KUSA
Kennel Union of Southern Africa

SCHEDULE 5C (03) - REGULATIONS FOR HPR FIELD TRIALS (BREEDS THAT HUNT, POINT AND RETRIEVE)

(Effective 01.04.2022 [~~2021~~])

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1 GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF FIELD TRIALS

Field Trials for HPR / Continental Breeds conducted by the Member Clubs shall be held in terms of the provisions hereof.

1.1 LICENCING AND SHOW REGULATIONS

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

1.1.1 DEFINITIONS

1.1.1.1 "KUSA" means the Kennel Union of Southern Africa
1.1.1.2 "FTLC" means the Field Trial Liaison Council of KUSA
1.1.1.3 "FC" means the Federal Council of KUSA
1.1.1.4 Void
1.1.1.5 "HPR" means a Hunt Point and Retrieve breed dog, being the versatile, dual purpose utility dog breeds whose intended functional use is both point and retrieve, and more particularly in their country of origin to also hunt and track blood spoor and larger wounded game. They are also referred to as Continental Breeds.
1.1.1.6 "Brace" means two dogs paired to hunt together
1.1.1.7 "COM" means a Certificate of Merit
1.1.1.8 "Dog" means a registered Hunt, Point and Retrieve or British Breed [or Continental Breed] dog of either sex.
1.1.1.9 "Host Club" means a Member Club hosting a field trial
1.1.1.10 "Round" means a complete set of pairings of dogs drawn to compete with one another.
1.1.1.11 "HPR Trial or Stake" means a Hunt, Point and Retrieve trial or stake for HPR or Continental breeds.
1.1.1.12 "Host Club, Club or Member Club" refers to a KUSA affiliated recognised HPR field trial club.
1.1.1.13 "Field Trial Season" means approximately a one-year period that extends from the conclusion of the last Open or Championship HPR stake of the current year to the conclusion of the last Open or Championship standard HPR stake in the subsequent year.
1.1.1.14 "Home Province" means a province in which current HPR field trials are held, and which a competitor shall declare as his home area.

1.1.2 GENERAL QUALIFICATION

1.1.2.1 Subject to 1.3.1.2.8.2 below, only dogs which are registered with the KUSA shall qualify to participate in a field trial conducted by the Member Clubs.
1.1.2.2 Dogs which have been sterilized shall qualify to participate in a field trial. [~~provided a veterinary certificate has been submitted stating the reason for sterilization which reason must have been ratified by that committee.~~]
1.1.2.3 Except in the Puppy Stake, a dog younger than 4 (four) months of age may not be entered in a stake.
1.1.2.4 A dog may not be entered or handled in a trial held by Member Clubs or other events if the owner is under suspension or disqualification from entry by the KUSA according to the Regulations governing disciplinary action (Schedule 1 – Disciplinary Rules).

1.1.3 STAKES

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

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

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

1.1.3.4 **BRACE STAKE** is open to two dogs of the same breed handled by a single handler and [~~owned by~~] registered with a single owner or partnership. [~~Alternatively, both dogs must have an owner in common.~~] At least one of the dogs must have been awarded a place or certificate in an HPR Maiden, Brace or Open Stake, or have qualified for a British Breed Championship Stake. A dog may only be entered [~~only once in a Brace~~] in one brace per Stake.

1.1.3.5 **OPEN STAKE** is open to all HPR breeds without restriction as to age or previous performance. In order for an Open Stake to carry Championship (qualification) status, the minimum number of dogs to actually participate in the Stake shall be fourteen (14).

1.1.3.6 **CHAMPIONSHIP STAKE** shall not be held more than once per year within the area of jurisdiction of KUSA and may be hosted by member clubs on a rotational basis. The conditions, qualifications and organization governing this Stake shall be decided by the FTLC subject to approval by the Federal Council. Entries shall be limited to those dogs placed first, second or third or been awarded a certificate of merit in an HPR Open Stake run at any time previous to the closing date for the Championship Stake. The minimum number of dogs to actually participate in the Stake shall be fourteen (14).

1.1.3.7 **ST HUBERT AND F.I.D.I.C**. are open to all dogs irrespective of prizes previously won.

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

1.1.4 AWARDS

1.1.4.1 Certificate of Merit

A Certificate of Merit (C.O.M.) does not constitute a placing. The Judges are not empowered to award more than [~~6 six~~] four (4) COM awards in a Championship Stake event. In Derby, Maiden and Open Stakes the Judges are not empowered to award more than six (6) COM awards.

1.1.4.2 Field Trial Champion

A dog which has won a HPR Championship Stake wherein a minimum number of 14 (fourteen) qualified dogs competed, shall be entitled to carry the prefix [~~F.T.Ch.~~] Ch FT to its name. See 1.1.4.3 below.

1.1.4.3 Field Trial Champion

A dog which has won two (2) HPR Open Stakes wherein a minimum number of 14 (fourteen) dogs per stake competed, shall be entitled to carry the prefix [~~F.T.Ch.~~] Ch FT to its name. See 1.1.4.2 above.

1.1.4.4 Field Trial Champion

An HPR Breed dog which has won a British Breeds Championship Stake shall be entitled to carry the prefix (B.B.) [~~F.T.Ch.~~] Ch FT to its name.

1.1.4.5 Field Trial Champion

A British Breed dog which has won an HPR Breeds Championship Stake or two HPR Open Stakes shall be entitled to carry the prefix (HPR) [~~F.T.Ch.~~] Ch FT to its name.

1.1.4.6 Master Hunter (MH)

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

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

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

1.1.4.7 Senior Hunter (SH)

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

The Senior Hunter title (SH) is intended to recognise those dogs that exhibit a high standard of performance in Field Trials. The title may be carried as an affix only after the dog's name.

1.1.4.8 Junior Hunter (JH)

A Junior Hunter is defined as a dog, which has earned at least two (2) placings or Certificates of Merit in Derby, Maiden or Open Stakes in Field Trials. In order to qualify as a Junior Hunter, the dog must have earned these awards in at least two (2) Field Trials. The Junior Hunter title (JH) is intended to recognise those dogs, which exhibit a good standard of performance in Field Trials. The title may be carried as an affix only after the dog's name.

GUIDE TO POINTS 1.1.4.6. – 1.1.4.8

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

1.1.4.9 Field Qualifying (F.Q.)

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

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

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

1.1.4.10 Place

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

1.1.4.11 Procedure for obtaining an award

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

1.1.4.12 Dog of the Year

KUSA shall annually, at the conclusion of all HPR Open and Championship Stakes, award the prize of "HPR Dog of the Year" to the dog which has accumulated the most points during the current field trial season in accordance with the HPR ranking system. The dog which has been awarded the prize of "Dog of the Year" shall be entitled to a medal ~~[certificate]~~specifying that award.

1.1.4.13 Derby Dog of the Year

KUSA shall annually, at the conclusion of all HPR Open and Championship Stakes, award the prize of "HPR Derby Dog of the Year" to the dog which has accumulated the most points during the current field trial season in accordance with the HPR ranking system (1.1.4.13) while of Derby eligibility age (less than two (2) years of age). The dog which has been awarded the prize of "Derby Dog of the Year" shall be entitled to a certificate specifying that award.

In the event of a tie for Derby Dog of the Year, dogs shall share the award, and each be awarded a Certificate.

1.1.4.14 HPR Ranking System

Points are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places as well as Certificates of Merit for member clubs only. Points will be awarded from all KUSA HPR and British Breed Stakes held throughout the [~~calendar year.~~]current field trial season. The points that were earned are then multiplied by a weighting factor according to the standard of the stake involved.

POINTS X STAKE		WEIGHT PER HPR STAKE	WEIGHT PER OTHER STAKE
1ST = 6	PUPPY	1	1
2ND = 5	DERBY	4	3
3RD = 4	MAIDEN	5	4
COM = 1	BRACE	7	6
	OPEN	9	7
	[~~CHAMPION~~]CHAMPIONSHIP	10	9
	FCI	-	4

1.1.4.15 Tiebreaker

In event of a tie occurring for the Dog of the Year (DOY), the following system will be used to determine the winner. The dog with the highest number of points will be declared DOY. The tiebreaker does not affect the overall points as tabulated under the Ranking system but is only used to break the tie.

1. All competitors must declare a "Home Province" at the first trial entered during the field trial season. They will remain as the declared Home Province competitor for the duration of the trial season.
2. Add bonus points for participating in the KUSA Championship Stake (+2)
3. Add bonus points for being placed, including COMs, in the KUSA Championship Stake:

1st (+9)
2nd (+6)
3rd (+4)
COM (+3)

4. Add bonus points for being placed, including COMs, in an Open or Championship Stake of a Club not being the participants Home Province.

1st (+6)
2nd (+4)
3rd (+3)
COM (+2)

5. Add bonus points for participating in an Open or Championship Stake of a Club not being the participants Home Province. (+1)

1.1.5 Selection of world cup teams and teams for other international events

1.1.5.14 The selection of world cup teams and teams for other international events shall be made by a selector's committee appointed by the FTLC.

1.1.5.15 The Selector's Committee shall select dogs in order of preference according to their performances in HPR field trials during the past two years according to the ~~[Continental Breed~~]H P R Ranking system referred to under clause ~~[5~~]1.1.4.14[~~3 above~~].

1.2 Dates for Field Trials

1.2.1 Application for dates to hold Field Trials

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

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

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

The FTLC shall allocate trial dates with traditional dates taking preference.

The HPR Field Trial Championship shall be held when deemed appropriate on a date to be determined by the FTLC.

1.2.2 Field Trial programme for season

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

1.2.2.1 Publication [~~in official Kennel Union Journal~~] on the KUSA Website

The approved programme for the season shall be published [~~in~~]on the [~~Official Kennel Union Journa~~]KUSA website.

Pre-trial requirements

1.3.1 The Schedule

1.3.1.1 General Requirements

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

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

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

1.3.1.2 Contents

The schedule shall contain, inter alia.

1.3.1.2.1 The name of the Club and the Officers thereof.

1.3.1.2.2 The type of Trial, the gun dog breeds which may be entered, the Stakes to be run and the definition thereof.

1.3.1.2.3 The date and venue of the Trial.

1.3.1.2.4 The names of the Judges for each stake.

1.3.1.2.5 The amount of the entry fees.

1.3.1.2.6 The latest date for receiving entries.

1.3.1.2.7 The order in which stakes will be run and the starting time of each stake.

1.3.1.2.8 Notice to exhibitors that:

Bitches in season are forbidden within the precincts of the trial.

[~~Cryptorchid and~~]Congenital cryptorchid, monorchid [dogs together with castrated dogs and spayed bitches]and hypoplastic dogs are eligible for entry but will only qualify for a Certificate of Merit, at the discretion of the Judges.

Registration certificates of KUSA registered dogs must be produced, or a copy submitted with the entry form. ~~[SCHEDULE 5C(3) - HPR 9.]~~

Conditions attracting immediate dis-qualification are set out in Regulation 31 of Schedule 3 of KUSA Regulations for Championship Shows (Breed) subject to Regulations 1.2.8.1 to 1.2.8.3 above.

Only those dogs that are actually taking part in the Field Trials are allowed at the venue.
The Judges' decision is final.

1.3.1.2.9 A list of prizes.

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

1.3.1.2.11 Details of any restrictions on minimum and maximum numbers to be accepted for each Stake.

All notices of forthcoming Field Trials which are published by affiliated clubs shall contain a statement that all exhibitors/handlers are personally responsible for the control of their dogs at all times and shall be personally liable for any claims which may be made in respect of injuries which may rise or be caused by their dogs. Such notice shall be prominently displayed at the venue on the day of the show in such a manner and in such places so as to ensure that any person entering the venue will see the said notice.

1.3.1.3 Details regarding dogs

- Name and KUSA registration number of the dog.
- Name of the owner.
- Breed of the dog.
- Sex of the dog.
- Date of birth of the dog.
- Names of sire and dam.
- Name of breeder.
- Name of handler.
- Microchip number of the dog.

1.3.2 The Draw

1.3.2.1 Per the Schedule

1.3.2.2 The draw shall take place at the time and venue and under the conditions stated in the Schedule.

At the Trial each dog shall be given the number according to the draw.

1.3.2.3 Handlers with more than one (1) dog

1.3.2.4 The draw must make allowance for situations when a single handler has more than one (1) dog entered in a particular stake.

1.3.2.5 The Programme

1.3.2.5.1 Contents

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

1.3.2.5.2 The name of the Club

1.3.2.5.3 The breed(s) for which stakes are run at the Trial.

1.3.2.5.4 The date(s) of the Trial.

1.3.2.5.5 The names of the Judges, Field Trial Stewards and KUSA representative (where applicable). T[t]he Chief Judge's name should[~~to~~] appear first.

1.3.2.5.6 The venue of the Trial.

1.3.2.5.7 A definition of each stake to be run in the Trial.

1.3.2.5.8 The prizes offered.

1.3.2.5.9 Entries listed in numerical order of running, as follows:

- Registered name and number of the dog.
- Name of the owner
- Breed of the dog
- Sex of the dog.
- Date of birth of the dog.
- Registered names of sire and dam.
- Name of the breeder.
- Name of the handler.

1.3.2.5.10 A list of names and addresses of owners of all dogs in the Trial, in alphabetical order. The Secretary of the club shall send to KUSA, within one (1) week of the meeting, a copy of the entry card with all awards marked thereon.

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

1.3.2.5.12 A statement that the club holding the trial accepts no responsibility for injury, loss or damage to person or property, however occasioned.

1.3.3 [~~Copy of the~~] KUSA Field Trial Rules and Regulations

~~[A copy of the KUSA Constitution Show Regulationsand Schedule 5C(3) for HPR Breeds shall be retained by the Field Trial Committee and shall be available to any participant at the venue during a Trial.]~~
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 5C(3) – Regulations for HPR Field Trials

1.4 Appointment of Judges

1.4.1 List of Judges for Field Trials

1.4.1.1 Acceptance of list for field trials

A club holding a Field Trial shall appoint Judges from the List of Judges for Field Trials as approved by the Federal Council, who shall, if permanently domiciled in the KUSA area of jurisdiction be members of the Kennel Union, in good standing, both at the time of accepting an invitation and undertaking an appointment. Before approving a foreign Judge, the Federal Council shall be satisfied that such Judge is recognised to judge the same Trials in his country of permanent residence as it is proposed he shall judge in the KUSA area of jurisdiction.

1.4.1.2 Recommendation to panels

A person may be recommended to a Judges' panel from the List of Judges for Field Trials by a Club holding Field Trials. Such recommendations to the Federal Council shall be made by the club, via the FTLC. It is desirable that Judges have some hunting experience, and that Clubs shall endeavour to appoint a balanced panel.

1.4.1.3 Overseas Judges

Recognised overseas Judges shall be entitled to judge any stake other than the Championship Stake. Overseas Judges may not be the Chief Judge of a Stake.

1.4.1.4 Requirements for the "list"

The List of Judges for Field Trials, as issued by the KUSA, shall contain the names [~~addresses and telephone~~ numbers] of the Judges.

1.4.1.5 Number of Judges for a stake

The minimum number of Judges for any Stake, including a Field Qualifying Stake shall be three (3), excluding a Learner Judge. One (1) must be a Senior/Chief Judge.

An HPR Championship Stake shall have a minimum of two (2) A panel Judges

1.4.1.5.1 Chief Judge

The Chief Judge of a stake can only be nominated from the ranks of "A" Panel Judges.

