

# **RETRIEVER FIELD TRIAL RULES & REGULATIONS**

**Effective January 1, 2023**



**CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB®**

**CLUB CANIN CANADIEN<sup>MD</sup>**

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## **PURPOSE** *(101-05-19)*

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The purpose of a retriever field trial is to determine the relative merits of retrievers in the field and to test both the natural and trained abilities desired in a hunting retriever. Field Trials showcase and improve the retriever breeds by identifying the dogs which best demonstrate the desired abilities of a hunting retriever. Tests should be held in a natural hunting terrain and should be designed to test and separate the competing dogs with the dogs giving the best performances on that particular day being awarded placement. All dogs running in the trial should be given the opportunity to run as many of the tests as time and circumstances allow and if completing the tests in a satisfactory manner, shall be awarded certificates of merit.

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# 1 INTERPRETATIONS

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## 1.1 Definitions

For the purpose of these rules and regulations, the following interpretations shall apply:

**“blind retrieve”** means a dead bird is positioned in cover unseen to the dog and the dog must take a line and retrieve it (a gunshot is not required for this situation)

**“Board”** means the Board of Directors of The Canadian Kennel Club

**“CKC”** means The Canadian Kennel Club

**“Club”** means The Canadian Kennel Club

**“club”** means club or association officially recognized by The Canadian Kennel Club

**“complainant”** means any person who has laid a charge or complaint against another person, partnership, company or organization relative to contravention of these rules, regulations, procedures and policies of The Canadian Kennel Club

**“debar”** means to prohibit a person from participating in any competition or other activities directed, sanctioned, sponsored or authorized by The Canadian Kennel Club if held under its auspices or under any of its rules and regulations

**“defendant”** means any person, partnership, company or organization against whom a charge or complaint has been laid, relative to contravention of these rules, regulations, procedures and policies of The Canadian Kennel Club

**“deprive of privileges”** means to deprive a non-member of all privileges accorded to non-members of The Canadian Kennel Club, including the use of the Head Office

**“dog”** means a purebred dog of either sex

**“entrant”** means the individual, or if a partnership, all the members of the partnership, entering in a field trial

**“expel”** means to terminate membership in The Canadian Kennel Club and depriving the person so expelled from all privileges of The Canadian Kennel Club

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(52-06-10) **“good standing”** means an individual or a Club who/that is not under suspension, debarment, or who has not forfeited his/its’ rights from The Canadian Kennel Club

**“handler”** means the person handling the dog in competition

**“Head Office”** means the office at which the business of The Canadian Kennel Club is carried out on a regular and ongoing basis

**“immediate family”** means spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparents and significant other

**“just cause”** means how a reasonable person without personal bias or prejudice would act

**“mark”** means the fall of a bird

**“poison bird”** is a visible bird thrown before a dog is sent for a blind retrieve. Judges will determine whether or not the poison bird shall be retrieved after the blind retrieve, but if it is to be retrieved it will be judged as a mark.

(36-03-16) **“retriever”** means Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Curly-coated Retriever, Flat-Coated Retriever, Golden Retriever, Labrador Retriever, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, Irish Water Spaniels and Poodles “retriever trial” and “field trial” are synonyms

(44-03-19) **“Starters”** The dogs listed in the catalogue shall designate the number of starting dogs in each stake.

**“suspend”** means to deprive a member, for the period ordered, of all the privileges of The Canadian Kennel Club

(01-05-18)  
(18-09-22) **“Temporary Competition Number”(TCN)** means a number issued by the CKC that allows a dog to participate in CKC events.

This rulebook shall read with all applicable changes in gender so that the masculine shall include the feminine and vice versa, and the singular shall include the plural if applicable.

## 1.2 Field Trials Defined & Classified

1.2.1 An approved retriever field trial is a formal event given by a CKC recognized club at which qualifying points may be awarded towards a championship.

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- 1.2.2 A sanctioned retriever field trial is an informal event given by a CKC recognized club at which dogs compete but do not earn qualifying points towards a championship.
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## **2 GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS**

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### **2.1 Eligibility of Clubs to Hold a Retriever Field Trial**

- 2.1.1 Only CKC accredited clubs or associations in good standing with the CKC are eligible to apply for and hold a retriever field trial.
- 2.1.2 A club that has not held a field trial under CKC rules within the last 5 years will be required to hold at least one sanctioned event before such approval will be considered. At the sanctioned event all official positions must be held by members of the club conducting the event and all duties of such event must be performed by these officials.
- 2.1.3 Field trial clubs or specialty clubs formed for the improvement of any of the several breeds of retrievers may hold field trial stakes in which one or more may compete. Championship points may be awarded where 2 or more breeds compete together in a mixed stake as well as where a separate stake has been provided for each breed.
- 2.1.4 The use of the club's name for field trial purposes cannot be transferred.
- 2.1.5 Clubs should be familiar with:
- (a) The Migratory Bird Regulation of Canada as it pertains to Retriever Field Trials
  - (b) The Firearms Act of Canada as it pertains to Retriever Field Trials

### **2.2 Making Application**

- 2.2.1 A club or association applying to hold a retriever field trial must make application on forms provided by the CKC. The Event Date Application must be submitted so as to be received not less than 180 days prior to the date of the proposed trial. The CKC will notify the club whether or not approval has been
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granted. If the date is granted and the club fails to hold its trial on the date approved, an administrative fee as set by the Board will be assessed against the club, unless the CKC waives this fee on grounds that the club had no alternative but to postpone or cancel.

- 2.2.2 The Event Secretary must be a regular member in good standing with the CKC.
- 2.2.3 The CKC shall have the authority to grant or withhold approval of an application for trial dates. In the event approval is withheld, the trial-giving club shall have no claim against the CKC.
- 2.2.4 The avoidance of conflicting dates for trials will be a consideration in the processing of applications.
- 2.2.5 The CKC will not approve an application for field trials where dates conflict unless it is shown that the granting of such application will not work to the detriment of either field trial club.

## **2.3 CKC Publication**

- 2.3.1 All clubs holding Retriever field trials are required to have copies of the latest edition of these Retriever Field Trial Rules and Regulations available at the trial.

## **2.4 Officials and Committees**

- 2.4.1 Any club or association holding a Retriever Field Trial under these rules must select and publish in the premium list the names of the Chair of the Retriever Field Trial Committee and a Retriever Field Trial Secretary, whose address must be set out in the premium list.
- 2.4.2 Only those persons in good standing with the CKC may act in any official capacity at retriever trials.
- 2.4.3 A dog that bites or attempts to bite another dog or a person may be removed from the event grounds or premises for the duration of the event by the Retriever Field Trial Committee Chair.
- 2.4.4 Where a person who has control or custody of a dog at a CKC event causes that dog to suffer serious injury or death through negligence or willful misconduct, the Retriever Field Trial Committee

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Chair shall file a report to the CKC for possible submission to the Discipline Committee.

## **2.5 Advertising**

- 2.5.1 A club that has not been granted priority dates must not advertise or publish the date of any event that has not been approved by the CKC.
- 2.5.2 A club that has been granted priority dates for its event may advertise those dates prior to submitting the Event Date Application. This does not exempt the club from submitting the required application to the CKC within the prescribed time frame.
- 2.5.3 A club must not advertise the names of the judges until the club has received official notification from the CKC that the judges have been approved.

## **2.6 Handlers with Disability**

- 2.6.1 At the judge's discretion a modification to the exercise/routine may be made to accommodate a handler with disabilities providing that such modification does not aid the dog's performance or inhibit other dogs and the dog is required to perform all exercises/routines.

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# **3 JUDGES**

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## **3.1 Application for Approval of Judges**

- 3.1.1 After a club has been granted permission by the CKC to hold a retriever field trial, the club must submit a Judging Panel Application. The application must be submitted so as to be received not less than 120 days prior to the date of the trial. The application must set forth the names and addresses of the persons selected to judge as well as the stakes assigned to each judge.
- 3.1.2 When the Judging Panel Application reaches the CKC less than 120 days prior to the date of the trial, an administrative fee as set by the Board, will be assessed against the club.

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- 3.1.3 The trial-giving club shall not select any judge who is ineligible to officiate at a trial held under these rules and regulations.
  - 3.1.4 Once approval is granted, the CKC will inform the trial-giving club that the judges have been approved. The trial secretary shall send to each approved judge a confirmation of assignment letter, supplied by the CKC, as well as any other pertinent information that the club may include.
  - 3.1.5 If the CKC is not prepared to approve a selected judge, or it is not prepared to approve the entire assignment for which a judge has been selected, the club must submit to the Head Office of the CKC the name or names of alternative persons to judge that trial or trials.
  - 3.1.6 Once a panel of judges has been approved by CKC, no change will be permitted except when necessary and with CKC permission (e.g. death or illness). If a judging change is necessary the trial-giving club will inform the CKC and submit the name of a qualified replacement judge for approval.

## **3.2 Judges' Qualifications**

- 3.2.1 The CKC shall have the authority to prescribe from time to time, the requirements for eligibility to judge one or more stakes at a CKC approved trial. It shall also have the authority to prescribe the procedures in order to determine and/or test the qualifications of a person seeking to establish eligibility to judge one or more stakes. It may prescribe regulations by which a person may be removed from the list of persons eligible for approval to judge at a CKC approved trial.
- 3.2.2 Judges officiating at any official stake approved by the CKC should be thoroughly experienced in handling, training and the requirements of retriever work. They should have a thorough knowledge of the field trial rules and regulations. No person shall be selected to judge any official stake unless he has handled a dog in a stake or has judged within the past 5 calendar years.
- 3.2.3 Each new judge must successfully complete and submit to the CKC a mandatory open book test of the rulebook. New judges must complete and submit the test prior to judging their first event. The passing grade is 85%.
- 3.2.4 In Open, Limited, Special, and Amateur All-Age stakes and Owner Handler All-Age stakes, there

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must be at least 2 judges and their combined experience must be such that they have judged a total of 3 Open, Limited, Special or Amateur All-Age stakes. If 3 judges are used, their combined experience must be such that they have judged a total of 5 such stakes.

- 3.2.5 A judge who has not judged an All-Age stake within the previous 5 calendar years at a CKC approved retriever trial, shall not be approved to judge an All-Age stake unless he has judged at least one Qualifying stake within the same period at an approved trial.
- 3.2.6 In the Qualifying stake, there must be at least 2 judges and their combined experience must be such that they have judged a total of 3 Qualifying and/or All-Age stakes. If 3 judges are used, their combined experience must be such that they have judged a total of 5 Qualifying and/or All-Age stakes. It is recommended that one of the judges be a judge, who on at least one occasion, has judged an All-Age stake at a CKC approved trial. A judge who has not, within the previous 5 calendar years, judged a Qualifying stake at a CKC approved retriever trial, shall not be approved to judge a Qualifying stake, unless within the same period he has judged at least one Junior stake or an All-Age stake at a CKC approved retriever trial. A new judge or a judge who has not judged within the previous 5 calendar years may judge a Qualifying stake or a combined Qualifying/Junior Stake if paired with a judge who has judged at least 5 Qualifying and/or All Age stakes within the previous 5 years or a combination of the two.
- 3.2.7 In the Junior stake, there must be at least 2 judges and their combined experience must be such that they have judged a total of 3 Junior and/or Qualifying and/or All-Age stakes. It is recommended that at least one of the judges be a judge who has judged at least one All-Age stake at a CKC approved retriever trial.
- 3.2.8 For the purpose of the foregoing requirements, judging assignments qualifying a person to judge will be those judging assignments actually accumulated and fulfilled at least 60 days prior to the date of application for approval.
- 3.2.9 Judging engagements at AKC approved trials will count for these purposes.
- 3.2.10 If an AKC qualified judge has no previous CKC judging experience, the judge must successfully complete and submit a mandatory open book test of the rulebook per Section 3.2.3. This will help

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ensure the new judge is familiar with the CKC rules for the event.

### **3.3 Judges' Authority**

- 3.3.1 Judges shall have the authority to remove from the stake any handler who willfully interferes with another handler or his dog.
- 3.3.2 Judges shall have the authority to disqualify any dog which does not appear within 15 minutes of the time designated for its turn to be tried.
- 3.3.3 A judge's decision as marked is final and cannot be changed.

### **3.4 Substitute Judge**

- 3.4.1 Any person in good standing with the CKC may be used as a substitute judge in an emergency. The substitute judge shall judge the stakes as originally approved by the CKC. Whenever possible, the CKC requirements for combined experience for the stake should be met. The field trial secretary will notify the CKC in writing of the particulars of the substitute judge(s) officiating as soon as reasonably possible and in any event no later than when reporting the results of the trial.

### **3.5 Judging Schedule**

- 3.5.1 If, for any reason, the trial-giving club deviates in any way from the list of judges as shown in the official premium list, that club must announce the changes to the participants at the appointed hour for that affected stake to start.
- 3.5.2 In addition, the club must announce that the starting of the stake will be delayed for 15 minutes should an entrant wish to withdraw an entry.
- 3.5.3 Any entrant wishing to withdraw will receive a full refund for all withdrawn entries. Any request for withdrawal should be made in writing prior to the commencement of the stake.

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### **3.6 Acceptance of Assignments**

- 3.6.1 Excluding the National Retriever Championship stake and the National Amateur Retriever Championship stake, a judge shall not accept any assignment to judge more than 3 All-Age stakes in the same province in a calendar year. Disciplinary action will be taken against any judge who violates these rules. This rule shall not apply to any substitute judge which a trial-giving club has selected in accordance with these rules.
- 3.6.2 A club should advise a prospective field trial judge of the stakes which he is being considered to judge. The club will forward to the judge at the same time a form provided by the CKC for his use in confirming the acceptance of the assignment. If the judge does not receive confirmation from the club within 30 days, he will be free to accept other assignments.
- 3.6.3 Judges must confirm in writing their acceptance of the assignments within 30 days after receipt of confirmation that the services of the judge will be required. If such confirmation is not received by the club within 30 days, the agreement may be considered void and a club is free to seek the services of another judge.
- 3.6.4 Judges who, after confirming to a trial-giving club their acceptance of an assignment and without just cause cancels their acceptance, will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **3.7 Judges, Club Officers Entering or Handling Dogs**

- 3.7.1 Officers of clubs giving field trials may run dogs in their club's trials and may judge any stake in which they do not run dogs.
- 3.7.2 No person who serves as a judge of any stake at an approved retriever trial shall handle a dog in any other stake until their judging assignment is completed.

### **3.8 Indignities to a Judge**

- 3.8.1 A judge officiating at a field trial held under these rules shall not be subjected to any indignities of any kind during the progress of the field trial. It shall be

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the duty and obligation of the club holding the field trial to see that this rule is effectively carried out.

### **3.9 Judge's Conduct**

- 3.9.1 A judge must conduct himself in a manner that is fair and not prejudicial to the sport.

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## **4 PREMIUM LIST & CATALOGUE**

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### **4.1 Premium List**

- 4.1.1 A standard premium list must be published by all clubs holding Retriever field trials under these rules. A club which has been granted permission to hold a trial, and has received approval of its selected judges, must prepare and have printed a premium list with entry forms to be made available to prospective entrants.

