



Kennel Union of Southern Africa

SCHEDULE 05C (2)
KENNEL UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA REGULATIONS
FOR FLUSHING SPANIEL FIELD TRIALS
(Effective 01.01.2023)

A. 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 Flushing Spaniel Field Trials. At the end of this document there is a guide which assists Field Trial Secretaries and Committees with the procedures required in setting up a field trial.

B. LICENCING AND HOLDING OF TRIALS

The Regulations relating to licensing 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(2).

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.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. Abbreviations

- 1.1. **KUSA** The Kennel Union of Southern Africa
- 1.2. **FC** The Federal Council of The Kennel Union of Southern Africa.
- 1.3. **FTLC** The Field Trial Liaison Council of The Kennel Union of Southern Africa.

2. Stakes

- 2.1 **Puppy Stake** is for Dogs 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.
- 2.2 **Junior Stake** is for Dogs from six months and not exceeding twenty-four months of age, dating from and inclusive of the date of its birth on the first day of the trial.
- 2.3 **Novice Stake** is confined to Dogs which have not been placed first, second, third or fourth in an Open or Championship Stake, or have won three Novice Stakes prior to the date of the closing of entries.
- 2.4 **Open Stake** is for Dogs 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.

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.

2.5 **Championship Stake** is held not more than once per year within the area of jurisdiction of the KUSA. 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 in the Official Kennel Union Journal. All Field Trial Champions shall automatically qualify for entry in Championship Stakes. Entries shall be limited to those dogs placed first, second or third in any Open Stake during the two field trailing seasons preceding the championship stake to be held.

2.6 **Field Tests** are gun dog 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.

3. **Awards**

3.1 **Certificate of Merit (C.O.M.)**

A certificate of merit (C.O.M.) does not constitute a placing.

3.2 **Field Trial Champion (Ch FT)**

A Field Trial Champion is defined as a dog which has won two or more Open Stakes or won a Championship Stake. A dog so placing shall be entitled to carry the prefix Ch FT before its name.

3.3 **Place**

A first, second, third or fourth place in any stake, but not a Certificate of Merit, constitutes a place.

D **PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING AWARDS**

In all instances where a dog qualifies for an award (as defined in C.3.1,2 and 3 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.

E **DATES FOR FIELD TRIALS**

1. **Application for Dates to hold Field Trials**

Affiliated Clubs shall, in the first instance, apply for dates to hold Field Trials to the FC via the FTLC, such application to state proposed date, proposed venue, type of trial and stakes to be run. Such application shall be made four months in advance of the date of the proposed trial.

2. **Field Trial Programme for Season**

The FTLC will draw up a programme of Field Trials for the season giving details as in E.1. above and forward to FC for approval and/or comment.

3. **Publication in Official Kennel Union Journal**

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

F **PRE-TRIAL REQUIREMENTS**

1. **The Schedule**

1.1 **General Requirements**

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.

1.1.2 The Schedule, together with the prescribed application form to hold the trial and the licence fee and proof of payment (POP) must be received by the KUSA at least four months prior to the date of the trial.

1.1.3 No Schedule shall be issued to the public before being approved by the FC.

1.2 Contents

The Schedule shall contain, inter alia:

1.2.1. The name of the Club and officers thereof.

1.2.2 The type of trial, the gundog breeds which may be entered, the stakes to be run and the definitions thereof.

1.2.3 The date and venue of the Trial.

1.2.4 The names of the Judges for each stake.

1.2.5 The cost of entry fees and the cost of any applicable KUSA levies at the time.

1.2.6 The latest date for receiving entries.

1.2.7 The order in which the stakes will be run and the starting time for each stake.

1.2.8 Notice to exhibitors that:

1.2.8.1 Bitches in season within the precincts of the Trial are forbidden.

1.2.8.2 Castrated dogs and spayed bitches are eligible for entry.

1.2.8.3 Conditions attracting immediate disqualification are set out in Regulation 31 of Schedule 3 of KUSA regulations for Championship Shows (Breed), subject to 1.2.8.1 and 1.2.8.2 above.

1.2.8.4 Only those dogs that are actually taking part in the Field Trials are allowed at the venue.

1.2.8.5 The Judges' decision is **final**.

1.2.9. A list of prizes.

1.2.10. The time, date, venue and conditions of the draw for numbers of the running order of dogs.

1.2.11 Details of any restrictions on minimum and maximum numbers to be accepted for each stake.

1.3 Details regarding the dog to be entered must include:

1.3.1 Registered name and number of dogs.

1.3.2 Name of owner.

1.3.3 Breed of dog.

1.3.4 Sex of dog.

1.3.5 Date of birth of dog.

1.3.6 Registered names of Sire and Dam.

1.3.7 Name of breeder.

1.3.8 Name of handler.

1.3.9 Microchip number of dog.

2. The Draw

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 be notified of the number(s) drawn.

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.

3. **The Programme**

3.1. **Contents**

3.1.1. The Club holding a Field Trial must publish or made available in PDF format a programme which must contain:

- The name of the Club.
- The breed(s) for which stakes are run at the Trial.
- The date(s) of the Trial.
- The names of the Judges, Field Trial Manager or Steward for each stake, and of the KUSA Representative, where applicable.
- The venue of the Trial.
- A definition of each stake to be run in the Trial.
- The prizes offered.
- 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.
 - Microchip number of the dog.
 - Registered names of Sire and Dam.
 - Name of breeder.
 - Name of handler.
- A list of names of owners of all dogs in the Trial, in alphabetical order.

3.1.2. A statement that the Trial is held under KUSA Rules and Regulations.

3.1.3. A statement that the Club holding the Trial accepts no responsibility for injury, loss or damage to person or property, however occasioned.

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(2) – Regulations for Flushing Spaniel Field Trials

G. APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

1. List of Judges for Field Trials

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. In respect of those Judges appointed, a Senior Judge shall be appointed for each stake and shall be an "A" Panel Judge.

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/she has judged that particular stake within a prior period or with approval of the FTLC.

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 Federal Council 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 G.1.6. "Qualification for Panels".

