

**SCHEDULE 05C (1)**  
**REGULATIONS FOR RETRIEVER FIELD TRIALS (1989)**  
(Effective 01.05.2026)

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**Within this schedule, and with due recognition to Field Trial participation, all references to "he", "him" and "his", which terms are used for convenience of writing and of reading, shall be taken as meaning "he or she", "him or her" and "his or hers", respectively.**

## **A. REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF RETRIEVER FIELD TRIALS**

### **A.1 PREAMBLE**

This document takes the form of Regulations which are the rules that are binding on all those who are involved in the running of Retriever Field Trials. This document contains a guide which assists Field Trial Secretaries and Committees with the procedures required in setting up a field trial.

### **A.2 LICENCING AND HOLDING OF TRIALS**

The Regulations relating to licencing and to all other matters to do with Field Trials as set in Schedule 3 (Championship Breed Shows) and Schedule 4 (Non-Championship Breed Shows) of the Constitution of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa shall apply to Field Trials so far as they can be relevant to Field Trials and so far as they do not conflict with the specific terms of this Schedule 05C(1).

In view of the need for Field Trials to be held on working farms, with natural game and sufficient open water (dams/rivers) in most instances, Field Trial Clubs may be permitted to Run their trials outside the jurisdiction of the Provincial Council through which the Club is affiliated, as per the dispensation granted by Fedco in June 2022.

### **A.3 DEFINITIONS**

#### **A.3.1 Abbreviations**

- **KUSA** The Kennel Union of Southern Africa
- **FC** The Federal Council of The Kennel Union of Southern Africa
- **FTLC** The Field Trial Liaison Council of the Federal Council of The Kennel Union of Southern Africa

#### **A.3.2 STAKES**

##### **A.3.2.1 Puppy Stake**

Is for Retrievers from six months and not exceeding twelve months of age, dating from and inclusive of the date of its birth on the first day of the trial.

##### **A.3.2.2 Junior Stake**

Is for Retrievers from six months and not exceeding eighteen months of age, dating from and inclusive of the date of its birth on the first day of the trial.

##### **A.3.2.3 Maiden Stake**

Is for Retrievers which have not placed in a previous Novice or Open Stake nor have won two Maiden Stakes prior to the date of the closing of entries.

##### **A.3.2.4 Limit Stake**

Is a stake restricted by the regulations of the Club providing the trial.

##### **A.3.2.5 Novice Stake**

Is confined to Retrievers which have not been placed first, second, third or fourth in an Open Stake, nor have won two Novice Stakes prior to the date of the closing of entries.

#### **A.3.2.6 Open Stake**

Is for Retrievers without restriction as to age or previous performance. In order for an Open Stake to carry championship status, the minimum number of dogs to actually take part in the trial shall be eight.

Is held not more than once per year within the area of jurisdiction of KUSA.

#### **A.3.2.7 Championship Stake**

The conditions, qualifications and organisation governing a Championship Stake shall be decided by the FTLC, subject to the approval of the Federal Council, and these conditions shall be published on the Official Kennel Union Journal. All Field Trial Champions shall automatically qualify for entry in Championship Stakes. Entries shall be limited to Field Trial Champions, dogs holding the title Grand Master Hunting Retriever, as well as those dogs placed first or second in an Open Stake carrying championship status held from after the previous Championship Stake until the last trial prior to the next Championship Stake to be held.

**Entries shall be limited to retrievers that:**

- are Field Trial Champions; and/or
- hold the title Grand Master Hunting Retriever; and/or
- have been placed first or second in any Open Stake carrying championship status held since the previous Championship Stake until the last trial preceding the upcoming Championship Stake.

#### **A.3.2.8 Single Dog Registration**

Retriever type dogs, Retriever (Chesapeake Bay); Retriever (Curly Coated); Retriever (Flat Coated); Retriever (Golden); Retriever (Labrador), registered with KUSA on the Single Dog - *Dogsport Record* (Dogs of Any Ancestry) may enter any stake as defined in A.3.2.3 and A3.2.5 at the discretion of the Management Committee of the Club holding the Field Trials but may not be placed, nor receive awards, Guns' Choice, SAHR points, nor champion status.

A handler/owner may only ever register one dog on the Single Dog – Dogsport Record for participation in Field Trials to encourage handlers to thereafter purchase Retrievers registered on the KUSA Primary Breed Register.

#### **A.3.2.9 Field Qualifying Stake**

Is for Retrievers which have won a Reserve Challenge Certificate or Challenge Certificate at a Breed Show held under the Rules and Regulations of KUSA.

#### **A.3.2.10 Field Tests**

Are Gundog tests where dummies only or dummies and live and/or cold game may be used and which tests may not be classed as Field Trials.

### **A.3.3 QUALIFICATION TO ENTER RETRIEVER TRIALS**

All KUSA registered retriever breeds may enter stakes as defined in A.3.2.1 to A.3.2.8.

Other gundog breeds registered with KUSA may enter any stake as defined in A.3.2.1 to A.3.2.6 at the discretion of the Management Committee of the Club holding the stake but cannot be placed or receive SAHR points in any stake.

### **A.3.4 NOT FOR COMPETITION (NFC)**

Preamble: NFC is to allow a dog that has qualified out of a stake to compete in NFC for experience, before moving to the next Class.

A.3.4.1 Not for Competition (NFC) entries may only be accepted in stakes not carrying eligibility towards the title of Champion, i.e. Maiden and Novice Stakes.

A.3.4.2 Schedule 05C(1) Rules to be strictly adhered to by all entrants at all times.

A.3.4.3 NFC Entries will not be eligible for prizes or qualifications, and may not be awarded any "Club Certificate". NFC entrants attaining 70% or more are not awarded SAHR points.

A.3.4.4 NFC Entries will be included in the catalogue, clearly marked NFC.

A.3.4.5 NFC Entrants will be permitted to enter a stake until such time as the dog has attained the standard of 70% or more three (3) times before moving on to the next higher stake.

### **A.4 AWARDS**

#### **A.4.1 FIELD TRIAL AWARD (FTA)**

This is an automatic award to any dog placed first or second in an Open Stake or second in a Championship Stake. A dog so placed shall be entitled to carry the affix FTA after its name.

#### **A.4.2 FIELD TRIAL CHAMPION (Ch FT)**

Field Trial Champion is defined as a dog which has won two or more Open Stakes or won a Championship Stake. A dog so placed shall be entitled to carry the prefix Ch FT before its name. The affix FTA shall automatically drop away when this award has been given.

#### **A.4.3 FIELD QUALIFYING (FQ)**

A.4.3.1 A Field Qualifying certificate (FQ) shall be issued to a dog which has successfully passed the FQ test and has been awarded a Reserve Challenge Certificate or Challenge Certificate prior to the closing date of entries for the trial. Such a dog may carry the affix FQ after its name.

A.4.3.2 A dog which has been placed in a Maiden or better stake or which has attained the SAHR standard in a Maiden or better stake and has been awarded a Reserve Challenge Certificate or Challenge Certificate, may carry the affix FQ after its registered name.

#### **A.4.4 PLACE**

A first, second, third or fourth place in any stake constitutes a place.

#### **A.4.5 SOUTH AFRICAN HUNTING RETRIEVER (SAHR) AWARDS**

##### **A.4.5.1 Awarding of Points**

At the first Field Trial that a Retriever attends, details of the handler/owner and dog will be entered into the Field Trial Database by the Club hosting the Trial. At the end of each Stake, the Judges will consider each and every dog's performance. Those dogs which, in the opinion of the Judges, have attained the performance standard will be awarded SAHR points towards the various levels of competence.

#### A.4.5.2 **Performance**

The performance standard is attained when the average of a dog's marks is at least 70% as recorded in the Judges report submitted to FTLC. To be eligible for SAHR points, the dog must have picked up all retrieves at the Stake.

#### A.4.5.3 **Accumulation of Points**

SAHR awards of competence are obtained by accumulating sufficient SAHR points from various Stakes during the dog's career. These awards shall in no way affect the normal placing of dogs at Retriever Field Trials.

#### A.4.5.4 **The categories of SAHR award are:**

- Novice Hunting Retriever (NHR)
- Working Hunting Retriever (WHR)
- Master Hunting Retriever (MHR)
- Grand Master Hunting Retriever (GMHR)

#### A.4.5.5 **Recording of SAHR Points**

The points accumulated during a dog's career will be recorded in the Field Trial Database. These will be reviewed by the FTLC and automatically lead to the granting of each category of award achieved.

#### A.4.5.6 **Use of SAHR Awards**

The owner of a dog which has been granted a SAHR Award may use the abbreviation of the most senior award achieved as an affix to the dog's registered name. In order to have qualifications placed on any Registration Records, confirmation of the award must be submitted by the FTLC to KUSA.

#### A.4.5.7 **Novice Hunting Retriever (NHR)**

Each dog attaining the standard in any Retriever Junior or Maiden Stake will be awarded two and one half (2.5) points. A maximum of five (5) points can be accumulated in these Stakes. Once a dog has received five (5) points the title "**NOVICE HUNTING RETRIEVER (NHR)**" will be awarded automatically to the dog, and such title may then be used after the registered name of the dog, once it has been approved and minuted at a meeting of the FTLC.

Upon acquiring five (5) points in this category, the dog is then ineligible to obtain any further points in this category but may continue to run in Junior/Maiden Stakes. If the dog is disqualified because of its age in the Junior, or has placed in a previous Novice or Open Stake, it may still enter the Maiden Stake necessary for it to acquire the outstanding points towards the title, but may NOT be placed in that Stake.

#### A.4.5.8 **Working Hunting Retriever (WHR)**

Each dog attaining the standard in a Retriever Novice Stake will be awarded five (5) points. To acquire the title of "**WORKING HUNTING RETRIEVER (WHR)**" the dog must accumulate a minimum of twenty (20) points. Once a dog has obtained twenty (20) points the title will be awarded automatically to the dog, and such title may then be used after the registered name of the dog, once it has been approved and minuted at a meeting of the FTLC.

The requisite points can be accumulated in Novice Stakes, i.e. four (4) stakes, or a maximum of five (5) points from Junior/Maiden can be brought forward, in which case the dog is required to attain the standard in only three (3) Novicestakes.

The dog is then ineligible to obtain any further SAHR points in this category, but may continue to run in Novice Retriever Stakes. If the dog is ineligible to enter further Novice Stakes, by reason of having won two Novice Stakes or having been placed in an Open Stake, prior to the closing date of entries for a subsequent Novice Stake, then it may still enter the Novice Stakes necessary for it to acquire the outstanding points towards the title, but may NOT be placed in those Stakes.

At this stage a dog may be expected to turn in a creditable performance in the hunting field.

#### **A.4.5.9 Master Hunting Retriever (MHR)**

Every dog attaining the standard in an Open Retriever Stake shall be awarded twenty (20) points. To acquire the title of "**MASTER HUNTING RETRIEVER (MHR)**", the dog must accumulate one hundred (100) points. Once the dog has reached this total, the title will be awarded automatically to the dog, and such title may then be used after the registered name of the dog, once it has been approved and minuted at a meeting of the FTLC.

These points can all be accumulated in Open Stakes, i.e. five (5) Stakes, or the maximum of twenty five (25) points from Junior/Maiden and Novice Stakes can be brought forward, in which case the dog is required to attain the standard in only four (4) Open Stakes.

At this stage a dog may be expected to turn in a polished performance in the hunting field.