1.4.1.5.2 Field Stewards/Learner Judge/Deputy Stewards

There may not be more than one (1) Learner Judge per Stake. The Field Steward may appoint as many deputies as are required to assist him in running the Stake, including the "Guns". Deputy Stewards may NOT sit in on the Judges' deliberations. The Field Steward and Learner Judge's remarks and observations on the dogs competing will be heard only at the invitation of the Chief Judge.

1.4.2 Qualifications for appointment to Judges' List

1.4.2.1 "B" panel Judges

A person shall not be approved as a B panel Judge until that person has acted as a Field Steward in no less than 2 (two) stakes and has acted as a Learner Judge. [~~SCHEDULE 5C(3) - HPR 11~~]

Judge in no less than 2 (two) Maiden and/or Open and/or Championship Stakes and has had 3 (three) years' experience in competing with dogs in field trials and has [~~produced~~]trained and handled at least 1 (one) dog that has won a prize or Certificate of Merit at a Maiden or Open Stake.

The recommendation by a club to appoint the applicant as a B panel Judge must be based on reports (written or verbal) by the qualified Judges officiating in the qualifying field trials, that indicate that the applicant has demonstrated a sound knowledge of the Field Trial Rules and Regulations, and has the ability to practically interpret and apply them.

1.4.2.2 "A" Panel Judges

A person shall not be approved as an A panel Judge unless that person has judged no less than 7 (seven) stakes and has had at least 5 (five) years' experience in competing with dogs in field trials and has [~~produced~~]trained and handled at least 1 (one) dog that has won a place or a Certificate of Merit in an HPR Open Stake or in a British Breed championship standard stake.

The recommendation by a club to appoint the applicant as an A panel Judge must be based on reports (written or verbal) by the qualified Continental Breed Judges officiating in the qualifying field trial and judging courses, that indicate that the applicant has demonstrated a sound knowledge of the Field Trial Rules and Regulations, and has the ability to practically interpret and apply them.

1.4.2.3 Qualifying Field Trials

For the purposes of the qualification of "A" and "B" Panel HPR Judges, qualifying Field Trials shall include Hunt, Point and Retrieve (HPR) Field Trials for which a KUSA licence has been issued, [~~or HPR and British Breed Field Trials run under the auspices of the National Field Trial Association.~~]

1.5 The Powers and Duties of Judges

The duties of the Judges shall include, inter alia:

1.5.1 In a Field Trial all the officially appointed Judges have an equal say. No Judge, including the Chief Judge, can dictate to another Judge or the other Judges on how to mark the work of a dog or where to place a dog at the end of a trial, which is based on the consensus decisions of the Judges.

1.5.2 To assist the Committee of the Club holding the Field Trial by setting, in conjunction with the Field Steward, a Field Trial course that will test the standard of the dogs.

1.5.3 To liaise with the Field Steward regarding the efficient running of the Trial.

1.5.4 The Chief Judge shall position the other Judges and shall act as their spokesman.

1.5.5 The Chief Judge shall co-ordinate the placing of the dogs at the end of the Trial.

1.5.6 The Chief Judge shall control and issue instructions on all matters connected with the dogs under Trial and shall call the Field Steward or members of the Committee to their assistance if they think fit.

1.5.7 To decide the duration of the rounds.

1.5.8 To turn out of a Stake any dog whose handler does not obey him or wilfully interferes with another competitor or his dog, or who repeatedly does not keep to the instructed course, therefore jeopardising the subsequent rounds and fairness to other competitors.

1.5.9 The Judges may in consultation with the Chief Field Steward and any of the committee members of the Host Club, consider whether the weather is unfit for holding a trial and if possible to set a new date for the trial, failing which to cancel the event.

1.5.10 The Chief Judge shall be the spokesman for the judging panel.

1.5.11 The Judges may at their discretion, but not without undue justification, eliminate a dog from a stake for drug abuse and may require a dog which is awarded a prize to be tested for drug abuse.

1.5.12 The Judges may require a dog to wear a distinguishing coloured collar. The Judges shall conclude their deliberations in making a decision as to the final result at the end of a stake before leaving the field, with sufficient time to be able to run any dogs which the Judges have not been able to sequentially place.

1.5.13 In the event of the Judges being unable to reach consensus the Judges shall vote to obtain a result.

1.5.14 The Chief Judge or the appropriate Judge should instruct the guns to shoot over a dog only when the dog has pointed and presented the bird to the guns. There should be no doubt that the dog has the quarry and situation under control.

1.5.15 Before the commencement of each brace, the Chief Judge will instruct the guns and handlers clearly which dogs are to have birds shot for them.

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

1.5.17 A dog may not compete in a stake if it is owned by a Judge judging that stake.

1.5.18 A Judge may not judge a dog owned or handled by a family member but shall refer any decision to the other two (2) Judges who shall be assisted by either the Learner Judge or Chief Field Steward.

1.5.19 A Judge's duty is to determine the prize winners of an event solely on the merits of a dog's performance during that stake and no other factor should enter into their consideration.

1.6 The Appointment, Powers And Duties Of A Field Steward

A person shall qualify as a Chief Field Steward if he/she is member in good standing of the Kennel Union and is completely aware and capable of performing the duties of a Chief Field Steward as described in these Rules and Regulations and has had some experience as a Deputy Field Steward or has attended or competed in field trials.

1.6.1 A Host Club shall elect the Chief Field Steward who shall be responsible for:

1.6.2 The running of a stake.

1.6.3 The setting of the course on the recommendations of the [committee]Field Trial Steward of the Host Club and by the Judges [being acquainted with the course to be used during a stake.]

1.6.4 Being acquainted with the course to be used during a stake.

1.6.5 Jointly, with the Judges and Field Trial Steward, deciding on which ground is to be re-used.

1.6.6 Appointing as many Deputy Field Stewards as are required to assist him in running a stake.

1.6.7 Acting as timekeeper.

1.6.8 Appointing two persons to act as Guns for the duration of the stake as approved by the host club.

1.6.9 Ensuring that the two guns appointed by the Host Club are present and observe safety measures.

1.6.10 The Chief Field Steward shall:

1.6.11 Seek the co-operation of the Judges to successfully complete a stake;

1.6.12 Run the stake on time, in a time-saving manner, so as to present the competing dogs to the Judges to their best advantage;

1.6.13 Control the movements of the spectators and followers to ensure that they do not obstruct the work of the dogs or the Judges;

1.6.14 Relieve the handlers of [~~their~~]items that may be used to intimidate a dog, such as leashes, sticks, collars, etc, [~~when required~~];

1.6.15 Enforce the "no-smoking" rule strictly, in the interest of safety and shall announce smoking breaks at suitable places;

1.6.16 Brief each pair of handlers personally as to the direction they must follow;

1.6.17 Insist that the handlers maintain the set course unless a dog is off-course due to working scent or roading game;

1.6.18 Deviate from a planned course at the request of the Judges;

1.6.19 Ensure the handlers and guns are assisted in safely negotiating fences;

1.6.20 Hand back the leashes etc. at the completion of each Brace;

1.6.21 Subject to instructions given by the Chief Judge, call the dogs up in the event that game in an area proves to be abundant when both dogs have had a point, back and retrieve in order to put the next brace down for the purpose of saving time and conserving the ground;

1.6.22 On instructions of the Chief Judge, immediately call up a dog that has committed an eliminating fault and to call a dog which has drawn a bye to complete the round with the remaining dog;

1.6.23 Announce the draw and the duration of each Brace;

1.6.24 Ensure that he is ready to make a draw for the second round upon finalisation of the Judges deliberations after the first round;

1.6.25 Ensure that the dogs which were paired in the first round are not paired in the second round;

1.6.26 Limit the time given to each brace in each round according to the number of dogs remaining and the time available, subject to directions given to him by the Judges;

1.6.27 At the end of the second round and upon finalisation of the Judge's deliberations, make a further draw;

1.6.28 After completion of the third round, announce the names of the dogs which the judges have elected to remain in the stake.

1.7 Guns, Appointment, Duties And Powers

1.7.1 The host club will appoint Guns for their stakes.

1.7.2 Only two guns shall be allowed during any field trial event.

1.7.3 The Guns shall take instructions from the Judges.

1.7.4 The firing of a shotgun is only to take place within reasonable shotgun killing range.

1.7.5 Stringent gun safety measures must be observed at all times. A Gun may only carry his shotgun closed when about to fire.

The carrying of a shotgun or the loading and unloading of shotguns must be effected with due regard to the safety of competitors and spectators.

Only double-barrelled breaking type shotguns may be used.

The committee of the Host Club, sub-committee, Judges, stewards or officers of the day, have the right to prevent the use of any shotgun which they consider might be a source of danger in any respect.

1.8 Drawing of dogs

A draw shall follow the procedure of assigning a card with an individual number to each entry. The numbered cards shall then be placed together, drawn randomly and the dogs paired into braces.

The Judges and Chief Field Stewards shall ensure that the dogs which met in the first round shall not run together in the second round.

Unless eliminated for committing an eliminating fault, a dog shall be entitled to participate in the first two (2) rounds.

At the conclusion of the second round the Judges shall select such dogs as they consider to have shown sufficient merit to be entitled to remain in the stake. Another draw or pairing shall then be made among those dogs for the next round.

At the conclusion of the third and subsequent rounds, the Judges may run dogs in pairs as they think fit and shall ensure, prior to termination of the stake, that the dog placed first has run with the dog placed second unless they are handled by the same handler. Those dogs chosen for consideration for placing by virtue of their success in the early rounds could be held back. The event can then run to its conclusion by using those dogs that have been unfortunate in having had only barren rounds and those which have not had the opportunity to back or retrieve.

Where one handler in a stake is competing with two (2) or more dogs, such dogs shall not be paired together.

All the dogs, except those previously eliminated or withdrawn, must remain available for further participation until eliminated or until termination of the stake.

1.9 Management Of A Field Trial

1.9.1 Management entrusted to a Club

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

1.9.2 KUSA Representative

It shall be necessary for a KUSA Representative, who must be a member in good standing of KUSA, at the time of appointment, to be present at a Championship Stake. [~~carrying Championship status~~]The KUSA representative shall be nominated by the Club holding the Field Trial and be approved by the FTLC and F C [~~Federal Council~~].

1.9.3 Procedure In the Case of Procedural Irregularity:

1.9.3.1 An alleged procedural irregularity may be raised only by a handler participating in the field trial. Such allegation shall be in writing, shall identify the dog/person/official and specify the basis of the objection and shall bare the signature and address of the person who makes it. The procedural irregularity must be raised with the Field Trial Steward.

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

1.9.3.3 The allegation shall be decided within 30 minutes from the time it was lodged, by a majority of the committee members present.

1.9.3.4 Field Stewards

The Field Stewards (See Regulation 1.6 above) shall be responsible for running the Field Trial and for the setting of the course, which must be approved by the Chief Judge elected for that Field Trial.

1.10 Field Qualifying Stake

1.10.1 General Regulations

1.10.1.1 A Field Qualifying Stake for HPR breeds may only be run at the same time as, and in conjunction with, an HPR Maiden Stake according to this Schedule 5C(3) HPR.

1.10.1.2 A minimum of three (3) Judges awarding the Field Qualifying Certificates must be appointed, at least one (1) of which must come from the "A" Panel List of Judges for Field Trials (HPR). All remaining Judges must come from the" A" or "B" Panel List of Judges for Field Trials (HPR).

1.10.1.3 Only clubs which are eligible to hold HPR Field Trials may run HPR Field Qualifying Stakes.

1.10.1.4 Permission to run a Field Qualifying Stake must be applied for through FTLC and, upon approval, a licence must be obtained from KUSA.

1.10.1.5 The Club Secretary shall notify KUSA of the numbers and names of the Field Qualifiers. [~~These shall be published in the Official Kennel Union Journal.~~] These dogs shall be entitled to carry the designation "F.Q." after their names.

1.10.1.6 A dog shall either be passed or failed by the Judges, whose decision is final. The dogs which Field Qualify shall not be placed in order of merit.

1.10.1.7 The dogs shall be expected to Hunt, Point and Prove game, to exhibit an efficient range and pace according to the terrain, to exhibit a sufficient degree of steadiness and staunchness in the presence of game to be able to present that game to the gun, shall show the ability to hunt with a bracemate without unduly interfering in the bracemate's work, shall be expected to retrieve game on land and from water and shall show no signs of gunshyness.

1.10.1.8 Only natural gamebirds may be used in a Field Qualifying Stake.

1.10.1.9 The names of the dogs must be entered on the programme for the meeting. Entry fees shall be at the discretion of the club.

1.10.1.10 There shall be no limit to the number of times a dog may be entered in a Field Qualifying Stake.

1.10.1.11 The minimum number of dogs entered in the Maiden Stake run in conjunction with a Field Qualifying Stake as contemplated in Clause 1.1 above, shall be eight (8).

1.10.2 Field requirements for the Field Qualifying Stake

The FQ Stakes will be conducted according to the same Rules, Regulations and Standards for Maiden Stakes under this Schedule. Before signing the Field Qualifying Certificate, the Judges must be satisfied that the dog has amply demonstrated its natural abilities and a standard of performance roughly equal to that expected of the "average" Maiden Stake entrant. The dog must fulfil these requirements without committing any eliminating faults.

1.10.2.1 Dogs in the Field Qualifying Stake shall be hunted in braces. Field Qualifying Stake entrants must be entered in the draw and braced with the Maiden Stake dogs or with the other dogs participating in other Stakes in the Field Trial. After the second round, Judges may either elect to brace the Field Qualifying Stake entrants with one another or they may continue to run them together with the other Field Trial entrants. Dogs are expected to Hunt, Point, Prove and Retrieve game during this segment of testing. A minimum appropriate level of performance would be comparable to that expected in the Maiden Stake, although Judges should not necessarily expect the same degree of experience, style and polish that would be required in order to earn an award in the Maiden Stake. Dogs must display an eagerness to find game, a good nose, a convincing point, and are required to be sufficiently staunch to allow the handler to move in to flush the game. The pointing dog will be required to complete the retrieve of the shot bird. It is permissible for the handler to use checking commands (though not excessive) to ensure that the dog remains staunch and/or does not break in on wing or shot. Ideally, the bracemate should back the pointing dog, although it is sufficient that the handler merely be able to control the dog so as not to interfere with the pointing dog in any way, either by stopping or calling the dog to heel. The retrieve of the shot bird must be to hand or within hand's reach. Once the Judges have satisfied themselves that an entrant fulfils the above requirements, then that dog may be retired from running in further rounds. Should that dog also be entered in other Stakes in the Trial, then he will continue to participate in those Stakes, but will no longer be under judgment for the Field Qualifying Stake. Dogs which have committed an eliminating fault or which are failed for any reason will be called up immediately, and will not compete further in the Field Qualifying Stake.

1.10.2.2 Dogs in the Field Qualifying Stake must demonstrate their ability to swim and retrieve from water by satisfying the requirements of Rule 20 "Water Test" at the Field Trial.

1.11 Miscellaneous General Provisions

1.11.1 Awards Equal placings at a Field Trial are prohibited.

1.11.2 Record of Entries

The Secretary of the club holding the Field Trial shall preserve all entry forms for twelve (12) months after the meeting and produce any of them to any official body inquiring into an objection or dispute.