1.3. Overseas Judges

Recognized overseas Judges shall be entitled to Judge any stake.

1.4. Election to/Removal from Panel

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

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 rectification of FC of such removal. Reasons for such removal shall be given.

1.5. Qualifications for Panels

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

1.5.1 "A" Panel

A person must be an existing "B" Panel Judge on the list of Judges for Spaniel Field Trials, and have judged at least two (2) stakes as a "B" Panel Judge under the KUSA Regulations for Flushing Spaniel Field Trials.

1.5.2 "B" Panel

A person must have judged at least two stakes as a Learner Judge in Field Trials run under the KUSA Regulations for Flushing Spaniel Field Trials. He/she must also have completed and passed the examination.

1.5.3 Learner Judge

A person who is neither an A or B Panel Judge, entitled to express an opinion, but whose scoring will not be taken into account when placing the dogs.

1.5.4 Examination

An examination, which all aspiring Judges will write, shall be sat as required by the FTLC and shall be held at appropriate venues.

All persons being examined shall write the examination without the aid of reference material or advice from other parties. The organisation of such examination shall be vested with the FTLC.

1.5.4.1 Questionnaire

New Questionnaires may from time to time be prepared. It shall be compulsory for all A and B Panel Judges, when required by Federal Council, to complete a Questionnaire.

Refusal to complete the Questionnaire 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.

The FTLC shall make recommendation to FC on the removal from or addition to the Judges' Panel.

1.5.5 Compulsory number of Judges for various Stakes

The minimum compulsory number of Panel Judges for the various stakes is as follows:

- 1.5.5.1 Championship Stake: 2 "A" Panel Judges
- 1.5.5.2 Open Stakes: 1 "A" Panel Judge and 1 "B" Panel Judge
- 1.5.5.3 Other Stakes: 1 "A" Panel Judge and 1 "B" Panel Judge

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

2 THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF A SENIOR JUDGE

2.5 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 the 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 Trial is based on the decisions of the majority of the Judges and in the case of an even number of judges, the Senior Judge shall have the casting vote where there is a split vote.

2.6 Duties

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

- 2.6.1 To assist the committee of the Club holding the Field Trial to set a field course that will test the standard of the dogs.
- 2.6.2 To liaise with the Field Trial Manager regarding the efficient running of the Field Trial including the placing of birds, guns, throwers, collectors of dead birds, etc.
- 2.6.3 To signal the release of the bird or to delegate another Judge to do so.
- 2.6.4 To instruct handlers to send the dogs for their retrieve, or to delegate another Judge to do so.
- 2.6.5 To examine each bird for hard mouth, or to delegate another Judge to do so.
- 2.6.6 To position the other Judges and to be their spokesman.
- 2.6.7 To undertake or to delegate another Judge to select game to be used in saluted retrieves and flushes.
- 2.6.8 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.

JUDGES' REPORT

The Judges' Report must contain the following:

Name of host Club.

Stake.

Date of Stake.

Venue and address.

Names of Judges, Learner Judge, Field Trial Manager and KUSA Representative, where applicable.

Number of dogs entered.

Number of dogs participating. Number of pickups.

Game used in the stake.

Comment on the standard of the dogs' work.

Placings by dog number (as per draw) and registered name.

A table of all the Judges' points of the dogs which have been placed. Declaration of confirmation of results signed by all Judges at that stake.

3 MANAGEMENT OF A FIELD TRIAL

3.6 Management Entrusted to Club

The management of a Field Trial shall be entrusted to the Club holding the Field Trial.

3.7 KUSA Representative

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

3.8 Procedure in the Case of a 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.

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

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

3.9 Treatment of Captive Game

3.9.1 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 always provided for each type of game. Care should be taken to ensure that food and water containers are not easily upturned. The cage/aviary must always afford shade and shelter from the elements. 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.

3.9.2 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.

3.9.3 Crate Management

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 and out of smell and sight of the competing dogs. Unused game must not be stored in crates overnight.

3.9.4 Game Management

The numbers of game per crate should never exceed:

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

Guide

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

3.9.5 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 be 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.

3.9.6 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 caliber 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.

3.10 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 and who shall be responsible for:

- Running of the Field Trial.
- Assisting Judges in the setting of the course.
- Ensuring the humane treatment and culling of captive game

3.11 Requirements for a Field Trial for Spaniel Breeds

3.11.1 Minimum number of exercises

3.11.1.1 In a Novice Stake, the minimum number of exercises shall be six (6).

3.11.1.2 In an Open Stake, the minimum number of exercises shall be eight (8).

3.11.1.3 In a Championship Stake, the minimum number of exercises shall be ten (10).

3.11.2 Pick-up Dog

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

4 MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL PROVISIONS

4.1 Awards

Equal placings at a Field Trial are prohibited.

4.2 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 an official body inquiring into an objection or dispute.

4.3 Handling of dogs

4.3.1 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.

4.3.2 Maximum Number of Dogs

There will be no restriction on the number of dogs a handler can handle in a stake. The pick-up dog may be used when honouring is required. The handler will be required to make use of helpers to keep his dogs close by to ensure no delays of the trial. These holding areas will be indicated by the Judges or Field Trial Manager.

4.3.3 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.

4.3.4 Switching of Handlers During a Trial

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

4.4 Dogs under Trial

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

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

Removal from Trial for Various Causes.

Should the members of the committee of the Club, after consultation with the Judges or Veterinary Surgeon, consider a dog unfit to compete by reason of sexual causes or of any contagious disease or from an attack of hysteria occurring on the ground, or any cause which interferes with the safety, or chance of winning of his opponents, such dogs must be removed immediately from the grounds 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.

4.6 Unpunctuality

First Series: If a dog which is not present within 15 minutes when required by a Judge may be disqualified by the Judges.

Subsequent Series: If a dog which is not present within 5 minutes when required by a Judge may be disqualified by the Judges.

4.7 Withholding Awards

4.7.1 The Judges are empowered and instructed to withhold any prize or award if, in their opinion, the dogs competing do not show sufficient merit.

