7.36. **HUNTING TRAIL**
The dog with nose to the ground follows foot scent, usually in a straight line.
- 7.37. **TAKING A LINE**
Taking the line of a bird from either an "accidental" or "deliberate" flush. The dog will visually follow the flight path of the bird and "mark" its location. This is generally followed by the dog "taking a line" to mark. Not to be confused with "viewing away".
- 7.38. **LOST BIRD**
Occurs when neither the dog sent to retrieve the bird, nor the brace mate can find the bird and all other reasonable attempts by the Judges and Field Stewards also fail to find a shot bird.
- 7.39. **MAKING OUT THE COVEY**
The dog, ensuring that none of the covey remains unfound, normally making short casts in the immediate area of the previously located quarry.
- 7.40. **MAKING GOOD GROUND**
Thoroughly hunting and searching the course within the bounds of the geographical conditions, and within the outer and inner limits of the breed's performance characteristics, for the purpose of finding game.
- 7.41. **MARK**
When a dog visually follows the flight path of the bird to mark its location.
- 7.42. **MARKED RETRIEVE**
A retrieve where the dog saw the fall of the bird through the air.
- 7.43. **MIRROR BACK**
When a pair of dogs "back" each other, each assuming that the other is on point.
- 7.44. **OUT OF CONTROL**
A dog which pays no attention to many whistles and directions by his handler can be said to be out of control. Also a dog that hunts out of sight most of the time and without any co-operation with its handler.
- 7.45. **OVERLY CAUTIOUS**
A dog moving cautiously forward at a pace generally slower than a walking pace.
- 7.46. **POTTERING**
When a dog slowly covers an area about his handler taking excessive time in working out scent, and/or the dog works ineffectually without either zest or pace.
- 7.47. **POINT OR SET**
Is when the dog adopts a RIGID AND MOTIONLESS attitude or pose, indicating the presence of game accurately. This is an expression of determination not to disturb the find. "Holding the Point" describes a dog holding his point until such time that the quarry is flushed by the handler or the quarry is flushed of its own accord.
- 7.48. **PULLING**
Is when a dog subtly manages or attempts to get his handler to follow him and alter the direction of his intended course by insisting on hunting in its own direction.
- 7.49. **QUARTERING**
7.49.1. A dog passes to and fro across the path of the handler, hunting on both sides when there is a head wind or when there is no wind.
7.49.2. In the case of a cheek or back wind, the dog goes well out down-wind and the dog then works back diagonally towards the handler in the case of a cheek wind or directly towards the handler in the case of a back wind. In both cases, the dog should always maintain his to and fro pattern.
- 7.50. **QUESTING**
Searching for game.
- 7.51. **ROADING**
A dog, having sighted game, advances, usually in an attitude of stealth and ideally, at a speed indicated by the quarry and, sometimes, by the handler, so as to get nearer the game and coming into point when correctly distanced from the eventually stationary and/or concealed quarry. Not to be confused with "drawing on game" which is when the dog is guided by scent.