1.11.3 Handling of Dogs

1.11.3.1 Deputy Handling a Dog

1.11.3.2 If a deputy handles a dog the owner may walk with the deputy but may not take part in the working or handling of his dog.

1.11.3.3 Maximum Number of Dogs

1.11.3.4 No handler may handle more than three (3) dogs in a single Stake unless he provides an assistant to hold the dogs.

1.11.3.5 Family of Judges Running in a Trial

1.11.3.6 There is no objection to the immediate family of Judges running in a Field Trial.

1.11.3.7 Switching Handlers

A handler of a dog may not be substituted during the course of a trial without the consent of the Judges. During the course of a trial the handler of a dog may be switched at the discretion of the Judges.

1.11.3.8 Intimidation

No handler may use any form of intimidation, or carry any object that may potentially be used to intimidate the dog. Handlers will be requested by the Field Steward to hand over leads and any other objects, including collars, that the Judges deem to be potentially intimidating. The Field Steward will retain these for the duration of the round.

1.11.3.9 No dog is allowed to wear a collar while competing unless a coloured collar is requested by the Judges for the purpose of identifying the dog.

1.11.4 Removal from Trial for various Causes

1.11.4.1 Unfit to Compete

Should the committee of a Host Club, after consultation with the Judges or a veterinary surgeon, consider a dog unfit to compete or which interferes with the safety of other competing dogs or interferes with the prospects of success of its opponents, such a dog shall be immediately removed from the trial venue.

Should the members of the committee of the club, after consultation with the Judges or veterinary surgeon, consider a dog unfit to compete by reason of sexual causes or of any contagious disease or from an attack of hysteria occurring on the Field Trial ground, or any cause which interferes with the safety, or chance of winning of his opponents, such dog must be removed immediately from the ground and from the Trial. Any such case is liable to be reported to the KUSA and dealt with under Schedule 1 (Disciplinary Rules).

1.11.5 [Unpunctuality] **Void**

[A dog which is not present within fifteen (15) minutes when required by the Judges may be disqualified by the Judges.]

1.11.6 Drug Abuse

Drug abuse in competing dogs is not permitted and may result in elimination or disqualification from an event.

1.11.7 Entering In More Than One Stake Simultaneously

1.11.7.1 For practical reasons the club may elect to hold Derby, Maiden and Open stakes simultaneously.

1.11.7.2 Dogs may also enter more than one Stake simultaneously provided they qualify for the specific stakes.

1.11.7.3 A dog will be eliminated from all stakes entered during that trial, on committing an eliminating fault.

1.11.7.4 On committing penalising faults, the dog may be downgraded to a lower standard stake at the Judges' discretion and in accordance with the standards of the specific stake, provided that the dog has been previously entered in that stake.

1.11.8 Withholding Prizes

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

1.11.8.2 If, in the case of technical disqualification, a prize winner is disqualified, the dogs next in consecutive order of merit, if so placed by the Judges and awarded first, second or third place, moved into the higher places in the prize list at the discretion of the Judges, and such places t hereupon become the awards.

1.11.8.3 Technical disqualifications are those which are deemed to be infringements or non-compliance of these Rules and regulations, including drug abuse.

1.11.9 Withdrawal of Dogs

1.11.9.1 No dog entered for competition, and once under judgment at the trial, may be withdrawn from the stake without the consent of the Judges.

1.11.9.2 No competitor may withdraw from a stake without the permission of the Judges and any dog withdrawn without permission is liable to be disqualified.

1.11.10 Weather and/or Venue Conditions

If the club considers the weather and/or venue unfit for holding the trial, the meeting may be held at a different venue or postponed. The stakes that have not yet been decided upon may be abandoned and the entry fees refunded, or a fresh draw may be made and a fresh date fixed for the postponed stakes.

1.11.11 Impugning Decisions

Anyone taking part in a Trial who openly impugns the decisions of a Judge or Judges shall render himself liable to be reported to KUSA under the provisions of Schedule 1 (Disciplinary Rules) unless he or she is availing themselves of Regulation 1.8.3.

1.11.12 Contingencies

Any event not provided for in the Rules & Regulations shall be decided upon by the Committee Members of the Club present but not competing in the trial, assisted by the Judges and their decision is final.

1.11.13 Gambling

Gambling or betting at, or on the outcome of any field trial is strictly prohibited.

1.11.14 Remuneration

Any form of remuneration for handling of dogs in HPR Field Trials is prohibited.

1.11.15 Stake Money

Competing for a purse or stake money is prohibited.

1.11.16 Terrain

HPR Field Trials must use natural game as described, on terrain where [~~game occurs~~]wild gamebirds occur naturally. [~~SCHEDULE 5C(3) - HPR 18.~~]

2 REGULATIONS FOR THE JUDGING OF FIELDTRIALS

2.1 Preamble

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

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

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

2.2 General Guide 1 - Objectives

2.2.1 Objectives of this Document

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

2.2.1.2 To achieve greater ~~[conformity]~~uniformity in the running of Field Trials.

2.2.1.3 To achieve [consensus]consistency in the judging of the performances of the dogs competing at Field Trials.
~~[To further the above aims insofar, only and entirely, as they are meant to improve and/or maintain the working standards of the HPR BREEDS in South Africa.]~~

2.2.2 The Objectives of HPR Field Trials

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

2.2.2.2 ~~[To bring to the notice of the public a level of performance best suited to perpetuate the most desirable qualities possessed by HPR BREEDS of the highest order.]~~To identify, foster and promote the most desirable traits of the HPR breeds with reference to "The Standard" to enable breeders to maintain and improve their breeds in the RSA.

2.2.2.1 To provide competition of the highest calibre and encourage owner participation so as to stimulate enthusiastic training and competition of these dogs.

2.2.2.2 To conduct Field Trials on suitable terrain. ~~[and on quarry best suited to the breeds' performance characteristics and standards, with quarry.]~~ Quarry should be in sufficient numbers to minimise the element of luck and to give each competing dog an equal opportunity~~[when being judged]~~..

2.2.2.3 To ~~[maintain and improve]~~inform the [standard]public of the level of performance required to perpetuate the most desirable qualities possessed by the HPR breeds~~[in the RSA]~~

2.2.3 The Objectives of Judging HPR Field Trials

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

2.2.3.1 The task of Judges is to find the dog which, on the day, pleases them most in the light of the above, and to give the dogs every opportunity to work well by seeing that conditions are in their favour as far as possible. [Where feasible, they should demonstrate to competitors and spectators how their decisions are reached. It is the better dogs who should be fully tried and not the hopeless ones.]

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

2.2.3.3 The responsibility of the Judges is to determine how much weight they shall give to certain types of exceptional performance and how much penalty to assess because of various individual faults, or the repetition of the same faults or combinations of various faults. Some faults by themselves, are sufficiently serious to justify elimination from a Stake, whereas others may justify only a moderate or minor penalty and some of the latter may be so minor that, on occasions, they are relatively so unimportant that for practical purposes they can be ignored. On the other hand, minor faults can summate into moderate or serious faults through repetition or through a combination of several types of fault.

2.2.3.4 The Field Trial Rules and Guides make numerous references to the discretionary powers of and interpretations of merit by the Judges and it is therefore essential that these are exercised with consistency, honesty and within the spirit and intent of the Rules and the Standard. Objectivity, with a view to awarding such placings and Certificates to those dogs who acquitted themselves sufficiently on the day, is of utmost importance.

2.3 General Guide 2 [Standards]– The Standard of Performance for [~~HPR~~]the Hunt, Point and Retrieve Breeds

The performance is one where the [~~very action~~]actions of the dog [~~denotes a great interest in his work.~~]reflect efficient hunting.

This work is full of animation and at all times the dog must be searching for game in an independent and intelligent manner by using the wind or lack thereof correctly and productively.

His performance must reflect a credit to his breed, and the dog should move with the least obvious exertion for the greatest effect.

The dog must have the desire to Hunt and Point game with the fire and intensity that makes his work spectacular or, at least, pleasing.

The dog must be adjustable and self-adjusting, controllable and self-controlled.

The dog serves best when covering the most ground in the least time and he must take the different types of cover and conditions as he comes to them and negotiate each productively, going wide, far, fast, slow, close and/or narrow as the conditions dictate. The dog must do this of his own accord, naturally or through training and experience.

The dog's performance must be total in every respect and must consist of a positive display of manners, game finding, controlling and pointing and holding abilities, staunchness, steadiness and a willingness and ability to acknowledge the flush of game and the finds and points of other dogs by "backing" spontaneously and holding the "back" for as long as is necessary without interference to the staunchly pointing dog or the game being pointed.

He must retrieve the shot game on command in a quick and expeditious manner without unduly disturbing too much ground and should deliver tenderly to hand, on land and from water

The dog must hunt and handle all game, whether fur or feather (see Guide to Gamebirds). Above all he must be in total harmony with the handler for no other purpose than to give him the opportunity to shoot the pointed game in a manner befitting sportsmen. – as there can only be one measure for a good dog and that is how well he serves the gun.

The Open/Championship Dog should display all the elements of "the Standard" and do so with finesse and with as few instructions as possible. He should deliver a polished performance and possess superior application in hunting and finding abilities, being independent yet always working in partnership with the handler to this end, and with impeccable manners. His steadiness should be complete from pointing to flush to shot and fall of the bird, whether pointing or backing. Backing should be spontaneous and willing. He should retrieve eagerly, efficiently and deliver directly to hand from land and water.

The Maiden Dog should display most of the elements of "the Standard", but need not do so with the same experience, polish and inherent manners as the Open dog. He may require more encouragement or commands/instructions to do the same job. He must find readily, point staunchly, and be steady to flush, although steadiness to the shot and retrieve may yet be less than perfect and require verbal support or commands. Spontaneous backing is highly desirable, but the main concern is that he does not interfere with the pointing dog and will honour or be controllable if only on command. He should not steal the pointing dog's bird or interfere unduly with the retrieve. He should retrieve capably from land and water and deliver to at least within reach of the handler.

The Derby Dog should also display most of the elements of "the Standard" but will usually do so with the immaturity and zest of youth. Potential is of prime concern. When required he may be supported in his work by commands/instructions from the handler but should respond reasonably well. Staunch pointing is required, but total steadiness to flush may not yet be entirely spontaneous, nor may be steadiness to the shot and fall of the bird. Checking commands may be used sparingly to ensure that the dog does not chase or break with reckless abandon. Spontaneous backing is desirable, but the main concern is that he does not interfere with the pointing dog and will honour or be controllable if only on command. He should not steal the pointing dog's bird or interfere unduly with the retrieve. He should retrieve functionally from land and deliver to within at least a reasonable distance of the handler.

2.4 GENERAL GUIDE 3 [~~Common areas of evaluation~~]– General Guidelines for Efficient Judging of HPR Field Trials

2.4.1 Application

[~~Application~~] The application of these standards during trials varies only in the matter of degree. For example, it is not expected that a young dog competing in a Derby or an inexperienced dog in a Maiden Stake to display the same finesse and workmanship expected of an older, more experienced dog competing in a Championship Stake. The basic principles, however, apply generally across the board. The Judges must approach these common areas of evaluation and their related performance standards with the knowledge that each area relates in some way to each of theirs. For this reason, no one area can be considered in isolation when judging the performance of a dog. For instance, of what use is a good nose if the dog is totally uncooperative? What sort of search or questing can one expect of a dog lacking desire?

2.4.2 Use of Nose

The quality of a dog's nose, more than any other single factor, determines its usefulness as an HPR BREED. However, quality of nose is not in itself sufficient. As the dog develops it must learn to use its nose if maximum effectiveness is to be achieved.

A dog that finds birds rapidly and repeatedly under various conditions has a good nose. Conversely, a dog that continuously bumps birds or fails to find birds compared to its bracemate, certainly leaves much to be desired as far as nose is concerned.

Short checks of scent spots where game has been without pointing indicates a good nose as well as the ability to discriminate between scents. Consistent "false pointing" i.e. assuming a pointing stance without producing game, may be an indication that the dog has only a fair to poor nose. Pointing dead game may also be an indication of an uncertain or inexperienced nose.

A dog will sometimes scent game at a great distance and, while checking the scent, will move up on the game as if being pulled to the spot by an invisible string attached to the nose. The relative distance from the point the scent is first detected, to the point where the game is found can be an indication of the quality of the nose

A dog is said to "bump" a bird when it runs into it and causes the bird to flush without giving any indication that the dog was aware of the bird's presence. This is more apt to happen when the dog is questing downwind in a stiff breeze and under these conditions is not considered a major fault.

To bump a bird while working into wind without showing any awareness that game is present may be an indication of a deficient nose. However, poor scenting conditions, as indicated by other dogs in the trial, may also result in birds being bumped.

Weather, the conditions of ground and cover, the type of game, even air pollution, are all factors to be considered while judging a dog, for all these elements have an important influence on a dog's scenting ability.

The pointing instinct must not be equated with the quality of nose. An intense point is a manifestation of desire, not nose.

2.4.3 Search (Questing)

From start to finish, the search should indicate but one purpose - to produce game for the gun. The good dog will leave the impression that in the terrain covered by the search no game has been missed.

No time should be wasted in searching obviously barren ground or by returning to cover that which has already been thoroughly searched.

An eager, co-operative dog will readily adapt to the terrain and cover over which it is being hunted regardless of its "home ground" experience and it will not hesitate to search rough cover if the situation demands it.

Throughout the search, the dog should display eagerness, interest and stamina. The dog that goes to heel before the end of the run and from then on must be pushed, not only says that the owner has possibly not conditioned the dog but also raises serious doubts about the dog's desire and basic stamina.

Sufficient independence to leave the handler in order to check likely cover is desirable, particularly if the dog later checks back with the handler.

Apparent use of eyes rather than nose to search for game is a serious fault; however, use of the eyes to maintain contact with the handler is a natural result of the dog's desire to please.

The dog should conduct its search at a practical distance from the gun depending on the terrain. For example, in open terrain with short grass cover the dog will be most efficient if he hunts far and wide to locate coveys. Conversely, in dense bushveld areas the dog will only be efficient if he hunts a short distance from the gun. Therefore, considerations of terrain, cover and other variables, make it manifest that practical range cannot be measured in metres. Rather, it must be measured in terms of covering the maximum amount of likely game cover without loss of control or sacrificing the all-important co-operation that must exist between dog and hunter. Suffice it to say that the uncontrolled dog running out of sight most of the time is of little use to the on-foot hunter, as is the one that remains so close to the gun that it constitutes an underfoot nuisance. It is the hallmark of a brilliant dog that he will adapt to any kind of terrain.

During the search the dog may work with its head high or low depending on the scenting conditions and game species. For example, the dog may be more efficient in short grass areas in locating game by hunting with his head high as opposed to the bushveld areas, where searching with his nose lower to the ground may be more efficient in locating game. The sole measure of the manner in which a dog works, is the efficiency with which he operates and produces game.

The dog's search must take advantage of the air currents. Running downwind for excessive distances without turning into the wind in an effort to fix game between dog and gun must be faulted. Likewise, working for a long distance into the wind without quartering is not using air currents to best advantage.

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

Tireless and successful efforts are to be rewarded more highly than eye-catching style combined with unproductive casts.

Dogs that repeatedly and definitely miss game during the search are to be severely penalised.

2.4.4 Pointing

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

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

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

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

A dog is to be rewarded rather than faulted for creeping low to the ground for short distances in order to re-establish point on a runner. "Blinking", i.e. deliberately avoiding birds or pointing and then leaving game before the handler can arrive to flush the bird, or leaving the point for any reason other than re- establishing point on a running bird is to be severely penalized.