#### **A.4.5.10 Grand Master Hunting Retriever (GMHR)**

Once a dog has accumulated a total of two hundred (200) points, it shall acquire the title of "**GRAND MASTER HUNTING RETRIEVER (GMHR)**". These points can all be accumulated at Open Stakes, or the maximum of twenty five (25) points from Junior/Maiden and Novice Stakes can be brought forward, in which case the dog is required to attain the standard in at least nine (9) Open Stakes. Once the dog has reached this total, the title will be awarded automatically to the dog, and such title may then be used after the registered name of the dog once these points have been ratified by the FTLC and recorded in the minutes of the FTLC meeting.

At this stage a dog may be expected to do everything that might be required of a Hunting Retriever in the field. A KUSA Certificate will be issued to the handler/owner once the KUSA receives confirmation from the FTLC that the dog has attained the award.

#### **A.5 PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING AWARDS**

In all instances where a dog qualifies for an award (as defined in A.4.1, A.4.2, A.4.3 and A.4.5.10 above), its owner must make written application to the FC, giving all the necessary details concerning the dog's performance and the events in which the dog earned the right to the award applied for.

#### **A.6 DATES FOR FIELD TRIALS**

##### **A.6.1 Management Of Field Trial Calendar**

The FTLC shall publish a draft calendar of field trial dates for the following field trial season on 1 June each year. This calendar will be based upon perpetual dates granted to affiliated clubs.

Rules concerning the granting and use of perpetual dates are recorded in the standard document "FTLC Calendar Procedures".

##### **A.6.2 Application for Dates to Hold Field Trials**

Affiliated Clubs shall, by 1 July each year, confirm the dates for the following field trial season proposed by the FTLC or apply for alternatives. Such application must state the proposed date, proposed venue, type of trial and stakes to be run.

##### **A.6.3 Field Trial Calendar For The Season**

The official calendar, based upon applications received and approved by the FTLC, will be published on 1st October and forwarded to FC for approval and/or comment.

##### **A.6.4 Publication on the Official Kennel Union Journal**

The approved calendar for the season shall be published on the Official Kennel Union Journal.

## **A.7 PRE-TRIALREQUIREMENTS**

### **A.7.1 The Schedule**

#### **A.7.1.1 General Requirements**

- A.7.1.1.1 A club holding a Field Trial must issue a schedule, which is to be treated as a contract between the club and the public.
- A.7.1.1.2 The draft schedule with information regarding venue and dates, together with the prescribed application form to hold the trial and the licence fee (payable to KUSA) must be received by KUSA at least four months prior to the date of the trial.
- A.7.1.1.3 This schedule, which must include details of the proposed Judges, together with all Judges' Acceptance Forms, must be received by KUSA not later than four months prior to the date of the trial.
- A.7.1.1.4 No schedule shall be issued to the public before being approved by the FTLC and the FC.

#### **A.7.1.2 Contents**

The schedule shall contain, *inter alia*:

- A.7.1.2.1 The name of the club and officers thereof.
- A.7.1.2.2 The type of trial, the gundog breeds which may be entered, the stakes to be run and the definitions thereof.
- A.7.1.2.3 The date and venue of the Trial.
- A.7.1.2.4 The names of the Judges for each stake.
- A.7.1.2.5 The cost of entry fees and the cost of any KUSA levies applicable at the time.
- A.7.1.2.6 The latest date for receiving entries.
- A.7.1.2.7 The order in which the stakes will be run and the starting time for each stake.
- A.7.1.2.8 Name and contact details of Veterinarian on call.
- A.7.1.2.9 Notice to exhibitors that:
  - A.7.1.2.9.1 Bitches in season within the precincts of the Trial are forbidden.
  - A.7.1.2.9.2 Castrated dogs and spayed bitches are eligible for entry.
  - A.7.1.2.9.3 Conditions attracting immediate disqualification are set out in Regulation 31 of Schedule 3 of KUSA Regulations for Championship Shows (Breed), subject to A.7.1.2.9.1 and A.7.1.2.9.2 above.
  - A.7.1.2.9.4 Void.
  - A.7.1.2.9.5 The system of judging will be entirely at the discretion of the Judges in accordance with KUSA Rules and the Field Trial Regulations.

- A.7.1.2.9.6 A list of prizes.
- A.7.1.2.9.7 The time, date, venue and conditions of the draw for numbers of the running order of dogs.
- A.7.1.2.9.8 Details of any restrictions on minimum and maximum numbers to be accepted for each stake.

**Guide**

*Affiliated clubs are encouraged to exercise discretion in the maximum number of entries that may be permitted in any stake, according to the time available in which the stake is to be run. No pre-qualifying or acceptance criteria may be used other than the order in which correctly completed entries and fees are received.*

**A.7.1.3 Details regarding the dog to be entered**

The required details for dogs that are entered shall include:

- A.7.1.3.1 Registered name and number of dog.
- A.7.1.3.2 Name of owner.
- A.7.1.3.3 Breed of dog.
- A.7.1.3.4 Sex of dog.
- A.7.1.3.5 Date of birth of dog.
- A.7.1.3.6 Registered names of Sire and Dam.
- A.7.1.3.7 Name of breeder.
- A.7.1.3.8 Name of handler.
- A.7.1.3.9 Microchip number of dog.

**A.7.2 THE DRAW**

**A.7.2.1 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. At least 3 days prior to the Trial each handler must have been notified of the number(s) drawn.

**A.7.2.2 Handlers with more than one dog**

The draw must make allowance for situations when a single handler has more than one dog entered in a particular stake.

**A.7.3 THE PROGRAMME**

**A.7.3.1 Contents**

The club holding a Field Trial must publish a programme which must contain:

- A.7.3.1.1 The name of the club.
- A.7.3.1.2 The breed(s) for which stakes are run at the Trial.
- A.7.3.1.3 The date(s) of the Trial.
- A.7.3.1.4 The names of the Judges and Field Trial Manager for each stake, and of the KUSA Representative, where applicable.
- A.7.3.1.5 The venue of the Trial.
- A.7.3.1.6 A definition of each stake to be run in the Trial.
- A.7.3.1.7 The prizes offered.
- A.7.3.1.8 Entries, listed in numerical order of running, as follows:
  - Registered name and number of dog
  - Name of owner.
  - Breed of dog.
  - Sex of dog.
  - Date of birth of dog.
  - Registered names of Sire and Dam.
  - Name of breeder.
  - Name of handler.
  - Microchip number of the dog.
- A.7.3.1.9 A list of names of owners of all dogs in the Trial, in alphabetical order.
- A.7.3.1.10 A statement that the Trial is to be held under KUSA Rules and Regulations.
- A.7.3.1.11 A statement that the club holding the Trial accepts no responsibility for injury, loss or damage to person or property, however occasioned.

**A.7.4 COPIES OF THE REGULATIONS**

A copy of each of the following regulations shall be available at the venue during the Trial:

- KUSA Schedule 1 – Disciplinary Rules
- KUSA Schedule 3 – Regulations for Championship Shows, or
- KUSA Schedule 4 – Regulations for Non-Championship Shows (if applicable)
- KUSA Schedule 05C(1) – Regulations for Retriever Field Trials

**A.8 APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES**

**A.8.1 List of Judges for Field Trials**

**A.8.1.1 Acceptance of list by FTLC**

A club holding a Field Trial shall appoint Judges from the List of Judges for Field Trials, as approved by the FC who shall, if permanently domiciled in the KUSA area of jurisdiction be members of the KUSA both at the time of accepting an invitation and undertaking an appointment. A Senior Judge shall be appointed for each stake from the "A" Panel of Judges.

## **Guide**

*It is recommended that the Senior Judge be one who has judged within at most three calendar years prior to the date of the appointed trial and that he has judged that particular stake within a prior three year period.*

### **A.8.1.2 Recommendation to Panels**

A person may be recommended to a Judges' Panel on the list of Judges for Field Trials by a club holding Field Trials. Such recommendation to the FC via the FTLC shall be made by the club, at whose field trial that person judged, as soon as possible after the Trial. See Clause B.8.1.5. "Qualification for Panels".

### **A.8.1.3 Overseas Judges**

Recognised overseas Judges shall be entitled to Judge any stake, but may not be appointed Senior Judge. At least two registered KUSA Judges are required to officiate at any stake to which an overseas Judge is appointed.

### **A.8.1.4 Election to/Removal from Panel**

Judges may, from time to time, be added to or removed from A or B Panels.

#### **A.8.1.4.1 Notification on being removed from Panel**

The FTLC shall, within two weeks of the date of the meeting at which it was decided that a person be removed from a Judges' Panel, send written notice of the recommendation to the FC. The FC shall have the final say in accepting or rejecting such recommendation. In those cases where the FC upholds the FTLC's recommendation to remove a person from a Panel, such person shall be notified in writing within one month of ratification by FC of such removal. Reasons for such removal shall be given.

### **A.8.1.5 Qualification for Panels**

The qualifications required before a person can be added to a panel are:

#### **A.8.1.5.1 "A" Panel**

A person must be an existing "B" Panel Judge on the List of Judges for Field Trials for a period of at least two years, and have judged and assisted in course setting for at least two Maiden, Novice and Open Stakes and at least one Puppy and Junior Stake in Field Trials run under KUSA Field Trial Rules and Regulations. These Trials must have been held by at least two different clubs affiliated to KUSA.

An aspirant "A" Panel judge should have run a dog at the minimum of a Novice stake level before becoming an "A" Panel judge. A "B" Panel judge wanting to progress to the "A"-Panel must submit an application to the FTLC, which includes a brief motivation and records of stakes judged as a supporting judge in the two-year period prior to application.

#### **A.8.1.5.2 "B" Panel**

A person must have learner judged and assisted with course setting for at least one Open Stake, two Puppy or Junior Stakes and at least one other Stake in Field Trials run under KUSA Field Trial Rules and Regulations and held by at least two different clubs affiliated to KUSA. He must also have completed and passed the examination.

### **A.8.1.5.3 Learner Judge**

A person who has passed an open book Theory Questionnaire on Schedule 05C(1), is neither an A nor B Panel Judge, is entitled to express an opinion, but whose scoring may not be taken into account when placing the dogs. Not more than one Learner Judge per stake.

### **A.8.1.5.4 Examination**

A.8.1.5.4.1 The New/Aspirant Judge must pass a written examination on Schedule 05C(1), comprising of 100 marks. The pass mark for this examination will be 70%. He must also pass a written examination on both Schedule 03, the Temporary Exclusion Order (TEO) Manual and Schedule 09, Appendix B, comprising of 60-marks. The pass mark for this examination will be 80%. Both examinations shall be closed-book examinations.

A.8.1.5.4.2 For standardisation, the examination for Schedule 05C(1) is to be set by the Field Trial Liaison Council and the Judges Education Council will set the examination for Schedule 03, the Temporary Exclusion Order (TEO) Manual and Schedule 09, Appendix B.

New Examinations may from time to time be prepared. It shall be compulsory for all A and B Panel Judges, when required by FTLC, to complete an Examination.

A.8.1.5.4.3 Judges-who wish to Judge more than one field trial discipline will need to write both examinations relevant to the respective discipline.

Refusal to complete the Examination may result in a Judge being removed from a Panel. Failure to attain the necessary pass mark may mean a down-grading to a lower Panel.

A.8.1.5.4.4 Judges that have been inactive in judging and/or running a dog in Field Trials for a period of 5 years, will be required to rewrite the examinations on both Schedule 05C(1), and Schedule 03, the Temporary Exclusion Order (TEO) Manual and Schedule 09, Appendix B, before being re-instated.