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

4.8 Withdrawal of Dogs

4.8.1 No dog entered for competition, and once under a Judge at the Trial, may be withdrawn from the competition without the consent of the Field Trial Manager.

4.8.2 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.

4.9 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.

4.10 Impugning Decisions

Anyone taking part in a Trial openly impugning the decision of a Judge or Judges shall render himself liable to be reported to KUSA under the provisions of Schedule 1 (KUSA Disciplinary Rules).

4.11 Fur/Feather Stake Requirements

All dogs running in Novice, Open or Championship Stakes will be required to retrieve both fur and feather.

No dog in a Puppy or Junior Stake shall be required to retrieve fur.

4.12 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 in line. All dogs must be kept on a lead when not working.

4.13 Judges/Shooting/Handlers/Guns

At a Field Trial, only the forward Judge/s may be used as gun/s. Handlers may carry a gun 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.

4.14 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.

4.15 Prohibition of "Run Offs"

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

4.16 Training on the Venue

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

4.17 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 dogs working. Handlers may use a white handkerchief on blind or control work to assist giving clarity to hand signals.

4.18 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.

REGULATIONS FOR THE JUDGING OF FLUSHING SPANIEL FIELD TRIALS

A PRE-AMBLE

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".

Objectives

The objectives of this document are:

1. To promote a greater understanding of the facets that go to make up a Spaniel Field Trial.
2. To achieve greater conformity in the running of Field Trials.
3. To achieve greater conformity in the judging of the performances of Spaniels at Field Trials.

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

1. Purpose of a Field Trial

The purpose of a Spaniel Trial is to determine the relative merits of Spaniels in the field. Therefore, Field Trials should stimulate 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.

2. Function of a Spaniel

The function of a Spaniel is to quest for game, ahead of the handler, in an orderly and efficient manner, within range of the gun when ordered to do so.

The game, when located, should be flushed or "sprung", to provide the guns the opportunity of a clean shot.

A Spaniel is required to remain steady to the flush and shot and to retrieve, on command, quickly and briskly over land or water without unduly disturbing ground and deliver promptly and tenderly to hand and thereafter remain quietly at heel awaiting further orders. Good scenting ability when quartering, as well as ability to intelligently use the wind and adjust the quartering pattern to the type of cover and the direction of the wind is most important, as is the accurate marking of fallen game.

Rule 1 Standard by which to Judge

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

1. Their natural abilities including memory, intelligence, attention, nose, courage, perseverance, style, game finding ability; pointing and flushing, marking, drive; and
2. Their abilities acquired through training, including steadiness, response to direction and delivery.

B JUDGES' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. PRE-TRIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Rule 2 Inspection of Field Trial Venue

It is particularly important that the Judges inspect the Field Trial venue with the Senior Judge and /or members of the Field Trial committee and/or Field Trial Manager in advance of the designated starting time.

Guide to Rule 2

The Senior Judge must always be assisted in setting the course by at least one other Judge and also the Field Trial Manager or his deputy. It is recommended that he also use a dog which will not be competing in that stake to check the various elements of each exercise.

Rule 3 Approval of Tests

Having familiarized themselves with the layout and characteristics of the venue, the Judges are required to approve the series of tests which are intended for a particular stake.

Guide to Rule 3

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

1. *As far as possible, quartering tests should be set so as to present each dog with the same set of circumstances including cover and terrain, wind intensity, direction and scenting conditions. The conditions relating to the placing of birds to be flushed should be as near as possible the same.*
2. *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 dogs turn in equally poor performances, but is rather designed to demonstrate (reveal) the various levels of competence and ability of the different dogs.*
3. *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.*
4. *On "blind retrieves", wherever possible, tests should be set such that advantage is taken on 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.
5. *Tests should, as far as possible, resemble natural shooting situations.*

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.

Guide to Rule 4

It is vital, during the time the dog is quartering, leading to the flush, that no one is visible in the area where a bird may be expected to be found. Bird releasers must be well concealed from the view of the dog and judges must move in line with the handler and dog. The pace should be determined by that of the handler and dog. Judges, however, must be able to see the flush and also to determine whether the game sits until flushed or runs.

Rule 5 Instructions to 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 the 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 exercise 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.

In a Spaniel Trial the logistical problems involved in setting the course are of great importance and must be resolved well in advance. Adequate manpower to set and release birds is required and helpers are vital to ensure an uninterrupted flow of exercises.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES ON THE LINE

Before a Trial, each stake and each series of exercises is started, Judges should reach consensus on all the aspects of the trial including handlers, dogs and planting of game.

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, with the lowest number on the right. In subsequent series, Judges can elect to run the dogs in any order.

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 exercise that handlers be hidden, Judges should allow all handlers to watch all exercises. When there are two dogs in line, in order to prevent the first dog from being disadvantaged relative to the subsequent dogs, the "first and last" rule should be applied whenever possible. The "first and last" rule states that in a retrieve which requires two dogs in line, dog number one and the last dog shall be called in line. The last dog shall honour dog number one's retrieve, then leave the line; whereupon all subsequent dogs will be required to retrieve first before honouring, with the exception of the last dog.

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 called its number, this will not be considered a break, even if there has been no audible or visible command from the handler.

Dogs must run singly or in as a brace in the flush. If they are run as a brace a judge shall be allocated to judge each dog.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE TESTS ARE IN PROGRESS

Rule 8 Directions on the Fall

When requested to do so, the Judge controlling the line should give reasonable directions to the handlers as to the area 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 or flush. They should, furthermore, be careful not to influence a test by moving around excessively; or by standing directly behind or in front of the handler and thus confusing the dog.

No helpers or captive game should, at any time, interfere into the area in which the dog is working.

Guide to Rule 9: Ensuring a Clear View

From the moment a dog competing under him starts his exercise, a Judge should make every effort, bearing in mind the provisions of Rule 9 above, to keep that dog in view and so to place himself when the dog is sent out for a retrieve, to enable him to observe every move of the dog until the game is delivered to hand. Judges should wear neutral colours so that they are not confused with the handler.

Rule 10 Attention on those Dogs not Working

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 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.