- 7.52. **RUNNER**
An injured bird which leaves the area of the fall after being shot.
- 7.53. **SET**
As for Point but applies for the sitting or lying down posture to hold the game, usually adopted by the Setter breeds.
- 7.54. **SNAPPING**
Is when a dog takes an obvious lunge or attempts to catch game in its mouth.
- 7.55. **STEALING THE POINT**
When a dog fails to back and advances to the point in front or alongside the already pointing dog.
- 7.56. **STICKINESS ON POINT AND SCENT**
The dog is reluctant or refuses to "draw or road on game", even on command, or is extremely hesitant to leave an area which holds scent and/or when it is over-hesitant or reluctant to move off from a point even after it has been proved that there is no game present.
- 7.57. **STICKINESS ON BACK**
Is when a backing dog is over-hesitant or reluctant to continue hunting once the pointing dog has moved off and away from the area of its point. Also a dog that is always looking for every opportunity and/or excuse to back the other dog, even when there is no or little reason to do so.
- 7.58. **TAKING A LINE**
Taking the line of a bird from either an "accidental" or "deliberate" flush. The dog will visually follow the flight path of the bird and "mark" its location. This is generally followed by the dog "taking a straight line" to the game. Also generally associated with hunting trail. Not to be confused with "viewing away".
- 7.59. **TIME LIMIT**
Is the time that the Judges, at their discretion, will allow a dog to be out of their and the handler's sight. This is generally governed by the stake being judged and also the geographical conditions of the area.
- 7.60. **TRAILING**
Following another dog.
- 7.60.1. Rear-end trailer.
Is when one of a pair of dogs persistently follows the other, usually the more experienced dog.
- 7.60.2. Head-on trailer.
Is when one of a pair of dogs seeks out and persists in running out in front of and ahead, but slightly to one side, of the other. A clever "head-on" trailer can make his bracedmate look like a "rear-end" trailer.
- 7.61. **VIEWING AWAY**
When a dog follows the flight of a bird visually, generally from an acknowledgement of flush. Ref: MARKING
- 7.62. **SHOTOVER**
- 7.61.1. A dog is "shot-over" usually by a person acting as his handler's Gun, preferably from a point, also upon flush of game after positive and productive "roading" or "drawing on game".
- 7.61.2. A dog can be "shot-over" by the other dog's Gun and within a reasonable range, usually when "backing".
- 7.63. **UNSTEADINESS**
Is generally associated with varying degrees of failing or reluctance to acknowledge the flush and/or shot.

8. **REGULATIONS FOR THE JUDGING OF FIELD TESTS**

- 8.1. **THE NATURAL ABILITY TEST**
- 8.1.1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE NATURAL ABILITY TEST**
The aim of the Natural Ability Test is to recognise those dogs that conform to the minimum standards of performance, conformation, and temperament that are considered acceptable in terms of the functional requirements of the Hunt Point and Retrieve (HPR) breeds. A dog which passes the test will be awarded a Natural Ability Certificate and may carry the affix NA after its name. This will provide a minimum standard for prospective breeders and buyers of HPR breeds in South Africa. The selective use of dogs that have passed the Natural Ability Test should serve to maintain and improve the standards of performance of the HPR breeds in South Africa.
The Natural Ability Certificate does not represent an award in recognition of excellence, but rather a minimum qualification for HPR breeds in South Africa. Field Trials in particular, and Working Tests will remain the ultimate test of a dog's performance against that of other outstanding dogs.
- 8.1.2. **RULES GOVERNING THE NATURAL ABILITY TEST**
- 8.1.2.1 A Natural Ability Test for HPR breeds may be run at an HPR Field Trial or at a Natural Ability meeting.
- 8.1.2.2 Only clubs which hold HPR Field Trials, may run Natural Ability Tests.
- 8.1.2.3 Permission to run a Natural Ability Test must be applied for through FTLC and upon approval a license must be obtained from KUSA.
- 8.1.2.4 The test must be conducted by three (3) official Judges, two (2) of whom will be on the A or B Panel for HPR Field Trials, and one (1) of whom will be either on the Gundog Group Panel or on the Panel for the breed(s) being tested. The club will appoint a Senior Judge, who must be on the A or B Panel of Judges for HPR field trials. The HPR field trial Judges will be responsible for evaluating the obedience and fieldwork sections of the test. Should there be a difference of opinion between these two Judges, the Senior Judge will have the casting vote. The conformation Judge will be responsible only for the conformation evaluation.
- 8.1.2.5 The test must be conducted in the presence of the other dogs and handlers participating in the test. A minimum of five (5) dogs must be entered and present in order to conduct the Natural Ability Test.
- 8.1.2.6 Dogs must be given ample opportunity to pass an event but only two (2) attempts per event shall be allowed during a test.
- 8.1.2.7 Upon completion of the test, the Judges will inform the participants whether or not they have successfully passed.
- 8.1.2.8 Should a dog fail the test, it may be re-tested at any time at a later test. However, dogs will only be allowed three (3) attempts to pass the test.
- 8.1.3. **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATURAL ABILITY TEST**
The natural ability requirements are obvious from the functional requirements of the HPR breeds, and can be tested under artificial conditions. All dogs falling under the HPR breed classification should exhibit the desire to range and search for game, the ability to locate and point game, should also be capable of retrieving the game from land or water, and should show no signs of gunshyness.
Good temperament is a fundamental attribute in any gundog.
A minimum standard of obedience is also required to test the dog's tractability or co-operation, in that only those dogs with a tendency to co-operate and respond to training can fulfill their function as hunting dogs. Intractable dogs are useless in the hunting field and should therefore not be used in breeding programs regardless of their other natural abilities
Insofar as breed conformation is concerned, it is recognised that the primary function of field trial clubs is to promote the working abilities of dogs and that conformational standards are mainly the prerogative of the breed clubs. However, hunting dogs should be sound representatives of their breed and any major defects that might detract from the functionality of a dog or its progeny will render a dog unfit to earn the Natural Ability Certificate. As far as physical standards are concerned, the dog must be judged as a pure-bred example of its breed without any major breed defects or abnormalities.
- 8.1.4. **THE NATURAL ABILITY CERTIFICATE AND TITLE**
- 8.1.4.1. The award of a Natural Ability Certificate may be reflected on the dog's registration certificate by the letters NA (Natural Ability), as a testimonial to the fact that the dog has been judged to have demonstrated at least the minimum natural