A.8.1.5.4.5 The New/Aspirant Judge must act as a Support Judge within a 12 month period after completing the Learner Judging requirements as per A.8.1.5.2 above, and passing the examinations as per A.8.1.5.4.1 above.

The FTLC shall make recommendation to FC on the composition of the Judges' Panel.

### **A.8.1.6 Compulsory Number of Judges for Various Stakes**

The minimum compulsory number of Panel Judges for the various stakes is as follows, save that any "B" Panel Judge may be replaced by an "A" Panel Judge:

#### **A.8.1.6.1 Championship Stake**

- 3 "A" Panel Judges and
- 1 "B" Panel Judge

#### **A.8.1.6.2 Open Stake**

- 2 "A" Panel Judges and
- 2 "B" Panel Judges

#### **A.8.1.6.3 Field Qualifying Stake**

- 1 "A" Panel Judge and
- 2 "B" Panel Judge

#### **A.8.1.6.4 All Other Stakes**

- 1 "A" Panel Judge and
- 2 "B" Panel Judges

The Senior Judge at each stake must be an "A" Panel Judge.

### **A.9 THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF A SENIOR JUDGE**

#### **A.9.1 Equal Say**

In a Field Trial all the officially appointed Judges have an equal say. No Judge, including the Senior Judge, can dictate to another Judge or Judges or tell that Judge or Judges how to mark the work of a dog or where to place a dog at the end of a Trial. The awarding of a placing to a dog at the end of a Trial is based on the decisions all of the Judges and in the case of a four Judge system, the Senior Judge shall have the casting vote where there is a split vote.

#### **A.9.2 Duties**

The duties of a Senior Judge shall include, *inter alia*:

- A.9.2.1 To assist the committee of the club holding the Field Trial to set a field course that will test the standard of the dogs.
- A.9.2.2 To liaise with the Field Trial Manager regarding the efficient running of the Field Trial.
- A.9.2.3 To signal the release of the bird or to delegate another Judge to do so.
- A.9.2.4 To instruct handlers to send the dogs for their retrieve, or to delegate another Judge to do so.
- A.9.2.5 To ensure that bird crates or bodybags are positioned well out of the area of fall with due consideration of the wind direction.
- A.6.2.6 To examine all retrieved game for hard mouth, or to delegate another Judge to do so.
- A.6.2.7 To position the other Judges and to be their spokesman.
- A.6.2.8 To select or to delegate another Judge to select game to be used in saluted retrieves.
- A.6.2.9 To complete and to sign the official Judges' Report on the day of the trial and to submit this Report to the Field Trial Secretary of the host club.
- A.6.2.10 To check the Discrepancy Report and ensure that there are not any highlighted discrepancies. If there are, these discrepancies must be sorted out with the Judges before the report can be signed off and certificates printed.

#### **A.9.3 JUDGES' REPORT**

The Judges' Report must contain the following:

- A.9.3.1 Name of host club.
- A.9.3.2 Stake.
- A.9.3.3 Date of Stake.

- A.9.3.4 Venue and address.
- A.9.3.5 Names of Judges, Learner Judge, Field Trial Manager and KUSA Representative.
- A.9.3.6 Number of dogs entered.
- A.9.3.7 Number of dogs participating.
- A.9.3.8 Number of pickups.
- A.9.3.9 Game used in the stake.
- A.9.3.10 Comment on the standard of the dogs' work.
- A.9.3.11 Placings by dog number (as per draw) and registered name.
- A.9.3.12 A table of all the Judges' points of the dogs which have been placed.
- A.9.3.13 Declaration of confirmation of results signed by all Judges at that stake.
- A.9.3.14 For every stake other than Puppy; a table of points of all dogs to finish the stake, with a calculation of SAHR points.

**A.10 MANAGEMENT OF A FIELD TRIAL**

**A.10.1 Management Entrusted to the Club**

The management of a Field Trial and a Field Qualifying Stake shall be entrusted to the club holding the Field Trial or Stake.

**A.10.2 KUSA Representative**

It shall be necessary for a KUSA Representative, who shall be a member in good standing of the Kennel Union, to be present at the Championship Stake. The KUSA Representative shall be nominated by the FTLC and be approved by the Federal Council.

**A.10.3 Procedure in the Case of Procedural Irregularity**

An alleged procedural irregularity may be raised only by a handler participating in the Field Trial. Such allegation must be raised with the Field Trial Manager.

A.10.3.1 The Field Trial Manager in turn shall notify the Club Secretary/Committee and the Judges of the alleged irregularity.

A.10.3.2 The allegation shall be decided within thirty minutes from the time it was lodged, by a majority of the committee members present.

**A.10.4 TREATMENT OF CAPTIVE GAME**

**A.10.4.1 Housing of Game**

Prior to the trial, game shall be kept in a sufficiently large cage or aviary, with adequate perches, to enable all the perching birds to fly and perch comfortably. Sufficient water and feed must be provided for each type of game at all times. Care should be taken to ensure that food and water containers are

not easily upturned.

The cage/aviary must afford shade and shelter from the elements at all times. With reference to ground birds, adequate space must be provided to meet their natural behavioural requirements.

**Guide**

*Ground birds must have enough space in which to walk, eat and drink.*

**A.10.4.2 Keeping of Game at the Venue**

Game to be used at the venue on the day must be transferred from the cage/aviary to crates (typically of the type used to transport chickens or pigeons) during the hours of darkness. An aviary should be used at the venue in cases where game is being kept for periods of more than a day.

Provision shall be made for water in each crate. Water containers shall be fixed to the crate preventing accidental spillage.

**Guide**

*Fixing of water containers is best achieved by securing them to the sides of crates with cable ties.*

**A.10.4.3 Crates**

All crates must be kept in shade and covered with hessian. Crates shall be kept flat (upright). In this regard, two people should always be deployed to carry crates with live game. Only required game should be temporarily stored a reasonable distance from the point of release. Unused game must not be stored in crates overnight.

**A.10.4.3 Game per crate**

The numbers of game per crate should never exceed:

- 20 Pigeons; or
- 6 Pheasants/Guinea Fowl; or
- 6 Ducks; or
- 4 Rabbits

**Guide**

*The crate size shall be approximately 1000mm long x 800mm wide x 300mm high.*

**A.10.4.4 Handling of Birds**

Birds may only be taken out of their crates just before the retrieve commences and physically handled for the shortest possible period.

**Guide**

*The line Judge must ready to commence the retrieve before the first bird is taken from a crate. Subsequent birds may only be taken from the crates when the next competitor is coming into line.*

**A.10.4.5 Shooting of Game**

Released birds must be shot using shotguns with suitable ammunition. Sufficient competent guns must be present to ensure effective culling of birds. It is the responsibility of a forward Judge to ensure

that, in the event of a wounded bird not being quickly retrieved, the trial is stopped and an official instructed to dispatch the bird swiftly and humanely.

Rabbits and ducks must always be dispatched with a small calibre weapon.

### **Guide**

*Shot size between 6 and 7½, with minimum 24g load, for pigeons; and Shot size between 5 and 6, with minimum 28g load, for larger birds.*

## **A.10.5 FIELD TRIAL MANAGER - ELECTION/DUTIES**

The club holding the Field Trial shall elect a Field Trial Manager, who shall be a member in good standing of the Kennel Union, who shall be responsible for:

- A.10.5.1 Running the Field Trial.
- A.10.5.2 Assisting Judges in setting the course.
- A.10.5.3 Ensuring the humane treatment and culling of captive game.
- A.10.5.4 Ensuring that throwers are competent, instructed about safety, correctly positioned and given appropriate instructions for each test.

## **A.10.6 REQUIREMENTS FOR A FIELD TRIAL FOR RETRIEVER BREEDS**

### **A.10.6.1 Minimum number of Pick-ups**

- A.10.6.1.1 In an Open Stake, the minimum number of pick-ups shall be eight.
- A.10.6.1.2 In a Championship Stake, the minimum number of pick-ups shall be fifteen (15).

### **A.10.6.2 Pick-up Dog**

The club holding the Field Trial must ensure that there is a handler with an experienced pick-up dog at each Trial.

## **A.11 FIELD QUALIFYING STAKE (FQ)**

### **A.11.1 GENERAL REGULATIONS**

- A.11.1.1 A Field Qualifying Stake may be run at a Field Trial or at a Field Qualifying meeting for Retrievers.
- A.11.1.2 A minimum of three Judges must be appointed to assess dogs for the awarding of Field Qualifying Certificates, at least one of which shall be from the "A" Panel List of Judges for Field Trials.
- A.11.1.3 Only clubs, which hold Field Trials, may run Field Qualifying Stakes.
- A.11.1.4 Application to run a Field Qualifying Stake must be applied for in the same manner as prescribed for a Field Trial, i.e. through FTLC and a licence must be obtained from KUSA.
- A.11.1.5 The club Secretary shall notify KUSA of the numbers and names of the Field Qualifiers. These shall be published on the Official Kennel Union Journal. These dogs shall be entitled to carry the designation "FQ" after their names.

- A.11.1.6 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.
- A.11.1.7 The dogs shall be expected to retrieve feather and to enter water.
- A.11.1.8 The names of the dogs must be entered on the programme for the meeting. Entry fees shall be at the discretion of the club.
- A.11.1.9 A dog may not run in a Field Qualifying Stake more than three times in all, and not more than twice in any one field trial season.

**A.11.2 Requirements to be fulfilled**

Before signing the Field Qualifying Certificate, the Judges must be satisfied that the following requirements had been met:

- A.11.2.1 All tests must be conducted off the lead.
- A.11.2.2 Any dog, which commits an eliminating fault, shall be failed.
- A.11.2.3 A dog must show that it is not gun shy.
- A.11.2.4 Excessive vocalising and handling is not used during the stake.
- A.11.2.5 The dog has amply demonstrated its natural working ability.
- A.11.2.6 The Retriever completes the series of retrieves set out in Clauses A.11.3.1 to A.11.3.4 below in such a manner that Clause A.11.2.5 is satisfied.

**A.11.3 RETRIEVES FOR FIELD QUALIFYING STAKE**

**A.11.3.1 Retrieve No. 1**

Shot pigeon to fall approximately 75 metres in medium to light cover, single dog in line; retrieve to be a walk up.

**A.11.3.2 Retrieve No. 2**

Tossed, saluted duck/large bird at approximately 40 metres in medium to heavy cover, single dog in line; retrieve to be from a stationary position.

**A.11.3.3 Retrieve No. 3**

Saluted bird into water. Single dog to retrieve from a stationary position. Retrieve not to exceed 35 meters into water.

**A.11.3.4 Retrieve No. 4**

Two saluted pigeons in light cover with birds approximately 45 metres from the line. Birds to fall 90 degrees apart. Single dog in line; retrieve from a stationary position. Any bird to be retrieved first.

**A.12 MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**A12.1 AWARDS**

Equal placings at a Field Trial are prohibited.

## **A.12.2 RECORD OF ENTRIES**

The Secretary of the club holding a Field Trial shall preserve all entry forms for twelve months after the meeting, and produce any of them to any official body inquiring into an objection or dispute.

## **A.12.3 HANDLING OF DOGS**

### **A.12.3.1 Deputy Handling a Dog:**

If a deputy handles a dog, the owner may be in the line with another dog, but may not take part in the working of the deputy's dog.

### **A.12.3.2 Maximum Number of Dogs:**

No handler may handle more than three dogs in a single stake.

### **A.12.3.3 Running under a Judge who is related:**

There is no objection to the immediate family of a Judge running in a Field Trial judged by him.