Rule 12 "No Bird" - General Information

If, in the opinion of the Judges, the circumstances surrounding a flush or retrieve differ materially from those experienced by other dogs, the test should be called "No Bird". Also, if a bird is so badly damaged by shot or is shot in such a way that makes the retrieve of no value or makes the retrieve materially different from the retrieves of previous dogs, the test should be called "No-bird". Any Judge may call "No-bird".

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

Guide to Rule 12

A bird should flush clearly within close proximity of the dog. If the bird runs instead of flying, it should be declared a "No Bird" and the dog called off. If the bird fails to flush, it is permissible for the Judges to instruct the handler to flush the bird.

In no circumstances should the dog be sent into such close proximity to the bird, which has not flushed, that the dog may be tempted to catch the bird.

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 into 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.

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/Instruction to Guns

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

The Senior Judge must make it quite clear to the guns that no shot is to be fired after the Judges have given permission for the dog to be sent, unless it is called for as part of the test. If for any reason a shot is fired contrary to the Judges instructions while the dog is out working and in the opinion of the Judges, the shot has created a material disadvantage or advantage to the dog in question that particular test should be called a "No Bird" and re- run.

All guns shall remain stationary after the bird has been shot and shall remain silent while the dog is out working.

Rule 16 Gathering of Game

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

Rule 17 Inspection of Retrieved Game/Hard mouth

All game retrieved, and delivered to the handler, shall be inspected by one of the Judges, and examined for hard mouth. Where a case of hard mouth is suspected, the Judge responsible for the line shall offer the game in question to all the other Judges for their opinion. Dogs displaying hard mouth 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 hard mouth, 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 hard mouthed 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 hard mouth. 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, should satisfy themselves that any damage was initiated by the dog and not by the shot or fall.

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 penalized at the 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 recommended and will be of assistance, in general, for the preliminary classification of the performance of the dogs still in competitions. 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.

<i>9 + 1 points</i>	<i>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.</i>
<i>9 points</i>	<i>An excellent performance, deserving top marks, without infraction.</i>
<i>8 points</i>	<i>An excellent performance, against a few minor infractions.</i>
<i>7 points</i>	<i>An excellent performance against many more minor infractions.</i>
<i>6 points</i>	<i>An average performance with credits, against some infractions.</i>
<i>5 points</i>	<i>An average performance, with infractions.</i>
<i>4 points</i>	<i>A below average performance, with more infractions.</i>
<i>3 points</i>	<i>A poor performance, with more infractions.</i>
<i>2 points</i>	<i>A poor performance, with many infractions.</i>
<i>1 point</i>	<i>A poor performance, against moderate and major infractions.</i>
<i>0 points</i>	<i>Non-retrieve.</i>

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. The half mark should only be additive.

A retrieve which calls for a double pick-up should be marked as though they 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.

Marking of Quartering, Flushing and Retrieving

An exercise in which the dog is required to quarter, flush and retrieve should be marked out of 30 marks in accordance with the above standard.

The Retrieve should be marked out of 10 points.

The Quartering and Flush should be marked out of 20.

C EVALUATION OF THE DOGS' PERFORMANCE

1. Pre-Amble

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 Spaniel is to quarter its ground in a systematic manner within range of the gun, find and flush any game on that ground and after it is shot, to get the birds to hand as quickly as possible in a pleasing, obedient manner - and all faults stem from a deviation of this.

1.2 Basic Principles

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

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 he shall give to certain types of exceptional performance and the penalties of various individual faults. Some faults, by themselves, are sufficiently serious to **justify elimination** for 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 the 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.

1.4 The Standard for Spaniels

The Standard, as laid down previously in this document states: "Given the function of a Spaniel, Judges must therefore judge dogs for:

1.4.1 Their natural abilities, including memory, intelligence, attention, nose, courage, perseverance, style, game finding ability pointing and flushing, marking, drive; and

1.4.2 Their abilities acquired through training, including steadiness, control, response to direction, delivery and quartering pattern. Generally natural ability will be considered more important than that acquired through training.

2. The Standard - Natural Abilities

2.1 Memory

Memory of the fall or accurate marking is of paramount importance. The ability to mark, however, does not necessarily imply pin-pointing the 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 pin-points on the first cast. However, a dog which consistently marks his birds close and therefore more accurately, should be judged accordingly.

2.1.1 Area of a Fall

The "area of a 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:

- the type, the height and the uniformity of the cover.
- light and weather conditions.
- direction of prevailing wind and its intensity.
- length and/or ease of sighting of the fall.
- the variation in the cover.
- 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 retrieve 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 mis-marked in a given test and by the amount of cover disturbed in these meanderings.

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 penalized on the basis of the intelligence demonstrated.

2.3 Attention

Attention is an eagerness and attitude which a dog displays in 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 highly desirable traits.

2.4 "Nose"

Most Spaniels 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.

On the other hand, scenting conditions are mysterious and little understood. They can be affected by many factors such as type of cover, wind, frost, rain, location of the fall and acidity of the soil. Therefore, caution must be shown before a dog is penalised for a poor nose.

2.5 Courage

This too is a trait which cannot 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.

2.6 Perseverance

This quality is shown by a dog's determination to stick to it and complete the 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:

- 2.6.1 A dog returns to its handler, voluntarily, before finding the bird.
- 2.6.2 The dog stops hunting or continue in a slow lackadaisical, uninterested manner.

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;

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

2.8 Game Finding Ability

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

2.9 The Spaniel

A Spaniel should at all times work in gun range with good treatment of ground; under no circumstances should it pass over game, it should flush within range of the gun. The direction of the wind has a considerable influence on the way a dog will work ground. With a head-on wind, the dog should quarter the ground systematically left to right and vice versa, making good all likely game-holding cover, but keeping within gunshot distance of the handler. The handler should always dictate the pace of the line and Judges and guns should follow suite. The handler should regulate the line to allow the dog to do this and make good his ground. Often a dog has been penalised for missing game when, in fact, the line has been moving forward too fast to permit the dog to make good the ground.

During this period the Judge can assess the game finding ability and nose of the dog, also pace, drive, treatment of ground and courage.