- 4.1.2 Premium list and entry forms shall be such size, in such form and contain such information as prescribed by the CKC. The following information must be listed on the cover (or first inside page, excluding the inside cover) of the premium list:

- (a) The words "Official Premium List"
- (b) The name of the club or organization holding the event
- (c) Type of event being held
- (d) Dates of the events and starting times
- (e) Date and closing time for entries. No entries may be accepted, altered, cancelled or substituted after the official closing date and time for entries except as provided for in these rules.
- (f) A statement setting forth the time, date and exact place at which draw will take place.

- 4.1.3 The following information must appear in a premium list:

- (a) Exact location of the event (may include a map showing the location of the site)
- (b) The statement "These events held under the rules of The Canadian Kennel Club"

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- (95-05-19) (c) A list of the club officers (email address and telephone number may be given if desired)
  - (d) A list of the Field Trial Committee including the Field Trial Chairman
  - (e) The address and phone number of where entries are to be sent (if different from the Event Secretary)
  - (f) A statement as to where entries are to be sent
  - (95-05-19) (g) A listing of the judges and their email address
  - (h) A complete list of the judge's assignments broken down for each day
  - (i) A list of awards and prizes (if offered)
  - (j) The amount of entry fee for each stake
  - (k) The name of the Executive Director of The Canadian Kennel Club and the address of the Head Office
  - (95-05-19) (l) The name, email address and telephone number of the CKC Board Member and the CKC Retriever Representative for the zone in which the trial will be held
  - (m) A statement as to the stake or stakes that will be provided
  - (n) A statement as to how the running order will be decided
  - (o) Such other general information as the trial-giving club deems advisable. Where such additional information is in the form of a rule governing the trial, care should be taken to ensure that the rule does not contravene any CKC field trial rule or regulation
  - (01-05-18) (p) The statement "A temporary competition fee as established by The Canadian Kennel Club must accompany the entry of a dog for which a Canadian Kennel Club individual registration number or Event Registration Number (ERN) is not shown on the entry form"
  - (q) Type of game to be used in each stake
  - (r) At least one copy of an official entry form with the CKC logo
  - (s) A statement to include the wording of section 21.7 regarding indignities

4.1.4 At the time of distribution to prospective entrants, 2 copies of the premium list must be sent to The Canadian Kennel Club and one copy each to the Retriever Representative and Board Member representing the zone in which the trial is to be held.



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4.1.5 Clubs are free to include other rules and regulations as they deem necessary. However, if other rules are included, they become part of the premium list and will be enforced.

4.1.6 The trial secretary shall assume the responsibility of collecting all listing fees for the CKC, which shall be stated in the premium list.

## 4.2 Catalogue

4.2.1 An official catalogue must be provided for all approved field trials. The official catalogue must be printed or typed.

4.2.2 The following information must be listed on the outside front cover or the first page of the catalogue:

- (a) Name of the club or association holding the trial
- (b) The dates of the trial
- (c) The statement “This event held under the rules of The Canadian Kennel Club”
- (d) Exact location of the trial
- (e) List of the Field Trial Committee including the Field Trial Chairman

(95-05-19) (f) Name, email address and phone number of the Field Trial Secretary

(95-05-19) (g) A complete list of the judges and their email address

(h) A listing of each judge’s assignments for each day

4.2.3 The information in the catalogue on each dog must be in the following order:

- (a) Catalogue number of the dog
- (b) Registered name of the dog (in capital letters only)

(01-05-18) (c) Canadian Kennel Club registration number

(d) Date of birth

(e) Name of breeder

(f) Registered name of sire

(g) Registered name of dam

(h) Place of birth

(i) Name of owners

(j) Email address of owners

(k) Agent (if applicable)

4.2.4 Catalogues must show all the information about competing dogs that is called for in the entry forms.

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4.2.5 The name and email address of The Canadian  
(95-05-19) Kennel Club, and the name, address and telephone  
number of the CKC Board Member and the CKC  
Retriever

Representative for the zone in which the trial is to be  
held must appear on every catalogue or running list.

4.2.6 Where a trial giving club does not publish a cata-  
logue, it may substitute a typewritten list supplying  
the information indicated above.

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## **5 RIBBONS & PRIZES**

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5.1 All clubs or associations holding field trials under  
these rules, except sanctioned field trials, shall use the  
following colours of their award ribbons or rosettes:

First Place	Blue
Second Place	Red
Third Place	Yellow
Fourth Place	White
Certificate of Merit	Dark Green

5.2 Each ribbon or rosette, except those used at sanc-  
tioned field trials, shall be at least 2 inches wide, and  
approximately 8 inches long, and bear on its face a  
facsimile of the crest of the CKC, the name of the  
award, the name of the trial-giving club with numer-  
als of the year and date of the trial.

5.3 If money prizes are offered, a fixed amount for each  
prize shall be stated.

5.4 All special prizes which may be offered shall be  
accurately described or the value stated. Stud ser-  
vices shall not be accepted as special prizes.

5.5 Splitting of prizes and/or places at a retriever trial is  
prohibited.

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## **6 ENTRIES & END OF TRIAL**

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### **6.1 Entry Requirements**

- 6.1.1 Every dog entered in an approved retriever field trial or sanctioned Retriever field trial must be one of the following:
- (a) Registered with the CKC
  - (b) Have an Event Registration Number (ERN)
  - (c) Eligible for registration with the CKC
- 6.1.2 Retriever field trials shall be open to all purebred Retrievers which are eligible for registration or are registered in the CKC stud book. All dogs must be 6 months of age or over on the first day of the trial.
- 6.1.3 *(01-05-18)* If a dog is not registered individually in the CKC stud book, it may be entered at a trial held under these regulations with a Temporary Competition Number (TCN) provided that:
- (a) If born in Canada, it is eligible for individual registration.
  - (b) If not born in Canada, it is eligible for individual registration in the records of the CKC.
  - (c) If foreign born and owned, it has an Event Registration Number, or obtains this number from the CKC within 30 days of the first trial entered.
- 6.1.4 *(01-05-18)* The entry of a dog with a Temporary Competition Number (TCN) at a field trial held under these rules (sanctioned field trials excluded) must be accompanied by the appropriate TCN fee and all TCN fees must be remitted by the club holding the trial to the CKC within 21 days after the trial.
- 6.1.5 *(01-05-18)* The CKC shall have the right at any time to require the owner of a dog with a Temporary Competition Number (TCN) dog to submit proof of the dog's eligibility for registration in the CKC stud book. If the CKC is satisfied that the dog is not eligible for registration in the CKC stud book, it shall have the right to order the cancellation of all wins, championship points and prizes earned by the dogs at these trials.

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## 6.2 Entry Forms

- 6.2.1 The following information must appear on each entry form:
- (a) Registered name of dog
  - (b) CKC individual registration number (if registered in the CKC stud book), Event Registration Number or foreign registration number
  - (c) Name of breed
  - (d) Sex of dog
  - (e) Date and place of birth
  - (f) Names of sire and dam
  - (g) Names of breeders
  - (h) Stake entered
  - (i) Name of the owner (name of lessee shall be given instead of the name of the registered owner if the dog is being held under lease)
  - (j) Complete address of owner or lessee
  - (k) Name of handler if the dog is not to be handled by the owner or member of his immediate family
  - (l) Signature of owner, lessee or authorized agent
- 6.2.2 Owners or lessees are responsible for errors or omissions in completing the entry forms, regardless who makes the errors.
- 6.2.3 No entry shall be made under a kennel name unless that name has been registered with the CKC. All entries made under a kennel name must be signed with the name of the kennel followed by the word "registered".
- 6.2.4 An entrant is the individual, or if a partnership all the members of the partnership, exhibiting or entering a dog in a field trial. In the case of entry by partnership every member of a partnership shall be in good standing with the CKC before the entry will be accepted. In the case of any infraction of these rules, all the partners shall be held equally responsible.
- 6.2.5 All entries must be made on an official CKC entry form and must show all particulars as set forth in these rules. The Field Trial Secretary shall supply entry forms. Any dog proven not to correspond with its entry form shall be disqualified and all winnings and entry money shall be forfeited. Should the act of fraudulent entry be proven, the owner and/or handler, shall be referred to the Discipline Committee of the CKC who shall take such action as it sees fit.

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## **6.3 Entry Fee Refund**

- 6.3.1 Bitches in season shall not be eligible for entry in any field trial and shall not be allowed on the grounds. Entry fees paid for a bitch withdrawn because of coming in season or for a dog withdrawn because of an injury or illness, or for a dog that dies, shall be refunded in full by the field trial-giving club. Prior to paying such refund, the club may require an appropriate veterinary certificate. In the event a dog is withdrawn for other reasons, the field trial-giving club is free to formulate its own policy with reference to refunds provided that said policy shall be fixed in advance of the mailing of the Premium List for any particular test.
- 6.3.2 In the event of postponement for any reason of 24 hours or more in the starting time of any stake, any competitor shall have the right to withdraw entries and entry fees shall be returned.

## **6.4 Entry Fees**

- 6.4.1 No club or member of any club shall give or offer any owner or handler any special inducements. This will include reduced entry fees, allowances for board or transportation or other incentives of value for a certain number of entries, or offer to give in consideration of entering a certain number of dogs, any prizes or prize money except the officially advertised prizes or prize money, which prize money shall be for a stated sum or portion of the entry fees. Any recognized club found guilty of violating this rule shall be barred from holding approved or sanctioned trials, and may have club recognition withdrawn. All persons found guilty of paying or receiving any monies, special inducements or allowances in violation of the foregoing shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- 6.4.2 Any trial-giving club which accepts any entry fee other than that published in its premium list or entry form, or in any way discriminates between entrants, shall be disciplined.
- 6.4.3 Tendering of dishonoured cheque or declined credit card payment of entry fees shall be considered non-payment of entry fees. Any individual who commits this offence should be reported to the CKC, and may be subject to disciplinary action and cancellation of awards.

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## **6.5 Guidelines**

- 6.5.1 The owner or agent entering a dog in a trial does so at their own risk and agrees to abide by the rules of the CKC.
- 6.5.2 In the case of entries made by telephone or transmitted by facsimile or electronically, the original entry form for each entry must be signed by the owner, lessee or their authorized agent.
- 6.5.3 Post entries will not be accepted and entries shall close no later than the time of the draw.
- 6.5.4 Entries shall not be accepted from any person who is not in good standing with the CKC on the day of the closing of the entries. Before accepting any entries, the Ineligible Event Participants list found on the CKC's website should be checked.
- 6.5.5 A Field Trial Committee may decline any entries or may remove any dog from its trial for just cause. In such instances the club shall file, in writing, what are felt to be in its opinion, good and sufficient reasons for doing so with the CKC within 21 days of the trial.
- 6.5.6 No entry shall be made at any retriever trial in any stake if the judge of that stake, or any member of his immediate family, or household, owns or has owned, sold, held under lease, retained financial interest in or trained professionally the dog within 60 days of the starting date of the field trial.
- 6.5.7 Any member of a judge's immediate family or household shall not enter or handle any dog in any stake in which that judge is judging.

## **6.6 Draw**

- 6.6.1 In stakes for retrievers, the order of running shall be decided by lot at the draw. Dogs handled by the same person should be separated when possible and care should be taken to minimize the possibility of the same dog running first in consecutive trials on the same weekend by ensuring they have different numbers each day. Dogs may be run in an order different from that set out in the draw:
  - (a) When, in the opinion of the judges or Field Trial Committee, such will result in a reasonable and desirable saving of time in the conduct of the trial; or

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- (b) When, in the opinion of the judges, will avoid unfairness or prejudice to any competing dog resulting from an event which occurred in a particular stake
  - (c) Beginning after the first series, in a stake carrying championship points, a system of rotation must be implemented which applies to all contestants. An explanation of the particular system of rotation to be used must be announced in the premium list or before the commencement of the stake.
- (23-12-21) (d) Judges may use a system of rotation for minor stakes to the extent possible where it does not create delays with concurrent running All-Age stakes.
- 6.6.2 The running order (the Draw) must be made and published (made public) prior to the date of the TSX closing number to determine the starting dog as per Section 6.6.3. Clubs holding the trial may not accept entries after the publishing of the running order.
- 6.6.3 In a stake carrying championship points the starting dog in the first series will be determined by using the last two digits at closing of the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSE) S&P/TSX composite index two days prior to the first day of the trial, or if the TSX is closed that day, the first day prior to that when the TSX is open,
- (a) The starting dog will be the dog assigned the number in the draw that corresponds to the last two digits (including digits, if any to the right of the decimal point) of the closing S&P/TSX composite index (the TSX number) two days prior to the first day of the trial, or if the TSX is closed that day, the first day prior to that when the TSX is open.
  - (b) If the TSX number is 00, the dog given number 1 in the draw shall be the starting dog for the first series.
  - (c) If the TSX number is greater than the number of dogs entered in the stake, the number of dogs entered in the stake will be subtracted from the TSX number and the resulting number (the Second TSX number) will determine the starting dog for the first series. The starting dog will be the dog assigned that Second TSX number in the draw.
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- (d) If the Second TSX number is still greater than the number of dogs entered in the stake the number of dogs entered in the stake will be subtracted from the Second TSX number. This subtraction process will be repeated as many times as is necessary until the number resulting from this subtraction corresponds with a number given in the draw to an entered dog. That dog will start the first series.
  - (e) Notice shall be published in the Premium list and in the Trial Program that the starting dog in the first series of the All-Age stakes will be determined by using the last two digits (including digits, if any to the right of the decimal point) of the closing S&P/TSX composite index (the TSX number) along with the actual closing date to be used.
  - (f) At the National Retriever Championship Stake and the National Amateur Retriever Championship Stake, the method of randomly selecting the starting dog will be determined by the Field Trial Committee.

## **6.7 Health**

- 6.7.1 No dog may be entered at a trial if it has any communicable disease.  
*(90-05-19)*
- 6.7.2 Dogs entered in a trial must have current immunization status.  
*(90-05-19)*
- 6.7.3 No dog may be brought onto the grounds or premises of a trial if it:
  - (90-05-19)* (a) is known to have distemper, parvovirus, kennel cough or other communicable disease, or
  - (90-05-19)* (b) has recovered from distemper, parvovirus, kennel cough or other communicable disease within the last 30 days.
  - (90-05-19)* (c) has been housed within 30 days prior to the show, trial or test on premises on which there existed distemper, parvovirus, kennel cough or other communicable disease.
- 6.7.4 Where it is found that these rules have been contravened, the dog in question shall be removed from the show, trial or test premises/grounds and the exhibitor will be subject to disciplinary action.  
*(90-05-19)*



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## 6.8 End of Trial

- 6.8.1 The Field Trial Secretary shall, within 21 days of the completion of an approved Retriever Field Trial, forward to The Canadian Kennel Club the Official Catalogue, marked with the awards in all stakes and all absentees
- 6.8.2 A club must forward to The Canadian Kennel Club the following:
- (a) Field Trial Placement Report marked and signed by the officiating judges
  - (b) an unmarked catalogue
  - (c) all entry forms
  - (d) any other information and reports as may be required by the CKC
- 6.8.3 The trial-giving club is responsible for the collection of all recording and TCN fees and the submission of same to the CKC so as to be received no more than 21 days after the closing of the trial. The trial-giving club shall forward the following to the CKC:
- (01-05-18) (a) The signed certification over the signatures of any one of the following: president, vice-president, secretary or other authorized signing officer, as to the number of dog with a Temporary Competition Number (TCN) entered in its trial, and the total number of dogs entered in competition in its trial.
- (01-05-18) (b) A remittance which shall include all TCN fees and recording fees, as set by the Board for each and every dog entered in competition in its trial. In the event that The Canadian Kennel Club establishes that the remittance fails to completely cover the fees as set forth above, an administrative fee as set by the Board shall apply.
- 6.8.4 A club holding an approved field trial shall retain an official catalogue.
- 6.8.5 An administrative fee as set by the Board will be imposed for each day's delay in the returns reaching the CKC.
- 6.8.6 Non-compliance with the provisions of this section of these rules will result in an automatic administrative charge as set by the CKC, per day, for each day over the 21 day period referred to in these rules.
- 6.8.7 At each trial having an Open, Limited, or Special All-Age stake, the secretary must specify which handlers

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of placing dogs, if any, in any of those stakes are determined to be amateurs by the Field Trial Committee.