There is, furthermore, no objection to a dog belonging to a Judge (he being the registered owner) running in a Field Trial judged by him.

### **A.12.3.4 Switching of Handlers during a Trial:**

Once the Trial has begun, a handler of a dog may NOT be switched.

## **A.12.4 DOGS UNDER TRIAL**

The control of all matters connected with dogs under trial shall rest with the Judges of the Trial but they may call the Field Trial Manager to their assistance if they think fit.

The Judges are empowered to disqualify from any stake any dog whose handler does not obey them or wilfully interferes with another competitor or with his own dog.

## **A.12.5 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 at the venue, or any cause which interferes with the safety, or chance of winning of his opponents, such dogs must be removed immediately from the venue and from the Trial. Any such case is liable to be reported to the KUSA and to be dealt with under KUSA Schedule 1.

If a dog competes which has been exposed to the risk of any contagious or infectious disease during the period of six weeks prior to the Field Trial and/or if any dog shall be proven to be suffering at a Field Trial from any contagious disease, including contagious results of inoculations against distemper, the owner thereof shall be liable to be dealt with under KUSA Schedule 1.

## **A.12.6 UNPUNCTUALITY**

A dog which is not present within 15 minutes when required by a Judge on any retrieve may be disqualified by the Judges. Judges are empowered to eliminate a dog for repeated offences of unpunctuality during a stake.

#### **A.12.7 WITHHOLDING AWARDS**

The judges may not withhold first place if any dog running in the stake has achieved SAHR Points.

If, in the case of technical disqualifications, a prize winner is disqualified, the dogs next in consecutive order of merit, if so placed by the Judges and awarded second, third or fourth place, may be moved into the higher places in the prize list, at the Judges' discretion, and such placings thereupon become the awards.

#### **A.12.8 WITHDRAWAL OF DOG**

No competitor may, whilst under Judges' orders, leave the line without the permission of the Judges and any dog so removed is liable to disqualification.

No dog that is withdrawn, once under Judges' orders, for reason of inability or incapacity (e.g. through injury or illness) may be permitted to continue competing in that stake.

#### **A.12.9 WEATHER AND/OR VENUE CONDITIONS**

If the club considers the weather and/or venue unfit for the holding of a Trial, the meeting may be held at a different venue or postponed from day to day until the end of the week, when the stakes that are not decided upon may be abandoned and the entry fees refunded, or a fresh draw may be made and a fresh date fixed for the abandoned stakes.

#### **A.12.10 IMPUGNING DECISIONS**

Anyone on the venue at a Trial openly impugning the decision of a Judge or Judges shall render himself liable to be reported to KUSA under the provisions of KUSA Schedule 1, unless he is availing himself of Section A.10.3, herein.

#### **A.12.11 FUR STAKE PROVISIONS**

A.12.11.1 All dogs running in, Novice, Open or Championship Stakes may be required to retrieve both feather (and fur at the discretion of the Senior Judge and Club Committee).

A.12.11.2 No dog in a Puppy, Junior, Limit, Maiden or Field Qualifying Stake shall be required to retrieve fur.

#### **A.12.12 COLLARS/LEADS**

Dogs must not wear any form of collar when under the orders of the Judges. Handlers may not carry leads and/or choke chains or any other training aids (including food/treats and clickers) in line. However, in Puppy Stakes only, the use of a lead and collar/choker chain is permissible. All dogs must be kept on a lead when not working.

#### **A.12.13 GUNS USED BY JUDGES AND HANDLERS**

At a Field Trial, only the forward Judge/s may be used as gun/s. Handlers may carry a shotgun when required to do so by a Judge, with the strict proviso that the gun may not be loaded. The gun carried may be a non- functioning replica of a shotgun.

#### **A.12.14 ALTERING JUDGES' LIST**

The FTLC shall be entitled, subject to the approval of the Federal Council, to alter the rules and Panel structure governing the appointment of Field Trial Judges.

**A.12.15 PROHIBITION OF "RUN OFFS"**

In the event of certain dogs having the same scores near the end of a stake, no "run offs" are permitted between those dogs alone; all dogs remaining in the stake must be run on.

**A.12.16 TRAINING ON THE VENUE**

There shall be no practising or training on any part of the Field Trial venue, from the start of the trial until the conclusion, except in those areas designated by the Field Trial Manager.

**A.12.17 CLOTHING WORN AT A TRIAL**

All guns, Judges, handlers, bird throwers, Field Trial Managers and other officials shall wear neutral coloured clothing of the type which would be worn on a natural shoot, such as khaki. White or brightly coloured shirts, trousers or hats will not be permitted. If spectators are not in neutral coloured clothing, they must stay out of sight of the working dogs. Handlers may use a white handkerchief to assist giving clarity to hand signals during blinds or control work.

**A.12.18 CONTINGENCIES**

Any event not provided for in these Rules and Regulations shall be decided by committee members of the club present but not competing in the Trial, assisted by the Judges, and their decision shall be final.

**B. REGULATIONS FOR THE JUDGING OF RETRIEVER FIELD TRIALS**

**B.1 PREAMBLE**

This document takes the form of regulations which are the rules which bind Judges in the manner in which they judge Field Trials. Such regulations always fall under the heading "RULE" Paragraphs appearing under the heading "GUIDES" are NOT rules, but merely assist Judges to interpret the "RULE".

**B.2 OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this document are:

- To promote a greater understanding of the facets that go to make up a Retriever Field Trial.
- To achieve greater conformity in the running of Field Trials.
- To achieve greater conformity in the judging of the performance of Retrievers at Field Trials.

The standardisation of objectives is therefore essential and all Judges, guns, competitors and Field Trial officials who play a part in conducting a Field Trial should be familiar with, and be governed where possible by, the following standards:

**B.3 PURPOSE OF A FIELD TRIAL**

The purpose of a Retriever Trial is to determine the relative merits of Retrievers in the field. Therefore, Field Trials should simulate as nearly as possible those conditions which can be expected in the natural shoot; these conditions should not vary materially from one dog to another.

**B.4 FUNCTION OF A RETRIEVER**

The function of a Retriever is to seek and retrieve "fallen" game when ordered to do so. He should sit quietly in line, in the blind, walk at heel or assume any station designated by his handler until sent to retrieve. When ordered, a dog should retrieve quickly and briskly without unduly disturbing too much ground, and should deliver tenderly to hand. He should then await further orders.

Accurate marking is of primary importance. A dog which marks the fall of the bird, uses the wind and takes direction from his handler when required to do so, is of great value.

**RULE 1 STANDARD BY WHICH TO JUDGE**

Given the function of a Retriever, as above, Judges must judge dogs for: -

Their natural abilities including marking, intelligence, attention, nose, courage, perseverance, style, game finding ability; and

Their abilities acquired through training, including memory, steadiness, response to direction, and delivery.

**B.5 JUDGES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

**B.5.1 PRE-TRIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

## **RULE 2 INSPECTION OF FIELD TRIAL VENUE**

The Senior Judge must inspect the Field Trial Venue with members of the Field Trial Committee and set the course in advance of the designated starting time of the trial.

The Senior Judge must always be assisted in setting the course by at least one other Judge and the Field Trial Manager and/or his deputy.

### ***Guide to Rule 2***

*It is recommended that a dog, which will not be competing in that stake, be used during course setting to check the various elements of each retrieve.*

## **RULE 3 APPROVAL OF THE TESTS**

Having familiarised themselves with the layout and characteristics of the venue, the Judges are required to approve the series of tests that are intended for a particular stake prior to the designated starting time of the trial.

### ***Guide to Rule 3***

*In approving tests, the following points should be borne in mind:*

*All retrieves should be set to the standard required for that stake. Where possible the retrieves should start easier relative to that stake and become progressively more difficult.*

*A good test is one which will neither be so simple that all the dogs will turn in almost perfect performances, nor so difficult that all the dogs turn in equally poor performances, but is rather designed to demonstrate (reveal) the various levels of competence and ability of the different dogs.*

*On "marked retrieves", a dog should be able to see a bird in the air and as it falls, since his memory and marking ability can only be tested when he has seen the fall. All dogs must be given a fair opportunity to see the fall.*

*On "blind" retrieves, wherever possible, tests should be set such that advantage is taken of natural hazards such as islands, ditches, hedges, bushes, heavy cover and rolling terrain. "Blind" tests should be planned so that the dog is in sight for the greater part of the time. A blind retrieve is a test of control. A dog should not be out of sight of a handler for any length of time and at all times the dog should be in sight of at least one Judge.*

## **B.5.2 RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE LINE**

Before a trial, each stake and each series of retrieves is started, Judges are required to reach decisions on certain aspects, such as:

## **RULE 4 POSITIONING OF THE JUDGES**

The Senior Judge should give consideration to the placing of Judges at the line and he should always place a forward Judge at the area of the fall.

The forward judges should be placed in a position that is not distracting to the dog.

## **RULE 5 INSTRUCTIONS TO THE HANDLERS**

Each handler, as he comes to the line, must be given the position he is required to take, the nature of the test, and any special instructions about the desired method of completing it. In a retrieve which calls for a walk- up, the Judge must give the handler his position in the line.

### ***Guide to Rule 5***

*In order that all handlers receive the same instructions, it is recommended that, wherever possible, these handlers are summoned to the line, before the series is started, and these instructions be given to the handlers, as a group, and be repeated if requested by any handler when called into line. It would be helpful to handlers and spectators if the Senior Judge explained to them the type of work which is required in the test and the dog's attributes which the retrieve is designed to test.*

**TEST DOG:** *In an Open or Championship Stake a test dog should be used prior to the running of the test to demonstrate to the handlers the nature and degree of difficulty of the test. A test dog may be used in any other stake at the discretion of the Judges.*

## **RULE 6 POSITION OF HANDLERS IN THE LINE**

At the start of a Field Trial, the Judges must make sure that they have the correct dogs in numerical order in line. In subsequent retrieves, Judges can elect to run the dogs in any order.

All handlers must display their number on their back at all times.

### ***Guide to Rule 6***

*As a general rule, all dogs should be prevented from watching the Trial in progress, by whatever means available at the venue. However, unless it is critical to the success of the retrieve that handlers be hidden, Judges should allow all handlers to watch all retrieves. A test or pickup dog, running off lead, should be used in situations requiring the first and last competing dogs to honour in line.*

## **RULE 7 CALLING BY NUMBER / SENDING THE DOG**

Judges must refer to the handler by the number of the dog, particularly when used as a signal to him to send his dog. It is not correct for the Judge to use the handler's or the dog's name. If a dog goes after the Judge has started speaking to initiate the calling of the number of the working dog, this will not be considered a break, even if there has been no audible or visible command from the handler and the dog may not be marked down.

## **B.5.3 RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE TESTS ARE IN PROGRESS**

## **RULE 8 DIRECTIONS ON THE FALL**

It is the responsibility of handlers to ensure that they mark the area of fall of the game. When requested to do so, at their discretion the Judge controlling the line may give reasonable directions to the handlers as to the area where the game has fallen. The line judge may request the forward judge to indicate where the game has fallen.

## **RULE 9 SILENCE / MOVING**

Judges, guns and other officials must refrain from talking to anybody while a dog is out working on a retrieve. They should, furthermore, be careful not to influence a test by moving around excessively; lie in the grass, or by standing directly behind or in front of the handler and thus confusing the dog.