Obvious dead scent should be ignored.

2.10 Pointing and Flushing

If a dog points or hesitates slightly before flushing, this is an added refinement, but the dog must flush on command.

2.11 Marking

Good marking should always be looked for and given full credit, and bad marking penalised.

2.12 Drive

A dog should have drive and thrust and face cover well, and, at the same time, should be amiable and gay, in short, a pleasure to watch. It should show good treatment of ground with the minimum of help from its handler. All things being equal, the stylish dog should be given the credit. Judges should, however, be satisfied that the fast stylish dog is also the best game-finder.

3. The Standard - Abilities Acquired through Training Guide - General Application

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

Guide - Obedience in Line

A Spaniel should quarter to command, cover the ground thoroughly within range of the gun and be steady to the flush and shot. The dog should always respond to the handler's command.

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. When recalled, a dog should return promptly to his handler. Dogs 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;
- 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.

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.

4. Classification of Faults

Guide - General Classification

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

"Eliminating Faults" "Serious Faults" "Moderate Faults" "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 the 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 infraction would detract from the full enjoyment of an ordinary day's shooting.

Judging must always be in a positive manner.

4.1 ELIMINATING FAULTS

Guide to Eliminating Faults

These infractions are usually so recognizable 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, or the handler interfere or give a command to stop the dog breaking, that dog shall be deemed to have broken and shall be eliminated.

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

Guide to Rule 20

Three scenarios could present itself in a Spaniel Trial:

- *The dog is busy quartering found the bird and push it into flight. The dog should be steady to flush and be steady until commanded to retrieve. (The handler can command the dog once the sit or be steady).*
- *The dog is quartering, and the brace mate flushes a bird, and a shot/s is fired. The dog should immediately acknowledge the shot and stop/sit. The dog should be steady until the brace mate completed the retrieve (the handler can command the dog once the sit or to be steady). The judge could either ask you:*
 - *Hunt on*
 - *Recall your dog to the line, as it could interfere with the brace mates retrieve.*
 - *The dog could sit outside the hide on a duck shoot or sit next to you in the case of a pigeon shoot.*
 - *(Once a shot is fire the handler can command the dog once the sit or to be steady).*

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. Likewise, if the dog who moves to the edge of cover after the flush or around a bush or up a slope to verify flight, observe the line and see the fall. It may be a highly intelligent thing to do, if observation is the sole 'intent' of the dog. If the dog must be stopped by whistle or voice, the judge can only assume the handler believed he was in process of breaking and score it accordingly.

If the handler does make a forceful effort to stop the dog, the Judges should assume that the handler believed the dog intended to retrieve and must eliminate the dog. This applies to Open and Championship Stakes only.

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 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 the Judge tells the line to break.

Rule 21 Failure to Enter

Failure to enter water, ice or heavy cover after having been ordered to do so several times.

Rule 22 Out of Control

- 1) Any dog which pays no attention to repeated whistles and directions by his handler can be said to be out of control.
- 2) Any dog entered in the Trial, which, when out of line during 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 dogs 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

- 1) 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, the above rule cannot apply.
- 2) If a dog deliberately catches game and the judge is satisfied that the game is unwounded and undamaged, the dog should be discarded. Should a dog indicate or strike at game without effect, the handler may "stop" his dog and appeal to the judges for permission to flush the game himself.

Rule 24 "Hard-mouth"

"Hard-mouth", or badly damaged game which, in the opinion of the Judges, was caused entirely and solely by the dog without justification. (Refer to Rule 17, Guide to Rule 17 and Guide to Rule 35).

Rule 25 Loud and/or Prolonged Whining or Barking

Guide to Rule 25

Spaniels should go about their job in quiet manner. If the behaviour is repeated and could disturb game or disrupt other competitors, then it must be marked as a serious fault.

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) the game and 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.

Rule 27 "Gunshy"

Guide to Rule 27

Gunshyness, which is "a dog's fear of gunfire" (and in extreme cases the sight of a gun) or loud noises. If a dog turns tail and heads for the hills as soon as it hears a gunshot, it's unlikely to have any interest in returning to retrieve a downed bird.

4.2 SERIOUS FAULTS

Guide to Serious Faults

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

Rule 28 Handling

- 1) Handling while quartering before game is shot:-
Whistle and hand instruction is permitted during this phase.
- 2) Handling after game is shot:-
Whistle and hand instruction is permitted during this phase.

Guide to Rule 28

- 1) *Excessive using of the whistle and verbal commands should be penalised. If the Judge is under the impression that the dog ignores commands refer to Rule 22.*
- 2) *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 must 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 29 Excessive and/or Continuous Vocalising or Noise

Excessive and/or continuous vocalising by handlers.

Rule 30 Disturbing the Ground whilst Retrieving.

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

Rule 31 Failure to Find

- 1) Failure to find game subsequently proved to be in the area, by the dog when quartering
- 2) Failure to find and retrieve game after a reasonable period of time has elapsed.

Rule 32 Failure to Mark

Failure to mark the "area of the fall" which may not require that the dog be handled.

Guide to Rule 32

Also see Rule 28 above.

Rule 33 Retrieving a Decoy

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

Rule 34 Repeated Evidence of "Poor Nose"

Rule 35 Freezing on the Bird

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

Guide to Rule 35

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".

Delivery of the bird should be made to the handler directly, upon return from the retrieve, and should be given up willingly. A dog should not drop the bird before delivering it and he 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 36 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 36

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 37 Not Picking up in a Designated Order in a Multiple Retrieve

Guide to Rule 37

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 38 Picking up More than One Bird at a Time

Rule 39 Urinating/Defecating Whilst Questing or on the Way to a Fall

4.3 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 combination of several of these faults, may readily convert the total infraction into a "serious" fault.

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 and Lackadaisical Manner when Quartering

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

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

Going out of his way to a fall, without certainty of purpose, to avoid getting 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

Unsteady heeling, i.e. a dog which can be considered to be interfering with other dogs or handlers in the line.

Guide to Rule 48

A dog which is heeling steadily is one which maintains a reasonable constant distance of a few paces from his handler.