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## **7 CANCELLATIONS**

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### **7.1 Trials**

- 7.1.1 In the event of the weather proving unsuitable for holding the trial, the Field Trial Committee may suspend or postpone any or all stakes up to 3 days. Notice of such postponement shall be forwarded immediately to the CKC. Postponement beyond 3 days must have the approval of the CKC.
- 7.1.2 When, because of circumstances beyond its control, a club finds it necessary or advisable to change the date of its trial, it may, subject to the prior approval of the CKC, change the date of its trial, and there shall be no forfeitures of date fee if the request for change of date is received by the CKC at least 30 days in advance of the original date granted for the trial.
- 7.1.3 If the dates are granted and the club fails to hold its trial on the date granted, the club in default will be required to pay a penalty, as set by the CKC, unless the CKC waives this penalty on the grounds that the club had no alternative but to postpone or cancel its trial.

### **7.2 Awards**

- 7.2.1 A dog entered in any class for which it is ineligible when confirmed by the Field Trial Placement Report shall forfeit all prizes and awards.
- 7.2.2 If a placing of a dog is cancelled, the next dog in order of merit shall be moved up and the win or placements of the dog moved up shall be counted the same as if it had been the original award.
- 7.2.3 When the placement of a dog is cancelled by The Canadian Kennel Club, the entrant of the dog shall return all awards and prizes for such win to the field trial secretary of the trial-giving club within 21 days of receipt of notification by The Canadian Kennel Club.

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## **8 DISQUALIFICATION & REINSTATEMENT**

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### **8.1 Dogs**

- 8.1.1 Bitches in season may not compete and must be withdrawn.
- 8.1.2 Judges shall have the authority to remove any dog which in the opinion of the judges is disrupting or delaying the trial and not being controlled by its handler.
- 8.1.3 Judges shall have the authority to remove from the stake any dog they consider unfit to compete.
- 8.1.4 Any dog disqualified for biting or viciousness shall (19-03-16) automatically be disqualified from entering in any event in any CKC discipline until such time as the dog is officially reinstated, if the dog is eligible for reinstatement.
- 8.1.5 Once a dog has been disqualified for any reason (19-03-16) at a Retriever Field Trial, it may not be entered at another event until the dog has been reinstated by the CKC. All awards earned by a dog in violation of this section will be cancelled by the CKC and the owner of the dog is subject to disciplinary action. A dog disqualified under section 8.2.2 is not eligible for reinstatement.

### **8.2 Judges** (19-03-16)

- 8.2.1 At his discretion, a judge shall have the authority to (19-03-16) excuse or disqualify a dog which menaces, threatens, attempts to bite or bites the judge, another person, or another dog in the trial. When a dog is twice excused on this account, it shall have the status of a disqualified dog.
- 8.2.2 At his discretion, a judge shall have the authority to (19-03-16) permanently disqualify a dog which bites the judge or another person in the trial. Dogs disqualified under this provision will not be eligible for reinstatement. The decision to permanently disqualify a dog must be clearly indicated on the Judge's Disqualification Form.

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### **8.3 Handlers**

- 8.3.1 The administration, in any form, of a drug or any substance whose action alters the nervous system by stimulation, sedation or tranquilization to a dog competing at a field trial shall be considered as misleading the judge and will be considered misconduct. The persons responsible will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the CKC By-Laws and the dog shall be removed from the trial.
- 8.3.2 By failing to comply with the Board's order to return ribbons and/or prizes to the clubs concerned, the owner of the dog automatically renders himself ineligible to enter any dog in any competition approved by the CKC.
- 8.3.3 Entry fees for all the disqualifications listed above shall be forfeited except in cases of bitches in season.

### **8.4 Procedure**

- 8.4.1 The judges of a particular stake, in addition to the Field Trial Committee, shall have authority to remove a handler or dog from competition.
- 8.4.2 The judges shall promptly report the removal to the Field Trial Committee who may then remove the dog or handler from all remaining competition at the trial if, in the committee's opinion, such further action is warranted.
- 8.4.3 Whenever a handler is removed from a stake or from competition at a trial the dogs he is handling may continue in competition with one or more other handlers.
- 8.4.4 The field trial secretary shall submit to the CKC, with the records of the trial, a report of any action taken under this section by either the Field Trial Committee or the judges.
- 8.4.5 On receipt of the report referred to in the preceding paragraph, disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with the provisions of the CKC By-Laws.

### **8.5 Reinstatement** *(19-03-16)*

- 8.5.1 *(19-03-16)* The owner of a dog which has been disqualified at an event held under these rules may, after 30 days from the date of said disqualification, apply in writing to the CKC for reinstatement of the dog, unless the dog is ineligible for reinstatement as per section

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8.2.2. The request for reinstatement must be accompanied by a deposit as set by the Board.

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## **9 SPORTSMANSHIP**

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### **9.1 Code of Sportsmanship**

- 9.1.1 Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of the dogs.
- 9.1.2 Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- 9.1.3 Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- 9.1.4 The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- 9.1.5 The sportsman judge treats all handlers, trial officials or any other person present in any capacity at the event with courtesy, respect, dignity and impartiality
- 9.1.6 The sportsman refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- 9.1.7 The sportsman respects the bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport and conforms to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
- 9.1.8 Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- 9.1.9 Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- 9.1.10 Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport
- 9.1.11 Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport or themselves while taking part in the sport.
- 9.1.12 Sportsmen are concerned with the behaviors of all involved in the sport.
- 9.1.13 Sportsmen take responsibility for their actions.
- 9.1.14 Sportsmen exhibit respect for the officials

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## 9.2 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- 9.2.1 It shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct if a person during the running of or in connection with an event abuses or harasses a judge, handler, trial official or any other person present in any capacity at the event.
- 9.2.2 Any participant, including any person serving in any capacity at an event who displays unsportsmanlike conduct or who is seen to kick, strike or otherwise roughly manhandle a dog while on the grounds of a Retriever field trial at any time during the holding of the event, may be expelled from the trial by the Retriever Field Trial Committee.
- 9.2.3 The judges shall also have the authority to expel a handler from a trial if they observe unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the handler or see the handler kicking, striking or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog while the event is in progress. It will be the duty of the judge to report promptly to the Retriever Field Trial Committee the expulsion of a handler.
- 9.2.4 The Retriever Field Trial Committee shall investigate, at once, any instance of alleged unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of any participant, including any person serving in any capacity at an event, or any report that a handler has been observed kicking, striking or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog. If the Retriever Field Trial Committee, after investigation, determines that a person is in violation of this section, and that the incident, if proven, would constitute conduct prejudicial to the sport or the CKC, it shall exercise its authority in accordance with the Complaints section of these rules.
- 9.2.5 The trial secretary shall submit to the CKC a complete report of any hearing action taken under this section within 21 days.

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## **10 BASIC PRINCIPLES OF RETRIEVER TRIALS**

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- 10.1 The purpose of a retriever field trial is to determine the relative merits of retrievers in the field and to test both the natural and trained abilities desired in a hunting retriever. Tests should be held in a natural hunting terrain and should be designed to test and separate the competing dogs with the dogs giving the best performances on that particular day being awarded placement. All dogs running in the trial should be given the opportunity to run as many of the tests as time and circumstances allow and if completing the tests in a satisfactory manner, shall be awarded certificates of merit.
- 10.2 Judges and the Field Trial Committee have complete control over the mechanics and requirements of each trial. This latitude is permitted in order to allow for the different conditions that may arise in trials held in different parts of Canada.
- 10.3 The function of a field trial retriever is to seek and retrieve fallen game when ordered to do so. As the function of a retriever is to seek game only when ordered to do so, the dog should come to line under control and sit obediently on line or at honour as designated by the Judges until released. The dog should be under control at all times while under judgment. When ordered to retrieve, either on marks or blinds, the dog should leave eagerly in a reasonably direct line for the bird, pick up the bird and return with it briskly. A dog should respond quickly and obediently to the directions a handler might give him and should deliver tenderly to hand. Dogs are expected to retrieve any type of game bird under all conditions.
- 10.4 The tests should be designed to demonstrate the natural as well as the trained abilities of a dog. The trained abilities should be more thoroughly tested in those stakes carrying championship points, to a lesser degree in the Qualifying stake and a still lesser degree in the Junior stake, where marking ability and style are paramount.
- 10.5 Accurate marking and memory of multiple marks are of primary importance, but a dog which proceeds to the general area of the fall and uses the wind to hunt the bird out in a pleasing manner is of great value. A dog that handles sharply and positively on a mark should be given credit for its performance based on

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the relative performance of other dogs participating in the test.

- 10.6 A dog that will handle sharply and positively take directions from his handler on a blind retrieve is also of great value.
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## **11 REGULAR OFFICIAL STAKES**

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### **11.1 Guidelines**

- 11.1.1 The regular official stakes at a retriever trial shall be Open, Limited, Special and Amateur All-Age, Qualifying and Junior. All dogs must be 6 months of age or older.
- 11.1.2 At any field trial there shall not be more than one of the following stakes: Open All-Age, Limited All-Age, Special All-Age. In a 2 day trial, when one of the above stakes is held, not more than 2 other stakes shall be held unless more than one stake is run at the same time under different judges. A club may hold 2 trials on the same day.
- 11.1.3 At each trial having All-Age stakes, the secretary of the club must certify in a report that at least 8 of the starters in each of those stakes were eligible to compete in a Limited All-Age stake, so that the stake may carry championship points. For the purpose of determining the number of eligible dogs, records of dogs qualifying at AKC trials may be included.
- 11.1.4 Only those stakes which are run on game birds, and on both land and water, shall be permitted to carry championship points.
- 11.1.5 In stakes carrying championship points, dogs shall be tested on at least one land blind and one water blind, one set of water marks and one set of land marks.
- 11.1.6 In the Qualifying stake dogs shall be tested on at least one (1) land blind, one (1) water blind, one (1) set of land marks and one (1) set of water marks.  
*(45-03-19)*
- 11.1.7 In the Junior stake dogs shall be tested on two (2) sets of land marks and two (2) sets of water marks.  
*(45-03-19)*
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## **11.2 Limited & Special All-Age**

- 11.2.1 A Limited All-Age stake at a retriever trial shall be for dogs that have previously been placed or been awarded a Certificate of Merit in a stake carrying championship points or placed first or second in a Qualifying stake.
- 11.2.2 A Special All-Age stake at a retriever trial shall be for dogs that have, during the calendar year in which the stake is being held or the preceding calendar year, been placed or been awarded a Certificate of Merit in a stake carrying championship points or placed first or second in a Qualifying stake.

## **11.3 Amateur, Owner Handler Amateur All-Age**

- 11.3.1 An Amateur All-Age stake and an Owner Handler Amateur All-Age stake shall be for any dog if handled in that stake by a person who is an amateur as determined by the Field Trial Committee of a trial-giving club.
- 11.3.2 Any person who receives payment for the training or handling of another person's field trial, hunt test or hunting dog shall not be considered an Amateur.

A person who breeds field trial or hunting dogs or sells field trial or hunting dogs shall not be considered a Professional.

Any field trial or hunt test club may organize seminars or workshops to improve the training and handling of field trial, hunt test or hunting dogs. A fee may be charged to participants by the club. Neither the Club organizers, nor workshop presenters will be considered a Professional if a profit is made or honorariums are received under the auspices of such club events.

A person who receives payment for providing educational material to the public on the training and handling of field trial, hunt test or hunting dogs will not be considered a Professional

- 11.3.3 A person who does not meet the above qualifications, and who wishes to attain amateur standing, shall announce this intention by letter to the Board. If, at the expiration of a one year period from the date of the letter, he has refrained from any attempt to derive any part of his livelihood from the training, handling or showing of field trial or hunting dogs, he may be classified as an amateur in good standing.

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- 11.3.4 An Owner Handler Amateur All-Age stake at a retriever trial shall be for any dog, if handled in that stake by an amateur who is the registered owner or co-owner of such dog, or a member of the owner or co-owner's immediate family.

## 11.4 **Qualifying**

- 11.4.1 A Qualifying stake at a retriever trial shall be for dogs that:
- (a) Have never won first, second, third, or fourth place or a Certificate of Merit in an Open, Limited or Special All-Age Stake.
  - (b) Have never won first, second, third or fourth place in an Amateur All-Age or Owner Handler Amateur All-Age stake.
  - (c) Have not won 5 first places in Qualifying stakes at CKC approved trials.
- 11.4.2 In determining whether a dog is eligible for the Qualifying stake, no award received on or after the date of closing of entries shall be counted.

## 11.5 **Junior**

- 11.5.1 A Junior stake at a retriever trial shall be for dogs 6 months of age and not exceeding 2 years of age on the first day of the trial at which they are being run. For example, a dog whelped May 1, 1999, would not be eligible for Junior stakes at a trial starting May 1, 2001, but it would be eligible for Junior stakes at a trial the first day of which was April 30, 2001.

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# 12 **UNOFFICIAL STAKES**

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- 12.1 Non-regular stakes may be held at retriever trials subject to the approval of the CKC, and provided that the premium list sets forth any special conditions regarding the method of conducting or judging the stake. Such stakes will not carry championship points or be considered as qualifying a dog for any other stake.
- 12.2 A puppy stake shall be for dogs 6 months of age and not exceeding 12 months of age. The age of the dog
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shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the date preceding the first day of the trial, as in the Junior stake.

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## **13 NATIONAL RETRIEVER CHAMPIONSHIP STAKE** (24-12-21)

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### **13.1 National Retriever Championship Stake**

(46-03-19) (24-12-21)

#### **13.1.1 Guidelines**

(46-03-19) (25-12-21) (a) A National Retriever Championship stake shall be for dogs which, by reason of placings previously made, qualify under special rules subject to approval by the Board.

(46-03-19) (25-12-21) (b) This stakes shall be run not more than once in any calendar year and hosted by a club in good standing with CKC and the National Retriever Club of Canada.

(46-03-19) (25-12-21) (c) The winner of the National Retriever Championship stake is awarded the title of National Field Trial Champion (NFTCH).

(25-12-21) (37-12-21) (d) If and when the winner is handled by an Amateur as defined in these rules, the National Amateur Field Trial Champion title, NAFTCH is not awarded.