working ability acceptable for HPR breeds in South Africa, that it is conformationally sound, that it has a good temperament and that it is tractable. Those dogs that have earned a Natural Ability Certificate may carry the title NA as an affix.

- 8.1.4.2. Upon successful completion of the Test, the owner will be issued an official KUSA Natural Ability Certificate by the club holding the test. The Certificate will state the owner's name, the dog's registered name and registration number, registered names and registration numbers of the dog's sire and dam, the breed of dog, and that the dog has been tested as an all-purpose, versatile hunting dog complying with the minimum standards and natural abilities of an HPR breed (refer 8.1.7.1 SPECIMEN NATURAL ABILITY CERTIFICATE)). The Certificate shall be signed by all Judges and by the Secretary of the Club holding the test. (Clubs may, at their discretion, issue an informal club certificate to a dog which passes the Obedience, Field and Waterwork sections, but which fails the Conformation test. This certificate must be clearly marked to indicate that the dog is not recommended for breeding and that the dog is not qualified to carry the NA title).
- 8.1.4.3. Official test sheets (refer 8.1.7.2 SPECIMEN NATURAL ABILITY TEST EVALUATION SHEET) of those dogs successfully completing the test shall be completed and signed by all Judges and by the Secretary of the Club holding the test (refer to 8.1.7.2). It will be the duty of the Club Secretary to send the completed test sheets to KUSA for storage and in order that the NA title may be reflected on the dog's registration certificate.
- 8.1.5. **GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING THE NATURAL ABILITY TEST**
- 8.1.5.1. Judges are required to complete official test sheets provided by the officiating Club, which will reflect the criteria tested and any other relevant information provided by the Judges. Judges are encouraged to write additional comments regarding the dog's conformation, behaviour and performance as they see fit, in order to provide information to potential breeders and to aid the handler of the dog. Outstanding traits as well as negative traits should be noted. For instance, if a dog has particularly good aspects of conformation or shows evidence of an outstanding nose or water love, Judges should record it. On the other hand, if a dog has conformation faults that do not necessarily warrant failing the test or shows areas of deficiency in the field work that could be improved either through training or breeding, then Judges are encouraged to record these weaknesses.
- 8.1.5.2. Throughout the entire test the dog's behaviour towards other dogs and handlers is observed. At the Judges discretion other handlers and dogs may be brought near the dog being tested to observe its reactions, bearing in mind at all times their safety.
- 8.1.5.3. Upon presentation to the Judges, the dog's physical attributes and obedience are tested.
- 8.1.5.4. For the Field Test a live pigeon or other live game bird of choice is hidden in thick cover in such a way that it is invisible to the dog. No artificial marks to indicate the position of the game may be used, but the Judges must be aware of the exact location of the hidden game. Sufficient time must elapse after placing the bird to ensure that the dog will not follow the foot scent. To ensure that the find is by scent only and not by sight, or by following the handler's foot scent, the handler must not personally hide the bird. The bird must be placed at least one hundred metres (100 metres) away from the point of release but preferably two hundred metres (200 metres) away.
- On the Judges' consent the dog is sent out and the Judges must carefully establish the dog's desire to hunt and find game, generally indicated by the dog's eagerness to search, range and cover the ground in an intelligent manner. The location of the game should be by virtue of the dog's nose and not by accident. Under no circumstances may the dog be lead onto the game by the handler or Judges.