However, a young dog in a Puppy Stake may break and chase after clearly establishing point without being penalised. All points should be on game. Pointing turtles, sparrows and the like has no bearing on the work at hand, which is the production of game. However, a very young dog might be forgiven for a point on a non-game species if not done too frequently and the point could be favourably considered as an indication of the presence of the pointing instinct. This latter would be the case only if the dog had no fair opportunity to point actual game. Pointing non-game species must be considered a grave fault in the case of an older dog.

2.4.5 Steadiness on Game

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

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

To demonstrate steadiness to fall, there should be a distinct time interval [~~between the fall of~~]after the bird lands on the ground and the handler's command to fetch, but no specific time is prescribed and the Judges will not signal the handler to send his dog.

An experienced handler with confidence in his dog will probably achieve this time interval with something like "One thousand - Two thousand - Fetch". (The handler's command to fetch, whether it be done by voice, whistle or hand signal, must be clearly recognisable by the Judges so that there can be no doubt as to whether the dog acted on command or on its own initiative).

2.4.6 Retrieve of Shot Bird

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

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

2.4.7 Desire to Work

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

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

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

2.4.8 Co-operation

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

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

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

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

2.4.9 Stamina

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

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

2.4.10 Handling and Obedience

A good HPR dog must be controllable at all times. Experienced hunters are aware that during any outing in the field, occasions can arise when obedience on the part of the dog must take first priority. The safety of the dog and simple "good citizenship" on the part of both the dog and the master demand it. Also, the natural success of the hunt can hinge on an obedient dog that will willingly suppress its natural instincts and desires and obey commands when the master decides to change the scenario, so to speak. The dog should readily take hand, voice or whistle signals as a matter of course when a change of direction by the handler or the end of the work demands it.

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

3 FIELD TRIAL RULES FOR HPR BREEDS

RULE 1 PUNCTUALITY

1.1.1 Every dog shall be presented on time for each of its rounds. If absent for more than [~~a quarter of an hour~~]fifteen (15) minutes for no good reason after being called, that dog is liable to be disqualified by the Judges, and it's opponent shall run a bye or with another dog if required.

1.2 The Judges shall have the power to disqualify both dogs should they be absent.

1.3 Withdrawal of Dogs

1.3.1 A dog which has entered into a stake may only be withdrawn from such stake with the consent of the Judges.

1.3.2 A dog which is withdrawn from a stake without the consent of the Judges may be disqualified and may be refused entry at the next trial.

GUIDE TO RULE 1

1.a The Field Steward, in announcing the pair down for any given round, must also announce the next pair to be on standby.

1.b Before disqualifying a dog/s as provided for above, the Judges should first determine why the dog was late and be absolutely sure that the reasons for the handler being absent are inexcusable.

RULE 2 BYES

2.1 The Judges shall decide when and whether a bye be run or not, and if so, with which dog the competitor shall run.

2.2 If not run, the dog drawing a bye shall be run in the first pair of the following round.

GUIDE TO RULE 2

The Chief Judge through the Chief Steward should indicate to the handler of the bye dog if and when he will fit him into the draw.

RULE 3 TIME ISSUES

3.1 Dogs should be judged from the moment of the cast-off to the moment they are called in. [~~Any action, from call-in to the return to leash, should be judged on its merits at the judges' discretion.~~]

3.2 Judges should only call in dogs if both dogs are visible to the Judges and not working scent. A time limit applies for dogs to prove the presence of game in these circumstances or to locate a dog that is not visible.

GUIDE TO RULE 3

3.a Time limits are generally governed by the time available, the stake being judged and the geographical conditions of the area.

3.b The Judges, at their discretion, will allow a dog to be out of their and the handler's sight for a limited period at the end of a brace's allotted time, given that the dog may be on point. No more than 5 minutes should be allowed. Thereafter they may call up the brace.

3.c Dogs on point or on scent should be allowed time to conclude that action. Discretion by the Judges must be applied as to how much time to give them to prove the point. This time limit is entirely at the discretion of the Judges as they may have seen enough of a particular dog's work on birds, or they may wish to use the scent for other purposes.

RULE 4 MANNER OF HANDLING

4.1 A person handling a dog may speak, whistle and work him by hand signals as he thinks proper, but he can be called to order by the Judges, through the field steward, for making unnecessary noise, and if he persists in doing so, they can order the dog to be taken up and put him out of the stake.

The extent to which any dog is commanded shall be taken into account by the Judges at their discretion when deciding the merits of that dog's performance.

4.2 [Checking]In the Derby and Maiden Stakes, checking commands [~~are~~]will be allowed but should not [permitted in Brace, Open and]cause undue interference with the bracemate.

4.3 In Championship [standard] Stakes, checking commands may be penalising or eliminating depending on the circumstances and degree, at the Judges' discretion.

4.4 If the opponent's dog points game, or is roading or drawing on game, the other dog is not to be intentionally drawn across him so as to take the point. Should this happen and result in a find for that dog, then the offending handler's dog will not be credited with his own find.

4.5 Any handler who considers that the behaviour of the other handler is unsettling his dog, may, through the field steward, appeal to the Judges against such behaviour.

4.6 A handler may not physically block or restrain his dog. However in situations likely to cause serious injury or threaten the life of the dog, a handler may upon command by a Judge, physically restrain a dog or even carry the dog away from the danger zone. ie the dog will be under Judges orders.

4.7 Deputy handling a dog

If a deputy handles a dog, the owner may walk in line with the deputy but may not take part in the working or handling of his dog.

4.8 Substitution of handlers
A handler of a dog may not be substituted during the course of a trial without the consent of the Judges.

4.9 The use of any device, electronic device or simulated electronic device, that may influence the dog's action in a field trial, is forbidden.

GUIDE TO RULE 4

4.a The Stake being judged will influence the discretion applied by the Judges with regard to the extent of commanding.

4.b ~~[Checking commands issued during Derby Stakes will generally be more leniently judged.]~~The object of faulting checking commands is to evaluate the dog's spontaneity to display the required manners. Judges should distinguish between encouragement of the dog, instructional commands and checking commands. They should also advise and caution a nervous handler who unintentionally checks his dog.

4.c Judges are to guard against handlers trying to do the dog's work as well as questionable handling practices – the consequence of these practices can be counterproductive and should be discouraged.

4.d "Judge the dog, NOT the handler" - however a handler's action, or lack thereof, may affect a dog's performance, which is what is being judged. It is not uncommon for a Judge to bring to a handler's attention the consequences of his actions. (The Judge must be careful not to unnecessarily "interfere" with a handler's style of handling).

4.e. Once a Judge's order is given in situations likely to cause serious injury or threaten the life of the dog, a dog will not be judged for any misbehaviour until the Judge clearly indicates that such a dog is no longer under Judges orders. A situation likely to cause serious injury or death may be defined as when a dog encounters or points an animal such as a poisonous snake, porcupine, warthog, bushpig, caracal, leopard or any other animal likely to cause serious injury or death. Mongooses, meercats, domestic and wild cats, rodents etc. are not regarded as likely to cause serious injury or be life threatening. It also been recognized that a Judge may instruct a handler to take his dog away from an unmoving situation.

4.f Judges should differentiate between handlers touching their dogs as a means of restraining them versus encouraging them. A handler may touch the dog as a command to send for the retrieve or to move the dog forward when on point or scent. Physical contact to restrain the dog, particularly if the handler is in front of the dog, remains an eliminating fault (except when a handler is placed under Judges orders).

RULE 5 METHOD OF WORKING TERRAIN

Dogs must be worked together and their handlers must walk within a reasonable distance of one another as though shooting together, and also in the direction indicated by the field steward.

After a caution, the Judges may have the power of disqualifying the dog whose handler persists in neglecting this rule.

GUIDE TO RULE 5

5.a The Judges, through the field steward, are to insist on handlers keeping the indicated front and course.

5.b It is generally agreed that handlers should refrain from running to their dogs on point or at any time, but this does not preclude him from doing so. The Judges, however, are not obliged to keep pace with the running handler, and any work which may occur beyond the reasonable range or view of the Judges will not be taken into account. A Judge can only adjudicate what he sees.

5.c *The guns are not allowed to run as it is unsafe to do so. Besides, it is ungentlemanly[, as well as unsafe] for the guns to run and should be unnecessary. The good dog is meant to hold the point and / or have the situation under his control. A running gun or handler may injure himself, may disturb the quarry, or more seriously, he may disturb or unsettle his opponent's dog, with the possible consequences of Rule 4.5.*

RULE 6 HUNTING [~~AND POINTING~~]

6.1 The Judges shall decide the merits of a dog's work based on how well his TOTAL PERFORMANCE approximates "THE STANDARD", ensuring that his finds were the result of intelligent searching and not the outcome of the opposing dog's efforts.

6.2 The Judges shall not judge the merits of a dog's performance solely on the number of times a dog finds and points game, but rather on the quality of his work.

6.3 A dog which has not found, pointed and proved game, nor been shot over cannot be given a place or Certificate of Merit.

GUIDE TO RULE 6

6.a *To formulate an opinion on the hunting ability of a dog in a brace, it is very helpful if the Judge studies the prospective terrain (as described by the Chief Steward) to be covered during that brace. Taking cognisance of wind direction, likely hotspots for birds and the ground conditions, he then should create a mental picture of how he would like to see the ground covered. The dog's hunting is then judged against that mental image.*

6.b *Heading of birds is considered excellent work if executed correctly. This is an attempt by the dog to intercept or head off running birds, by making a wide cast around them. The outcome of the exercise must prove his intent, and it may be on sighted or unsighted birds. Either the pointing or backing dog may head, although generally the former. Heading by the backing dog might indicate a more decisive or experienced dog and must be [judged carefully,]executed in such a way as [it may]not to interfere with the pointing dog's work. Heading by the backing dog is normally manifested by a wide cast around both the front dog and birds. This must not be confused with stealing the point, where the backing dog surges right past the pointing dog.*

6.c *Nothing should make a dog voluntarily relinquish a point so long as he winds game and nothing but the wish to continue his point should make him neglect the acknowledgement of flush and shot.*

6.d *Undue credit should not be given to the dog who is brought to his point either by the other dog's work or by the handler on marked birds, or who has done no spade work of his own locating the quarry.*

6.e *The find is often at some distance from the handlers and Judges and can therefore allow the quarry time to move off. Control of this situation is a measure of quality in a dog, the end goal always being to present the game to the gun. Caution has to be displayed, as a premature deliberate flush out of range would be a cardinal sin. Excessive caution displayed by the dog remaining staunchly on point may result in it losing touch with the moving quarry. Once the guns arrive, the pointing dog should relocate with confidence and control, guiding the handler to the quarry.*

6.f *Ideally, the direction of the course should be into the wind to allow [~~to~~]dogs [~~full~~] to fully use[~~of~~] the wind, quartering in front of their handlers. (See Definition: "Quartering"). In the event of a tail wind, the dog should go speedily downwind in a straight line and then "quarter" back into the wind and towards his handler. With a cheek wind, he should run far crosswind and then decrease and increase his distance from the handler, until he is well windward of the handler, then repeat the process.*

6.g *In all cases, the dog should maintain his general crisscross pattern by intelligently placing himself at best advantage to use the prevailing wind.*

6.h *A dog that proves game under difficult conditions, particularly when other dogs cannot, should be given due credit.*

Rule 7 POINTING

7.1 The point is the most distinguishing characteristic of a pointing dog and the point must be unmistakable as such.

7.2 The dog must present the game to the gun by holding the game on point in order for the guns to advance within shooting range.

7.3 The dog should locate game by scent.

7.4 Checking commands in Championship Stakes when the dog is on point will not be permitted.

GUIDE TO RULE 7

7.a The style of pointing is not important as long as it is unmistakable as such; usually indicated by a rigid posture of the head and body irrespective of whether the dog is standing or laying down.

7.b Judges must be sure that the dog holds the game on point until the guns are within shooting range. They must be aware of situations where a dog bumps a bird or pushes up a bird and while acknowledging flush another bird might be flushed by the guns of which the dog is unaware off. Such a dog should not be credited with a point or find.

7.c Judges must give full credit to a dog that picks up scent and then draws or roads in on the game to hold it on point, as opposed to situations where a dog stops spectacularly into a sight point.

RULE 8 BACKING

8.1 A dog cannot be placed first, second or third in a Maiden, Open, Brace or Championship Stake, or first in a Derby Stake, unless it has backed.

8.2 A dog must back of its own volition. The backing dog's reaction should be on sight of the pointing dog (i.e. looking at it) and should have nothing to do with scent.

8.3 The Judges at their discretion may set up a back for a dog which has otherwise performed outstandingly but failed to secure a back on account of its brace mates not being able to find game first. They may do so by calling up that dog during a point in another brace in such a manner as to provide the dog the opportunity to back.

8.4 The dog requiring a back must be cast off out of sight of the pointing dog.

GUIDE TO RULE [~~7~~]8

8.a The prime task of a pointing dog is the finding of game for himself and the less he looks to the other dog for a back the more zealously he will attend to his task of hunting and pointing. It is quite enough that a dog backs when the opportunity arises.

8.b The backing dog is permitted to move forward cautiously while the pointing dog remains stationary, but not jealously ahead, or beyond the position where he could put unnecessary pressure, to the extent of disturbing the pointing dog, or the quarry. It is considered desirable that the backing dog "mirror" the pointing dog's forward movement.

8.c When the pointing dog moves in to quest, the backing dog may without word from his handler assist in the search for game, provided that in doing so, the game is not prematurely flushed.

8.d A dog remaining stubbornly on back once the pointing dog draws on moving birds is not assisting and should be faulted if he refuses to obey his handler's command to move in. (See Definition: Stickiness on back).