(25-12-21) (37-12-21) (e) If and when the winner is handled by a Professional as defined in these rules, the National Amateur Field Trial Champion title, NAFTCH is awarded to the top Amateur handled dog who has completed the 10th series of the National Retriever Championship stake. If no dog meets the criteria, the NAFTCH title is not awarded.

#### **13.1.2 Entries**

(a) Before each National Retriever Championship stake, the CKC shall decide those dogs which shall be eligible for invitation to compete in the stake, and shall notify the club staging the stake of the qualifications for entry in the stake.

(26-12-21) (37-12-21) (b) Any information furnished by the CKC regarding placings of dogs at trials held under its rules is entirely without prejudice to the CKC for such information is intended solely to assist the organization staging the stake. The responsibil-

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ity for determining the dogs which qualify and are entitled to be invited rests with the organization staging the stake.

- (c) The secretary of the organization hosting the stake shall forward to each owner of a dog eligible for entry in the stake an invitation to enter the dog in the stake.

- (46-03-19)  
(26-12-21)  
(37-12-21) (d) Dogs qualifying in trials which may be held in the 2 week period immediately preceding the National Retriever Championship stake and before the draw for the stake may be invited. Such invitation is to be made in writing or electronic document and delivered or mailed or sent electronically to the owner or agent of owner. The owner or agent must accept in writing or electronically and forward such acceptance to the field trial secretary of the National Retriever Championship stake. Any dogs invited under this clause and invitation are accepted at the owner's or agent's risk as to qualification.

- (26-12-21)  
(37-12-21) (e) Any dog entered in the National Championship stake must be registered individually or the necessary documentation must have been submitted to register the dog individually in the records of the CKC.

- (46-03-19) (f) Any dog entered in the National Championship stake must be registered individually or the necessary documentation must have been submitted to register the dog individually in the records of the CKC.

### 13.1.3 Results (46-03-19)

- (46-03-19)  
(27-12-21)  
(37-12-21) (a) The winning dog and top Amateur handled dog, if selected will be named at these trials.

- (46-03-19) (b) The judges are to select a reserve to the winning dog, but such selection is not to be considered an official award. It is to be made only as a precaution should it be necessary to cancel the award to the winning dog. The reserve selection is to be marked in the judges' book but no announcement or other recognition is to be made of such selection.

- (27-12-21)  
(37-12-21) (c) If the top Amateur handled dog is selected, the judges are to select a reserve to the top Amateur handled dog, but such selection is not to be considered an official award. It is to be made only as a precaution should it be necessary to cancel the award to the top Amateur handled dog. Reserve to the top Amateur handled dog

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must be handled by an Amateur and have completed the 10th series. If no dog meets the criteria, no reserve to the top Amateur handled dog is selected and should it be necessary to cancel the award to the top Amateur handled dog, the NAFTCH title is not awarded. The reserve selection is to be marked in the judges' book but no announcement or other recognition is to be made of such selection.

#### 13.1.4 Specifics

- (a) Except as provided for in this section, owners invited to enter qualified dogs are to have not less than 2 weeks in which to decide to enter any qualified dogs and shall be provided with an entry form for each dog invited, together with the following information:
  - (i) Information regarding the stake
  - (ii) What a dog must have accomplished in order to qualify for entry
  - (iii) Entry and other fees
  - (iv) Date of closing of entries
  - (v) Name and full address of person to whom entries are to be sent
  - (vi) Dates of trial
  - (vii) Exact location
  - (viii) Names of approved judges; and
  - (ix) Prizes offered
- (28-12-21) (b) Owners are to be advised that entries received after close will not be accepted. Owners of invited dogs should be advised to send entries by guaranteed mail or electronically.
- (c) Persons entering a dog in the stake are required to certify that any dog which they enter is qualified according to the conditions laid down in these regulations.
- (d) The stake:
  - (i) Must have at least 10 tests or series of which at least 5 should be land tests and five should include water. Land tests should include upland game whenever possible.
  - (ii) Not less than 3 judges shall officiate

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- (28-12-21) (iii) Ribbon: To the winner – The “year” National Field Trial Championship blue rosette
- (iv) Prizes: To the winner – such prizes as may be offered in the premium list of the stake.
- (28-12-21) (v) Ribbon: To the top Amateur handled dog – The “year” National Amateur Field Trial Champion blue rosette  
(37-12-21)
- (28-12-21) (vi) Prizes: To the top Amateur handled dog  
(37-12-21) – such prizes as may be offered in the premium list of the stake
- (e) The organization staging the stake shall name a field trial committee of 5 persons to manage the stake and all arrangements connected with such stake. The Field Trial Marshal shall be chairman of the committee which shall also deal with any complaints.
- (f) After the trial, the organization staging the stake shall submit the following to the CKC so as to be received not more than 21 days after the closing of the trial:
- (i) A full list of the owners who entered dogs in the stake
- (28-12-21) (ii) Entry forms of the winner the reserve  
(37-12-21) winner and if selected, the top Amateur handled dog and the reserve top Amateur handled dog
- (iii) The name and full particulars of the and the dog selected as reserve to the winning dog, certified to over the signatures of the officiating judges
- (28-12-21) (iv) If selected, the name with full particulars  
(37-12-21) of the top Amateur handled dog and the dog, selected as reserve to the top Amateur handled dog certified over the signatures of the officiating judges
- (v) All recording and TCN fees set by the CKC
- (vi) Information regarding each of the tests conducted on land and water
- (g) Except where such field trial rules and regulations are inconsistent with any part of this section, the field trial rules and regulations adopted by the CKC shall apply in connection with this stake.
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### 13.1.5 Qualifications (29-12-21) (37-12-21)

- (a) The winner and finalists of the previous year's National Retriever Championship stake.
- (b) The winner and finalists of the previous year's National Amateur Retriever Championship stake if run.
- (c) The dog declared the winner of the last National Championship stake, USA, shall be eligible for and shall be invited to compete in the National Retriever Championship stake provided reciprocal qualifications for the National Championship stake, USA, is granted to the new Canadian National Field Trial Champion. Dogs must be eligible under CKC rules to compete in the National Amateur Retriever Championship stake.
- (d) The dog declared the winner of the last National Amateur Retriever Championship stake, USA, shall be eligible and shall be invited to compete in the National Retriever Championship stake provided reciprocal qualifications for the National Amateur Retriever Championship stake, USA, is granted to the new Canadian National Amateur Field Trial Champion. Dogs must be eligible under CKC rules to compete in the National Retriever Championship stake.
- (e) Those dogs which have placed first, second, third or fourth in Open, Special or Limited All Age, stakes in which championship points were awarded, in trials approved by the CKC and hosted by members in good standing of the National Retriever Club of Canada during the period of the current year and the previous calendar year.
- (f) Those dogs which have placed first, second, third or fourth in Amateur All Age or Owner Handler Amateur All Age stakes in which championship points were awarded, in trials approved by the CKC and hosted by members in good standing of the National Retriever Club of Canada during the period of the current year and the previous calendar year.”

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## **14 CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES**

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### **14.1 General**

- 14.1.1 The total number of points required for a championship, the number of places in a stake for which points may be acquired, the number of points to be acquired for each place, and the number of starters required and their qualifications for eligibility to acquire points in each stake shall be fixed and determined by the Board.
- 14.1.2 Winners of the required number of stakes of championship points shall become champions of record, and when individually registered by the CKC shall be entitled to a championship certificate. A dog becomes a champion when it is officially recorded by the CKC.

### **14.2 Field Trial Championship (FTCH) (47-03-19)**

- 14.2.1 A retriever shall be a Field Trial Champion of Record having won points in Open, Limited or Special All-Age stakes at field trials approved by the CKC.
- 14.2.2 To acquire a field trial championship, a retriever must win:
- (a) A National Retriever Championship stake; or
  - (b) A total of 10 points which must be acquired as follows:

In Open, Limited or Special All Age stake, there must be at least 8 starters, each of which is eligible for a Limited All-Age stake. The winner of first place should be credited with 5 points, second place 3 points, third place 2 points and fourth place 1 point. To acquire a championship, a dog must place first in an Open, Limited or Special All-Age Stake open to all breeds of retrievers. A maximum of 5 points acquired in trials not open to all breeds of retrievers may be used. The winner of the National Retriever Championship Stake shall be credited with 5 points.

### **14.3 Amateur Field Trial Champion (AFTCH)**

- 14.3.1 A retriever shall become an Amateur Field Trial Champion of Record after having won points in Open, Limited or Special All-Age stakes when handled by an amateur as determined by the Field Trial



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Committee of the trial-giving club, and Amateur All-Age stakes at field trials approved by the CKC.

14.3.2 To acquire an amateur field trial championship, a retriever must:

- (32-12-21) (a) Be declared a National Retriever Champion; or  
(37-12-21)  
(32-12-21) (b) Win a total of 10 points which must be  
(37-12-12) acquired as follows:

In each Open, Limited, Special All Age, Amateur All-Age or Owner Handler Amateur All Age stake, there must be at least 8 starters, each of which is eligible for a Limited All-Age stake. The handler must be an amateur as determined by the Field Trial Committee of the trial giving club. The winner of first place should be credited with 5 points, second place 3 points, third place 2 points and fourth place 1 point. To acquire a championship, a dog must place first in one Open, Limited, Special All Age, Amateur All-Age or Owner Handler Amateur All Age stake open to all breeds of retrievers. A maximum of 5 points acquired in trials not open to all breeds of retrievers may be used. The winner of the National Retriever Championship Stake when handled by an Amateur shall be credited with 5 points.

#### **14.4 National Field Trial Champion (NFTCH)**

14.4.1 The winner of the National Retriever Championship  
(47-03-19) shall become a Field Trial Champion of Record and shall be entitled to be designated the National Field Trial Champion of “year”.

#### **14.5 National Amateur Field Trial Champion (NAFTCH)**

14.5.1 When the winner of the National Retriever Cham-  
(34-12-21) pionship is handled by a Professional, the National  
(37-12-21) Amateur Field Trial Champion title, NAFTCH, is awarded to the top Amateur handled dog who has completed the 10th series of the National Retriever Championship stake shall become an Amateur Field Trial Champion of Record and shall be entitled to be designated the National Amateur Field Trial Champion of “year”.

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## **14.6 Qualified Field Trial Retriever (QFTR)**

14.6.1 A retriever shall be a Qualified Field Trial Retriever and shall be entitled to place the letters QFTR after its name having won the requisite number of points in the Qualifying Stake at field trials approved by the CKC.

14.6.2 A retriever shall be designated as a Qualified Field Trial Retriever having:

- (48-03-19) (a) Acquired a total of 10 points in Qualifying Stakes, with 5 starters (as defined in Definition 1.1), provided the dog has a win in a Qualifying stake; or
- (b) Placed in an Amateur All-Age or Owner Handler Amateur All-Age stake; or
- (c) Placed or obtained a Certificate of Merit in an Open, Limited or Special All-Age stake.

14.6.3 Points shall be awarded as follows:

First Place	- 5 Points
Second Place	- 3 Points
Third Place	- 2 Points
Fourth Place	- 1 Point

## **14.7 Junior Field Trial Retriever (JFTR)**

14.7.1 A retriever shall be a Junior Field Trial Retriever and shall be entitled to place the letters JFTR after its name having won the requisite number of points in the Junior Stake at field trials approved by the CKC.

14.7.2 A retriever shall be designated as a Junior Field Trial Retriever after having placed in 3 Junior Stakes in which there were at least 5 starters (as defined in Definition 1.1) and acquired a total of 5 points.

14.7.3 Points shall be awarded as follows:

First Place	- 5 Points
Second Place	- 3 Points
Third Place	- 2 Points
Fourth Place	- 1 Point

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# **15 TRIAL PROCEDURES**

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## **15.1 General Provisions**

- 15.1.1 In order that trials may be conducted as uniformly as is practical, standardization of objectives is essential and, therefore, all judges, guns, contestants and officials who have a part in conducting trials should be familiar with and be governed by this rule book. In respect to trial procedure, it presents guidance to judges, guns and officials of the trial-giving club in the conduct of the trial, so it will be well planned and smooth running, in order that all dogs will be given adequate and relatively equal opportunity to display their merits.
- 15.1.2 While natural conditions are subject to great variations in different parts of Canada, the work expected of the dogs should not be subject to similar wide variations. In most instances, there should be little doubt in anyone's mind as to the type of work which constitutes a perfect performance in a given test. However, there is unlimited opportunity for an honest difference of opinion on the severity of the penalty to assess for any given infraction or deviation from perfect work. Therefore, there must always be the possibility of owners and handlers being confused and dismayed because their dogs are dropped from further competition, or not included in the placings due to faults which other judges at other trials had not severely penalized. However, this should be minimized, since everyone has the right to know which particular faults will be penalized severely, moderately, or only to a minor degree. For clarification on these points, see Classification of Faults.
- 15.1.3 The rule book has been formulated in such a manner that the officials of a trial-giving club and the judges have considerable latitude in the conduct of a trial. This is desirable in order to allow for variations in conditions that are peculiar to various parts of the country, and also to grant judges unlimited opportunities for ingenuity in planning tests.
- 15.1.4 An equal number of land and water tests shall be given and shall receive consideration. Retrievers should perform equally well on the land and in the water, and should be thoroughly tested on both.
- 15.1.5 All field trial-giving clubs should clearly recognize that Open, Limited or Special All-Age stakes are of the first importance, and that all other stakes are

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of relatively lesser importance and are requested to adjust the timing of these stakes for a fair test. In the apportionment of time, an Open, Limited or Special All-Age stake must be given first consideration, the Amateur All-Age, or Owner Handler Amateur All-Age stakes merit next consideration, whereas both a Junior and Qualifying stake requires less time.

The following factors also should be considered in apportioning time:

- (a) The number of entries in each of the various stakes
- (b) The quality and quantity of the facilities available at the field trial grounds
- (c) The weather
- (d) The proximity of sites for various tests
- (e) The ease of moving, and the time involved in moving from one test-site to another (here one must not forget about the importance of the size of the gallery); and
- (f) How lunch is to be handled (i.e. with or without a break)

15.1.6 It is essential that all concerned with the conduct of retriever field trials, the Field Trial Committee, marshals, and judges, as well as the contestants, shall have read and shall be conversant with the current editions of the field trial rules and regulations. Such alone, would do much in attaining that much desired greater uniformity in both trial procedure and evaluation of work.

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

15.1.8 A minimum of 1-1/2 birds in fresh condition per dog should be available for use in All-Age stakes and a minimum of 1 bird in fresh condition in the Junior and Qualifying stakes. There should be available, in addition, sufficient birds in fresh condition to enable each dog to receive clearly visible birds on water retrieves.

15.1.9 Humane handling and care of game at a trial should be rigidly practiced.

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- 15.1.10 During at least 1 water test in all stakes, dogs should be worked over artificial decoys, anchored separately. A dog retrieving a decoy shall be eliminated.
  - 15.1.11 Only pheasants, ducks or other game birds may be used in all stakes. Pigeons and doves shall not be used.
  - 15.1.12 A winger may be used in any stake.