4.4 MINOR FAULTS Guide to Minor Faults

Either severe or 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

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

Poor line manners, heeling poorly, not immediately taking and staying in the position designated, dropping a bird at delivery, jumping after a bird, not remaining quietly inline 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 meters

Rule 58 Occasional Failure to Hold the Line

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

Rule 59 Slight Short Whining or One Bark

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

5. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Rule 60 Standard - First Place

It is imperative that Judges are aware that if a dog does not meet the standard required to win a first place in a particular stake, it should not be awarded first place. If its work is so inferior, then it may not be awarded any placings. A dog which fails to pick up all the required game shall not be placed, but it may be awarded a Certificate of Merit, at the discretion of the Judges.

Guide to Rule 60

Judges should clearly recognise that Open Stakes for Championship points and Championship Stakes are of the first importance. Greater leniency in judging may be expected in Novice Stakes and even greater leniency in Puppy and Junior Stakes.

Rule 61 Discarding of Dogs

If in the opinion of the Judges a dog's work is so inferior that the Judges can, by consensus, ask for the dog to be discarded for the remainder of the Stake. The Judges' decision is final.

Guide to Rule 61

Attention of Judges is drawn to those dogs 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 Unsportsmanlike 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.

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 behavior 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.

6. CONSENSUS OF THE JUNDGES GUIDE

In ascertaining and categorising the infractions of dogs and/or handlers, each Judge will rely on his expertise and judgement. 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:

6.1 Consensus on Faults

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

Rule 63 Unanimity - Elimination

In the case of dogs with suspected hard mouth, 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.

6.2 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 simple majority is required and a deadlock occurs, the Senior Judge will have a casting vote.

Rule 66 Judges Have a Final Decision

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

GUIDE TO SPANIEL FIELD TRIAL SECRETARIES

A DUTIES TO KUSA

1. BEFORE THE TRIAL

1.1 Applications for Dates to Hold Field Trials

Secretaries of affiliated Clubs shall, in the first instance, apply for dates to hold Field Trials to the FTLC such application to state proposed date, proposed venue, type of trial and stakes to be run. Such application shall be submitted to the FTLC by the end of June of the year before the proposed trial. Thereupon the FTLC will submit a programme of dates to the KUSA for approval and therefore application for a licence to hold a Field Trial as per A.1.2. below can be submitted.

1.2 Application for Licence to Hold Field Trials

When dates have been approved by FTLC, Secretaries must submit an application for a Licence to hold Field Trials, together with the proof of payment (POP) of the required fee to KUSA four months before the date of the Trial.

1.3 The Schedule

The Secretary of the Club shall send a copy of the Draft Schedule to the FTLC for approval for approval. Once approved the Secretary shall send the Schedule (together with the prescribed application form and licence fee as per 1.2. above) to KUSA. The Schedule must be received by KUSA and the FTLC at least four months prior to the date of the Trial.

No Schedule shall be issued to the public before approved by 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 F.1.2. on page 4 of "Regulations for Flushing Spaniel Field Trials".

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 F.3 of "Regulations for Flushing Spaniel Field Trials".

2. AFTER THE TRIAL

2.1 Notification of all Awards Made at the Trial

The Secretary of the Club holding the Trial must submit to KUSA a marked programme (card) indicating the awards made at each Stake. This information is to be submitted to KUSA within two weeks of the end of the Trial.

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.

2.3 Submission of Results

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

B DUTIES OF THE PUBLIC

1. BEFORE THE TRIAL

1.1 Distribution of Schedule and Entry Forms

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

1.2 Drawing up a Programme (Card)

The Secretary of the Club holding the Field Trials shall draw up a programme (card), as stipulated in A.1.4. above for distribution to participants at the Field Trial.

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.

2. AT THE TRIAL

2.1 KUSA Documents Required at the Venue during the Trial

Refer to Item F.4 on page 4

2.2 Procedure in the Case of an Objection

Club Secretaries shall familiarise themselves with the irregularity procedures under Section G 3.8

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.

3. JUDGES' SIGNATURE ON ALL CERTIFICATES OF AWARD

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

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING VARIOUS SPANIEL STAKES

The following guidelines for the various Spaniel 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 mere "guidelines" and Judges are not bound to adhere to them.

The function of a spaniel is to **HUNT, FLUSH** and **RETRIEVE** game. These 3 pillars should be equally evaluated in the tests. Taking the versatility of the spaniel into account, the spaniel can also do more retrieving work like a duck - and pigeon shoot which is pure a retrieving function. Spaniels should also be tested in water.

It would be wise of handlers to train for retrieves that are MORE difficult than they would expect to face, thus improving the chance of success.

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

Definitions:

- **Quartering:** The quest for game in a pleasing manner within the range of the gun so that everything he flushes can be shot. The pattern for open dogs should be within shotgun range of the handler. The dog should also show excellent ground management and therefore not check the same ground more than once as this is a waste of energy. A dog that uses the direction of the wind to its advantage to find game would be more desirable than a fixed windscreen wiper action.
- **Steady to Flush:** Once the game is located to push the bird up to fly and in the case of a rabbit to run from cover. The desired reaction from the spaniel is to sit/steady and watch the game. It is important to wait patiently for the next command.
- **Steady to shot:** While out working (quartering or retrieving) and a shot is fired the dog should stop (sit or stand) and acknowledge the shot looking in the direction of the fired shot. The dog should wait patiently for the next command.
- **Area of Fall:** the location where the game was downed.
- **Cover:**
 - Light: should be ankle-high,
 - Medium: should be half the distance to the knee,
 - Heavy: taller than the dog.
- **Blind:** The area where game is downed but is not seen by the handler or the dog.
- **Line:** The area indicated by the Judge for the set off of the dog for the purpose of the exercise.

JUDGES:

Compulsory number of Judges for various Stakes

The minimum compulsory number of Panel Judges for the various stakes is as follows:

- Championship Stake: 2 "A" Panel Judges
- Open Stakes: 1 "A" Panel Judge and 1 "B" Panel Judge
- Other Stakes: 1 "A" Panel Judge and 1 "B" Panel Judge

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

"A" Panel

A person must be an existing "B" Panel Judge on the list of Judges for Spaniel Field Trials and have judged at least two (2) stakes as a "B" Panel Judge under the KUSA Regulations for Flushing Spaniel Field Trials.