8.e *If the pointing dog hesitates and is unsure of the location of the quarry, (generally indicated by not being motionless on the point) the backing dog could take over the initiative. This may indicate a better nose and/or more decisive hunting of game, or he could be in a better position to wind the quarry. However, if he races jealously forward and flushes the quarry, he must be faulted. The reduction of the action to a race to the quarry (by both dogs) must be discouraged by penalizing the culprit. Taking over in these conditions may well be interpreted as "stealing the point".*

8.f *Taking over the initiative also applies when the front dog is roading or drawing on game over- cautiously. The over-cautious or uncertain "leading" dog may be overtaken by a more decisive dog. This overtaking must be done without flushing the quarry or reducing the action to a race to the quarry.*

8.g *A dog need no longer continue to back a dog, if, whilst so doing, he winds/locates and points his own game (usually indicated by the dog looking away from the first pointing dog towards his own find. Judges must differentiate this from a dog blinking the back). This generally happens when the leading dog is roading or drawing on game, when a covey splits up, or when a bird is left behind or to one side by the leading dog, which the backing dog then winds and points.*

8.h *At least one of the Judges should try to position himself behind and in line with the pointing and backing dogs so that without much effort he can have both dogs in view at all times.*

8.i *Judges are advised to caution handlers not to obscure the view of the backing dog by standing or crossing between it and the pointing dog. If the backing dog repositions itself for the above reason and flushes game in the process, he may be pardoned for so doing provided his repositioning does not constitute "stealing the point".*

8.j *Judges should recognize the nervous handler who unintentionally checks his dog, and if in doubt as to the handler's intention, request that he refrain from doing so, so that the dog's spontaneity to back on sight can be put to the test. This also applies to other aspects of a dog's work, such as the acknowledgements to flush and shot.*

8.k *Especially when in heavy cover and where a "back" is required by a dog, the handler of the dog requiring the back shall be permitted to bring the attention of his dog to the pointing dog, provided this is done in a manner that cannot be construed as a command back.*

8.l *In the event of the backing dog approaching from the front or side (of the pointing dog), he is still required to back on sight. He should not continue advancing (or drawing on the pointing dog) until he intercepts scent. This would be considered "stealing the point".*

8.m *The Judges should attempt to give a deserving dog that has not had the opportunity to back, every chance to do so. A pointing dog may be held on point by order of the Senior Judge (Judges Orders) for the purpose of securing a back by his brace mate. The pointing dog should not incur a penalty for misbehaviour in reference to that particular point and immediate consequences of that point if held for a period longer than would be considered normal in a hunting situation (It being recognized that the dog is being subjected to unusual restraints. Varying circumstances require discretion on the part of the Judges).*

8.n *The Judges may elect to carry a "sticky" dog through to the latter part of an event for the sole purpose of using it to secure backs for the other dogs (which have not had the opportunity to back). Once the objective has been achieved (i.e. providing an opportunity for a dog to back) both dogs should be called in immediately.*

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

8.p *Command backing is not desirable but may be exercised in an emergency by a handler, without incurring the Judges' displeasure provided it is done in such a way as to not disturb the hunt or the brace make. This does not mean that the dog would not be faulted.*

8.q *Most dogs find it difficult to recognise a pointing dog if approached directly from the front in thick vegetation. If the Judges are not certain that the pointing dog was seen and recognised, the benefit of the doubt should be given to the dog – provided the game was not prematurely flushed.*

8.r *Judges should be aware of situations where a sticky dog is persistently barren or false pointing. This puts undue strain on the backing dog and also prevents the backing dog from hunting during its round. In order to protect* the backing dog, the Judges should advise the handler to work on his own once the dog has proven it does back.

RULE [8]9 THE FLUSH AND SHOT

9.1 Both the pointing and backing dogs are required to remain steady upon the flush of the quarry and the shot.

9.2 Before a place or certificate can be awarded to a dog, the Judges must be satisfied that the dog is not gun-shy and is steady to shot. It is therefore required that the dog be shot over.

GUIDE TO RULE 9

9.a *Judges and guns are referred to their respective responsibilities in terms of when birds are to be shot under sections 1.5 and 1.7 of these Regulations.*

9.b *Ideally the dog and handler move in on the quarry in unison, the latter being pressured into flushing.*

9.c *Variances range from the dog being instructed to flush the birds ahead of the handler, to the dog remaining staunchly on point while the handler attempts to flush the quarry in front of it. While it is preferable that the dog finds the birds, both techniques are acceptable if the end result is successful.*

9.d *In the first case, the advantages are that the dog is more accurately able to induce a flush, while also freeing the gun to focus on his shot. In the second case, the handler is sometimes not able to induce the flush and has in the interim disturbed the ground ahead of the dog.*

9.e *Judges should differentiate "unsteadiness" from a dog repositioning itself to "view away" flushed game. Viewing away is permitted as long as further birds aren't disturbed and is generally recognized by the dog stopping once the birds are seen.*

9.f *Although preferable to prove gun-shyness and steadiness whilst a dog is on point, it can also be achieved with a dog on back. The dog has, at some stage, to be shot over from a reasonably close proximity (approximately 10 – 15 metres).*

9.g *The object of remaining steady after the flush and the shot is to not disturb the rest of the covey and to allow the guns to reload.*

9.h *In the Derby and Maiden Stakes, checking commands are allowed but should not cause undue interference with the brace mate.*

9.i *In Championship Stakes, checking commands may be penalising or eliminating depending on the circumstances and degree.*

RULE [9]10 RETRIEVE OF SHOT BIRD

10.1 It is a requirement that a dog has retrieved before a place be awarded. In Maiden and Championship Stakes, it is also a requirement for a Certificate of Merit.

10.2 On command, the dog should go quickly to the fallen bird, pick it up and return directly to the handler and then wait calmly until told to release the bird to hand.

10.3 The dog must bring the bird to within two (2) meters of the handler for the retrieve to be considered complete. Abandoning the bird *en route* before this distance is reached is an eliminating fault (out of control) in Championship Stake. Maiden and Derby Stakes may be judged more leniently.

10.4 Putting the bird down anywhere *en route* before being commanded to release it must be penalised, except that the Judges should be alert for any exceptional situation which might legitimately call for a change of a dog's hold on the bird.

10.5 The dog should hold the bird gently but firmly with a balanced grip. Unduly damaging the bird during the retrieve must be faulted. A dog that so badly mutilates the bird as to render it unfit for the table should be eliminated. The Judges will examine each retrieved bird for signs of "hard mouth" and determine whether any significant damage was the result of shot or mishandling by the dog.

10.6 The backing dog must remain steady until the retrieve is completed. However, after the backing dog has demonstrated his steadiness to the flush, shot and fall of the bird, and the commencement of the retrieve by the pointing dog, the handler may command his dog to remain steady during the retrieve.

10.7 If a dog, with otherwise outstanding performance fails to secure a retrieve on account of a miss by the guns or another dog stealing its bird, the Judges, at their discretion, may set up an artificial [retrieve as for the water retrieve, except that the bird is thrown on land.]land retrieve. A dead bird is thrown as high as possible by a hidden thrower to land in cover, not less than 40 metres from the stationary dog. The gun, or guns, shall be positioned approximately 3 meters to the side of the dog and handler, and shall fire in the direction of the thrown bird.

10.8 As the dead bird reaches its maximum height, a shot is fired. No additional location shot should be fired. The dog should remain steady throughout the throw, shot and fall of the bird without any command or intimidation by the handler,[The handler sends,] who should remain at least two meters from, but not in front of, his dog. The handler may then send the dog on command.

GUIDE TO RULE 10

10.a A good dog will accomplish the retrieve quickly, happily and eagerly, bringing the game to hand.

10.b While the pointing dog is retrieving the handler of the brace mate (backing dog) must ensure that his dog is kept under control so that in the opinion of the Judges it does not interfere with the work of the retrieving dog or disturb game. The Judges may caution a handler that if a dog is not kept under control he may be eliminated for being out of control.

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

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

RULE 11 POSITION OF THE HANDLER DURING THE RETRIEVE

Handlers may not move up to the fallen bird with the intention of pointing out the bird to the dog. Judges shall warn the handler that he must stay in position or possibly be eliminated under Clause 1.5.8 (failing to take orders from a Judge)

GUIDE TO RULE [10a]11

11.a A handler may reposition himself or move slightly forward, under the order of the Judges, in order to direct the dog by command towards the fallen bird in the case of an unsighted fall or in a situation where the handler is unable to direct the dog because he is blocked by cover or terrain.

11.b *From the moment a dog starts to retrieve a Judge should make every effort to keep that dog in view and to position himself in such a manner as to enable him to observe every movement of the dog until the game is delivered to hand.*

RULE 12 ADVICE TO THE HANDLER

While the dog is out working during a retrieve, no person other than a Judge may give advice regarding the position of the dog or bird to the handler. Judges may, however, ask a gun or the Field Steward to assist.

RULE [~~12~~]13 DOUBLES

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

GUIDE TO RULE 13

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

RULE [~~13~~]14 BREAKING ON SHOT

A dog making a deliberate movement during the flush, shot or fall of the bird with the intent to retrieve, must be faulted (see also rule 24.4.1). There should be a distinct time interval after the [~~fall to~~]bird lands on the ground and the command to retrieve is given by the handler.

GUIDE TO RULE 14

14.a *If a dog creeps or jumps forward a reasonable distance short of breaking as birds are shot and no effort is made by the handler to stop or restrain him, the Judges should not interpret such as a deliberate intent to retrieve, since nothing was done to stop the dog. A dog may, however, take a few steps forward after the shot in order to mark the fall of the bird as long as it halts of its own free will.*

14.b *The handler will flush the bird as he would if armed and actually hunting. The handler must not deliberately place his body between the dog and bird with the intent to physically block the dog from breaking. Neither should he attempt to physically intimidate the dog for the same purpose.*

14.c *If carried, leashes and flushing whips must be handed to the field steward for the duration of the round. Talking to the dog in a soft, calm voice is permissible as a matter of course.*

14.d *The handler's command to fetch, whether it be done by voice, whistle or hand signal, must be clearly recognisable by the Judges so that there can be no doubt as to whether the dog acted on command or on its own initiative.*

14.e *In the Derby and Maiden Stakes, breaking on shot is a penalizing, fault. However, breaking on the flush of the bird must be construed as a chase and remains an eliminating fault unless the dog can be stopped within a short distance.*

14.f *The Judges must be aware that the backing dog could potentially also start to retrieve on the command of the handler of the pointing dog. Therefore, once the backing dog has demonstrated his steadiness to the flush, shot and fall of the bird, it should not be eliminated for breaking, provided the backing dog can be brought under control by [~~its~~]the handler before it can steal the retrieve[~~the pointing dog's bird~~].*

RULE [14]15 LOST BIRD

15.1 In the case where the pointing dog is sent out to retrieve, but fails to find the bird, the Judges must send out the brace mate to attempt to complete the retrieve.

15.2 Should the brace mate also fail to find the bird, [~~it should not be penalised. The degree to which~~]neither the pointing dog [should be penalised for failing to find,]nor the brace mate will be [at the judges' discretion taking into consideration all circumstances.]penalised.

15.3 Should the brace mate find the bird, the pointing dog may be penalised according to the guides below.

GUIDE TO RULE 15

15.a[1] Judges should take the degree of difficulty of the retrieve into account. A dog may be presented with an unsighted or unmarked retrieve, and due credit should be given to the dog able to execute such a retrieve.

15.b[2] Should the brace mate find the bird the Judges must ascertain whether the pointing dog:

- *Failed to find or mark*
- *Blinked the retrieve*
- *Refused to retrieve*

The degree to which the pointing dog should be penalised for failing to find will be at the Judge's discretion, taking into consideration all circumstances.

15.c[3] Judges must ensure that the brace mate makes every effort to locate the shot bird.

RULE 16 GATHERING OF GAME

All shot or wounded game must be gathered in as soon as possible and [~~killed~~] be dispatched at the earliest opportunity. All reasonable efforts should be made to recover shot game. If a bird has been shot and the competing dogs cannot find it, non-competing dogs requested by the field steward shall proceed immediately in an effort to recover the bird.

RULE [~~16~~]17 DELIVERY OF GAME

Delivery of the bird should be made to the handler directly upon return from the retrieve and should be given up willingly.

GUIDE TO RULE [~~16~~]17

[~~16a~~]17.a A dog should deliver to hand (see rule 10.3).

17.b A dog should not "freeze" or be unwilling to give it up.

[~~16b~~]17.c He should not jump after the bird once the handler has taken it from him.

[~~16c~~]17.d Dogs should not be faulted for stopping to reposition the bird in the mouth as long as the dog does not release its hold on the bird.

RULE 18 [~~17.~~] INSPECTION OF RETRIEVED GAME / HARDMOUTH

18.1 All game retrieved and delivered to the handler shall be inspected by one of the judges and examined for damage caused by hard mouth. Where a case of hard mouth is suspected the Judge shall offer the game in question to the other Judges for their opinion. Judges must be unanimous in their decision to eliminate a dog for hardmouth.

18.2 Dogs displaying hard mouth must be eliminated from the stake.

18.3 In cases of doubt the benefit should be given to the dog.

18.4 In instances where the Judges have eliminated a dog for hard mouth, the crushed or damaged bird shall be shown to the handler in the presence of the Judges.

18.5 Hardmouth at the water retrieve and artificial retrieve remains an eliminating fault. However, elimination for hardmouth can only applied where the dog demonstrates obvious signs of damaging the game, such as chewing, shaking, tearing, resulting in a severely visually damaged bird. In such circumstances, each Judge must examine the bird and present it to the handler for inspection. Subtle signs of hardmouth such as crushed ribs and intestines hanging out cannot be applied here. Each bird should be examined by the Judges beforehand for visible signs of prior damage and the extent of any damage before the retrieve and this should be taken into account when judging the dog for hardmouth.

GUIDE TO RULE [~~17~~]18

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

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

18.c Each bird must therefore be inspected for internal as well as external damage. Judges must satisfy themselves that the damage was caused by the dog, and not by the shot, fall, or capture.

18.d In the event of doubt as to the cause of damage, the dog must be afforded the benefit of the doubt. Judges should be aware that a difficult capture or a strong runner being retrieved by an inexperienced dog may result in damage which, if not too severe, need not result in that dog being eliminated.

18.e To examine game for evidence of hardmouth, the game should be placed in the palm of the hand, breast downwards with the head facing forward. The ribs should be felt with the finger and thumb of the opposite hand. The ribs should be round or oval and firm.

~~[[In the absence of doubt as to the cause of the damage, the following are clear indications of hard mouth:~~

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

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

RULE]~~18~~]19 PICKING UP GAME WHILE HUNTING

19.1 If there has been an obvious picking up, killing and/or retrieving of any live bird or animal, whilst hunting during the round, the offending dog should be eliminated.

19.2 The picking up of any cold dead bird, obviously sick, injured or poisoned bird or known unrecovered, wounded bird from an earlier round is not a penalizing or eliminating fault.

RULE]~~19~~]20 RETRIEVING A BIRD OTHER THAN THE ONE SHOT

Retrieving a bird other than the one that has been shot, whilst on a retrieving command, should not be faulted.

GUIDE TO RULE 20

The dog cannot be faulted even if it picks up a live and uninjured bird since it is under a retrieving command.

RULE 21 POINTING WHILE RETRIEVING

21.1 A dog that finds and points another bird or covey whilst executing a retrieve should be given full credit for such work, it being recognised that the primary function of a pointing dog is to find game.

21.2 After the second find has been worked out and the bird retrieved, the dog should attempt to complete its original retrieve.

GUIDE TO RULE [~~20~~]21

The Judges must ensure themselves that the find is within the retrieving range and that the dog is or was actively looking for the retrieve and did not disobey the retrieving command[and begin hunting again].

RULE 22 WATER RETRIEVE

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

22.2 Dogs will be given only one opportunity to complete the water retrieve, except under exceptional circumstances when, in the Judge's opinion, the retrieve is somehow compromised by external influences or is significantly materially different to the other dogs' opportunities

GUIDE TO RULE [~~21~~]22

22a General Guidelines for the Water Retrieve

22a(i) All dogs being considered for awards in Maiden, Open and Championship Stakes [~~All dogs reaching the final round in the Open, Championship and Maiden stakes of the trial~~] must be tested with a water retrieve. Additionally, all dogs entered in the Field Qualifying Stake that have satisfied the other field requirements must be tested with a water retrieve.

22a(ii) The dam or stream used for the above purpose, should be of a suitable and appropriate size and depth.

22a(iii) Dogs will be required to retrieve a saluted gamebird at an approximate distance of 40 metres.

22a(iv) The water must be deep enough to require the dog to swim in order to reach the gamebird, and the bank of the dam or stream must be wide enough to allow the handler and dog to position themselves approximately 3 metres from the water's edge.

22a(v) The dog should remain steady throughout the shot, throw and fall of the bird.