## **15.2 Responsibilities of the Field Trial Committee**

- 15.2.1 Field Trial Committees shall be responsible for the enforcement of all rules and regulations relating to field trials and must obtain a copy of the current CKC rules and regulations for reference.
- 15.2.2 Field Trial Committees may make such regulations or additional rules for the government of their field trials as necessary, provided such regulations or additional rules do not conflict with any rule of the CKC. Such regulations or additional rules shall be printed in the premium list or entry form and violations thereof shall be considered the same as violating the rules and regulations of the CKC.
- 15.2.3 The trial-giving club must provide an efficient organization to conduct the mechanics of the trial. To minimize delay in starting stakes and in starting various tests in those stakes, the judges should have previously planned and have instructed the Field Trial Committee about the location of the next test and the requirements of equipment such as game, guns, boats and decoys.
- 15.2.4 Apportioning time to the various stakes is the first and most important consideration in planning the mechanics of a trial. It is the joint responsibility of the judges and the Field Trial Committee. The premium list schedules the days of the trial and the hour when the trial will start. Those are fixed, definite factors in planning the mechanics. A Field Trial Committee could expedite its job considerably if in the premium list it was recorded that the first stake will start at a specified hour on the first day of the trial and that each succeeding stake will follow at the conclusion of the stake which preceded it, rather than stating the specific hour at which any stake will start.
- 15.2.5 It shall be the duty of the Field Trial Committee to investigate at once, any report that is made of alleged unsportsmanlike conduct. Offenders may

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be removed from competition in the stake, or from competition at the trial, by the Field Trial Committee.

- 15.2.6 The decisions of the Field Trial Committee shall be final and conclusive, and shall bind all parties subject to the rules and regulations of the CKC.

### **15.3 Responsibilities of Judges**

#### **15.3.1 Guidelines**

- (a) All judges shall be thoroughly familiar with the field trial rules and regulations.
- (b) Judges should particularly note the basic principles of a retriever trial previously set out in these rules.
- (c) Judging can never be precise; it is not an exact science, merely an art, simply because there are so many shades of grey between black and white. At the risk of over-simplification, it might be stated that the primary purpose of a retriever is to get the birds to hand as quickly as possible in a pleasing, obedient manner and all faults stem from a deviation from this. It is recommended that a judge should have clearly in mind, and for each stake, precisely what type of performance he expects, since such work will merit high rating in his records. Then he should observe, and record, in what respects and to what degree the performances by individual dogs have either exceeded or fallen short of that previously established par. Hence, when the stake is completed the judges will arrive at their final decision about placings on the basis of which dog relatively, did better work than another in each of the series. Therefore, much of a judge's responsibility is to determine how much weight he shall give to certain types of exceptional performance and how much penalty to assess because of various individual faults.

#### **15.3.2 Inspection of Field Trial Grounds**

- (a) It is very important that judges inspect the field trial grounds with representatives of the Field Trial Committee in advance of the scheduled day for the trial to start, and seek their counsel regarding any peculiarities of the grounds not readily apparent. At that time, the judges should elect and determine the nature of each test and

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its location, preferably for the entire trial. On set-up day, judges should always inspect the routes to falls and blinds for unseen hazards.

### 15.3.3 Planning Tests

- (a) The judges, with due regard to the recommendations of the Field Trial Committee shall determine the tests to be given in each series and shall try to give all dogs similar tests in the same series. The judges may discontinue any test before it has been completed, provided that another test is substituted. The performance of a dog in a test which has been discontinued shall not be considered for any purpose in the evaluation of the work of that dog in the stake. The planning of tests is the responsibility of the judges; it is also one of the most important responsibilities. With good tests, it is much easier to judge the quality of the performance by various dogs than could be true with tests which are so simple and so easy that most of the dogs turn in almost perfect performances, or with tests which are too difficult and time consuming; apparently designed to produce many failures or eliminations. Nevertheless, falls which are long and out of gun range for the handler are appropriate and proper. They can be justified on the basis either of birds that fly a considerable distance after having been shot, or of those shot by a hunting companion. Ingenuity on the part of judges should be encouraged, not only in planning tests, but also in devising some which are unusual and quite different from those customarily used at field trials. However, all such unusual tests should conform to the Basic Principles of Retriever Trials as set out in Chapter 10 and they should not require complicated instructions about the desired method of completing the test.
- (b) On marked retrieves a dog should be able to see a bird in the air and as it falls, since its memory can only be tested when it has seen the falls. Factors to be considered in a marking test are:
- (i) Gunners should be located so that they are conspicuous and readily identifiable by the dog
  - (ii) The background against which the bird is thrown as well as the light conditions and the height to which the bird is thrown should also be carefully considered.

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- (iii) On falls which might be difficult to mark, the gunners may be asked to shoot twice to aid dogs in their marking.
  - (c) Judges may request gunners to disappear from sight after their bird is down, but care should be taken that the retiring gunners do not distract the dog. For this purpose:
    - (i) any movement by the gunners should be limited so that movement of the guns does not risk distracting the running dog.
    - (ii) in no circumstances should the judges have the guns move to another position to deliberately mislead the dogs in their marking.
    - (iii) retired guns and throwers should be concealed by a blind that provides adequate coverage of the gunners and equipment and, where feasible, placed so as to conceal the distinctive shape of the blind.
    - (iv) the blind should be so located as to minimize the development of a trail that may cause the running dog to be distracted from the area of the fall.
    - (v) no unoccupied blinds shall be placed in the field in a marking test except for the purpose of protecting the running dogs from injury by hidden hazards.
  - (d) On marked retrieves the order in which birds are to be retrieved shall not be specified by the judges unless it is considered to be a test of control (i.e. a handling test).
  - (e) The handler may select the order in which he directs the dog to retrieve the birds provided such selection is accomplished quickly and quietly. Excessive time or noise in effecting such selection either at the time of sending or while directing the dogs attention to the gunners during the initial set up may be penalized as excessive lining.
  - (f) Diversion shots, otherwise known as dry guns or dry pops, are shots in which no bird is thrown and shall not be used in marking tests. As well diversion shot gunner(s) shall not be stationed in the field visible to the dog during a marking test or while the marking portion of a combined mark/blind is run.
  - (35-12-21) (g) On blind retrieves, wherever possible, the judges should plan their test in such a way
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that they take advantage of natural hazards; such as islands, points of land, sand bars, ditches, hedges, small bushes, adjacent heavy cover, and rolling terrain. Despite such natural distractions, it should be possible, at least in theory, for a dog to find a well-planned blind retrieve on the initial line from its handler. That it will do so is highly improbable because of those natural hazards, so it must be handled to the blind. Nevertheless, the test should be planned so the dog should be in sight continuously. A blind retrieve is a test of control, and a dog which is out-of-sight for a considerable period cannot be said to be under control. Utilizing natural hazards should obviate the need for judges issuing special instructions about the manner of completing the blind retrieve, other than to get the meat by the most direct route. The location of the blind must be clearly identifiable to the handler.

- (h) When ordered to retrieve, the handler shall direct his dog from any position designated by the judges.
- (i) Tests or retrieves which are not to be considered by the judges at the final summing up should not be held.
- (j) Changing tests after a series has been started should be avoided, if at all possible. One way of avoiding such unsatisfactory tests, or of avoiding unforeseen and unpredictable situations which would vitiate an apparently proper and sound test, is the practice of running a test dog at the start of every series. A test dog is used by many judges under conditions wherein they may entertain doubts about the exact way in which the test may actually go. Some believe that use of a test dog really saves time; on occasions, it may save embarrassment for judges. Every reasonable effort should be made by the Field Trial Committee, the marshal and the judges to avoid using a test dog handler who is still competing in the stake.

#### 15.3.4 Pre-Trial Decisions

- (a) Before a trial, stake and each series is started, the judges must reach certain decisions about various details, and should consistently follow these procedures.
  - (i) Instructions given to the marshal and the gunners should be by agreement of the judges which may vary from series to series.

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- (ii) Signaling for birds to be thrown: it is recommended that each set of gunners be signaled separately. This creates more uniform timing between falls and prevents additional birds being thrown if a fall is unsatisfactory to the judge. The signaling judge should be careful that neither his signaling nor the shadow of it distracts either dog.”
  - (iii) Calling the dog’s number as a signal for the handler to send his dog is proper. It is not proper to call the dog’s name or the handler’s name for this purpose. It makes for greater uniformity, as a rule, if 1 judge is responsible for all 3 of the foregoing duties in each series, with the judges rotating or taking turns at this duty in different series.
- (b) Each judge should be at liberty to say “NO”, and independently, if, in his opinion, any fall is such, or any situation develops, that makes for a relatively unfair test for the dog under judgment. Under such conditions, the dog should be picked up immediately and tested later on a new set of birds, after waiting behind the line until several dogs have been tested. Judges should watch the dog being tested, and try to determine whether it apparently saw and marked each fall. It is proper to give the dog another set of birds if it is unable to see birds and mark the falls through no fault of its own, but rather due to a poor flight of bird, unusual light conditions, striking changes in the background, or any other occurrence which make for decidedly different conditions from those under which previously competing dogs had been tested in that series. On the other hand, the dog should not be given a new set of birds when failure to mark was of its own doing - either through lack of attention, or because its attention was frozen on another set of guns or a previous fall.
- (c) When on line, if working dogs creep forward or jump forward before being sent, short of breaking, the judges should agree whether they are to be brought to heel before being sent to retrieve. If so, handlers should be informed of this requirement in advance, and the manner in which they will be advised on line of its application to them. Also, care should be exercised so that this is enforced in such a manner
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that it does not become grossly unfair for honouring dogs.

- (d) In the minor stakes, where controlled breaks are permissible, the judges should agree in advance about the degree they will consider a controlled break in contrast to the one which will eliminate the dog from further competition. They should also be in agreement about the severity of the penalties to assess for various degrees of controlled breaks.
- (e) Drifting ducks can be a problem as they create a lack of uniformity in the falls. The judges may agree that they may waive delivery and judge a dog up to the spot where the dog should have found the drifting bird. Otherwise they should offer the dog a rerun of the test on a new set of birds (as provided for under section 15.3.6 (g)). The judges may also agree that a rerun will only be offered for a dog whose work up to the time of reaching the area of the original fall would justify further consideration by the judges. In any case the judges should consider in advance how they will deal with this situation.
- (f) The encountering of wild birds, rabbits, or other game by the working dog also presents a problem, and sometimes creates great inequalities. Dogs, particularly in All-Age stakes, should ignore such distractions or be sufficiently under control to be handled to the fall. Judges should decide, in advance, how they will deal with such a problem, and they may agree to pick up the dog and re-test it at a later time, providing they feel such a distraction was responsible for a faulty performance.
- (g) For any of the reasons mentioned above, or any other conditions that may arise which create decidedly different conditions from other dogs, the judges may pick up a dog and test it again, if possible, allowing several dogs to run the test before recalling the dog to be re-run.
- (h) Every bird retrieved and delivered to the handler should be inspected by one of the judges. Failure to inspect retrieved birds must be catalogued as carelessness, and as an undesirable practice. It is unfair to all dogs that are being tested, not alone in respect to the question of hardmouth, but more particularly, since it may furnish the explanation for a slow pick-up or some other oddity in a dog's performance. Any unusual condition of a bird should be brought

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to the attention of all the judges. If the same birds are to be used again, those that are damaged should be set aside and not re-used.

- (i) Unless specifically provided herein, all decisions affecting the conduct of the stake and the judging of a dog's performance shall be by consensus of both or all judges in the stake concerned and no one judge shall make or communicate such decision without first ensuring that there is such consensus.

### 15.3.5 Instructions to Handlers

- (a) Instructions regarding the position handlers are to take, the nature of the test, and any special instructions about the desired method of completing it, can be given to the handler as they come to the line. If special instructions are to be given, great care must be exercised so that each handler receives the same instructions. Such can be accomplished by summoning all handlers to the line before the series is started, and then announcing those special instructions to the group, once and for all. If it is not possible to assemble all handlers for such a single announcement, the special instructions can be written and given to the marshal, who in turn, should show them to each handler before they go on line. Whatever method the judges decide to adopt, they should be certain that all handlers receive identical instructions.

### 15.3.6 Procedures During Testing

- (a) Judges should keep sufficiently detailed notes on each dog's performance to enable them to recall it completely, or at least its outstanding features. Each fault should be noted, even those that are minor. Although the latter may not require that the dog be penalized at that time, repetitions of that fault or commission of various other faults, in succeeding series, may cause the total of faults to assume serious proportions.
- (41-03-16) (b) Judges shall at their discretion, determine the number of dogs that shall be worked or kept on line simultaneously. In at least one series in an All-Age stake where championship points are awarded, every dog should be kept on line off leash in a position designated by the judge while another dog works. Judges may require a running dog who is out of contention (pick-up) to honour on lead. The decision will be at the sole discretion of the judges. Honouring in a Junior stake is

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not a requirement. Honouring in a Qualifying or All-Age may be waived at the judges discretion.

- (c) When coming to line to be tested, the dog and its handler should assume any positions directed by the judges. In all regular official stakes, except Junior, dogs should be brought to the line and taken from the line off leash without collar, and should be considered under judgment from the time they are called to come to the line until they have left the line and are back to all judges, at which point the dog may be put on leash.

(42-03-16) (d) In Junior and non-regular stakes dogs may be brought to the line and taken from the line on leash. They shall remain off leash and without collar while under judgment.

- (e) Unless otherwise instructed by the judges, no dog should be sent to retrieve until its number has been called by one of the judges.

- (f) If, when a dog is ordered by the judge to retrieve a fall, and another dog breaks for a fall and interferes with the working dog to the extent of causing it in any way to make a faulty performance, the dog interfered with should be considered as not having been tried and given a chance for another performance.

- (g) If there is an occurrence which makes for a relatively unfair test for a dog, the judges shall exercise their discretion in determining how to form a judgment on the quality of work done by the dog in the series notwithstanding the unfairness. In forming such judgment the judges may decide that it is necessary or unnecessary to re-run the dog. If they decide the latter, they may waive delivery to hand of the mark or blind in which the unfairness occurred; if they decide the former the dog shall be picked up immediately and tested on a new set of birds, after waiting behind the line until several other dogs have been tested. The re-run of a mark or blind which was not previously completed shall be scored by taking into consideration the combined performance of the dog prior to the point of unfairness in the initial run and after the point of unfairness in the re-run. If there is more than one re-run of that mark or blind, the judges shall exercise their discretion in determining how to score it fairly. The re-run of a mark or blind which was previously completed shall be scored on the first completion and faults committed on such re-run shall be ignored except that if the dog:

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- (i) Does not complete that portion in accordance with the judge's instructions for a test; or
  - (ii) Commits any of the faults as outlined in this section which justifies elimination from a stake, the dog shall be penalized in the same manner as the judges would penalize it regardless of the re-run.
- (h) A handler is not free to select marked falls in a re-run in an order different from the order in which they were selected in the initial run. If the handler deliberately attempts to do so the dog shall be eliminated from the stake.