"B" Panel

A person must have judged at least two stakes as a Learner Judge in Field Trials run under the KUSA Regulations for Flushing Spaniel Field Trials. He must also have completed and passed the examination.

Learner Judge

A person who has not yet qualified as a B Panel judge and must attend and judge a stake in the capacity of a learner judge, but whose scoring will not be taken into account when placing the dogs.

Duties Of A Judge

- 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 tell the Judge or Judge 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 the Trial is based on the decisions of the majority of the Judges where first place need to be agreed upon by all the judges

Withholding Awards

The Judges are empowered and instructed to withhold any prize or award if, in their opinion, the dogs competing do not show sufficient merit.

If in the case of technical qualifications, a prize winner is disqualified, the dogs next in consecutive order of merit, if so placed by the Judges and awarded first, 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.1 PUPPY STAKE

Puppy stake is for Dogs 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.

The Judges should be testing the dogs principally for their NATURAL abilities. The criteria for success would include:

Intelligence	On occasions, dogs may have an opportunity to demonstrate an unusual degree of intelligence, or lack of it, through how certain performances are completed. An example would be of the dog taking a route that 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 penalized based on the intelligence demonstrated
Quartering	The quest for game in a pleasing manner within the range of the gun so that everything he flushes can be shot. The pattern for open dogs should be within shotgun range of the handler. The dog should also show excellent ground management and therefore not check the same ground more than once as this is a waste of energy. A dog that uses the direction of the wind to its advantage to find game would be more desirable than a fixed windscreen wiper action
Attention	Attention is an eagerness and attitude which a dog displays in 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 highly desirable traits.
Nose	Most Spaniels have a good nose and generally, Field Trials afford them ample opportunity to demonstrate this all-important quality. Usually, it is in the poor manner of his work that suggests that a dog lacks a good nose. Such indication should be recorded so that it can be verified in subsequent tests. On the other hand, scenting conditions are mysterious and little understood. They can be affected by many factors such as type of cover, wind, frost, rain, location of the fall and acidity of the soil. Therefore, caution must be shown before a dog is penalised for a poor nose.
Perseverance	Perseverance in locating game and searching for downed game
Style	Style is another quality that defies accurate definition, yet it is apparent in every movement of a dog through his entire performance at Trials. Examples might be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The joy of his manner. ▪ Alertness in line. ▪ His eagerness and speed on retrieves. ▪ How he enters the water. ▪ An enthusiastic search for the bird. ▪ Prompt pick-up and return. ▪ Speed in the gathering of game, i.e., "straight out and back" where the terrain allows.
Game Finding Ability	This can be defined as the skill demonstrated by a dog in making the find without the aid of the handler.
Marking Ability	Marking the fall or the direction of downed game
Drive	The ability to thrust and face cover in locating game or the eagerness to retrieve downed game as well as showing good treatment of ground with the minimum of help from its handler
Soft Mouth	Refers to gentle pick up, hold and carry game without damaging it for the game to be used by the hunter.

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

A.1.1 Suggested Criteria for Puppy Stake retrieves (minimum 6 exercises)

- **Quartering** is a fundamental requirement for all spaniels.
- The puppy is required to quarter for about 5 minutes in light to medium cover in an area ideally without wild birds.
- No shots to be fired while quartering.
- The Quartering exercises are suggested to be tested **twice** to evaluate perseverance/drive.
- Handlers are allowed to talk/use their whistle in a pleasing manner
- Furthermore, the suggestion is to have as few as possible judges and handlers in-line that can inhibit the Puppy's eagerness i.e., 1 handler and 2 judges at a distance.
- Running in braces is not recommended or required.
- **Flushing.** As the spaniel is required to be sit/steady to flush and steady to shot which is a learned ability this can't be tested at this stage. An alternative is to use a pigeon/bird to be placed in a wire cage to test for the "flushing instinct" and "Game finding ability"
- **Retrieving:** 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. In the retrieving exercises, dogs may be on leads at the line before being commanded to retrieve without being penalised for doing so.
- Water retrieves should not exceed about **20 metres** in relatively still water, and the dog and handler should be positioned close to the water's edge. The retrieve should be in sight of the dog and handler
- Land retrieves should not exceed about **30 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
- 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.
- Strongly recommend not to use shotgun/starter pistol or any loud noises.
- **"Duck call"** should be used to indicate a saluted bird.
- The dog may be required to hunt out an unmarked "lost" bird in a demarcated area within a reasonable time, (the cover determining the size of the area to be worked).

A.2 JUNIOR STAKE

In the Junior Stake, dogs range in age from **6 months to 24months**, and the Judge can expect a higher level of competence of "trained" abilities.

As there isn't a Maiden Stake for Spaniels older dogs that are not ready for the Novice stake can run in the Junior test but are unable to achieve a placing(1 – 4 places). Older dogs are thus allowed to achieve a Certificate of Merit (COM) if the judges feel the dog passed the required standard.

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, delivery and directional control (taking a straight line only).

Courage	The 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.
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Memory	Remembering the location of the fall or accurate marking is of paramount importance. The ability to mark, however, does not necessarily imply pinpointing the fall. A dog that misses the fall initially, but recognises the depth of the fall, stays in the area of the fall, then quickly and systematically “hunts it out”, has done both a creditable and intelligent job of marking. The desire is for a dog to consistently mark his birds close and therefore more accurately.
Steadiness	The ability to be sit/steady flush and be steady to shot or wing, and only act when commanded to do so. Steadiness is the hallmark of the finished spaniel.
Response to direction	The ability to take a straight line on land and through the water. The ability to act on hand/whistle signals (left, right and back).
Delivery	Delivery of the bird should be made to the handler directly, upon return from the retrieve, and should be given up willingly. A dog should not drop the bird before delivering it and he 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
Responsiveness to the whistle, voice and hand signals	It is desired for the spaniel to react promptly to commands to ensure a safe and controlled environment.