22a(vi) *Only when the bird has landed in the water, may the handler command his dog to retrieve.*

22a(vii) *The handler must remain in the designated position as the dog executes the retrieve. 21a(viii)The dog should deliver to hand.*

22a(ix) *The gallery may watch the water test from a position indicated by the field steward, but not closer than 25 meters from the dog under judgement.*

22a(x) *Dogs not being tested may remain out of sight or earshot, as the handler wishes, but must be prompt in coming into the line when called.*

22a(xi) *Should the handler and dog remain with the gallery in order to watch the test, then the dog must remain quiet and under control. Should such a dog disrupt the test by whining or other means, the steward will instruct the handler to remove his dog to a position where it cannot be a nuisance.*

22a(xii) *If, in the opinion of the Judges, a dog in the gallery has induced misbehaviour by the dog under judgement, the dog under judgement must be afforded a second opportunity to be tested, without penalty.*

22b *Execution of a Water Retrieve*

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

22b(ii) *The Field Steward will call the handler and dog into line and will also announce the next dog to be tested.*

22.b(iii) *The handler will proceed to the position indicated by the Judge, who will repeat the requirements of the test at this time. If necessary, the Judge will explain or answer any questions that the handler may have. Once the Judge is satisfied that the handler understands the test requirements, he will give the handler an opportunity to settle his dog. The handler will then prepare the dog for the retrieve, speaking and handling him as he/she so wishes, and when satisfied that the dog is settled and is ready to commence with the water retrieve, will hand his lead and any other objects that could be used to intimidate the dog to the Judge. The handler should not position himself in front of the dog but remain by the dog's side or slightly behind the dog.*

22b(iv) *At that point, the Judge will indicate to the handler that the dog is under judgement for the water retrieve, and once the Judge has done so, the handler may not speak to or touch his dog without incurring a penalty and/or elimination.*

22b(v) *The Judge will signal the gun and thrower to proceed.*

22b(vi) *For the first dog under judgement for the water retrieve, a shot will be fired and a dead bird will be thrown as high as possible by a hidden thrower to land not less than 40 metres from the stationary dog on the bank. As the bird reaches its maximum height, a second shot will be fired. For the remaining dogs, only one shot will be fired as the bird reaches its maximum height.*

22b(vii) *The handler will command the dog to retrieve only after the bird has landed in the water. The handler must remain stationary, and under no circumstances move closer to the water until the dog has delivered to hand, at which time the Judge will take the bird and return the lead to the handler. At that point, the dog and handler will cease to be under judgement, and may retire from the line.*

22.c *Judgement of the Water Retrieve*

22c(i) *The purpose of the water retrieve is to test the dog's ability to efficiently execute a retrieve from water and should be regarded in perspective with the overall hunting efficiency of the dog. This comprises the dog's steadiness and self-control at the water, willingness to enter water and to swim, game handling skills, as well as co-operation with the handler by the return and delivery of the game to hand. Good HPR's should easily satisfy all of these requirements, and the judgement of this test should reflect the fact that these are essential aspects of an HPR's performance.*

22c(ii) *The steadiness requirements of the water retrieve are exactly the same as those that apply in the fieldwork. Once the handler and dog are under judgement, the Judge must strictly enforce the steadiness requirements of each individual Stake. Any dog that displays a total lack of self-control by whining excessively while in line will be eliminated. A dog that is vocal while swimming on the retrieve shows signs of over eagerness and should not be faulted.*

22c(iii) *Willingness to Enter Water and Swim – The dog must enter water readily without influence by the handler. It is unimportant whether the dog leaps into the water or enters in a slower manner; it is only important that the dog enter willingly. Should a handler have to command the dog more than once to retrieve in order to make it enter water, the dog will be faulted. Repeated, unsuccessful efforts by the handler to make the dog enter water and retrieve will result in elimination for either failure to retrieve or to enter. Dogs should be able to swim with ease, although it should be recognised that an excited or an inexperienced dog may splash or paddle upwards in its efforts to reach the bird.*

22c(iv) *Game Handling – Dogs should readily grasp the game in the water and return with it without dropping or leaving the game anywhere en route. Repositioning the game to get a better grip will not be faulted, but putting the game down to nose or mouth it, or leaving it at the water's edge will be faulted in relation the degree and number of times the fault is repeated.*

22c(v) *Delivery – Dogs will display their co-operation and training, by their immediate return with the game and delivery to hand. Dogs that refuse to deliver to hand may have poor game handling skills, lack training or they may be simply uncooperative. Either cause is to be faulted, in relation to the seriousness of the misdemeanour, and in relation to the Stake requirements. Open dogs are required to deliver willingly to hand without fuss, and those dogs that require several commands to deliver to hand will be faulted. Maiden dogs should be judged more leniently in all aspects. Normal encouragement of the dog should not be faulted. Field qualifying dogs will be allowed some leniency in their delivery, but they must return with the bird to within a metre or so of the handler. Field qualifying dogs that leave the game at the water's edge and refuse after repeated commands to pick it up will be seriously penalised and could be eliminated for being out of control.*

22c(w) Hardmouth - remains an eliminating fault (see section 17.5)

RULE 23 AWARDS

23.1 Maiden, Open And Championship Stakes

No dog shall be placed first, second or third unless it has found, pointed and proven game, presented game to the gun, been [~~fired~~]shot over, backed and retrieved satisfactorily on land and in water.

23.2 Derby Stake

No dog shall be placed first unless it has found, pointed and proven game, presented game to the gun, been [~~fired~~]shot over, backed and retrieved satisfactorily on land.

23.3 Puppy Stake

In a Puppy Stake, of prime importance, is to look for the dog with the most potential and the dog need not point, back or be steady.

23.4 Certificate Of Merit

In all stakes, other than a Puppy Stake, no dog which has not found, pointed and proven game, [~~and been fired over~~]presented game to the gun, and been shot over shall be awarded a Certificate of Merit. Additionally, in Maiden, Open and Championship Stakes, no dog which has not retrieved satisfactorily on land and from water shall be awarded a Certificate of Merit.

23.5 Certificates

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

23.6 Power To Withhold Prizes

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

Table of Requirements for Awards in HPR Trials

Award	Present Game, Find/Point, Fired Over	Back	Land Retrieve	Water Retrieve
Place **(1st - 3rd)**	Derby Maiden Open Championship	1st Derby Maiden Open Championship	1st Derby Maiden Open Championship	Maiden Open Championship
Certificate of Merit	Derby Maiden Open Championship		Maiden Open Championship	Maiden Open Championship

RULE 24 PENALISING FAULTS

The Judges shall determine how much penalty to apply to dogs committing the following faults. The perpetration of these faults can be a question of degree and can be adjudged as trivial through to serious. In extreme cases they can be deemed cause for elimination. Discretion has to be applied by the Judges, guided by the recommendation put forward under "[~~Objects~~]Objectives of Judging HPR Field Trials".

24.1 Faults While Hunting

24.1.1 A dog not hunting with a minimum of the qualities expected from it in respect of "THE STANDARD"

24.1.2 Not making ground good;

24.1.3 Failing to use available wind (including boring);
23.1.4 Trailing;
24.1.5 Inability of the handler to get a dog to hunt the course;

24.1.6 Obvious tendency of the dog to draw his handler off the intended course with repeated barren points – "a dog's job is to point game, not scent alone";

24.1.7 Failure to adjust to the cover being worked;

24.1.8 The handler attempting to cover up the failings in his dog, or does his work for him;

24.1.9 [~~A dog will~~]A dog only [~~respond~~]responds to noisy and/or excessive handling;

24.1.10 Insistence of the dog to hunt behind the handler;

24.1.11 Excessive vocalizing;

24.1.12 Repeatedly back-casting to return to scent;

24.1.13 Hunting trail

24.2 Faults While Pointing

24.2.1 Persistent false pointing;

24.2.2 Persistent barren pointing;

24.2.3 Flushing and failure to accurately locate birds;

24.2.4 Repeatedly leaving birds behind, including not "making out the covey";

24.2.5 Stickiness on point and/or scent;

24.2.6 Flushing birds on taking over from an overly cautious dog;

23.2.7 Checking commands to steady the pointing dog.

24.3 Faults While Backing

24.3.1 Obvious reluctance to back, including putting undue pressure on pointing dog;

24.3.2 Command backing especially when the dog is about to steal a point;

24.3.4 Stickiness on back.

24.4 Faults Upon Flushing

24.4.1 Failing to acknowledge flush;

24.4.2 Unsteadiness to flush;

24.4.3 Taking a line on flushed game;

24.4.4 A dog requiring a checking command to acknowledge flush.

24.5 Faults After The Shot

24.5.1 Unsteadiness to shot;

24.5.2 If a handler has to command the dog to remain steady after the shot.

24.6 Faults Whilst Retrieving

24.6.1 Picking up more than one bird at a time

24.6.2 Switching birds / areas of fall

24.6.3 Failure to mark

24.6.4 Failure to find

24.6.5 Disturbing the ground

24.6.6 Pointing the shot bird and not retrieving it in due course

24.6.7 Not delivering game to hand and/or poor delivery

23.6.8 Freezing on the bird

24.6.9 Urinating / defecating on way to fall

24.6.10 Reluctance to enter cover or water.

GUIDE TO RULE [~~23.~~]24

Interpretation by the judges as to the degree of a fault, as well as the sum of faults in one or more rounds must be weighed against the overall performance of the dog.

24.b Most faults are repeatable and if doubt exists, they will often be displayed again in subsequent rounds.

24.c Dogs that "mark" flushed birds, then make out and hunt the intermediate ground before pointing the "marked birds" should be credited rather than faulted.

RULE [~~24~~]25 ELIMINATING FAULTS

A pair of dogs should be called up immediately one or both dogs commit an eliminating fault. The primary reason being to protect the innocent dog and also to leave no doubt as to the elimination of the offending dog from the stake. However, if the nature of the fault is deemed to present no risk to the innocent bracemate, the Judges may allow the brace to continue running to its conclusion.

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

25.1 Eliminating Faults While Hunting

25.1.1 Lacking Ability;

25.1.2 Distinct Chasing;

25.1.3 Out of Control;

25.1.4 Pottering;

25.1.5 Persistently Hunting trail;

25.1.6 Physical restraint or blocking of the dog by the handler to prevent misdemeanours

25.2 Eliminating Faults While Pointing

25.2.1 Breaking in on game without a flushing command;

25.2.2 Snapping at game;

25.2.3 Blinking quarry.

25.3 iminating Faults While Backing

25.3.1 Blinking the back;

25.3.2 Refusing to back, even on command;

25.3.3 Stealing the point;

25.3.4 Attempting to steal the point;

25.3.5 Being physically restrained by the handler.

25.4 Eliminating Faults After Flush Or Shot

25.4.1 Breaking in on shot or flush;

25.4.2 Gunshyness.

25.4.3 Being physically restrained by the handler

25.5 Eliminating Faults While Retrieving

25.5.1 Refusal to retrieve

25.5.2 Hardmouth

GUIDE TO RULE 25

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

25.b A dog making a distinct chase should be called up immediately. If, however, in the Derby Stakes, should the dog start to chase and is easily checked by his handler, he may still be a good and certainly obedient dog. He should be given credit for obedience and not ruled out for this alone.

25.c A dog is considered to be out of control if he hunts at a range where he cannot effectively be controlled by his handler to keep to the course, and also when he fails to respond to being called in and is obviously self-hunting.

25.d *Wherever possible the calling up of a dog, before the end of its allotted time due to an eliminating fault, must be done through the Chief Judge. This should require the other two judges to consult him if possible. At times when he is unsighted, one or both of the other judges have to make a call of elimination. There must be absolutely no doubt as to the eliminating offence in this event.*

RULE [~~25~~]26 EXCEPTIONS FOR DERBY AND MAIDEN STAKES

In these stakes, penalizing and eliminating faults apply as for Open and Championship stakes with the following exceptions:

26.1 Breaking in on shot is a penalising fault. This includes breaking on shot during the water retrieve.

26.2 Refusal to back is a penalising fault provided that the dog is kept under control by the handler in order not to steal the point. Stealing the point remains an eliminating fault.

26.3 Breaking on shot which results in a retrieve is only allowed for the pointing dog.

26.3.1 Breaking on shot by the backing dog will more often than not result in stealing the retrieve and interfere with the positive work of the pointing dog. Therefore, unless the backing dog can be brought under control without interfering with the pointing dog's work, breaking by the backing dog should be an eliminating fault in order to protect the pointing dog.

26.3.2 In the event of both dogs pointing at the same time and breaking at the same time, the Judges should give the benefit of the doubt to both dogs.

GUIDE TO RULE [~~25~~]26

26.a *When judging Derby Stakes, the primary goal is to reward potential in the young dogs, provided the Rules and Guides as described herein are adhered to. The manners are often not yet entrenched in their behaviour but, with astute training, will come in time.*

26.b *As the stakes are run concurrently, the Judges are required to differentiate the varying requirements of the different stakes. For this reason, placings may differ between dogs in the different stakes.*

26.c *Puppy stakes*

In a Puppy Stake, of prime importance, is to look for the dog with the most potential and the dog need not point, back, be [~~fired~~]shot over or be steady, and with the exception of lack of ability, none of the eliminating or penalising faults will apply.

RULE [~~26~~]27 Dog On Quail and Others

27.1 In judging dogs on quail the dog doing positive work on them should be given the credit he deserves. Should he elect to work them and faults in so doing, then he should be penalized accordingly. Should he choose to ignore them he must not be faulted for doing so.

27.2 This also applies to the quasi game birds such as the various bustards, snipe, waterfowl and fur as described herein.

27.3 Judges must use their discretion when judging hardmouth on quail.

GUIDE TO RULE [~~26~~]27

Care must be taken when judging any action on any bird or animal not considered fair game for the pot and not generally shot over pointing dogs in a normal hunting situation. Benefit of the doubt should be given to the dog in these situations.

RULE [~~27~~]28 BRACE STAKES

28.1 Brace Stakes are to be judged to [~~championship~~]Championship standard. No Brace shall be placed first, second or third unless both dogs have found, pointed and proven game, presented game to the gun, been shot over, backed and retrieved satisfactorily on land and in water. All winning Braces must have [~~been down twice and each dog must have~~]had at least [~~a point, and a retrieve on land and in water to his credit and must have been shot over~~]two (2) rounds.

28.2 Trailing by either dog in this stake is an eliminating fault.

GUIDE TO RULE [~~27~~]28

28.a The object of running a brace is to cover twice the amount of ground as that covered by one dog and his handler.

28.b Ideally a brace should be matched for speed and style. They should hunt independently, yet be aware of each other.

28.c The most desirable brace work is for the pair to cross roughly in front of their handler, during their process of quartering.

28.d As placement in the Brace Stake qualifies a dog for championship s, Judges are to guard against placing dogs that do not deserve to compete therein.

4 GUIDE TO DUTIES OF THE FIELD STEWARD

4.1 Introduction

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

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

4.2 Duties

4.2.1 To run the Trial while the Judges are required to judge the dogs under trial.

4.2.2 He is to sit in on the deliberations of the Judges but may not take part unless, in terms of the General Regulations, he is asked for his opinion. All information gleaned during such deliberations must be treated in the strictest confidence.

4.2.3 The Field Steward must also appoint two (2) persons to act as the "Guns" for the duration of the Trial and must ensure that they have both guns and ammunition before the commencement of the Trial.