### 15.3.7 Completion of Series

- (43-03-16) (a) At the end of the first series, and every series thereafter, the judges will call back all dogs which they wish to try further, and will cause them to be run in additional series until the stake is decided. To the extent that time permits, judges, especially minor stake judges, should be generous in their callbacks for additional series. Minor stake judges shall also invite Amateurs who have been eliminated from the competition to run additional series for experience, if time allows. No dog should be eliminated from further competition unless it is the consensus of the judges that it would be impossible for the dog to place in the stake, even though its work in all succeeding series was perfect. For example, other things being equal, a specific fault, such as failure to mark the area of the fall, should merit the same penalty in a late series as had been assessed for it in an early series. Actually, the fault committed in the first series may not justify elimination, as there is no certainty at that time that every dog may not commit an equally serious fault before the stake is completed. However, commission of that fault in the first series alone, may conceivably justify elimination before the last series is begun, simply because there are several dogs in competition which have not committed any faults and many others whose faults were less serious. Since so little additional testing is completed in order to complete the stake, the judges would be justified in concluding that such an error in the first series alone, would preclude all probability of the dog being placed in the stake.

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### 15.3.8 Determining Placements

- (a) Before arriving at their final placings in any stake, the judges should make direct comparisons, series for series, between all of their dogs under consideration for those places. Such comparisons permit each judge to be certain that the dog placed first has given a relatively better performance throughout the stake than the second place dog. The fourth place dog should be compared directly with all that are unplaced, and on a similar basis.
- (b) In general, scoring systems on each series are of assistance for preliminary classification of the performances by the various dogs still in competition. They help immeasurably in arriving at a prompt decision after the conclusion of each series, in respect to which dog should be called back for the next series. However, in the final summation and analysis of the various performances, a direct and detailed comparison of the work done by one dog versus the work of another may produce some different conclusions from those suggested by the scores alone. Careful comparisons are heavily recommended as they are most likely to achieve the true purpose of retriever field trials defined by the rule book as a method to determine the relative merit of retrievers in the field.
- (c) No dog shall be given a place in a stake unless the dog has completed all tests held for any dog in such stake, except a test which has been discontinued.
- (d) A judge's decision shall be final in all cases affecting the merits of the dogs. Full discretionary authority is given to the judge to withhold any, or all, awards for want of merit.
- (e) No lower placement can be given unless all higher placements have been awarded.
- (f) Judges should be encouraged to award a Certificate of Merit to those dogs which have completed all series, and which show evidence of being well-trained and thoroughly qualified retrievers.
  - (i) In stakes where a Certificate of Merit qualifies a dog for a Limited All-Age stake and makes him a starter eligible to make future stakes carry championship points, such awards should not be given unless the dog's work merits this recognition.

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- (ii) A Certificate of Merit is not to be awarded if the judges have not seen fit to award 4 placements.

## **15.4 Responsibilities of Handlers**

- 15.4.1 There should be no practicing or training on any part of the field trial grounds from the start of the trial until its conclusion. The throwing of a bumper by a handler for the purpose of exercising his dog shall not be deemed to be practicing or training.
- 15.4.2 After the Field Trial Committee and the judges have selected field trial grounds, or at such earlier date as the trial-giving club shall determine, no competing dogs shall be trained or exercised in that part of the grounds to be used for the trials.
- 15.4.3 The right to run a dog cannot be transferred except where the handler has been eliminated from the trial or when approved by the Field Trial Committee.
- 15.4.4 Dogs seeing handling test: All competing dogs must be kept where they cannot see blind retrieves planted and where they cannot see another dog working on a blind retrieve in any series which they have not completed. Members of the Field Trial Committee should report violations of this section to the judges. Violation of this section should be penalized by the elimination of both the dog and handler from the stake.
- 15.4.5 Dogs seeing marking test: Except in specific compliance with judges' instructions in a test where a dog is required to honour before running, all competing dogs should be kept where they can neither see the falls for another dog, nor see another dog work in any series which they have not completed. Violation of this section should be penalized by elimination of both the dog and handler from the stake. Members of the Field Trial Committee should report violations of this section to the judges.
- 15.4.6 During the period following the judge's signal to throw the first bird and until the dog's number is called, the handler of the working or honouring dog should remain silent. Also, in all marking tests, during such period, the handler's hands should remain quietly in close proximity to his body. A handler who projects his hand during such a period, whether for the purpose of assisting his dog to locate a fall or otherwise, should be considered to have a threatening gesture, and his dog penalized as outlined below.



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15.4.7 No handler shall:

- (35-06-18) (a) Carry any exposed training equipment, except whistles, to the line. In Junior stakes, dogs may be brought to the line and taken from the line on leash and without collar while under judgement.
- (b) Use threatening gestures or any equipment to aid in steadying or controlling a dog.
- (c) Hold or intentionally touch a dog while under judgement except as specifically provided for in these rules for Junior stakes.
- (d) Any violation of these provisions is sufficient grounds to justify elimination from the stake. It is a considerate gesture if the judges notify a handler if a method of restraint might incur a penalty.

15.4.8 When on line, whether running or honouring, a handler shall not place his dog or himself so that the dog's full vision of any bird as it falls is blocked.

15.4.9 In marking tests a dog whose handler gives the dog a line in the direction of the fall, provided that such lining is accomplished briskly and precisely, should not by reason of such lining be outscored by a dog not so lined.

- (a) Even with marked birds, a handler may be able to render great assistance to his dog by giving the dog a line in the direction of the fall; however, there is nothing the handler can do, short of handling, to aid the dog in recognizing the depth of the fall.
- (b) Often a dog gives definite indication of memory, and of its marking ability, at or after delivery of the first bird by aligning itself toward, or by looking eagerly in the exact direction of an unretrieved fall; at times even leaving at once or leaving on command, but without benefit of a precise line to the fall given to it by the handler. There is no invariable method by which the relative merits of such perfect completions can be judged: the dog trained to come to heel and to be lined by the handler briskly and precisely, and in the same manner for each and every retrieve, including the first, cannot be penalized for its work - not even relatively in comparison with a more spontaneous type of performance.
- (c) Conspicuously intensive lining of dogs to marked falls is undesirable and may be penalized.

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- 15.4.10 Walk-up test: A handler may, without penalty, give a command to sit when the first bird is being thrown on a walk up.
- 15.4.11 When a handler of a dog under judgment is asked for any reason to pick up his dog, he is still under judgment until he has left the line with his dog at heel in accordance with the judges' instructions. When a dog is ordered by the judges to be picked up and run again, the dog should return promptly to its handler.
- 15.4.12 In a handling situation, whether to a mark or a blind, a dog that is allowed to hunt extensively for a bird after handling has begun should be considered out of control.
- 15.4.13 Handlers are responsible to ensure that they know *(44-03-16)* and understand the test requirements. If in doubt they should ask the judges for clarification prior to bringing their dog to line to be tested.

## **15.5 Responsibilities of Marshals**

- 15.5.1 The marshals of each stake are responsible to ensure the stake runs smoothly. The marshal shall:
- (a) Call the dogs to line.
  - (b) Announce to the judges the number of the dog about to be tested.
  - (c) Enforce that all spectators attending a trial be kept far enough from the line to enable the dog working to clearly discern its handler.
  - (d) Call back to the line any dog which was picked up and was to be re-tested. How long such a dog shall wait behind the line before being re-tested should be prearranged with the judges so that the handler can be told when he is to run again at the time he picks his dog up.
  - (e) Obtain the callbacks for the next series from the judges, and announce them.

## **15.6 Responsibilities of Gunners**

- 15.6.1 Dogs may be shot over by the gunners appointed by the Field Trial Committee, or at the option of the judges, by the handler.
- 15.6.2 Gunners are to remain quiet and only volunteer information if:

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- (a) Requested to do so by the judges
  - (b) They believe their bird to be drifting seriously
  - (c) The dog retrieves a bird other than the one thrown for it
  - (d) If there is a significant change in the cover, which may not be apparent to the judges
- 15.6.3 Unless otherwise instructed, the gunners shall not move their position after their bird is down.
- 15.6.4 Nothing should be thrown to encourage a dog to enter the water or direct a dog to the fall.
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## **16 EVALUATION OF DOG WORK**

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### **16.1 Natural Abilities**

16.1.1 The judges must judge the dogs for their natural abilities including their memory, sagacity, intelligence, attention, nose, courage, perseverance and style. Natural abilities are of great importance in all stakes, whereas abilities acquired through training are of less importance in the Qualifying stake than in those carrying championship points, and are of comparatively minor importance in the Junior stake.

#### 16.1.2 Memory

- (a) Accurate marking, or memory of falls is of paramount importance. However, this does not imply that dogs which excel in marking shall not be severely penalized, or even eliminated for deficiencies in or a lack of the other required abilities. However, in Junior stakes, tests are usually so devised that marked birds constitute a large percentage of the retrieves by which each dog's performance is judged.
  - (b) Ability to mark does not necessarily imply pin-pointing the fall. A dog that misses the fall on the first cast, but recognizes the depth of the area of the fall, stays in it, then quickly and systematically hunts it out, has done both a creditable and an intelligent job of marking. Such work should not be appreciably outscored by the dog that finds or pinpoints on its first cast. However, a dog which consistently, (i.e. during the entire stake), marks its birds in a closer area, hence more accurately
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than another dog, should be judged accordingly. All things are relative, and conceivably, such differences in marking alone might be sufficient to determine the final placings in a particular stake.

- (c) What precisely constitutes the area of the fall defies accurate definition. At the outset of every test, each judge must arbitrarily define its hypothetical boundaries for himself, and each bird in that test, so that he can judge whether dogs have remained within the judge's own concept of the area of the fall, as well as how far they wandered away from the area and how much cover they disturbed unnecessarily. In determining these arbitrary and hypothetical boundaries of the area of the fall, due consideration should be given to various factors.
- (i) The type, height and uniformity of the cover
  - (ii) Light conditions
  - (iii) Direction of the prevailing wind and its intensity
  - (iv) Length of various falls
  - (v) The speed of individual dogs
  - (vi) Whether there is a change in cover (i.e. from stubble to plowed ground, or to ripe alfalfa, or to machine-picked corn) or whether the fall is beyond a hedge, across a road, or over a ditch; and finally and most important
  - (vii) Whether one is establishing the area of the fall for a single, or for the first bird a dog goes for in multiple retrieves, or for the second or the third bird, since each of these should differ from the others. In general, the area of the fall for a single should be relatively small; the area for a first retrieve in a double should be smaller than for the second bird, and both of these should be larger in a triple, and larger still for the third bird in it. Also, the area for short retrieves should certainly be smaller than for longer retrieves. Since there are so many conditions and variables to be taken into consideration, it is obvious that each judge, and for every series, must attempt to define for himself a hypothetical area of a fall for each bird, and then judge the dogs accordingly. However, the penalties inflicted should vary in their severity, depending on the distance which individual dogs wander

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out of the area, the frequency of such wanderings, the number of birds mis-marked in a given test, and by the amount of cover disturbed in these meanderings

- (d) Dogs which disturb cover unnecessarily, clearly well out of the area of the fall, either by not going directly to that area, or by leaving it even though they eventually find the birds without being handled, should be penalized more severely than those handled quickly and obediently to it.

### 16.1.3 Sagacity

A dog which fails to find a bird, which in the opinion of the judges the dog should have found, shall be eliminated from the stake.

### 16.1.4 Intelligence

Intelligence is a quality not often tested intentionally, since few tests can be designed for that specific purpose. On occasion, dogs may have an opportunity to demonstrate an unusual degree of intelligence, or lack of it, through the manner in which certain performances are completed. When those occasions arise, and usually they develop by chance rather than by intent, each dog must be credited or penalized on the basis of intelligence demonstrated.

### 16.1.5 Attention

Attention is displayed, even as a dog comes to line. The dog's eagerness and general attitude when coming on line, its alertness in locating the gunners, in acceding to its handler's commands, and its zeal for the hunt, are highly desirable traits. Conversely, lack of attention and lack of interest should be penalized.

### 16.1.6 Nose

- (a) Most retrievers have a good nose and, as a rule, have numerous opportunities to demonstrate this all-important quality at every trial. Usually it is something in the dog's work which suggests a dog lacks a good nose, thus attracting the judge's attention. Such suspicion should be recorded so it can be verified or eliminated by the dog's performance in subsequent tests. On the other hand, scenting conditions are mysterious and little understood, although obviously affected by many factors such as type of cover, wind, frost, rain, location of fall, acidity of soil and apparently many other conditions. Extreme caution must

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be exercised before a dog is charged with a poor nose and penalized accordingly.

- (b) Repeated evidence of poor nose is in itself sufficient justification for elimination from the stake. Because scenting conditions are affected by so many factors judges should exercise extreme caution in invoking this penalty.

#### 16.1.7 Courage

- (a) Courage, too, is a trait which cannot be tested at every trial. It may be displayed by a willingness to face, without hesitation, rough cover, cold or rough water, ice, mud, or other similar conditions which make the going rather tough, and of doing it repeatedly. The facilities of trial grounds, or the weather, do not often supply the proper situation for a series specifically designed to test the dogs' courage.
- (b) Because the facilities or weather necessary for such a test are often limited, such test should usually come late in a trial, unless there are reasonable grounds for assumption that all dogs will receive comparable tests. When such test can be arranged, they are frequently of great value to the judges in evaluating their relative merits in this highly desirable trait which all retrievers should possess.

#### 16.1.8 Perseverance

- (a) Perseverance is shown by a dog's determination to complete the task at hand; i.e. systematically, aggressively and without faltering, to search for and make the find of the bird that the dog has been sent to retrieve.
- (b) A lack of perseverance may become apparent if a dog, after having been sent to retrieve:
  - (i) Returns to its handler voluntarily before finding the bird or does not go when ordered, except, when in the opinion of the judges, the dog was confused as to whether it was really ordered to retrieve, in which case no penalty shall be assessed.
  - (ii) Stops its hunt, or continues at it in a slow, unenthusiastic, disinterested manner;
  - (iii) Popping; stopping and looking back at its handler for directions on a mark.
  - (iv) Switches birds

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- (v) Blinks a bird—fails to pick up the bird, actually leaving it after making the find

Most of these are serious faults and should be judged accordingly.

- (c) Switching birds implies a dog gives up its hunt after a search, leaves the area, and goes for another bird, or drops a bird it is retrieving and goes for another. Except in the latter case, a dog should not be judged as switching unless it goes to the area of a fall, hunts, fails to find and then leaves that area to hunt for another fall.
- (d) If, on a marked retrieve, a dog returns to and hunts an area of an old fall, it may be penalized. The degree of penalty shall be at the discretion of the Judges based on their assessment of the circumstances. Consideration should be given to the length of the hunt in the area of the old fall, the relative locations of both falls and the certainty of purpose with which the dog continues on with its retrieve. If determined by the Judges to be a serious fault it may be eliminated from the trial.
- (e) It should not be considered lack of perseverance if, while on the way to one fall, the dog sees or finds another bird and retrieves it first; or, if on the way to one fall, but long before the dog reaches the area of the fall, it changes its direction for some reason or other and goes for another bird.

