

Detailed Field Trial Rule Review

*****Please Read*****

NOTE: All trial contestants and judges are responsible to read and understand the trial rules.

1. Review points – find (15) (10 points if dog is held by collar. Does not apply to Novice Division), retrieve (15) & bagged bird (10). If you miss the bird (not shot) but your dog makes the retrieve, you get 10 points.
2. All finds (points/flushes) must be made in bounds. The dog may go out of bounds to make the retrieve. All retrieves must be to within one step of the handler. If the dog fails to retrieve, handler may go pick up the bird. 10 points for the bagged bird is awarded.
3. A flush occurs when the bird leaves its resting place. In pointing divisions, handler/gunner flushes the bird. If the bird moves (walks or runs) from its resting place after the dog has established the point, it is a scoreable find. The key is that the dog must not be moving (has the find under control) when the bird leaves its resting place.
4. In flushing divisions, the dog must flush the bird. Flushing dogs may scoop (take out) the bird.
5. A brace shall consist of one handler/shooter and one dog or two people (handler and separate shooter) and one dog.
6. In open, women's, novice and youth divisions (15 minute brace), there must be a perfect score on the three birds to get the bonus points. Perfect Score: Find/Flush (15 Points), Retrieve (15 Points) (bird must be shot), Bagged Bird (10 Points). Then dog gets Two (2) points for each shell left over from Five (5) allowed per run. One (1) point is awarded for each minute left on clock rounded up to next minute. Example: 9 minutes and 10 seconds would be rounded to 10 minutes leaving 5 bonus points.
7. In open, women's, novice and youth divisions (15 minute brace), time stops on the last bird when the bird is retrieved to hand or to within one step and picked up by handler. See Rule 17 regarding a safety on the last bird.
8. Novice Division: Handler may have dog on a check cord and have a helper in the field. Optional: Handler may choose to have the judge plant one of the three birds for the brace to insure a bird contact.

9. The only bonus in doubles is for backing in pointing division and stop on flush in flushing division (5 pts). Only one back and one stop on flush will be scored per dog per brace. No command (verbal or whistle) can be given to dog to back or stop on flush. Backing dog must be held until pointing dog completes the retrieve or is released by the judge. Shooter/handler of pointing dog must wait to flush bird until backing dog is held by handler or judge. He has 2 minutes to complete flush once backing dog is held. After 2 minutes, pointing dog must be relocated. Backing dog must be released after 1 minute on any relocation. If no bird is produced it is open to both dogs. Flushing dogs must sit or stand on the stop on flush until the dog with the flush completes retrieve.
10. In Open, Novice, Youth and Women's Pointing (singles) divisions: if bird is flushed by the dog it is counted as one of your 3 contacts and no score is recorded. However, if the same bird lands within the field boundary, it does not count as a contact and may be worked for a full score. A flush occurs when the bird leaves its resting place, either by flight or running on ground.
11. In Open, Novice, Youth and Women's Pointing (singles) divisions: If a bird is wild flushed by either the judge, shooter/handler or flushes as the dog runs within proximity, it is not counted as a contact. The dog must actually cause the bird to flush to be counted as a contact. A dog encounter (chase) of a running bird is not considered a contact. However, if the dog stops and points it can be worked for a full score. Watch where you are walking or driving ATV if judging.
12. In Doubles Pointing, if a bird is wild flushed by either the judge, shooter/handler or flushes as the dog runs within close proximity, it is marked for 3 minutes. Both handlers will be notified by the judge of the marked bird and location in the field. If the dog points the marked bird before the 3 minutes has expired, the bird must be taken out of the brace for no score. If a dog points a marked bird in less than the 3 minutes but the handler is unable to produce the bird. The area is marked as a "two bird area" meaning two birds must be produced from the area but only one will be scored.
13. Doubles Divisions. If a dog interferes with its braced mate's dog in the flush, point or retrieve, a full score is awarded for that bird to the other dog.
14. Contestants: All contestants should be in the blind 5 minutes prior to their scheduled brace.

15. **Judges & Bird Planters:** Be aware of the brace(s) when you may be judging or bird planting. Check in with the scorer's table 5 minutes before your scheduled time.

16. **Judges:** Make sure you record the exact total time and exact first find in the designated areas on the scorecard. These are the tie breakers. Total time is the first tie breaker and first find is the second tie breaker in Open, Novice, Youth and Women's events. First find is the tie breaker in all doubles events.

17. **Safeties:** Judge or handler may call safety for any unsafe situation. Judge to make final decision as to valid safety. Judge to mark "S" on scorecard by Retrieve and Bagged Bird score. Total points to be awarded on bird where safety is called. Safety may be called after a shot is fired. However, no safety can be called if there is no shell in the gun. Example: double gun shoots twice at same bird and misses. Then handler/shooter calls safety on unsafe shot. Not allowed. Safeties receive full score on that bird.
If safety is called on last bird, time stops when the dog is collared.
Does not apply in doubles divisions.

18. If shell misfires (dud), an automatic safety is called and full score is recorded.

19. No shot size larger than # 7. No high brass loads.

20. No running in the fields. Defined as having one foot on the ground at all times.

21. No shooting birds on the ground (pointers and flushers) without permission of the judge. **If granted, use extreme caution!** **Pointers** – If non-performing bird (won't fly), a safety shall be called after a reasonable attempt has been made to flush. **Flushers** – Bird may be scooped (taken out) by the dog. Handlers may pick up the bird and throw it if it can be caught. **If handler elects not to shoot bird on ground & bird remains in field, it will become a two bird area for the remainder of that brace.**

22. Bitches in season will be run in the last brace of their respective division. In doubles, they will be paired with another female. They must always remain crated until their brace time.

23. Blaze orange cap or vest must be worn by handlers, judges, bird planters, photographers or anyone in the field.

24. Guns will be on safe or actions open until the shot is presented. Guns may be loaded at the starting gate.

25. At the end of your brace, please leash your dog immediately and leave the field at the nearest boundary so that we can continue with the next brace.

26. Backing: (Doubles Pointing) Dogs cannot be commanded to back either verbally or by whistle.
27. Judges: There is a copy of all the rules, singles and doubles, at scorer's table . Also, all rules will be posted on the main scoreboard.
28. Judges (When radios are available): In singles events, notify the scoring desk when the second to last bird is taken. In doubles events, notify scoring desk when five (5) minutes remains in the brace. This will help speed up trials by having bird planter ready to plant.
29. Judges: Please total score, initial where indicated and turn in scorecards to desk immediately after each run or brace.
30. Judges: If a situation occurs of which you are unsure, make note on your scorecard and discuss with the field marshal. If a protest is filed by the handler, the judge will bring it to the field marshal for clarification. The specific judge and field marshal will discuss the issue in private and a final decision will be rendered. The handler will be informed of the decision. Verbal abuses of judges or volunteers will not be tolerated.
31. All guests must sign a liability waiver. Waiver forms are available at the scorer's table.
32. Cancellations, other than for medical reasons, received 5 days or less before a scheduled event will be charged the entire cost of the entry fee.

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