4.2.4 He must control the movements of spectators and followers so that they do not obstruct the working of the dogs or observation by the Judges.

4.2.5 He must enforce the "no smoking" rule strictly in the interests of safety but is empowered to announce smoking breaks when applicable.

4.2.6 He must relieve handlers of their leads and any other objects, including collars, that the Judges deem to be potentially intimidating to the dog. These must be retained for the duration of the round.

4.2.7 He must assist the Guns in negotiating fences by temporarily relieving them of the shotgun.

4.3 Guidelines

4.3.1 The Field Steward shall get the first round off strictly on the scheduled starting time, proceeding as rapidly as possible with the draw which has been previously made.

4.3.2 He shall personally brief each pair of handlers as to direction in the presence of each other.

4.3.3 He shall insist that the handlers maintain the indicated direction unless a handler's dog is off course because of working a scent or roading game.

4.3.4 Should game in a given area prove to be abundant, with each dog of the brace having a "point" and a "back", to save time and conserve ground, the Field Steward may request the Judges' permission to call them up and put the next brace down.

4.3.5 A dog that has committed an eliminating fault should be taken up immediately. However, this can only be done with the sanction of the Judges. In such a case, a dog which has drawn a bye may be brought forward to finish the round with the remaining dog.

4.3.6 At the end of the Judges' deliberations after the first round, the Field Steward must ensure that he is ready for the next draw to take place. Thereafter, armed with the knowledge of how many brace are left in, he must bear in mind that it is preferable that no dog should be worked later than 11h00 or 11h30 to avoid the midday heat, if possible, and depending on climatic conditions. It may therefore be necessary to limit the rounds according to the time available, no matter how short the rounds may be. The time allowed for each pair of dogs in every round is the decision of the Judges.

4.3.7 At the end of the second round, and after the deliberations of the Judges, the further draws or pairings will take place. The Field Steward will announce the starting times and location of all rounds, together with the draw or pairings.

4.3.8 The third round proceeds in accordance with the draw or pairings under the full control, as before, of the Field Steward. After the completion of the round the Judges will make available the names of the dogs which they wish to see run again. All other handlers should be encouraged to follow, as this may not be the Judges' final selection.

The foregoing is not a comprehensive list of the duties of a Field Steward, but rather, some of the less obvious requirements of stewarding.

In due course, competent stewarding can lead to the honour of being invited to judge a Field Trial event being extended to an experienced and competent Field Steward. These persons render an invaluable service at the various Trials and it is from this experience that they gain so much know-how.

5 GUIDE TO THE BIRDS BEST SUITED FOR FIELD TRIALS

5.1 Terrestrial Game Birds

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

Greywing Partridge; Redwing Partridge; Shelleys Partridge; Orange River Partridge;

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

Others are: Swainsons Francolin

Generally works well for field trial purposes but can have a tendency to be runners if found in certain conditions. They inhabit a wide spectrum of habitats, from bushveld to open grassland, and frequent heavy cover around lands and contour strips and are well adapted to cultivation. A good and abundant field trial bird if found in suitable conditions.

Coqui Partridge

Occur in territorial coveys in open bushveld and often found in Protea veld. These birds, if found in reasonably open grassland, are ideal for use for field trial purposes.

5.2 The other Francolin species

5.2.1 Red Billed Francolin;

5.2.2 Natal Francolin;

5.2.3 Red Necked Francolin;

5.2.4 Crested Partridge;

5.2.5 Cape Francolin

Are generally not well-suited for field trial purposes as their habitat is restricted and often in riverine or heavy bush. Because of this they are usually found in fairly limited numbers.[~~are not really suited for field trial purposes as their habitat is generally riverine or heavy bush and they are also very limited in numbers.~~]

~~]~~

However, if encountered, the dog must work them and be judged accordingly.

5.3 The Helmeted Guinea Fowl

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

If, during the winter, one is able to split a flock of guinea fowl and they settle and sit tight in fairly heavy vlei type cover, they would be acceptable for field trials as the dogs could then hunt them. This is not always possible or practical and if hunted the unsplit troops lead even a good dog a "merry dance" by just running out of range and always pulling the dogs to the limits of their control and often beyond.

Accordingly, guinea fowl are not considered satisfactory for field trial purposes. It is not uncommon for a Chief Judge to allow a handler to call his dog off a troop of guinea fowl or to instruct the Field Steward to avoid them completely.

5.4 Quail (All Varieties)

When around in sufficient quantities and in their restricted geographical areas, these birds can be successfully used in field trials but unfortunately, this mainly occurs in mid-summer when trials are not held. [~~SCHEDULE 5C(3) - HPR 46.~~]

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

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

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

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

6 CODE OF PRACTICE WITH RESPECT TO UTILISATION OF WILD GAME BIRDS IN HPR TRIALS

6.1 Judges and trial guns will clearly identify the game-bird flushed / pointed through its physical attributes, flight characteristics, calls and habits, before any bird is shot on flushing. This will ensure that only legal quarry are hunted and are not confused with protected birds.

6.2 Birds must be shot using shotguns with suitable ammunition. Shot size between 6 and 7½, with minimum 24g load, for partridges; and shot size between 5 and 6, with minimum 28g load, for larger birds.

6.3 Sufficient, competent, guns must be present to ensure effective culling of birds.

6.4 The gun nearest the pointing dog backed by the second gun, when possible, will shoot the bird flushed in front of the respective pointing dog.

6.5 Shot quarry must be “marked” accurately and Judges will ensure that it is retrieved immediately.

6.6 It is the responsibility of the Field steward to ensure that, in the event of a wounded bird, the bird is dispatched swiftly and humanely.

6.7 No gun will shoot at birds that are out of range.

6.8 No dog will be allowed to disturb, chase, bite or play with any farm animal; wild animal or domestic pet that is present on the trial venue.

6.9 At all times [~~will~~] handlers will keep their dogs under control and prevent their dogs from chasing or biting any game at all times.

7 A GUIDE TO THE IDEAL FIELD TRIAL TERRAIN

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

Secondly, the type of terrain which does not impinge on their performance characteristics and intended functional use such as terrain which will inhibit the dogs' free running style and make it difficult to see even at close quarters.

Likewise, barren grasslands or swampy vleis, standing crop lands or other areas which are criss-crossed with fences into small camps and/or camps which are heavily populated with accepted species of game birds (making it a "chicken run") are undesirable.

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

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

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

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

8 A GUIDE TO FIELD TRIAL TERMINOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

8.1 Acknowledgements

8.1.1 Of Flush

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

8.1.2 Of Shot

This is as 1.1 above and generally coupled to the flush, but applies to the reaction to the shot.

8.2 Back Casting

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

8.3 Backing

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

8.4 Backing the Gun

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

8.5 Barren Ground

An area where there is no game

8.6 Barren Round

This is when there has been no game during a given pairing of dogs in a round

8.7 Barren Point

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

8.8 Blind Retrieve

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

8.9 Blinking Game

This is when a dog deliberately turns away from or avoids game. Typical examples are:

Upon sight or flush of game, the dog turns away and retreats towards his handler;

Upon striking scent, instead of locating and pointing the game, he declines to do so and moves away;

A dog which deliberately leaves a point on eventually proven game, (usually by the other dog) and continues hunting. Not to be confused with a dog recasting from a point with the intent to prove game.

8.10 Blinking the Back

This is when a dog deliberately ignores the pointing dog and continues hunting in a different direction, without necessarily "stealing the point" or attempting to do so. The "blinking" dog will often snap onto a (barren) point instead of backing.

8.11 Blinking the Retrieve

This is when a dog intentionally ignores shot or wounded game whilst completing a retrieve.

8.11 Boring

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

8.12 BRACE

This refers to two dogs paired to hunt together by draw or Judges' choice.

8.13 Brace-mate

This is one of a pair of dogs in a brace.

8.14 Breaking In On Shot

This is when a dog makes a deliberate movement with the intent to retrieve after the shot is fired and before the bird is on the ground and the retrieve command is given.

8.15 Breaking In On Game

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

8.16 Buck

This refers to larger species of antelope that are not normally hunted over pointing dogs.

8.17 Bumping

See Flush accidental.

8.18 Bye

This refers to a dog that is not paired with a brace-mate in a round, due to an uneven number of dogs in the draw.

8.19 Call up

This is the Judges instruction to the handler to call in and remove his dog from the course, either for being eliminated or the expiration of the allotted time.

8.20 Cast

This is the direction and range demonstrated by a dog while seeking game

8.21 Cast Off

This is the instruction to start the dog hunting.

8.22 Chase

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

8.23 Checking Command

This is a command issued by the handler to instruct his dog to obey the rules when it has or is about to break them. It can be either a direct command or implied by tone of voice, whistle or other device.

8.24 Command Back [~~Is~~]

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

8.25 Course

This refers to the designated route on which the dogs and handlers are expected to follow

8.26 Cover

This refers to the grass or shrub on the course.

8.27 Delayed Chase

This refers to the dog running in the direction of flushed quarry instead of obeying the handler's command to cast off in a different direction. It may be after pointing, backing or acknowledgement of flush.

8.28 Disturbing The Ground

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

8.29 (The) Draw

This refers to the sequence in which pairs of dogs (braces) compete during a round, established by lot or Judges' choice.

8.30 Drawing On Game

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

8.31 Dropping To Flush or Shot

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

8.32 Failure To Enter

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

8.33 False Point

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

Feathering: The dog is arrested and/or preoccupied by scent in a restricted area, expecting to find game nearby. Normally making short excited casts in the immediate area.

8.34 Find

This refers to game located by a dog.

8.35 Flagging

This refers to a dog hunting below standard due to tiredness or heat.

8.36 Flagging on Point

This is a lack of staunchness on game, generally indicated by limited tail movements. This is displayed:

- By older, more experienced dogs
- More in some breeds than others
- When game has left the area, but scent remains
- When the pointed game is at some distance away
- When the dog is unsure of the presence or distance of the game.

The actual presence of game is the criterion to be credited rather than the intensity of the point.

8.37 Flash Point

This is a point in which the dog stops only momentarily before the flush of game.

8.38 Flush

Accidental

Disturbing birds by running into them without having been aware of their presence; acknowledgment, however, must follow the flush.

Deliberate

The handler or handler and dog, or the dog only, are required to flush birds by moving forward to prove the point and the dog's steadiness to flush and shot. An unauthorized “deliberate flush” is considered out of control and termed “breaking in on game”.

8.39 Foot Scenting

This refers to a dog following ground scent of game, with nose held close to the ground.

8.40 Freezing

Freezing on the bird occurs when the dog is reluctant to release the retrieved bird to his handler

8.41 Fur

Hare or small buck, which can be hunted with a shotgun over pointing dogs and which, can be regarded as fair game for the pot.

8.42 Game

See separate heading "Game best suited for Field Trials", meaning accepted game birds, hare or buck.

8.43 Giving Tongue

Yelping or barking while quartering or, more commonly, when giving chase.

8.44 Going Out Of His Way

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

8.45 Guns

Persons appointed by the Field Steward to do the shooting on behalf of the handlers during a field trial.

8.46 Gunshy

When a dog is unnerved by gunfire, usually characterised by staying close to the handler and exhibiting reluctance to continue hunting.

8.47 Hardmouth

Hardmouth occurs when, on a retrieve, a dog badly damages the game, which, in the opinion of the Judges, was not caused by either the shot or the fall.

8.48 Heading

When a dog, in an attempt to intercept running birds, makes a wide cast round the birds and comes in to head them off. It is generally from the pointing dog, if at all, that heading would come but either dog may do so provided, always, that the outcome of the exercise proves his intent.

8.49 Heeling

This is when a dog walks at the handler’s side, under instruction.

8.50 Holding the Point

A dog which holds its point until such time that the quarry can be presented to the gun and is flushed usually by its handler.

8.49 HPR Breed

The Hunt Point and Retrieve breeds that are generally regarded as the European versatile, dual purpose utility dogs whose intended functional use is to both point and retrieve and more particularly in their country of origin, to hunt and track blood spoor and wounded buck etc.

8.51 Hunting Objectives

Dog proceeding from one bit of cover to the next in search of game.

8.52 Hunting Trail

8.53 Interference

This is when a dog or his handler hinders or impedes the performance of a brace mate. The dog with nose to the ground follows foot scent, usually in a straight line.

8.54 Judge's Orders

This refers to any instruction the Chief Judge might give to a handler. This is generally to command his dog, usually to hold a point for the purpose of securing a back for a brace-mate or for any other reason his discretionary powers may permit. Including **close contact** situations where the dog is likely to be seriously injured or its life threatened."

8.55 Lost Bird

Occurs when neither the dog sent to retrieve the bird, nor the brace mate can find the bird and all other reasonable attempts by the Judges and Field Stewards also fail to find a shot bird.

8.56 Making Out The Covey

The dog, ensuring that none of the covey remains unfound, normally making short casts in the immediate area of the previously located quarry.

8.57 Making Good Ground

Thoroughly hunting and searching the course within the bounds of the geographical conditions, and within the outer and inner limits of the breed's performance characteristics, for the purpose of finding game.

8.58 Marking or Mark

This is the characteristic of a dog to note the location of a bird having visually followed its flight path till it lands. This may be from an "accidental" or "deliberate" flush, or "fall" after the bird is shot. This is often followed by the dog "taking a line" to the mark.

Not to be confused with "viewing away".

8.59 Marked Retrieve

A retrieve where the dog saw the fall of the bird through the air

8.60 Mirror Back

When a pair of dogs "back" each other, each assuming that the other is on point.

8.61 Out Of Control

This is when a dog pays no attention to a handler's commands and cannot be effectively controlled by his handler and fails to respond on being called in. (See Guide to Rule 10).

8.62 Overly Cautious

This describes a dog moving hesitantly forward at a pace generally much slower than that of his handler's normal walking pace, usually indicating a lack of confidence. A dog moving cautiously forward at a pace generally slower than a walking pace.

8.63 Pairing

This is the grouping together of pairs of dogs that the Judges wish to see running together, or the random drawing of dogs to run together.

8.64 Point

This is when a dog adopts a rigid and motionless attitude or pose indicating the presence of game accurately. Performed standing or lying down, it is an unmistakable expression of a determination not to disturb the find.

8.65 Pottering

When a dog slowly covers an area about his handler taking excessive time in working out scent, and/o r the dog works ineffectually without either zest or pace.

8.66 Pulling

Is when a dog subtly manages or attempts to get his handler to follow him and alter the direction of his intended course by insisting on hunting in its own direction. Quarry This refers to any animal or bird that is hunted by the dog, including non-game species.

8.67 Quartering

Typically, this refers to the dog while hunting, passing to and fro across the path of the handler, when there is NO wind or a head wind. It is also used to describe the process of hunting back towards the handler in the cases of cheek or tail winds (See Guide to Rule 6).

8.68 Questing

This is the actual searching on scent the dog has already found (See "Feathering" and "Drawing").

8.69 Recast

This is when the dog, having found scent, casts off (generally downwind) in an effort to regain lost scent – not to be confused with "relocating, heading or blinking".

8.70 Relocate

This is when a dog, having pointed game, repositions himself to retain contact with the quarry.

8.71 Refusal To Retrieve

This is when a dog:

a. Does not finish the retrieve, abandoning the game before reaching the handler within a practical hunting distance (two (2) meters – see Rule 10.3)

b. Is clearly not interested in the finding and retrieving the shot game, but rather hunts for more game to find and point and ignores the retrieve. This is usually manifested when the dog has been able to mark the bird down, but goes in a different direction to hunt, or easily gives up the search for the retrieve and continues hunting in spite of the handler's efforts to get the dog to retrieve.