#### 16.1.9 Style

- (a) Style is apparent in every movement of a dog and throughout its entire performance at trials by the gaiety of its manner, its alertness on line, its eagerness and speed on retrieves, water entry, pick-up of birds and return with them. Dogs may be credited for outstanding and brilliant exhibitions of style, or they may be penalized for deficiencies in style. The severity of the penalty ranging from a minor demerit to elimination from the stake in extreme cases.
- (b) Style makes for a pleasing performance. Style and ability to mark constitute the important factors for placings in Junior stakes.
- (c) In all stakes, in respect to style, a desired performance includes:
  - (i) An alert and obedient attitude
  - (ii) Fast, determined departures on land and in water

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- (iii) An aggressive search for the fall
  - (iv) A prompt pick-up and
  - (v) A reasonably fast return

## **16.2 Trained Abilities**

16.2.1 Judges must judge the dogs for their abilities acquired through training, including steadiness, control, response to direction and delivery. The importance of these acquired qualities varies in different stakes. For example, a reasonable degree of steadiness and general obedience are the requirements in Junior stakes. A greater degree of steadiness and some degree of the other qualities are expected in the Qualifying stake. There should be expectations of full refinement in acquired attributes in those stakes carrying championship points.

### 16.2.2 Steadiness

- (a) Dogs on line sometimes make various types of movements when game is thrown. Such movements may be interpreted as efforts by the dogs to improve their view of the fall, and some occur through sheer excitement. Except for an occasional change in position in order to better see a fall, all such movements on line of a running or honouring dog should be penalized as unsteadiness - the degree of penalty depending on the extent and the frequency of repetition of the offenses. If the handler makes no effort to stop or restrain his dog, a judge should not interpret movement on line as a deliberate intent to retrieve, since nothing was done to stop the dog. On the other hand, if the handler does make an effort to stop his dog, a judge should assume the handler believed the dog intended to retrieve and should deal with such infraction accordingly. In any case, creeping or jumping forward should be penalized as unsteadiness and if repeated, and seriously excessive, may be in itself sufficient to justify elimination.
- (b) It is proper for judges, if they wish, to require dogs which have jumped or crept forward a predetermined distance (usually a few feet ahead of the handler) to be brought back to heel before being sent for their birds. Judging procedure is outlined in these rules. The requirement of steadiness is a very important factor in judging the work of retrievers.



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- (c) In an All-Age stake, if a dog makes a movement which, in the opinion of the judge, indicates a deliberate intent to retrieve without having been ordered to do so, or if the handler speaks or gestures to his dog to prevent such movement, that dog shall be deemed to have broken and shall be eliminated. In any stake other than an All-Age stake, if a dog makes a slight break and is brought immediately under control, the dog need not be eliminated but shall be penalized for unsteadiness. In all stakes, after the judges have directed that a dog be ordered to retrieve, that dog is entitled to run in and retrieve and shall not be accused of, or penalized for breaking, even though the judges did not see or hear the handler send the dog.

### 16.2.3 Control

- (a) When called to be tested, a dog should come tractably at heel and sit promptly at the point designated by its handler. The dog should remain quietly where placed until given further orders.
- (b) Retrievers which bark or whine on line, in a blind or while retrieving, should be penalized. Loud and prolonged barking or whining is sufficient cause to justify elimination from a stake.
- (c) Control is closely allied to the dog's response to direction, but it also includes obedience at all times. Control also includes line manners, walking tractably at heel, assuming the staying in any designated position on line, as well as remaining quietly on line beside the handler after delivery of the bird. When called, a dog should return promptly to his handler, particularly in those instances where judges decide the dog shall be tested again, at a later time, either because another dog broke or due to any one of a variety of other circumstances.
- (d) While on line, dogs shall be penalized if they are noisily or frequently restrained by their handlers. The degree of the penalty should correspond to the extent and frequency of repetition of the infraction. Although such is not required, it is a considerate gesture by judges, if they are in agreement, to notify handlers when their methods of restraint are incurring penalties for their dogs.
- (e) A dog who pays no attention to many whistles and direction by its handler can be said to be out of control and, unless in the opinion of the judges there exist valid mitigating circumstances, it should be eliminated from the stake.

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- (f) When a dog is on a blind retrieve the handler should endeavour to keep the dog on a reasonably direct line between the starting position and the bird to be retrieved so that the dog does not avoid natural obstacles which may be on that line. A blind retrieve is a test of control and dogs that are allowed to vary from the line may be penalized or even eliminated if judged to have avoided the test.

#### 16.2.4 Response to Direction

- (a) Response to direction is all important in handling tests. A dog must be brought back to the area of fall when he has mismarked. In such response to direction, a dog should take the original line given to it by its handler and continue on it until it either makes the find or until stopped by the handler and given a new line. The dog should then continue in this new direction until it finds, or is given further directions. Faults, or justifications for penalties, include the following:
- (i) Not taking the line originally given by the handler
  - (ii) Not continuing on that line for a considerable distance
  - (iii) Stopping voluntarily (i.e. popping-up and looking back for directions)
  - (iv) Failure to stop promptly and look to the handler, when indicated
  - (v) Failure to take a new direction (i.e. a new cast, when given) and
  - (vi) Failure to continue in that new direction for a considerable distance
- (b) The seriousness of the penalty for any or all of the foregoing faults varies with the seriousness of the infraction, whether that infraction was repeated and how often, and whether there was a combination of various infractions. However, before inflicting a severe penalty because of a dog's failure to stop promptly at the whistle, judges should determine whether the wind, the cover, or the distance seriously interfered with the dog's ability to hear its handler.
- (c) In general, the performance in the test should be considered in its entirety; an occasional failure to take and hold a direction may be considered a minor fault, if offset by several other very good responses.

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- (d) A considerable penalty should be imposed for repeated, willful disobedience of the handler's orders and less penalty when, after taking proper direction, it does not continue on it as far as the handler desired. Stopping voluntarily, to look back for directions, in an isolated instance, may be considered a minor fault, but frequent repetition may convert such popping-up into the category of serious faults.

### 16.2.5 Delivery

- (a) Upon finding the game, the dog should quickly pick it up and return briskly to its handler. A dog should not drop its game on the ground, but distinction should be made between deliberately dropping a bird, and readjusting a bad hold or losing its grip because of a struggling bird or running over uneven terrain. Upon returning, a dog should deliver the bird promptly and tenderly to its handler. A dog sitting to deliver should not outscore a dog making a clear delivery without sitting. A dog should not drop the bird before delivering it and the dog should not freeze, or be unwilling to give it up. The dog should not jump after the bird, once the handler has taken it from the dog.
- (b) Penalties for faulty delivery may range from minor for an isolated minor offense, to elimination from the stake either for a severe freeze or because of repeated moderate infractions. A dog that is unwilling to release a bird on delivery should be penalized, and if compelled to do so by severe methods should, unless in the opinion of the judges there exists valid mitigating circumstances, be eliminated.
- (c) After delivering a bird to its handler, a dog should stand or sit close to its handler until given further orders.
- (d) Hard-mouth is one of the most severely penalized faults in a retriever. Furthermore, once a dog has been charged with this fault, it carries that stigma for life. Therefore, hard mouth should only become the judges' verdict when there is incontrovertible proof of it. Torn skin or flesh, alone does not, in most cases, constitute such proof since damage of that type may be caused in a variety of ways, such as sharp sticks and stones in the cover. Dogs can unintentionally damage birds when making retrieves from heavy cover, as well as by their

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fast, positive pick-up. Some birds are particularly susceptible to damage. On the other hand, crushed bone structure may be accepted as trustworthy and sufficient evidence of hard mouth even in the absence of a particularly obvious of tearing of flesh.

- (e) Other faults are frequently confused with hard-mouth, although, in reality, they are entirely separate and distinct from it - even though, in addition, the dog may actually be hard-mouthed. Freezing, in particular, falls into his category. A hard-mouthed dog may have a gentle delivery and certainly, a sticky delivery does not imply hard-mouth. Rolling a bird or mouthing it, while making the retrieve, may be erroneously associated with hard-mouth in the opinion of some, even though the bird is not damaged. If such mouthing is a fault at all, then it is one of only minor importance.
- (f) A dog should be eliminated for hard-mouth or badly damaging game, but, before doing so, all judges should inspect the bird and be satisfied that the dog alone was responsible for the damage.
- (g) Judges should remember that a dog is either found to have a hard-mouth or it is not so found, and, if guilty, the dog must be eliminated from the stake. Other various types of inconclusive evidence should merely be recorded in the judge's notes, pending the manner in which birds are handled in subsequent series. While it is not required, it is a considerate gesture on the part of the judges to keep separately any bird for which they are eliminating a dog for hard-mouth and show it inconspicuously to the handler of the dog at a later time.

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## **17 CLASSIFICATION OF FAULTS**

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### **17.1 Guidelines**

- 17.1.1 This section presents guidance to judges for uniform grading of penalties assessed for various faults. Classification of the many faults which may be exhibited by retrievers during the course of a trial shall be primarily in terms of generalizations. In the

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lists that follow, various infractions are catalogued as serious, moderate and minor faults.

- (a) Each fault should be considered as a single occurrence.
- (b) Repetition of a fault indicates a weakness or a bad habit and justifies a more severe penalty than an isolated case. The same holds true when there is a combination of different faults. Such repetition or multiplicity of faults frequently indicates failing or an habitual tendency which produces neither a finished job nor one pleasing to the eye.
- (c) The faults listed in this classification are limited to those that are observed most at retriever trials. Others may occur and this classification may serve as a helpful guide, on such occasions, in determining the relative importance of such unusual offences.
- (d) The primary consideration of judges in respect to the importance of faults here listed, as well as others which may occur, is to determine the extent to which any and all such infractions would detract from the full enjoyment of a day's shoot.
- (e) A judge may be thoroughly justified in moderating a penalty or even in failing to impose one, if there have been extenuating circumstances to justify such action. Much can be achieved in attaining great uniformity of judging through uniform definitions of the various serious, moderate and minor faults. However, the personal equation cannot be eliminated completely since each judge must determine the relative seriousness of individual faults, repetition of faults, or combination of faults, which occur in the performance by dogs in a particular trial.
- (f) The faults set out in these summaries are extracted from the fuller descriptions set out in front of the body of the rule book. In case of conflict between the faults described below and the rules set out in the body of the rule book, the rules shall govern. The applicable rules with page and section numbers are set out in parentheses beside each specific fault. Where there is a "cf." notation it refers the reader to similar descriptions of faults but with different degrees of seriousness.

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## 17.2 Serious Faults

17.2.1 These faults are usually sufficient to justify elimination from the stake:

- (a) Retrieving a decoy and returning with it – mandatory elimination. [Section 15.1.10]
- (b) Breaking – mandatory elimination, except in Qualifying and Junior stakes. [Section 16.2.2 (a) & (c)]
- (c) Hard Mouth – badly damaged game, which in the opinion of the judges was caused solely by the dog without justification – mandatory elimination [Section 16.2.5 (f)]
- (d) Watching blind retrieves being planted for or retrieved by another dog – mandatory elimination of both dog and handler from the stake. [Section 15.4.4]
- (e) Watching birds being thrown for or retrieved by another dog – mandatory elimination of both dog and handler from the stake. [Section 15.4.5]
- (f) Repeated evidence of poor nose. [Section 16.1.6 (a) & (b)]
- (g) Reluctance to enter either rough cover, water, ice, mud or any other situation involving unpleasantness or difficulties for the dog after having been ordered to several times. [Sections 16.1.7 (a) & (b) – cf. Section 17.3.1 (c)]
- (h) Returning to the handler without the bird and without having been called in. [Section 16.1.8 (b), (i)]
- (i) Stopping its hunt [Section 16.1.8 (b) (ii)]
- (j) Switching birds (giving up after a search for one bird and going to an area of another fall or dropping a bird it is retrieving and going for another). [Section 16.1.8 (c) to (e)]
- (k) Blinking the bird (ignoring it when found and leaving it) [Section 16.1.8 (b) (v)]
- (l) To hold or intentionally touch a dog while under judgment [Section 15.4.7 (c)]
- (m) Out of control (paying no attention to many whistles or directions of its handler) [Section 8.1.2 & Section 16.2.3 (e)]
- (n) Extreme freeze (unwillingness to release a bird on delivery until compelled to do so by severe methods) [Section 16.2.5 (a) & (b) - cf. section 17.4.1 (l)]

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- (o) Loud and prolonged whining or barking. [Section 16.2.3 (b) - cf. section 17.3.1 (j) & 17.4.1 (m)]
  - (p) Deliberate blocking by a handler so a dog will not see each bird as it falls (this applies both to the working dog and the honouring dog) [Section 15.4.8]
  - (q) Throwing anything to persuade a dog to enter water or to enter water. [Section 15.6.4]
  - (r) Failure to find a bird the dog should have found. [Section 16.1.3]
  - (s) Touching a dog or hissing or speaking or otherwise threatening a dog by displaying equipment or making obvious threatening gestures in an All-Age stake to restrain it from breaking, except in extraordinary circumstances. [Section 15.4.6 & 15.4.7]

### 17.3 Moderate Faults

17.3.1 Infractions in this category may actually be so slight as to warrant their consideration as only a minor fault, or they may be so severe as to warrant their consideration as a serious fault. Repetitions of a moderate fault or a combination of several of these moderate faults may readily convert the total infraction into a serious fault.

- (a) Failure to mark the area of the fall, requiring that the dog be handled to it (worse on a single or first bird than on any subsequent birds) [Section 16.1.2 (a) to (d)]
- (b) Leaving the area of a fall or not going to it and disturbing too much cover [Section 16.1.2 (d)]
- (c) Reluctance to enter rough cover water, ice, mud or other situations involving unpleasant going for the dog. [Section 16.1.7 (a) & (b) - cf. Section 17.2.1 (g)]
- (d) Hunting in a slow, disinterested, unenthusiastic manner either at once or after a short search [Section 16.8.1 (b) (ii)]
- (e) Poor style, including a disinterested attitude, a slow or reluctant departure, quest for game, or return with it. [Section 16.1.8 (a) & (b), (ii) & (iii)]
- (f) Popping; stopping and looking back for directions from the handler without being instructed (whistle) to do so on a marked bird. [Section 16.1.8 (b), (iii)]
- (g) Noisily or frequently restraining a dog from breaking in minor stakes, except in extraordi-

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nary circumstances. [Section 16.2.3 (d) - cf. Section 17.2.1 (o) & 17.4.1 (g)]

- (h) Not stopping for directions after 2 or 3 whistles, particularly consecutive whistles, which the dog should have heard. [Section 16.2.3 (e) - cf. Section 17.2.1 (m) & 17.4.1 (h)]
- (i) Deliberate failure to take lines and various directions given to the dog (failure to hold lines and casts more than a short distance) [Section 16.2.4 (a) to (d) - cf. Section 17.4.1 (k)]
- (j) Moderate whining or barking of short duration. [Section 16.2.3 (b) - cf. Section 17.2.1 (o) & 17.4.1 (m)]
- (k) Going well out of its way by land to a fall in a marking test, without certainty of purpose, to avoid going into the water on a water retrieve. [Section 10.3 & Section 16.1.7 (a)]
- (l) extreme or persistent creeping or serious lack of steadiness combined with general poor line manners. [Section 10.3 & Sections 16.2.2 (a) & 16.2.3 (a) - cf. Section 17.4.1 (f)]
- (m) popping on a blind if repeated [section 16.2.4 (a) (iii), 16.2.4 (d) - cf. Section 17.4.1(i)]
- (n) Returning to hunt an old fall on a marking test [section 16.1.8 (d)]

## 17.4 Minor Faults

17.4.1 Either severe or repeated or a combination of these minor faults may convert them into a moderate fault or even a serious fault. Also they may be so slight as not to merit a penalty at all.