A.2.1 Suggested Criteria for Junior Stake (minimum of 8 exercises)

- **Quartering** is a fundamental requirement for all spaniels.
 - The Junior is required to quarter for about 5 minutes in light to medium cover in an area ideally without wild birds.
 - 2 shots to be fired while working to test for gun shyness and control of the dog.
 - The Quartering exercises are suggested to be tested **twice** to evaluate perseverance/drive.
 - Handlers are allowed to talk/use their whistle in a pleasing manner
 - Furthermore, the recommendation is to have as few judges and handlers as possible in-line that can inhibit the Junior’s eagerness i.e., 1 handler, 1 gun and 2 judges at a distance.
 - Running in braces is **not** required.
- **Flushing.** As the spaniel is required to be sit/steady to flush and steady to shot which is a learned ability this needs to be tested at some extent at this stage. An option is to use a pigeon/bird to be placed in a wire cage to test for the “flushing instinct” and “Game finding ability”. Another option can be to place a pigeon/bird in a release trap, have the junior quarter and flush. Sit/steady on flush, shots may be fired at a distance but the pigeons aren’t downed hence no Retrieve of downed bird. (Homing pigeons will work ideally for this purpose.)
- **Retrieving** is a key requirement for a spaniel. To this extent the following should be tested:
 - Land Retrieves: single retrieves should not exceed 50 metres.
 - Water Retrieves: single retrieves should not exceed 30 metres.
 - Land blind retrieves between 20 and 30 meters.
 - No diversionary birds, water blinds, or 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-lead**.
 - **No walk-ups** are permitted, the main purpose is to hunt.
 - The dogs courage should be tested, 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 retrieve

- Ideally, fresh ground should be used for each series of retrieves.
- The dog may be required to hunt out an unmarked “lost” bird in a demarcated area within a reasonable time, (the cover determining the size of the area worked).

A.3 NOVICE STAKE

Dogs that have not been placed first, second, third or fourth in an Open or Championship Stake, or have won three Novice Stakes before the date of the closing of entries.

In this stake, the dogs are being tested for **ALL** their natural abilities as well as ALL their taught abilities. 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.

A.3.1 Suggested Criteria for Novice Stake (minimum of 8 exercises)

- **Quartering** is a fundamental requirement for all spaniels.
 - The Novice dog is required to quarter for about 5 minutes in light/ medium/ heavy cover in an area ideally without wild birds.
 - The Quartering exercises are suggested to be tested **twice** to evaluate perseverance/drive, in conjunction with the flushing and retrieving exercises
 - Handlers are allowed to talk/use their whistle in a pleasing manner
 - Furthermore, the suggestion is to have as few as possible judges and handlers in-line that can inhibit the dogs work .
 - Quartering can be done in braces. The dogs should be able to hunt with other dogs in the field and be steady to other game falling and flushing around them and people around them.
 - The flushing dog to retrieve the downed bird on command once released by the judge. The honouring dog should be steady.
- **Flushing.** As the spaniel is required to be sit/remain steady to flush and steady to shot which is a learned ability, this needs to be tested at this stage.
 - Pigeons/birds to be used in release traps for this exercise.
 - One non-downed (fly away) bird may be used but one downed/shot bird must be retrieved in another quartering exercise
 - The retrieve and delivery are to be scored separately from the flush. E.g. Quartering 8/9; Flushing 7/9 and retrieve to hand 9/9
- **Retrieving:**The dog will be required to retrieve feathers and fur.
- Land Retrieves: single retrieves should not exceed 80 metres.
- Water Retrieves: single retrieves should not exceed 60 metres.
- Land blinds not exceeding 60 metres.
- Water blinds not exceeding 40 metres.
- Be controlled in a marked retrieve, a blind on land or in water.
- Single, double, triple or multiple retrieves on land and in water are permitted.
- The dog should 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 the dog should work swiftly, quietly and efficiently.
- Diversionary birds may be used.
- The dog may be required to hunt out an unmarked “lost” bird in a demarcated area, within a reasonable time, (the cover determining the size of the area worked).

A.4 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 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 an IMMEDIATE correct response from the dog are to be expected.

A.4.1 Suggested Criteria for Open Stake (minimum of 8 exercises)

- **Quartering** is a fundamental requirement for all spaniels.
 - The Open dog is required to quarter for about 5 minutes in light/ medium/ heavy cover in an area ideally without wild birds.
 - The Quartering exercises are suggested to be tested not less than **twice** to evaluate perseverance/drive, in conjunction with the flushing and retrieving exercises
 - Handlers are allowed to talk/use their whistle in a pleasing manner
 - Furthermore, the suggestion is to have as few as possible judges and handlers in-line that can inhibit the dog work.
 - Quartering can be done in braces. The dogs should be able to hunt with other dogs in the field and be steady to other game falling and flushing around them and people around them.
- **Flushing.** As the spaniel is required to be sit/steady to flush and steady to shot which is a learned ability this needs to be tested at some extent at this stage.
 - Pigeons/birds to be used in release traps for this exercise.
 - The retrieve and delivery are to be scored separately from the flush. E.g. Quartering 8/9; Flushing 7/9 and retrieve to hand 9/9
 - The handler is allowed to talk/use their whistle in a pleasing manner.
 - The Judge could pick any dog for the retrieve and will be released on the judges' command. The non-retrieving dog should be steady at all times.
- **Retrieving:**The dog will be required to retrieve feathers and fur.
- Land Retrieves: single retrieves should not exceed 80 metres.
- Water Retrieves: single retrieves should not exceed 60 metres.
- Land blinds not exceeding 60 metres.
- Water blinds not exceeding 40 metres.
- Dog should be able to be controlled in a marked retrieve, a blind on land or in water.
- Single, double, triple or multiple retrieves on land and in water are permitted.
- The dog should 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 the dog should work swiftly, quietly and efficiently.
- Diversionary birds may be used.
- The dog may be required to hunt out an unmarked "lost" bird in a demarcated area , within a reasonable time, (the cover determining the size of the area worked).



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