- Upon finding the bird, the point must be clear and unmistakable as such. A dog that immediately attempts to catch the game without even momentarily pausing in a distinct point will fail the test. Misdemeanours after the point, such as chasing or trying to catch the game, will be ignored in the test.
- 8.1.5.5. The dog is then led away from the game to a new venue and the retrieving tested. A land and a water retrieve of between twenty (20) and forty (40) metres are required. The land retrieve must be in thick cover and preferably up-wind to test the dog's nose. Either a dummy or a fresh dead bird may be used for the retrieve, and the handler must indicate to the Judges, which is his choice of retrieving object. In either case, a shot must be fired during the land retrieve.
- For the purposes of the water retrieve, the game or dummy must land in clear sight of the dog, the aim being to test the dog's willingness to enter water and to swim. The water test should take place at a spot offering easy gradual access to deep water.
- 8.1.6. **EVALUATION CRITERIA OF THE NATURAL ABILITY TEST**
- The evaluation criteria have been designed to be as simple as possible so as to facilitate consistent and objective evaluation. The following criteria must be tested:
- 8.1.6.1. **CONFORMATION**
- With reference to the KUSA breed standards, the Judges must be satisfied that the dog in question is a sound representative of its breed without any major abnormalities that might hinder its functionality or that of its progeny. The following physical attributes must be checked and noted for each dog, with the following defects considered to be disqualifying:
- 8.1.6.1.1. Any defects of the eyes - such as entropion, ectropion, distichiasis, trichiasis;
- 8.1.6.1.2. Bite and teeth - overshot and undershot, wry bite. (Level bite and missing teeth, unless specifically mentioned as disqualifying faults in the standard, should be noted, but will not disqualify);
- 8.1.6.1.3. Missing testicles;
- 8.1.6.1.4. Any defects of the legs and feet - such as pronounced cow hocks or severe knuckling over in front;
- 8.1.6.1.5. Other obvious defects - spinal curvature or pronounced swayback;
- 8.1.6.1.6. General conformation and build - extreme deviations from type, size and substance requirements of the breed;
- 8.1.6.1.7. Motion faults not due to injury;
- 8.1.6.1.8. Where the FCI Breed Standard contains any disqualifying faults these must also be considered.
- It should be recognised that no dog is perfect and that minor defects will not render the dog unfit to qualify for a Natural Ability Certificate. Defects due to injury will not disqualify a dog. The Judge must also take the dog's age into consideration since the conformation of young dogs might change as they mature. In order to promote sensible and responsible breeding, any minor defects or abnormalities, which do not warrant that the dog fail the test should be noted on the official test sheets and be brought to the attention of the owner.
- 8.1.6.2. **OBEDIENCE**
- 8.1.6.2.1. **Temperament.**
- The dog's behaviour towards other dogs in the test, strange handlers and the Judges should be observed during the course of the test. Excessive aggressiveness or excessive nervousness must be regarded as serious defects and such dogs will not qualify for a Natural Ability Certificate.
- 8.1.6.2.2. **Tractability.**
- The dog must show a willingness to accept discipline, this being an indication of its co-operation and tractability. It will be required of the owner to make his dog sit on command without touching the dog, command the dog to stay and then walk away approximately twenty (20) metres before calling the dog to him. A dog ignoring these simple commands or which requires excessive handling will fail the test. Inability of the handler to keep the dog reasonably quiet or under control during any part of the test (including the Fieldwork) will also result in the dog failing the test.
- 8.1.6.3. **FIELD WORK**
- 8.1.6.3.1. **Hunting Desire.**