- (a) Lack of attention [Section 16.1.9 (c) (i)]
- (b) Going well out of its way by land on the return from a water retrieve, without certainty of purpose. [Section 10.3 & Section 16.1.2]
- (c) Poor line manners including heeling poorly, not immediately taking and staying in the designated position, tendency to creep. [Section 10.3 & Section 16.2.3 (a) & (c)]
- (d) Slow pick-up of a bird, dropping a bird at delivery or during the return, slow return, sloppy handling of a bird. [Section 16.1.9 (a) & (c), (iv) & (v) & Section 16.2.5 (a) & (b)]
- (e) Leg lifting, particularly on the way to a fall. [Section 16.1.9 (a) to (c)]



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- (f) Slight unsteadiness on line including occasional instances of slight creeping. [Section 16.2.2 (a) & (b) & 16.2.3 (a) - cf. Section 17.3.1 (l)]
  - (g) Slight and isolated instances of quiet speaking or hissing at the dog in minor stakes. [Section 16.2.2 (c)]
  - (h) Not stopping at the first whistle it should have heard but stopping at the second or third. [Section 16.2.4 (c) - cf. Section 17.3.1(h)]
  - (i) An isolated instance of stopping and looking back for directions in a blind retrieve (popping) [Section 16.1.8 (b) (iii) - cf. section 17.3.1(f)]
  - (j) Occasional failure to take the handler's directions. [Section 16.2.4 (a); (v), (b) & (c)]
  - (k) Occasional failure to hold a line or a cast for more than a few yards. [Section 16.2.4 (a) (ii) & (vi) & (c)]
  - (l) Slight freezing or reluctance to give up a bird or roughness with game (short of hard mouth). [Section 16.2.5 (a), (b) & (e)]
  - (m) Slight, short whining or a bark on being sent to retrieve. [Section 16.2.3 (b) - cf. Section 17.2.1 (o) & 17.3.1 (j)]
  - (n) Excessive lining [Section 15.3.3 (b), (vi)]
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## **18 SANCTIONED TRIALS**

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- 18.1 A sanctioned field trial is an informal field trial at which dogs may compete but not for championship points, held by a club or association obtaining the sanction of the CKC.
- 18.2 In sanctioned trials or non-regular stakes, any section of the standard procedure may be relaxed or eliminated but all contestants should be advised in what respect this is true.
- 18.3 Sanctioned field trials shall be governed by such simple rules and regulations as from time to time shall be determined by the Board.
- 18.4 If ribbons are given at sanctioned field trials, they shall be the following colours, but may be of any design or size.

First Place	Rose
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Second Place	Brown
Third Place	Light Green
Fourth Place	Grey
Special Award	A combination of these colours.

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## **19 PROTESTS**

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19.1 A protest against a dog may be made by an exhibitor/handler, any member of the CKC, or a member of the club or association holding the event in the following manner.

(21-03-16) (a) A protest should be lodged with the Event Superintendent before the closing of the event and must be in writing, on a form provided by the CKC (or facsimile thereof). A hearing shall be held prior to the departure of all parties. No protest will be entertained unless accompanied by a deposit. This deposit shall be returned if the protest is sustained. If the protest is not sustained, the deposit will be forwarded to the CKC with the Event Committee's report.

(21-03-16) (b) If the protest cannot be filed at the event because of circumstances requiring medical and/or veterinary attention, or if the dog has been removed from the grounds, or if the owner and the dog leave the grounds immediately following the incident, the protest may be submitted directly to the CKC within 10 days of the event. All such protests shall constitute complaints under the CKC's By-laws and the provisions of same shall apply.

(c) If the Protest is filed directly to the CKC, reasons should be provided as to why the Protest could not be filed with the Event Superintendent.

19.2 Where the Retriever Field Trial Committee consists of more than 5 persons, the president of the trial-giving club shall name 5 members of the Retriever Field Trial Committee to act on any protest received by the trial-giving club.

19.3 Written copies of all decisions on protests must be forwarded immediately to the Discipline Committee of the CKC. The Discipline Committee may take such action as it deems fit in connection with such protest, provided no appeal is submitted to the CKC

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within 10 days of the date on which the decision of the Retriever Field Trial Committee was rendered. Such action may include barring the dog from future CKC approved events, imposition of an administrative fee, and/or cancellation of awards. The fact that the Retriever Field Trial Committee did not sustain a protest in no way inhibits the right of the Discipline Committee to take such action as it deems advisable.

- 19.4 An appeal to the Discipline Committee of the CKC from a decision of the Retriever Field Trial Committee where a dog has been protested must be forwarded to the CKC within 10 days of the date on which the decision was rendered, together with a deposit.
- 19.5 If a trial giving club fails to hear a protest as prescribed above, or in the opinion of the Discipline Committee improperly handles a protest, the Discipline Committee shall have the authority to take such action as it deems fit and necessary, and it may at the same time take disciplinary action against the officials of the trial-giving club concerned.

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## **20 COMPLAINTS**

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- 20.1 A complaint against a person regarding a violation of the rules and regulations related to retriever field trials must be in writing, on a form issued by the CKC (or facsimile thereof), and must be accompanied by a deposit. A deposit is not required on a complaint alleging that a judge officiating at a retriever field trial held under these rules and regulations has been subject to indignities of any kind during the progress of the trial.
- 20.2 A complaint should be lodged with the Retriever Field Trial Committee Chair of the trial-giving club no later than 15 minutes after the completion of judging of the trial, or should the complainant choose to do so, a complaint may be submitted directly to the CKC within 10 days of the trial. All such complaints shall constitute complaints under the CKC By-laws and the provisions of same shall apply.
- 20.3 Any complaint against the club holding the trial or any of its officials must be submitted directly to the CKC within 10 days of the trial. All such complaints shall constitute complaints under the CKC By-laws and the provisions of same shall apply.
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- 20.4 A complaint shall be restricted to any of the following:
- (a) An act of omission or commission on which is based an allegation of a violation of the Retriever Field Trial Rules & Regulations.
  - (b) Any act on which an allegation of misconduct is based.
  - (c) The alleged failure of an officiating judge to excuse or remove from competition a dog for which a provision for excusing or removal from competition appears in these rules and regulations.
- 20.5 Where the Retriever Field Trial Committee consists of more than 5 persons, the president of the trial-giving club shall name 5 members to form a Retriever Field Trial Committee to act on complaints received by the trial-giving club.
- 20.6 When a complaint is received against a judge by the trial-giving club, the club will hold a hearing while all parties are still in attendance. The report and all statements given by all parties will be forwarded to the Discipline Committee along with the deposit from the complainant. The Retriever Field Trial Committee will not render a decision but will collect all pertinent information.
- 20.7 Upon receipt of a complaint the Retriever Field Trial Committee of the trial-giving club shall conduct an investigation as soon as possible thereafter, but in any event, within 14 days of receipt, shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the procedures set out in the Procedure for Conducting a Retriever Field Trial Committee Hearing as provided in these rules and regulations.
- 20.8 The Retriever Field Trial Committee shall promptly forward the complaint, the deposit and a record of the hearing together with its recommendation on the disposition of the complaint to the CKC. Copies of the record of the hearing and the Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the parties concerned at the same time.
- 20.9 Notwithstanding any contrary provisions in these rules and regulations, the procedure specified herein for dealing with complaints shall govern.
- 20.10 Disciplinary action will be taken against any official and the trial-giving club of which he is an official when it is established to the satisfaction of the CKC that an attempt was made to discourage the submission of a complaint. Disciplinary action will
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be taken against a trial-giving club which fails to properly deal with complaints as provided in these rules and regulations.

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## **21 DISCIPLINE**

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- 21.1 The Discipline Committee may take disciplinary action against any club, person, partnership, company or organization for any act of omission or commission, which violates any section or sections of the rules and regulations for CKC retriever field trials. Such action will be taken as provided for in the By-laws of the CKC.
- 21.2 No person shall abuse a dog on the grounds or premises of a trial, or conduct himself in a manner prejudicial to the best interest of the event.
- 21.3 Any club, member, person, partnership, company or organization availing themselves of the privileges of participating in any capacity or manner whatsoever at a retriever field trial, shall by such participation, be deemed to have agreed to the authority of the CKC and its Board as conferred on the CKC by its By-laws and all other rules and regulations adopted by the CKC.
- 21.4 At its discretion and subject to the appeal process, the Discipline Committee may cancel any or all passes/awards earned by a dog owned by a person debarred, deprived, suspended or expelled of all privileges of the CKC when such wins were earned following the date on which such act occurred that resulted in disciplinary action.
- 21.5 The administration to a dog competing at a retriever field trial of a drug or any substance, in any form, which alters the nervous system by stimulation, sedation or tranquilization shall be considered as misleading the judge and will be considered misconduct. The person or persons responsible will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with this section.
- 21.6 Any person, either within or outside the field, who does anything calculated to attract, distract or otherwise interfere in any way with the attention, deportment, or performance of a dog under judgment, may be disciplined by the Discipline
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Committee in whatever way it considers to be in the best interest of the club, or the judge may take summary action.

- 21.7 It shall be the duty and obligation of the event-giving club to see that a judge, club official, volunteer, or any participant at an event held under these rules, is not subject to indignities. The Retriever Field Trial Committee Chair shall promptly report to the CKC any infringement of this regulation, and the CKC shall have the authority to take such action as it deems fit on receipt of a report indicating that this has occurred. A copy of this regulation shall be prominently placed in every premium list and catalogue.

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## **22 PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING A FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE HEARING**

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- 22.1 It is essential that the defendant be given the opportunity to be present during the whole hearing and to testify and present his own witnesses. If a defendant refuses to attend or defend himself, the hearing may proceed without him. In notifying the defendant of the hearing, it is essential that he be informed specifically of the nature of the charges against him and that a record of such notice be made.
- 22.2 The complainant must also be informed of the hearing and allowed to be present throughout the whole hearing.
- 22.3 Both the complainant and defendant should be informed that they may be represented by legal counsel or an agent at the hearing if they choose but this is not necessary.
- 22.4 The chair is to call the meeting to order and then announce: "We are proceeding by reason of our appointment to the Retriever Field Trial Committee by (name of trial-giving club)."
- 22.5 The chair shall identify all persons present and the reason for their presence (i.e. complainant, defendant, witness) and then ask the witnesses to withdraw until required to give evidence. After giving evidence a witness may be excused.

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- 22.6 The complainant is to be read except that if the complainant and defendant agree, it may be necessary to relate only the substance of the complaint as set out on the Official Complaint form.
- 22.7 The chair is to ask the defendant whether he wishes to admit or deny the complaint as it has been read or stated.
- 22.8 The complainant is to give evidence on the complaint. He may then be questioned by the defendant. At the chair's invitation, any member of the Committee may question the complainant. If the complainant has brought witnesses, such witnesses may then give evidence individually. Each witness may be questioned by the defendant or any member of the Committee. Each witness is to leave the hearing after evidence has been given.
- 22.9 Upon completion of the evidence given by the complainant and any witness appearing on his behalf, the defendant may then give evidence and may then be questioned by the complainant or any member of the Committee. If the defendant has brought witnesses, such witnesses may then give evidence individually. Each witness may be questioned by the complainant or any member of the Committee.
- 22.10 The chair may then call any other witness which the Committee considers appropriate to the proper hearing of the complaint.
- 22.11 The complainant may then have the opportunity of summing up the complaint and the evidence presented in support thereof. The defendant shall have the opportunity of summing up his defense and any evidence presented in support of his defense.
- 22.12 The chair shall announce that the Committee will be submitting a report on the hearing together with its recommendation on the disposition of the complaint to the Discipline Committee of the CKC and the parties concerned. All but the Committee members shall be dismissed so that the matter may be considered.

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## **23 PARTICIPATION**

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- 23.1 The participation in any manner or in any capacity at a competitive event held under these rules shall be considered a privilege accorded to any person by the CKC and such privilege may be extended and withdrawn by the Discipline Committee.
- 23.2 Any person availing himself of the privilege of participating in any manner, shape or form and in any capacity, including that of a spectator at a competitive event held under these rules shall, by such participation, be deemed to have agreed to the authority of the CKC and its Board.
- 23.3 No person who has been expelled, deprived of privileges, suspended or debarred by the CKC may enter a dog, compete, exhibit, judge, act as agent or handler for any competitor, take a dog into any competition or be connected in any capacity with competitive events held under these rules.
- 23.4 A club holding a Retriever Field Trial under these rules shall not engage in any capacity a person who is under suspension or expulsion, debarred or deprived of privileges by the CKC.
- 23.5 Any person who has lost the right to participate in events in their country of residence shall not, while such a loss of privilege is in effect, participate in any Canadian Kennel Club approved events. Any wins by a dog that is exhibited or handled by such individual shall automatically be canceled.

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## **24 LIABILITY** (22-03-16)

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- 24.1 (22-03-16) The CKC shall not be responsible to any member, person, partnership, club or corporation for any loss, damage or injury arising at or by reason of any event held under any rules adopted by the CKC.
- 24.2 (22-03-16) Every owner or authorized agent for the owner of any dog entered in a CKC event is required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog behaves properly at the event, and in particular to prevent the dog from threatening, menacing or biting a



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judge, another dog, or any other person in attendance at the event. Failure to take such reasonable steps may result in disciplinary action against such owner or authorized agent under the By-laws, which may result in the imposition of any of the penalties provided for in the By-laws.

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## **25 AMENDMENTS**

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- 25.1 These rules are subject to amendment by the Board.
- 25.2 Amendments to these rules may also be proposed by a person, association, club, representative group or body by presenting such proposal to the Board for its consideration. In such circumstances, the Board will forward the proposal to the Retriever Council for its consideration and input, prior to the Board making its final decision.
- 25.3 Any amendment to these rules shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the Board.
- 25.4 The effective date of any approved amendment shall be set by the Board.
- 25.5 The Board, at its sole discretion, may choose to perform a non-binding poll of the membership to attain general input prior to making a final decision on any proposed amendment to these rules.
- 25.6 Upon the Board making its final decision with respect to any amendment to these rules, the membership shall be advised by placing a notice in the Official Publication of the CKC as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible.

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## 26 INDEX

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NOTE: Section 17 of the rulebook provides a “Classification of Faults” that summarizes certain sections of the rules. Where applicable, these summaries are referred to in the index by the words “see 17.x.xx (x)”

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The background is a teal color with a repeating pattern of the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) logo and maple leaves. The logo consists of a shield with a stylized 'CKC' monogram, a dog's head, and a banner that reads 'INCORPORATED' and 'FOUNDED 1888 FONDÉ'.

## **THE CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB**

200 Ronson Drive, Suite 400  
Etobicoke, Ontario  
M9W 5Z9

Telephone: (416) 675-5511

E-mail: [information@ckc.ca](mailto:information@ckc.ca)

Web Site: [www.ckc.ca](http://www.ckc.ca)