### **Guide to Rule 9**

*The throwers and guns must not lie in the grass. They can, if requested by the judge, retire to the shade and sit quietly on a chair. This should be consistent for each competitor.*

### **RULE 10 ATTENTION ON THOSE DOGS NOTWORKING**

While a dog is out working, Judges must be observant for infringements on the line by handlers and/or dogs not working.

### **RULE 11 ADVICE TO THE HANDLER**

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

A handler shall be given the option to take his dog out of line completely when a "No Bird" is called, and to return after a few other dogs have run.

### **RULE 12 "NO BIRD"; GENERAL APPLICATION**

If, in the opinion of the Judges, a bird is so badly damaged by shot or is shot in such a way that makes the retrieve of no value, lands on or next to a bird crate or makes the retrieve materially different from the retrieves of previous dogs, the test should be called "no-bird". Judges should call "no bird" as soon as possible. Any Judge may call "no-bird".

A handler shall be given the option to take his dog out of line completely when a "No Bird" is called, and to return after a few other dogs have run.

### **Guide to Rule 12**

*In each retrieve, Judges must have a clear indication of where the bird should fall. If it should fall outside this area, the bird is to be called "no-bird". The limits of this area for each retrieve should be set by the Judge prior to the first dog coming to line."*

### **RULE 13 "NO BIRD"; RUNNER**

Where there is a possibility of a runner, the retrieve should be called "No-Bird". In this case, the pick-up dog must be used to collect the bird.

If, after a bird has been retrieved, it is proved to be a runner, no bonus or special points should be awarded to the dog relative to the retrieve expected for that particular test.

In Novice or Open Stake, a dog that acknowledges a runner but fails to pick-up will be deemed to have "blinked" the bird (Rule 26).

### **Guide to Rule 13**

*"No bird" runner should be called when a bird can clearly be seen to still be able to fly or move from the immediate fall so as to make the retrieve materially different.*

### **RULE 14 LOST BIRD**

Where a dog is sent but fails to find the bird, a pick-up dog may be used to do the retrieving. If, however, the pick-up dog fails to find the bird, and all reasonable attempts have been made by the Judges and officials to find it, the retrieve must be annulled and completely disregarded by the Judges and the dog be given a fresh retrieve.

**RULE 15 COMMENTS BY THE GUNS**

The Judges shall disregard entirely comments made by the guns regarding the work of any particular dog.

**RULE 16 GATHERING OF GAME**

All wounded game must be gathered in as quickly as possible and despatched immediately.

***Guide to Rule 16***

*Where a dog fails to retrieve, the Senior Judge may give instructions for the game to be retrieved by a "pick-up" dog designated for the Trial. See also A.10.4.6 - Shooting of Game.*

**RULE 17 INSPECTION OF RETRIEVED GAME FOR HARDMOUTH**

All game retrieved, and delivered to the handler, shall be inspected by one of the Judges, and examined for hardmouth. The handler shall be required to remain in line until a decision has been reached and conveyed to the handler. Where a case of hardmouth is suspected, the Judge responsible for the line shall offer the game in question to all the other Judges for their opinion.

Judges must inspect the game carefully as any rough handling of the game can cause damage to the ribs. Dogs displaying hardmouth must be eliminated.

In all cases of doubt, the benefit should be given to the dog. In cases where Judges have eliminated a dog for hardmouth, the bird shall be shown to the handler, in the presence of the Judges. Thereafter the bird must be discarded from further use in the Trial and kept under the control of the Field Trial Manager until the end of the Trial.

***Guide to Rule 17***

*It is important to realise that a hardmouthed dog seldom gives visible evidence of hardness. He will simply crush in one or both sides of the ribs. Blowing up the feathers will not disclose the damage. The bird should be placed on the palm of the hand, breast downwards, head forward, and ribs felt with finger and thumb of the other hand. The ribs should be round and firm. If they are caved in or flat, this could be evidence of hardmouth.*

*The attention of the Judges is drawn to the fact that at times the rump of a strong runner may be gashed. This may have been the result of a difficult capture, or have been caused by a young dog inexperienced in mastering a strong runner. Judges, therefore, must satisfy themselves that any damage was initiated by the dog and not by the shot, the fall or, in the case of saluted game, by an earlier retrieve.*

*If the dog falls into a hole, or encounters another obstacle, on returning to the handler with the bird, discretion should be applied if the dog clearly has been affected by such an obstacle.*

**RULE 18 KEEPING OF DETAILED NOTES**

Judges must keep sufficiently detailed notes on each dog's performance to enable them to recall it completely or at least its outstanding features. Every fault should be noted, even those that are minor. Although these faults may not require that a dog be penalised at that time, repetitions of a particular fault or commissions of various other faults, in succeeding series, may cause the total of faults to assume serious proportions indicating a "failing" or a habitual tendency and resulting in a performance that is neither a finished job nor pleasing.

## **Guide to Rule 18**

*The following scoring system is to be used and will be of assistance, in general, for the preliminary classification of the performance of the dogs still in competition. However, in the final summation and analysis of the various performances, by means of the detailed notes described above, a direct and detailed comparison of the work of one dog versus the work of another may produce some different conclusions from those suggested by the scores alone.*

9 + 1 points	Used expediently by Judges who have adjudged a previous dog's performance as deserving top marks, and then found another dog just bettering this performance with credits.
9 points	An excellent performance, deserving top marks, without infraction.
8 points	An excellent performance, against a few minor infractions.
7 points	An excellent performance against many more minor infractions.
6 points	An average performance with credits, against some infractions.
5 points	An average performance, with infractions.
4 points	A below average performance, with more infractions.
3 points	A poor performance, with more infractions.
2 points	A poor performance, with many infractions.
1 point	A poor performance, against moderate and major infractions.
0 points	Non-retrieve.

*The half mark can be used by Judges, when assessing one dog with another or others of the same score, the Judge makes a credit comparison in favour of that dog.*

*A retrieve which calls for a double pick-up should be marked as though the two pick-ups were two (2) separate single retrieves and the marks combined to give a total. The same applies to any retrieve which calls for more than two (2) pick-ups i.e. the number of pick-ups should always be marked separately as for a single, and then totalled.*

## **B.6 EVALUATION OF THE DOGS' PERFORMANCE**

### **B.6.1 PREAMBLE**

#### **B.6.1.1 Judging**

Judging can never be precise, as it is not an exact science; there are many shades of grey between black and white. At the risk of over-simplification, it might be said that the primary purpose of a Retriever is to get the birds to hand as quickly as possible in a pleasing, obedient manner - and all faults stem from a deviation from this.

#### **B.6.1.2 Basic Principles**

"Basic Principles" are "to determine the relative merits of Retrievers in the field", in situations which "simulate as nearly as possible those conditions which can be expected in a natural shoot."

#### **B.6.1.3 The Expected Performance**

It is recommended that a Judge has clearly in mind what type of performance he expects for each test, since such work will merit high ratings in his records. The scores which dogs receive will reflect how closely they have attained or fallen short of this predetermined norm.

Much of the Judge's responsibility is to determine how much weight shall be given to certain types of exceptional performance and the penalties of various individual faults. Some faults, by themselves, are sufficiently serious to justify elimination from a Stake. Others may justify either a moderate penalty, or only a minor penalty. Some of the latter may be so minor that, on occasions, they are relatively so unimportant, for practical purposes, they can be ignored. On the other hand, minor faults can summate into moderate faults and moderate faults into serious faults, through repetition or through combinations of several types of faults.

With the aim of obtaining greater uniformity in judging, it is important that definition be given to the various types of faults, i.e. eliminating, serious, moderate and minor.

#### **B.6.1.4 The Standard for Retrievers**

The Standard, as laid down previously under Rule 1 of this document states: "Given the function of a Retriever, Judges must therefore judge dogs for:

Their natural abilities including marking intelligence, attention, nose, courage, perseverance, style, game finding ability; and

Their abilities acquired through training, including steadiness, response to direction, memory, marking and delivery."

Generally natural ability will be considered more important than that acquired through training.

#### **B.6.2 THE STANDARD – NATURAL ABILITIES**

##### **B.6.2.1 Marking**

Accurate marking is of paramount importance. The ability to mark, however, does not necessarily imply pinpointing a fall. A dog that misses the fall initially, but recognises the depth of the fall, stays in it, then quickly and systematically "hunts it out", has done both a creditable and intelligent job of marking.

Such work should not be appreciably out-scored by a dog that finds or pinpoints on the first cast. However, a dog, which consistently marks his birds close and therefore more accurately, should be judged accordingly.

The "area of the fall" is the area within which the Judge feels the dog should be hunting if the dog is to do a good job of work. The "area of the fall" defies accurate description. Each Judge must, in his own mind, define its boundaries for each bird in every test, before the test begins.

In determining these arbitrary and hypothetical boundaries of the area of the fall, consideration should be given to these various factors:

- B.6.2.1.1 the type, the height and the uniformity of the cover;
- B.6.2.1.2 light and weather conditions;
- B.6.2.1.3 direction of the prevailing wind and its intensity;
- B.6.2.1.4 length and/or ease of sighting of the fall;
- B.6.2.1.5 the variation in the cover;
- B.6.2.1.6 whether one is establishing the area of the fall for a single, or the first bird a dog goes for in a multiple retrieve, or for the second or third bird in such a retrieve, since each of these should differ from the others.

In general, the area of the fall for a single retrieve should be the smallest when compared to multiple retrieves. The area for the first retrieve in a double should be smaller than the areas for the second retrieve. The same rule is applied to triples. Furthermore, the area for short retrieves should be smaller than that for longer retrieves.

Given the hypothetical area of the fall which the Judge has defined for a particular test, the Judge will set his penalties according to how far the individual dogs have wandered out of the area, the frequency of such wanderings, the numbers of birds mismarked in a given test, and by the amount of cover disturbed in these meanderings.

#### **B.6.2.2 Intelligence**

Intelligence is not often tested intentionally since few tests can be designed for that specific purpose. Nevertheless, on occasions dogs may have an opportunity to demonstrate an unusual degree of intelligence, or lack of it, through the manner in which certain performances are completed. An example would be of the dog taking a route which results in a faster, neater pick-up and return. When these occasions arise, and usually they develop by chance rather than by intent, each dog must be credited or penalised on the basis of the intelligence demonstrated.

#### **B.6.2.3 Attention**

Attention is an eagerness and attitude which a dog displays on line. It is also displayed in his alertness in locating the guns, in acceding to his handler's commands, and in his zeal. These are all highly desirable traits.

#### **B.6.2.4 Nose**

Most Retrievers have a good nose and generally Field Trials afford them ample opportunity to demonstrate this all-important quality. Usually, it is something in his work which suggests that a dog lacks a good nose that attracts the Judges' attention. Such suspicion should be recorded, so that it can be verified or eliminated by his performance in subsequent tests.

#### **B.6.2.5 Courage**

This too is a trait which may not be able to be tested at every trial. It may be displayed by a willingness to face and, without hesitation, enter rough cover, cold or rough water, ice, wind or other similar conditions which make the going difficult for the dog.

#### **B.6.2.6 Perseverance**

This quality is shown by a dog's determination to stick to it and complete that task at hand; that is to search systematically, aggressively and without faltering, and find the bird he has been sent to retrieve.

A lack of perseverance may become apparent whenever:

- A dog returns to its handler, voluntarily, before finding the bird.
- The dog stops hunting, or continues in a slow lackadaisical, uninterested manner.
- The dog "pops"; that is, looks back for direction before he has hunted for a reasonable time.

#### **B.6.2.7 Style**

Style is another quality which defies accurate definition, yet it is apparent in every movement of a dog through his entire performance at Trials.