8.72 Retrieve

This is to find and bring back shot game to the handler.

8.73 Roading

This refers to the stealthy advance on SIGHTED birds by a dog. The speed is ideally dictated by the moving quarry, but may be influenced by the handler. The dog attempts to get nearer to the game, and comes on point when ideally distanced from the eventually concealed/stationary quarry (See "drawing on game").

8.74 Round

This refers to a complete set of pairings of dogs (braces) drawn to compete with one another

8.75 Runner

An injured bird which leaves the area of the fall after being shot.

8.76 Running Order

This is the sequence, established by drawing or pairing, in which all brace will be run. Usually only the names of dogs are listed.

8.77 Running Style

This is the manner in which dogs traverse a course, including speed and efficiency of movement.

8.78 Scratch a dog

This is to withdraw a dog from an event after the draw has taken place but before the commencement of the event.

8.79 Self Hunting

This is when a dog is hunting of his own accord, with little or no acknowledgment of his handler.

8.80 Set

As for Point but applies for the sitting or lying down posture to hold the game, usually adopted by the Setter breeds.

8.81 Shotgun Range

This refers to the effective killing range of a shotgun, generally up to 50 metres.

8.82 Shot-over

This refers to the firing of a shotgun at a reasonably close proximity to a dog, to prove steadiness to shot or gun-shyness (See Rule 8).

8.83 Snapping

Is when a dog takes an obvious lunge or attempts to catch game in its mouth.

8.84 Stealing The Point

This is when a dog fails to back and advances past or alongside the already pointing dog in an attempt to secure the point for itself. This also applies to the dog approaching from the front (See Rule 10). This should be distinguished from "heading" by the backing dog.

8.85 Stickiness on Back

This is when a backing dog is over-hesitant or reluctant to continue hunting once the pointing dog has moved off, from the area of its point. This applies as well to a dog that is always looking for every opportunity/excuse to back the other dog, even if there is little reason to.

8.86 Stickiness on Point and Scent

This refers to a dog being reluctant or refusing to "draw or road in on game", even on command. This also applies when the dog:

Is extremely hesitant to leave an area that holds scent.

Is hesitant or reluctant to move off a point, even after the absence of game has been proven by the brace mate.

8.87 Style

This refers to the intensity and staunchness exhibited by a dog whilst pointing or backing.

8.88 Taking A Line

Taking the line of a bird from either an "accidental" or "deliberate" flush. The dog will visually follow the flight path of the bird and "mark" its location. This is generally followed by the dog "taking a straight line" to the game. Also generally associated with hunting trail. Not to be confused with "viewing away".

8.89 Time Limit

It is the arbitrary time of grace a dog is given to "come in" when such a dog is called in.

8.90 Trailing

Following another dog.

8.87.1 Rear-end trailer

Is when one of a pair of dogs persistently follows the other, usually the more experienced dog.

8.87.2 Head-on trailer

Is when one of a pair of dogs seeks out and persists in running out in front of and ahead, but slightly to one side or the other.

A clever "head-on" trailer can make his bracemate look like a "rear-end" trailer.

8.88 Unsteadiness

Is generally associated with varying degrees of failing or reluctance to acknowledge the flush and/or shot.

8.89 Viewing Away

When a dog follows the flight of a bird visually, generally from an acknowledgement of flush. Ref: MARKING.

8.90 Vocalising

This refers to a dog yelping and barking excessively whilst hunting or in the gallery.

9 REGULATIONS FOR THE JUDGING OF FIELD TESTS

9.2 The Natural Ability Test

9.2.1 Objectives of the natural ability test

The aim of the Natural Ability Test is to recognise those dogs that conform to the minimum standards of performance, conformation, and temperament that are considered acceptable in terms of the functional requirements of the Hunt Point and Retrieve (HPR) breeds. A dog which passes the test will be awarded a Natural Ability Certificate and may carry the affix NA after its name. This will provide a minimum standard for prospective breeders and buyers of HPR breeds in South Africa. The selective use of dogs that have passed the Natural Ability Test should serve to maintain and improve the standards of performance of the HPR breeds in South Africa.

The Natural Ability Certificate does not represent an award in recognition of excellence, but rather a minimum qualification for HPR breeds in South Africa. Field Trials in particular, and Working Tests will remain the ultimate test of a dog's performance against that of other outstanding dogs.

9.2.2 Rules Governing The Natural Ability Test

9.2.2.1 A Natural Ability Test for HPR breeds may be run at an HPR Field Trial or at a Natural Ability meeting.

9.2.2.2 Only clubs which are eligible to hold HPR Field Trials, may run Natural Ability Tests.

9.2.2.3 Permission to run a Natural Ability Test must be applied for through FTLC and upon approval a licence must be obtained from KUSA.

9.2.2.4 The test must be conducted by three (3) official Judges, two (2) of whom will be on the A or B Panel for HPR Field Trials, and one (1) of whom will be either on the Gundog Group Panel or on the Panel for the breed(s) being tested. The club will appoint a Senior Judge, who must be on the A or B Panel of Judges for HPR field trials. The HPR field trial Judges will be responsible for evaluating the obedience and fieldwork sections of the test. Should there be a difference of opinion between these two Judges, the Senior Judge will have the casting vote. The conformation Judge will be responsible only for the conformation evaluation.

9.2.2.5 The test must be conducted in the presence of the other dogs and handlers participating in the test. A minimum of five (5) dogs must be entered and present in order to conduct the Natural Ability Test.

9.2.2.6 Dogs must be given ample opportunity to pass an event but only two (2) attempts per event shall be allowed during a test.

9.2.2.7 Upon completion of the test, the Judges will inform the participants whether or not they have successfully passed.

9.2.2.8 Should a dog fail the test; it may be re-tested at any time at a later test. However, dogs will only be allowed three (3) attempts to pass the test.

9.1.3 General requirements of the natural ability test

The natural ability requirements are obvious from the functional requirements of the HPR breeds, and can be tested under artificial conditions. All dogs falling under the HPR breed classification should exhibit the desire to range and search for game, the ability to locate and point game, should also be capable of retrieving the game from land or water, and should show no signs of gunshyness.

Good temperament is a fundamental attribute in any gundog.

A minimum standard of obedience is also required to test the dog's tractability or co-operation, in that only those dogs with a tendency to co-operate and respond to training can fulfil their function as hunting dogs. Intractable dogs are useless in the hunting field and should therefore not be used in breeding programs regardless of their other natural abilities Insofar as breed conformation is concerned, it is recognised that the primary function of field trial clubs is to promote the working abilities of dogs and that conformational standards are mainly the prerogative of the breed clubs. However, hunting dogs should be sound representatives of their breed and any major defects that might detract from the functionality of a dog or its progeny will render a dog unfit to earn the Natural Ability Certificate. As far as physical standards are concerned, the dog must be judged as a pure-bred example of its breed without any major breed defects or abnormalities.

9.1.4 The natural ability certificate and title

9.1.4.1 The award of a Natural Ability Certificate may be reflected on the dog’s registration certificate by the letters NA (Natural Ability), as a testimonial to the fact that the dog has been judged to have demonstrated at least the minimum natural working ability acceptable for HPR breeds in South Africa, that it is conformationally sound, that it has a good temperament and that it is tractable. Those dogs that have earned a Natural Ability Certificate may carry the title NA as an affix.

9.1.4.2 Upon successful completion of the Test, the owner will be issued an official KUSA Natural Ability Certificate by the club holding the test. The Certificate will state the owner's name, the dog's registered name and registration number, registered names and registration numbers of the dog's sire and dam, the breed of dog, and that the dog has been tested as an all-purpose, versatile hunting dog complying with the minimum standards and natural abilities of an HPR breed (refer 8.1.7.1 SPECIMEN NATURAL ABILITY CERTIFICATE)). The Certificate shall be signed by all Judges and by the Secretary of the Club holding the test. (Clubs may, at their discretion, issue an informal club certificate to a dog which passes the Obedience, Field and Waterwork sections, but which fails the Conformation test. This certificate must be clearly marked to indicate that the dog is not recommended for breeding and that the dog is not qualified to carry the NA title).

9.1.4.3 Official test sheets (refer 8.1.7.2 SPECIMEN NATURAL ABILITY TEST EVALUATION SHEET) of those dogs successfully completing the test shall be completed and signed by all Judges and by the Secretary of the Club holding the test (refer to 8.1.7.2). It will be the duty of the Club Secretary to send the completed test sheets to KUSA for storage and in order that the NA title may be reflected on the dog’s registration certificate.

9.1.5 Guidelines for conducting the natural ability test

9.1.5.1 Judges are required to complete official test sheets provided by the officiating Club, which will reflect the criteria tested and any other relevant information provided by the Judges. Judges are encouraged to write additional comments regarding the dog's conformation, behaviour and performance as they see fit, in order to provide information to potential breeders and to aid the handler of the dog. Outstanding traits as well as negative traits should be noted. For instance, if a dog has particularly good aspects of conformation or shows evidence of an outstanding nose or water love, Judges should record it.

On the other hand, if a dog has conformation faults that do not necessarily warrant failing the test or shows areas of deficiency in the field work that could be improved either through training or breeding, then Judges are encouraged to record these weaknesses.

9.1.5.2 Throughout the entire test the dog's behaviour towards other dogs and handlers is observed. At the Judges' discretion other handlers and dogs may be brought near the dog being tested to observe its reactions, bearing in mind at all times their safety.

9.1.5.3 Upon presentation to the Judges, the dog's physical attributes and obedience are tested.

9.1.5.4 For the Field Test a live pigeon or other live game bird of choice is hidden in a cage in thick cover in such a way that it is invisible to the dog. No artificial marks to indicate the position of the game may be used, but the Judges must be aware of the exact location of the hidden game. Sufficient time must elapse after placing the bird to ensure that the dog will not follow the foot scent. To ensure that the find is by scent only and not by sight, or by following the handler's foot scent, the handler must not personally hide the bird. The bird must be placed at least one hundred metres (100 metres) away from the point of release but preferably two hundred metres (200 metres) away.

On the Judges' consent the dog is sent out and the Judges must carefully establish the dog's desire to hunt and find game, generally indicated by the dog's eagerness to search, range and cover the ground in an intelligent manner.

The location of the game should be by virtue of the dog's nose and not by accident. Under no circumstances may the dog be lead onto the game by the handler or Judges.

Upon finding the bird, the point must be clear and unmistakable as such. A dog that immediately attempts to catch the game without even momentarily pausing in a distinct point will fail the test. Misdemeanours after the point, such as chasing or trying to catch the game, will be ignored in the test.

9.1.5.5 The dog is then led away from the game to a new venue and the retrieving tested. A land and a water retrieve of between twenty (20) and forty (40) metres are required. The land retrieve must be in thick cover and preferably up-wind to test the dog's nose. Either a dummy or a fresh dead bird may be used for the retrieve, and the handler must indicate to the Judges, which is his choice of retrieving object. In either case, a shot must be fired during the land retrieve.

For the purposes of the water retrieve, the game or dummy must land in clear sight of the dog, the aim being to test the dog's willingness to enter water and to swim. The water test should take place at a spot offering easy gradual access to deep water.

9.1.6 Evaluation Criteria Of The Natural Ability Test

The evaluation criteria have been designed to be as simple as possible so as to facilitate consistent and objective evaluation.

The following criteria must be tested:

9.1.6.1 Conformation

With reference to the KUSA breed standards, the Judges must be satisfied that the dog in question is a sound representative of its breed without any major abnormalities that might hinder its functionality or that of its progeny. The following physical attributes must be checked and noted for each dog, with the following defects considered to be disqualifying:

9.1.6.2 Any defects of the eyes - such as entropion, ectropion, distichiasis, trichiasis;

9.1.6.3 Bite and teeth - overshot and undershot, wry bite. (Level bite and missing teeth, unless specifically mentioned as disqualifying faults in the standard, should be noted, but will not disqualify);

9.1.6.4 ~~[Missing]~~Any defect or abnormality of the testicles;

9.1.6.5 Any defects of the legs and feet - such as pronounced cow hocks or severe knuckling over in front;

9.1.6.6 Other obvious defects - spinal curvature or pronounced swayback;

9.1.6.7 General conformation and build - extreme deviations from type, size and substance requirements of the breed;

9.1.6.8 Motion faults not due to injury;

9.1.6.9 Where the FCI Breed Standard contains any disqualifying faults these must also be considered.

It should be recognised that no dog is perfect and that minor defects will not render the dog unfit to qualify for a Natural Ability Certificate. Defects due to injury will not disqualify a dog. The Judge must also take the dog's age into consideration since the conformation of young dogs might change as they mature. In order to promote sensible and responsible breeding, any minor defects or abnormalities, which do not warrant that the dog fail the test should be noted on the official test sheets and be brought to the attention of the owner.

9.1.6.10 Obedience

9.1.6.11 Temperament

9.1.6.12 The dog's behaviour towards other dogs in the test, strange handlers and the Judges should be observed during the course of the test. Excessive aggressiveness or excessive nervousness must be regarded as serious defects and such dogs will not qualify for a Natural Ability Certificate.

9.1.6.13 Tractability

The dog must show a willingness to accept discipline, this being an indication of its co-operation and tractability. It will be required of the owner to make his dog sit on command without touching the dog, command the dog to stay and then walk away approximately twenty (20) metres before calling the dog to him. A dog ignoring these simple commands or which requires excessive handling will fail the test. Inability of the handler to keep the dog reasonably quiet or under control during any part of the test (including the Fieldwork) will also result in the dog failing the test.

9.1.6.14 Field work

9.1.6.14.1 Hunting Desire

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

9.1.6.14.2 Nose

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

9.1.6.14.3 Pointing

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

9.1.6.14.4 Retrieving from Land and Water

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

9.1.6.14.5 Gunshyness

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

9.2 Natural Ability Test Specimen Evaluation Sheet

NATURAL ABIILIITY TEST EVALUATION SHEET

Registered Name of Dog: _____

Call Name of Dog: _____ Reg No.: _____

Breed: _____ Date of Birth: _____/_____/_____ Sex: _____

Colour: _____

Sire: _____ Reg No.: _____

Dam: _____ Reg No.: _____

Breeder: _____

Owner: _____ Tel No.: _____

Address: _____

TEST RESULTS

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

1. CONFORMATION

a. Eyes: Pass or Fail?: _____

b. Bite: Pass or Fail?: _____

c. Legs: Pass or Fail?: _____

d. General Conformation: Pass or Fail?: _____

e. Motion: Pass or Fail?: _____

2. TEMPERAMENT
Pass or Fail?: _____

3. TRACTABILITY:
Pass or Fail?: _____

4. HUNTING DESIRE:
Pass or Fail?: _____

5. NOSE:
Pass or Fail?: _____

6. POINTING:
Pass or Fail?: _____

7. RETRIEVING (LAND)
Pass or Fail?_____

8. RETRIEVING (WATER)
Pass or Fail_____

9. GUNSHOT:
Pass or Fail?: _____

I hereby certify that the above-named dog has passed all the requirements of the Natural Ability Test

Chief Judge: _____ Date: _____

Judge: _____ Judge: _____

Secretary: _____ Date: _____

JUDGES COMMENTS: _____

_____

_____

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