The desire to hunt is the single most important working characteristic of a hunting dog. A dog with the required level of desire will demonstrate this in its eagerness to range and search for game and in its manner of questing. Hunting desire cannot be taught to a dog, it can only be built upon. Dogs lacking initiative and requiring considerable encouragement by the handler to hunt and cover the ground will be severely penalised and will fail the test. Judges must be left with the impression that the dog has covered the available ground in such a manner as to produce game for the gun if game were present. Judges must also be satisfied that the dog's quest is for game and is not merely aimless running.

8.1.6.3.2.

Nose.

An HPR dog cannot function adequately without an extraordinary sense of smell. This will be evident in its finding of hidden game while questing and retrieving. A dog with an apparently poor sense of smell must be severely penalised and will fail the test. The scenting conditions, as indicated by the other dogs present and being tested, must be taken into account by the Judges.

8.1.6.3.3.

Pointing.

This is the most distinctive characteristic of an HPR breed. The point must be clear and unmistakable as such, and must be a natural point induced by the scent (not sight) of the bird. The style is not important. The Judges must be alert to dogs that have been trained to stand on sight or smell of game. A lack of pointing instinct is often indicated by a dog's lack of intensity and/or by its tail, which will be held limply instead of rigidly. If the dog fails to produce a point, or, in the Judges' opinion the dog lacks the instinct to point, then the dog will fail the test. Any command or inducement by the handler to cause the dog to point will result in failure of this portion of the test.

8.1.6.3.4

Retrieving from Land and Water.

The dog must clearly demonstrate a retrieving instinct, which generally manifests itself in an eager pickup. Again, the Judges must distinguish between a lacklustre forced trained retrieve and an innate desire to retrieve. Two (2) retrieves are required for the test – one (1) on land and one (1) in water. The land retrieve must be in thick grass to test the dog's nose and the water retrieve must be conducted in water deep enough to indicate the dog's eagerness to enter water and ability to swim. Dogs that do not display a retrieving instinct or that will not enter water and swim will fail the test.

8.1.6.3.5

Gunshyness

During the land retrieve a shot must be fired from either a shotgun or a dummy launcher, not more than two (2) metres away, to determine whether the dog is gun-shy or not. A gun-shy dog will not qualify for a Natural Ability Certificate..

8.1.7

Natural Ability Test Evaluation Sheet.

Registered Name of Dog:

Call Name of Dog:

Reg. No:

Breed:

Date of Birth:

/ /

Sex:

Colour:

Sire:

Reg.No.

Dam:

Reg. No.

Breeder:

Owner:

Tel.No.

Address :

TEST RESULTS

(CHIEF JUDGE TO WRITE 'PASS' OR 'FAIL' AND INITIAL THE RESULTS)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. CONFORMATION | 2. TEMPERAMENT : |
| a. Eyes : Pass or Fail? _____ | Pass or Fail? _____ |
| b. Bite : Pass or Fail? _____ | 3. TRACTABILITY : |
| c. Legs : Pass or Fail? _____ | Pass or Fail? _____ |
| d. General Conformation : | 4. HUNTING DESIRE : |
| Pass or Fail? _____ | Pass or Fail? _____ |
| e. Motion : | 5. NOSE : |
| Pass or Fail? _____ | Pass or Fail? _____ |
| f. Other defects : | 6. POINTING : |
| Pass or Fail? _____ | Pass or Fail? _____ |
| | 7. RETRIEVING (LAND) : |
| | Pass or Fail? _____ |
| | 8. RETRIEVING (WATER) : |
| | Pass or Fail? _____ |
| | 9. GUNSHOT : |
| | Pass or Fail? _____ |

COMMENTS :

I hereby certify that the abovenamed dog has passed all the requirements of the Natural Ability Test

Chief Judge : _____ **Date :** _____

Judge : _____

Secretary : _____ **Date :** _____

JUDGES COMMENTS :

Ab/bd/04/02
26.3.2002

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