Examples might be:

- The gaiety of his manner;
- Alertness in line;
- His eagerness and speed on retrieves;
- The manner in which he enters water;
- An aggressive search for the bird;
- Prompt pick-up and return;
- Speed in gathering of game i.e. "straight out and back" where the terrain allows.

#### **B.6.2.8 Game Finding Ability**

This can be defined as the skill demonstrated by a dog in making the find without the aid of his handler.

### **B.6.3 THE STANDARD – ABILITIES ACQUIRED THROUGH TRAINING**

The importance of these acquired abilities varies in the different Stakes. For example, Judges will require far greater steadiness from Open dogs than from Novice dogs.

#### **B.6.3.1 Steadiness**

When called to be tested, a dog should come tractably to heel and sit promptly at the point designated by his handler and remain quietly there until given further orders. (He should remain quietly in line beside the handler after delivery of the bird to him.)

On a walk up the dog should walk at heel and should not make any attempt to retrieve until instructed to do so by the handler. The dog may not be penalised if the dog retrieves once the judge has called his number. When recalled, a dog should return promptly to his handler. Retrievers which bark or whine in line, in a blind or while retrieving, should be penalised. Loud or prolonged barking or whining is sufficient cause for elimination from the Stake.

### **RULE 19 RESTRAINING A DOG**

No handler shall carry any training equipment (except a whistle) or use any other equipment, or give commands, gestures which may be interpreted as being an aid or threat in steadying or controlling the dog;

No handler shall hold or touch a dog to keep him steady. A handler may, in cases of physical disability, with the permission of the Senior Judge, carry a shooting or walking stick.

Violation of any of the above provisions is sufficient cause to justify elimination from the Stake. However, in Puppy Stakes only, the use of a lead and collar/choker chain is permissible.

#### ***Guide to Rule 19***

*A hand, fist or finger held across a dog's face; a knee or leg blocking a dog's path, may be interpreted as a gesture necessary to keep a dog steady.*

#### **B.6.3.2 Response to direction**

The dog is expected to respond to the whistle and take directional control quietly, quickly and efficiently. Slipping the whistle and not taking the correct directions should be marked down accordingly.

### **B.6.3.3 Delivery**

Primary purpose of a Retriever is to bring downed game to hand as quickly as possible in a pleasing, obedient manner

After pick up the dog should return and deliver the game to hand and give up willingly. The dog should remain quietly in line beside the handler after delivery of the bird to him.

### **B.6.3.4 Memory and Marking**

The dog is expected to memorise the fall of the birds for a multiple retrieve. In general, the marking of the bird for the first pick up in a double should be the most accurate. Thereafter the dog is tested for accurate marking on the memory bird. The same rule is applied to triples. Furthermore, the marking for short retrieves should be more accurate than that for longer retrieves.

Given the area of the fall which the Judge has defined for a particular pick up, the Judge will score the dog according to how far the individual dog has wandered out of the area showing a lack of memory.

## **B.6.4 CLASSIFICATION OF FAULTS**

In order to assist Judges, most of the faults which may be exhibited by Retrievers during the course of a Trial have been classified in the sections below. These infractions are catalogued under the following headings:

- B.6.4.1 Eliminating Faults
- B.6.4.2 Serious Faults
- B.6.4.3 Moderate Faults
- B.6.4.4 Minor Faults

Each fault should be considered as a single occurrence, and only to an average degree. Some infractions may be so minor that they can be ignored, whilst others may be sufficiently grave to merit a much more severe penalty than is suggested below.

Repetition of a fault, particularly time after time, indicates a "weakness" or a bad habit and justifies a more severe penalty than in an isolated occurrence of this fault. The primary consideration of Judges with respect to the importance of faults listed below, as well as others which may occur, is to determine the extent to which any such infractions would detract from the full enjoyment of an ordinary day's shooting.

## **B.6.5 ELIMINATING FAULTS**

### ***Guide to Eliminating Faults***

*These infractions are usually so recognisable that Judges have no choice but to eliminate the dog and handler at fault. There may, however, be certain exceptional circumstances whereby the Judges may decide the infraction warrants consideration as a serious fault and the dog be marked accordingly. The following faults are not listed in order of seriousness.*

## **RULE 20 BREAKING**

In an Open or Championship Stake, should a dog make a movement which, in the opinion of the Judges, indicates a deliberate intent to retrieve without being ordered to do so, that dog shall be deemed to have broken and shall be eliminated.

In any stake other than Open or Championship Stake, if a dog makes a slight break and is brought immediately under control within a few metres without unduly disturbing the other dogs in line, that dog need not be eliminated, but should be penalised for unsteadiness.

The honouring dog must stay in line until released by the Judge.

#### **Guide to Rule 20**

*If a dog in line creeps or jumps forward a reasonable distance, short of breaking, as birds are shot and no effort is made by the handler to stop and restrain him, the Judges should not interpret such as a deliberate intent to retrieve, since nothing was done to stop the dog. Alternatively, if the handler does make a forceful or vocal effort to stop the dog, the Judges should assume that the handler believed the dog intended to retrieve and therefore must eliminate the dog.*

*The Judges may require that a dog which has jumped or crept forward so far that, in their opinion, it could interfere with the work of another dog, disturb game, or make his retrieve materially different, be brought back to heel and remain in such a position until he is sent. The Judges may caution a handler that if a dog does not keep at heel and remain within a reasonable distance from the handler, he is liable for elimination for being "out of control".*

*The handler and dog are under Judges' orders from such time as the Judge controlling the line so states, until such time as this Judge tells the line to break.*

#### **RULE 21 FAILURE TO ENTER**

Failure to enter water or other conditions after having been ordered to do so several times. Refer to B.6.2.5. for definition of Courage.

#### **RULE 22 OUT OF CONTROL**

Any dog which pays no attention to repeated whistles and directions by his handler can be said to be out of control.

Any dog entered in the Trial which, when out of line during the course of the Trial, disturbs the work of a dog working under Judges' orders, can be eliminated for being out of control.

#### **Guide to Rule 22**

*When ascertaining the degree of control of a handler over his dog, Judges should take cognisance of a dog which persistently "slips" or ignores commands or whistles from the handler. "Slipping" can be defined as the failure of a dog to respond immediately to a command or whistle: the dog may respond only on the third or fourth command or whistle. Persistent slipping can be grounds for eliminating the dog for being out of control, depending on the Stake being run.*

#### **RULE 23 CHASING GAME**

A dog which switches its attention from fallen game and chases other wild game, and cannot be brought under control i.e. stopped from chasing or picking up, within a short distance, shall be eliminated. If the dog is out of sight of the handler, this rule cannot apply.

#### **RULE 24 HARDMOUTH**

Hardmouth, or badly damaging game which, in the opinion of the Judges, was caused entirely and solely by the dog without justification.

Refer to Rule 17 – **INSPECTION OF RETRIEVED GAME FOR HARDMOUTH**, Guide to Rule 17, and Guide to Rule 34.

**RULE 25      LOUD AND/OR PROLONGED WHINING OR BARKING**

**RULE 26      BLINKING**

Blinking i.e. ignoring game when found, and leaving it. A dog will not be eliminated for this fault in a Puppy Stake.

***Guide to Rule 26***

*If, in the Judges' opinion, a dog which has blinked actually saw and recognised the game, yet refused to pick it up, it should be given the opportunity of a second cast before being eliminated. In a Puppy Stake, a blink should be treated as a failure to find.*

**B.6.6      SERIOUS FAULTS**

**B.6.7      Guide to Serious Faults**

These faults are of such gravity that a dog committing them shall be penalised severely.

**RULE 27      DELIVERY**

A dog should deliver all game to hand. Should a dog drop a bird or other game in the field or at the handler it must be penalised. This should carry a lighter penalty in Puppy, Junior and Maiden Stakes.

***Guide to Rule 27***

*Delivery of the bird should be made to the handler directly, upon return from the retrieve, and should be given up willingly. The dog should not "freeze" or be unwilling to give it up.*

*A dog should not drop the bird before delivering it. A dog that drops a bird or other game out in the field must be more heavily penalised than if the drop is at the handler. Persistent dropping can render a dog liable for elimination from the Stake on the basis of it being "out of control".*

*A dog shall 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.*

*He should not jump after the bird once the handler has taken it from him.*

*A dog should not drop the bird before delivering it. The 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. A dog shall 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.*

**RULE 28      EXCESSIVE AND/OR CONTINUOUS VOCALISING OR NOISE**

Excessive and/or continuous vocalising by handlers. If the handler's vocalising interferes with another dog, the dog should be eliminated from the stake.

**RULE 29      DISTURBING THE GROUND**

Disturbing the ground which is considered to be outside the area of the fall.

**RULE 30 FAILURE TO FIND**

Failure to find and retrieve game after a reasonable period of time has elapsed, but in the interest of time, Judges are empowered to call up a dog that fails to hunt effectively in the area of fall or requires multiple casts, as a “fail to find”.

***Guide to Rule30***

*Judges must be very careful when differentiating between applying the “Fail to Find” or “Out of Control” rule. Only a dog which has consistently worked in an area of fall may be classed as having had a fail to find.*

**RULE 31 FAILURE TO MARK**

Failure to mark the "area of the fall" which may or may not require that the dog be handled to it - worse on a single retrieve, or first bird in a double or triple, than on either the second or third bird the dog goes for. See also Rule 39 – **HANDLING** below.

**RULE 32 RETRIEVING A DECOY**

Retrieving a decoy or any article other than the game for which it was sent.

**RULE 33 REPEATED EVIDENCE OF POOR NOSE**

**RULE 34 FREEZING ON THE BIRD**

Freezing on the bird i.e. extreme reluctance to release the bird to the handler.

***Guide to Rule 34***

*Persistent refusal to release on command can render a dog liable for elimination from the Stake on the basis of it being "out of control".*

**RULE 35 SWITCHING BIRDS/AREAS OF FALL**

Switching birds, i.e. giving up after a search for one bird and going to the area of another fall in a marked retrieve; or dropping a bird that is being retrieved and going for another.

***Guide to Rule 35***

*Where the dog is out of sight of the handler, the dog cannot be eliminated for being out of control as control work was not possible. In this instance the dog should merely be severely penalised for switching.*

**RULE 36 NOT PICKING UP IN A DESIGNATED ORDER**

***Guide to Rule 36***

*There may be circumstances in a multiple retrieve where the handler is unable to get the dog to retrieve in the order designated by the Judges. The Judges may, at their discretion, eliminate the dog for being out of control.*

**RULE 37 PICKING UP MORE THAN ONE BIRD AT A TIME**

**RULE 38 URINATING/DEFECATING ON THE WAY TO THE FALL**

**B.6.8 MODERATE FAULTS**

***Guide to Moderate Faults***

*The infractions in this category may be so slight as to warrant their consideration as only a "minor" fault, or they may be so severe as to warrant their consideration as a "serious" fault. Also, repetitions of a "moderate" fault or a combination of several of these faults, may readily convert the total infraction into a "serious" fault.*

**RULE 39 HANDLING**

Handling before game is shot:-

On walking up to the line, or once in line, but prior to the game being released, handlers may not indicate the position of guns and throwers to their dogs.

In any stake, unless the Judge has instructed otherwise, a handler may gesture or talk to his dog, but can be penalised for doing so. Once the Judge has signalled or the bird has been released, any further gesture or command made by the handler will be treated as a break.

***Guide to Rule39 (before game is shot)***

*Once under Judges' orders the handler may not deliberately turn towards the guns and thrower before the game has been released or a shot fired unless otherwise instructed by the judges.*

*A handler who gestures or talks to his dog in an Open or Championship Stake should be more severely penalised than in a Junior, Maiden or Novice Stake.*

***Guide to Rule 39 (after game is shot)***

Handling after game is shot:-

*Handling in a marked retrieve must be penalised. In a single retrieve a dog will be more heavily penalised for being handled than a dog that has to be handled on to a second bird of a double retrieve. Similarly, a dog that is handled on the third retrieve of a triple retrieve will not be penalised as heavily as in the first two cases.*

**RULE 40 RELUCTANCE TO ENTER**

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

**RULE 41 HUNTING IN A SLOW, UNINTERESTED, LACKADAISICAL MANNER**

Hunting in a slow, uninterested and lackadaisical manner, either at once or after a short search.

**RULE 42 POOR STYLE**

Poor style, including an uninterested attitude, a slow or reluctant departure, quest for game, or return with it.

**RULE 43 NOT STOPPING FOR DIRECTION**

Not stopping for direction, after two or three whistles.

**RULE 44 DELIBERATE FAILURE TO TAKE LINES**

Deliberate failure to take lines and various directions given to him. Failure to hold lines and directions for more than a short distance.

**RULE 45 MODERATE WHINING OF A SHORT DURATION**

**RULE 46 GOING OUT OF HIS WAY TO THE FALL**

Going out of his way to a fall, without certainty of purpose, to avoid going into the water in a water retrieve.

**RULE 47 POPPING**

Popping, i.e. looking back for directions on a marked bird before an extensive search.

**RULE 48 UNSTEADY HEELING**

A dog that does not maintain a reasonably constant distance alongside the handler i.e. approximately 1 dog length ahead or behind, or interferes with other dogs or handlers in line.

***Guide to Rule 48***

*A dog that heels unsteadily, as described above, should be marked down very heavily or may be ruled Out of Control.*

**B.6.9 MINOR FAULTS**

***Guide to Minor Faults***

*Severe, repeated or combinations of these minor infractions may summate into a moderate or even a serious fault, also they may be so slight as not to warrant any penalty at all.*

**RULE 49 ROLLING AND/OR MOUTHING THE BIRD**

**RULE 50 GOING OUT OF HIS WAY ON RETURN FROM A PICK-UP**

Going out of his way by land, without certainty of purpose, on the return from a water retrieve.

**RULE 51 LACK OF ATTENTION**

**RULE 52 POOR LINE MANNERS, HEELING POORLY**

Poor line manners, heeling poorly, not immediately taking and staying in the position designated, dropping a bird at delivery, circling the handler, failing to approach within one metre to deliver, causing the handler to step forward an unacceptable distance to take delivery, not remaining quietly in line after delivery.

**RULE 53 SLOW PICK-UP OF A DEAD BIRD**

Slow pick-up of a dead bird, dropping a dead bird, handling game in a sloppy manner.

**RULE 54 NOT STOPPING AT THE FIRST WHISTLE**

Not stopping at the first whistle, but stopping at the second or third.

**RULE 55 URINATING/DEFECATING**

Urinating/defecating on the return from a pick-up.

**RULE 56 LOOKING BACK FOR DIRECTION**

Looking back for direction in a blind retrieve before taking a line or a cast for a reasonable distance.

**RULE 57 OCCASIONAL FAILURE TO TAKE HANDLER'S DIRECTION**

Occasional failure to hold the line or direction for more than a few metres.

**RULE 58 OCCASIONAL FAILURE TO HOLD THE LINE**

Occasional failure to hold the line or direction for more than a few metres.

**RULE 59 SLIGHT SHORT WHINING OR ONE BARK**

Slight short whining or one bark, on being sent to retrieve.

The following table "pigeon holes" the classification of faults and makes for greater ease of understanding.

<b>CLASSIFICATION OF FAULTS</b>			
<b>ELIMINATING</b>	<b>SERIOUS</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>MINOR</b>
<b>Failure to enter</b> Rule 21 and Courage		<b>Reluctance to enter</b> Rule 40 <b>Going out of his way on way to fall</b> Rule 46	<b>Going out of his way on return</b> Rule 50
<b>Out of control</b> Rule 22 Guide to Rule 22, 26, 27, 34, 35, 36 and 48	<b>Delivery</b> Rule 27 <b>Excessive and/or continuous vocalising or noise</b> Rule 28 <b>Seriously disturbing ground</b> Rule 29 <b>Not picking up I a designated order</b> Rule 36 and Guide to Rule 36	<b>Handling</b> Rule 39 and Guide to Rule 39 <b>Not stopping for direction</b> Rule 54 <b>Not stopping for direction</b> Rule 43 <b>Deliberate failure to take lines</b> Rule 44 <b>Popping</b> Rule 47	<b>Looking back for direction</b> Rule 56 <b>Occasional failure to take directions</b> Rule 57 <b>Occasional failure to hold a line</b> Rule 58 <b>Not stopping at the first whistle</b> Rule 54
<b>Chasing game</b> Rule 23			

<b>Hardmouth</b> Rules 17, 24 and 63 Guide to Rule 17	<b>Freezing on the bird</b> Rule 34 and Guide to Rule 34		<b>Rolling and/or mouthing</b> Rule 49
<b>Unsteadiness or breaking</b> Rules 19 and 20 and Guide to Rule 19 and 20		<b>Unsteady heeling</b> Rule 48 and Guide to Rule 48	<b>Poor line manners, Heeling poorly</b> Rule 52
<b>Loud/prolonged whining or barking</b> Rule 25		<b>Moderate whining of short duration</b> Rule 45	<b>Slight short whining or one bark</b> Rule 59
<b>Blinking</b> Rule 26	<b>Failure to find</b> Rule 30 and Guide to Rule 30 <b>Failure to mark</b> Rule 31 <b>Retrieving a decoy</b> Rule 32 <b>Switching birds</b> Rule 35 and Guide to Rule 35 <b>More than one bird</b> Rule 37	<b>Hunting in a slow, lackadaisical manner</b> Rule 41 <b>Poor style</b> Rule 42	<b>Slow pickup of bird</b> Rule 53 <b>Lack of attention</b> Rule 51
	<b>Reported evidence of Poor nose</b>		
	<b>Urinating or defecating on way to fall</b> Rule 38		<b>Urinating or defecating on return</b> Rule 55

## B.6.10 GENERAL PROVISIONS

### RULE 60 STANDARD – FIRST PLACE

It is imperative that Judges award a First Place, Second Place, Third Place and Fourth Place when those dogs have attained 70% or more. If the dog's work is below the 70% standard the dog may not be awarded any placings. A dog which fails to pick up all the required game shall not be placed.

#### **Guide to Rule 60**

*Judges should clearly recognise that awarding top places in Open Stakes for Championship points and in Championship Stakes is of prime importance. Greater leniency in judging may be expected in Novice Stakes and even greater leniency in Puppy, Junior and Maiden Stakes. Rules 64 and 65, concerning agreement amongst the Judges and A.12.7 concerning the withholding of places, refer.*

### RULE 61 DISCARDING OF DOGS

Dogs that have not failed to find may not be discarded. At the Judges' discretion, dogs which have failed to find or have been eliminated may be discarded immediately from a trial, or may be allowed to continue running.

#### **Guide to Rule 61**

*Attention of Judges is drawn to those dogs that have not failed to find, but whose work is so inferior that in the opinion of the Judges they are unable to receive any award. Whilst these dogs may not be discarded, Judges should seriously consider the stricter implementation of the "Out of Control" rule by virtue of the application of the Guide to Rule 22.*

## **RULE 62 CONDUCT**

The Judges of a particular stake shall have the authority to expel a handler from any further competition in the stake being conducted if they observe unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the handler or see the handler kicking, striking or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog during the course of the Field Trial.

It will be the duty of the Judges to promptly report to the Field Trial Committee the expulsion of a handler from the stake, and the Field Trial Committee may then expel the handler from all remaining competition at the Trial, if in the Committee's opinion such further action is warranted.

Judges and Officials should at all times act in a responsible manner commensurable with their position.

### **Guide to Rule 62**

*It shall be the duty of the Committee to investigate, at once, any report that is made to it of alleged unsportsmanlike behaviour on the part of a handler, or a report that a handler has been observed kicking, striking, or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog. If a Field Trial Committee/Judges, after investigation, determines that a handler is in violation of this section, it shall promptly notify the handler of its decision, specifying whether the handler is expelled from a particular Stake or from further competition at the Trials.*

### **Guide - Distraction by Spectators**

*It is essential that all spectators attending a Trial should be kept far enough from the line to enable the dog working to discern his handler clearly, and nothing shall be done to distract the dog's attention from his work. A handler has the right to appeal to the Judges if the gallery is interfering with his work in any way, and the Judges in their discretion may, if they believe the dog has been interfered with, give him another test.*

## **B.6.11 CONSENSUS OF THE JUDGES**

In ascertaining and categorising the infractions of dogs and/or handlers, each Judge will rely on his expertise and judgment. Given the recommendations contained in this document, he will apply weight to these infractions depending on their severity.

In order that greater uniformity be obtained in the weighting of infractions, the following system must apply:

### **B.6.11.1 Consensus on Faults**

The following rules shall apply in those cases where dogs commit faults which may lead to elimination:

## **RULE 63 UNANIMITY - ELIMINATION**

In the case of dogs with suspected hardmouth, there must be unanimity of all the Judges before a dog can be eliminated. In all other cases, all the Judges witnessing the infraction must agree that such an infraction warrants elimination.

### **B.6.11.2 Consensus on Rating**

Consensus will also be required when the standard of work of dogs is being rated.

**RULE 64 UNANIMITY – FIRST PLACE**

Unanimity of the Judges is required in awarding first place i.e. all Judges must agree on the winning dog, and all Judges must be unanimous that the winning dog has met the required standard. This applies to all stakes.

**RULE 65 SIMPLE MAJORITY/CASTING VOTE**

A simple majority is required for all placings and awards after first place. Where a simple majority is required and a deadlock occurs, the Senior Judge will have a casting vote.

**RULE 66 JUDGES HAVE FINAL DECISION**

Where the Rule or Guide does not cover a particular situation, the decision will remain with the appointed Judges on the day.

## **C. GUIDE TO RETRIEVER FIELD TRIAL SECRETARIES**

### **C.1 DUTIES TO THE KUSA**

#### **C.1.1 BEFORE THE TRIAL**

##### **C.1.1.1 Application for Dates to Hold Field Trials**

Secretaries of affiliated clubs shall, by 1 July each year, confirm the dates for the following field trial season proposed by the FTLC or apply for alternative dates. Such application must state the proposed date, proposed venue, type of trial and stakes to be run. Thereupon, based upon applications received and approved by the FTLC, the official calendar will be published on 1<sup>st</sup> October and forwarded to FC for approval and/or comment. Thereafter, applications for a licence to hold a Field Trial can be submitted according to C.1.1.2 below.

##### **C.1.1.2 Application for Licence to Hold Field Trials**

When the official calendar has been approved by FTLC, Secretaries must submit an application for a Licence to hold Field Trials or Field Qualifying Stakes, together with the required fee direct to KUSA (payable to KUSA), at least four months before the date of the Trial.

##### **C.1.1.3 The Schedule**

The Secretary of the Club shall send the draft schedule, which must include details of the proposed Judges and Field Trial Manager/s, to the FTLC for approval four months or more before the date of the trial. Once approved the Secretary should submit the Schedule (together with the prescribed application form and licence fee as per C.1.1.2 above and the Judges' Acceptance Forms), to KUSA for a licence to be issued. The final schedule must be received by KUSA least at least four months prior to the Trial.

No schedule shall be issued to the public before being approved by the FTLC and the FC. This schedule is to be treated as a contract between the Club and the public.

For the contents required in the schedule, refer to A.7.1.2 of "Regulations for the Conduct of Retriever Field Trials".

##### **C.1.1.4 The Programme (Card)**

The Club holding the Trial must publish a programme (card) containing the necessary particulars of the Trial and of the participants. These are enumerated in A.7.3 of "Regulations for the Conduct of Retriever Field Trials".

#### **C.1.2 AFTER THE TRIAL**

##### **C.1.2.1 Notification of all Awards Made at the Trial**

The Secretary of the Club holding the Trial must submit to KUSA, from the FT Database, the list of dogs entered as per the programme (card) indicating the awards made at each Stake, including details of Field Qualifying Certificates to be issued. This information is to be submitted to KUSA within two weeks of the end of the Trial.

##### **C.1.2.2 Keeping a Record of Entry Forms**

The Secretary of the Club holding a Field Trial shall preserve all entry forms for twelve months after the meeting, and produce any of them to any official body inquiring into an objection or dispute.

### **C.1.2.3 Submission of Results**

The Secretary of the Club holding the Field Trial must submit the completed official Judges' Report for all stakes to FTLC within two weeks of the end of the trial.

## **C.2 DUTIES TO THE PUBLIC**

### **C.2.1 BEFORE THE TRIAL**

#### **C.2.1.1 Distribution of Schedule and Entry Forms**

The Secretary of the Club holding the Field Trial shall send copies of the officially approved schedule, plus entry forms, to all prospective participants.

#### **C.2.1.2 Drawing up a Programme (Card)**

The Secretary of the Club holding the Field Trial shall draw up a programme (card), as stipulated in A.7.3 above for distribution to participants at the Field Trial.

#### **C.2.1.3 Prior Notification of Results of the Draw**

At least three days prior to the Trial, each owner must be notified of the number(s) drawn by his dog(s) for the Trial.

### **C.2.2 AT THE TRIAL**

#### **C.2.2.1 KUSA Documents Required at the Venue during the Trial**

The Secretary shall ensure that a copy of the following documents be available at the venue during the Trial:

- KUSA Schedule 1 – Disciplinary Rules
- KUSA Schedule 3 – Regulations for Championship Shows, or
- KUSA Schedule 4 – Regulations for Non-Championship Shows (if applicable)
- KUSA Schedule 05C(1) – Regulations for Retriever Field Trials

#### **C.2.2.2 Procedure in the Case of an Objection**

Club Secretaries shall familiarise themselves with the irregularity procedures under Section A.10.3.

The Club Secretary or representative shall then notify committee members of the Club that there is an objection, and the irregularity shall be settled by a majority of committee members present at the Trial.

### **C.2.3 JUDGES' SIGNATURES ON ALL CERTIFICATES OF AWARD**

The Secretary of the Club holding the Trial must ensure that all Certificates of Award awarded at the Trial are correctly completed and signed by all the official Judges.

**Guide:**

*The signed certificates must be presented at the completion of the Trial.*

## **D. GUIDELINE STANDARDS FOR THE VARIOUS RETRIEVER STAKES**

The following guidelines for the various Retriever stakes have been drawn up to assist Judges in setting the courses. They outline what Judges can expect from the dogs in each stake.

All handlers should study these to ascertain what their dogs will be required to do at each stage of their training.

Knowledge of what is expected can then be incorporated into their dogs' training programme so that handlers and dogs can be comfortable with their preparation for each stake.

Handlers must be forewarned however, that these are merely "guidelines" and Judges are not bound to adhere to them.

### **D.1 PUPPY STAKE**

In a Puppy Stake, the Judges should be testing the dogs principally for their NATURAL abilities. The criteria for success would include:

Intelligence	Attention
Nose	Perseverance
Style	Game Finding Ability
Marking Ability	Soft Mouth

(Note that Memory and strong Courage are not to be tested)

#### **D.1.1 Suggested Criteria for Puppy Stake retrieves**

- Since puppies are inexperienced the tests should be simple, short, single marked retrieves in fairly light cover.
- It is not advisable to put puppies through barriers that are likely to deter them such as fairly difficult fences, big dongas, etc.
- As steadiness is a learnt ability, it is not being tested. Dogs may run on leads without being penalised for doing so.
- Water retrieves should not exceed about 30 metres in relatively still water, and the dog and handler should be positioned close to the water's edge.
- Land retrieves should not exceed about 50 metres.
- In all retrieves, the area of the fall should be visible to the dog.
- All retrieves should be from a stationary position.
- No decoys to be used, and no honouring of other dogs is required.
- Judges should try to provide fresh ground for each retrieve.
- Judges should check every "saluted" bird carefully before use. No badly shot birds or very "cold" birds to be used. The forward Judge must be alert to calling "no bird" if he suspects the bird has been badly shot.

## **D.2 JUNIOR STAKE**

In the Junior Stake, dogs range in age from 6 months to 18 months, and the Judge can expect a higher level of competence of "trained" abilities.

The Judge will judge all of the natural abilities quoted for Puppies, but can also expect a display of natural courage and memory, and expect the dog to have acquired the trained abilities of steadiness, and of directional control (taking a straight line only).

### **D.2.1 Suggested Criteria for Junior Stake retrieves**

- Land Retrieves: single retrieves should not exceed 60 metres.
- Water Retrieves: single retrieves should not exceed 50 metres.
- Double Retrieves: the second bird should not exceed 40 metres (the birds may fall into light cover).
- Blind Retrieves: should not exceed 30 metres, a salute may be used.
- No diversionary birds, water blinds, and triple retrieves.
- Decoys may be used, but not in a direct line from the dog to the bird. The use of blinds (hides) is not advisable.
- Dogs must be off leads, and a walk up is permitted, but only for a single retrieve.
- Test for courage, using simple obstacles.
- A bird falling out of sight of the dog is permitted in single retrieves.
- The Judge must ensure that the dog has ample opportunity to mark the flight of every marked bird.
- In the blind retrieve, the dog should be in sight of the handler at all times.
- It is advisable that fresh ground be used for each series of retrieves.

## **D.3 MAIDEN STAKE**

In the Maiden Stake, dogs range in ability from starter dogs that are too old for Puppy or Junior Stakes, to those that are too inexperienced to be entered into Novice Stakes with any hope of finishing the course. Judges should therefore set the retrieves accordingly and also be aware that this should be a "fun" stake.

In the Maiden Stake a dog is tested for all the natural abilities and for some of the "trained" abilities. The natural abilities are all those quoted as for the Puppy Stake but also include courage and memory, and the "trained" abilities to be tested now are:

- Steadiness
- Response to direction by hand and/or whistle
- Deliveries

### **D.3.1 Suggested Criteria for Maiden Stake retrieves**

- Land Retrieves: singles should not exceed 75 metres.
- Doubles: first bird not to exceed 75 metres, second bird not to exceed 60 metres.
- Water retrieves: should not exceed 50 metres (birds can fall in medium to light cover). Double water retrieves are permissible.
- Blind Retrieves: should not exceed 40 metres on land.
- Water Blinds (optional) – May not exceed 20m to a floating blind in the water.
- No diversionary birds (water blinds) or treble retrieves.
- Decoys, dongas, gullies and fences may be used as dogs should now be tested for courage.
- Walk-ups, standing marked retrieves, and standing marked retrieves with the handler in a hide, can be set.
- On a blind retrieve, the handler should have his dog at his side.

### **D.4 NOVICE STAKE**

In this stake, the dogs are being tested for ALL their natural abilities as well as ALL their taught abilities, as quoted above for the Maiden Stake.

The majority of novice dogs are those that have not yet had the experience to compete in Open Stakes on an equal footing and, in the main, require more experience before moving up.

#### **D.4.1 Suggested Criteria for Novice Stake retrieves**

- The dog will be required to retrieve birds and may (at the discretion of the Senior Judge and Club Committee) be required to retrieve fur.
- Do land retrieves and blinds not exceeding 90 metres.
- Do water retrieves and water blinds not exceeding 70 metres.
- Be controlled in a marked retrieve, away from not too tempting diversionary birds (and/or fur at the discretion of the Senior Judge and Club Committee). Diversions should be at least 80°.
- Be controlled to a blind on land, or in water.
- Do single, double and multiple retrieves on land and in the water.
- Be steady without verbal command once under Judge's orders, or demonstrate obedience to quiet commands for steadiness.
- Ignore decoys.
- Hunt in light, medium and heavy cover and through any variety of obstacles.
- The handler may be required to carry an unloaded shotgun or facsimile thereof.

- The dog may be required to sit outside a hide and be directed by the handler from within the hide.
- The stake should include 10 to 12 pickups, of which some may include simple diversions. At least one blind retrieve should be included.
- The dog may be required to hunt out an unmarked "lost" bird in a demarcated area not exceeding 20m x 20m, within a reasonable period of time, (the cover determining the size of area worked).

## **D.5 OPEN STAKE**

The difference between a novice and an open dog is CONTROL and STYLE. Although an open dog must show all the natural abilities, the ability of the handler to direct and control the dog, especially between and/or away from diversions, will determine its success as a top open dog.

In this stake, a Judge will be looking for a dog that heels well and sits quietly until sent to retrieve. He will expect to observe excellent marking ability, and ability to "hold to a mark" across ditches, fences, dongas, etc. The dog must exhibit the ability to work a close area of fall at all times, even when the area of fall is out of sight.

On blinds and diversions, the dog is expected to take a good line and hold to it. Should handling be required, quiet whistling and directional work, with IMMEDIATE correct response from the dog is to be expected.

### **D.5.1 Suggested Criteria for Open Stake retrieves**

- The dog will be required to retrieve birds and may (at the discretion of the Senior Judge and Club Committee) be required to retrieve fur.
- Do land retrieves with blinds not exceeding 100 metres.
- Do water retrieves with blinds not exceeding 100 metres.
- Be controlled in a marked retrieve, away from one or more diversionary birds or (at the discretion of the Senior Judge and Club Committee) fur.
- Be controlled onto a blind on land or in water, away from one or more diversionary birds or (at the discretion of the Senior Judge and Club Committee) fur.
- Do single, double, triple or multiple retrieves on land and in water.
- Be steady without verbal command once under Judge's orders, unless the Senior Judge permits limited voice control.
- Ignore decoys.
- Hunt in light, medium and heavy cover.
- Hunt through any variety of obstacles.
- The handler may be required to carry an unloaded shotgun or facsimile thereof.
- The dog may be required to sit outside a hide and be directed by the handler from within the hide.
- At all times work swiftly, quietly and efficiently.

- The Judges should set a stake of at least 10 to 12 pickups, in which control work is tested using one or more blinds on land as well as water (if possible), along with diversionary birds.
- The dog may be required to hunt out an unmarked “lost” bird in a demarcated area not exceeding 30m x 30m, within a reasonable period of time, (the cover determining the size of area worked).

**Thus, each stake is progressively more demanding of skill, style and effectiveness, as should be expected of the dogs' stages of development and training.**



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Fedco 06-2018/ MW- FTLC Updated Oct 2018  
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 Fedco 12-2023 / CPA 12.02.2024  
 Fedco 12-2025 / CPA 23.12.2025  
 Fedco 02-2026 Special Meeting / CPA 26.02.2026

The most recent changes to this Schedule have an effective date of 01.05.2026