



Australian National Kennel Council Ltd ABN 77 151 544 679 trading as Dogs Australia

UTILITY GUNDOGS

Rules for the conduct of Field Trials for Utility Gundogs

(Effective from 1st January 2024)

**Approved by the
Australian National Kennel Council 26/9/1974**

**Revised
21/9/1977
21/9/1982
28/9/1987
15/10/1992
7/11/1993
18/10/1997
19/10/2002
25/10/2008
20/10/2013
13/10/2018
21/10/2023**

**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the
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FOREWORD

The Australian National Kennel Council Ltd was formed principally for the protection and advancement of purebred dogs.

The objects of the Australian National Kennel Council Ltd is to adopt and enforce uniform rules regulating and governing dog shows, obedience trials and field trials, to regulate the conduct of persons interested in exhibiting, running, breeding, registering, purchasing, and selling dogs, to detect, prevent and punish frauds in connection therewith, to protect the interests of its members, to publish a National Official Judges List of approved Judges for Championship Shows, Obedience Trials, Field Trials, and Retrieving Trials, and generally to do everything to advance the study, breeding, exhibiting, running and maintenance of the purity of thoroughbred dogs.

For these purposes, the Australian National Kennel Council Ltd shall have power to adopt a Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, and enforce the same by fines and penalties which it shall have the right to collect and enforce by suit or by a suspension or expulsion from membership, or by a suspension or denial of any or all of the privileges of the Australian National Kennel Council Ltd.

Competition in conformation and performance events can best demonstrate the progress that has been made in breeding for type and quality, and/or for practical use, stamina, and obedience. The Australian National Kennel Council Ltd has therefore adopted By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations by which to govern and administrate these events; the Clubs that wish to hold them, and the individuals who exhibit, compete or take part in. them. This book contains such By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations to effect the above.

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UTILITY GUNDOG FIELD TRIAL RULES

PART 1 INTRODUCTION

Safety is the primary concern during the conduct of a Field Trial. It is the responsibility of the Trial Committee to ensure that the Trial complies with all ANKC Ltd and Member Body requirements as they relate to the safe conduct of the trial. Gun safety is of paramount importance and it is the Committee's responsibility, through the Judge and Stewards, to ensure that everyone concerned observes all relevant practices.

1. Breeds Eligible to Compete:

Brittany, German Shorthaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer, German Longhaired Pointer, Italian Spinone, Large Munsterlander, Hungarian Vizsla and Weimaraner. Other applicable Gundog breeds will be added as imported.

Registered (Main and Limited) desexed dogs as listed above shall be permitted to compete in Utility Gundog Field Trials in all States and/or Territories of Australia.

2. A Field Trial is a meeting for the purpose of holding competitions for the work of dogs in the field and water.

A Stake is a competition held at a Field Trial and comprises two runs on land, and a water run.

3. Directives of a Member Body shall apply to a Utility Gundog Field Trial in that State/Territory and to any affiliate conducting Utility Gundog Field Trials, with the exception of National Trials, and in the event of any inconsistency, the Rules of the ANKC Ltd shall apply.

At a National Utility Gundog Field Trial Championship, the only Rules that shall apply are the Rules for the conduct of Utility Gundog Field Trials as approved by the ANKC Ltd.

4. A Field Trial may be limited to a specified breed or breeds of Utility Gundog.

5. It is recommended that Field Trials should, wherever possible, be conducted on Quail. The shooting and Game Laws of each State or Territory must be observed and will govern the conduct of all Trials, in conjunction with the Rules and Regulations of each State or Territory Member Body.

6. Wins or other qualifications shall count as from and including the date they are gained.

7. No stake at any Field Trial can be conducted unless there are a least 6 bone fide runners and at least 4 different owners, except for Novice were 4 bone fide runners & 4 different owners is allowed

8. No Field Trial shall be held on incapacitated game.

PART 2 STAKES.

9. (a) A **PUPPY STAKE** is a Stake confined to dogs over six (6) months and not exceeding twelve (12) months of age.

(b) A **DERBY STAKE** is a Stake confined to dogs over six (6) months of age and not exceeding two (2) years.

(c) A **NOVICE STAKE** is a Stake confined to dogs that have not won any Stake other than one Novice or have been placed Runner-up in an Open Stake.

- (d) An **ALL AGE STAKE** is a Stake confined to dogs that have won at least one Championship Point.
- (e) An **OPEN STAKE** is a Stake open to all registered dogs of named breed or breeds, without restriction as to variety, age, or previous performance, or to any membership qualification of the owner. The word “variety” in these Rules shall be taken as referring to the purebred Utility Gundog varieties for which separate registers are kept by the Member Body at the date of the Trial at which the Stakes are offered.
- (f) A **CHAMPIONSHIP STAKE** is a Stake confined to dogs that in any Novice or All Age or Open Stake in a Utility Gundog Field Trial have been placed first or second. All dogs entered in a Championship Stake must have previously won some Championship Points.

NOTE: In each year there will be held not more than one Championship Stake for Utility Gundogs within each State or Territory, excepting that with the approval of the ANKC Ltd a NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP STAKE for Utility Gundogs may be conducted. Such National Championship Stake may be in addition to, or instead of, the State or Territory Championship. No other Utility Gundog Field Trial carrying Championship Points may be conducted throughout Australia on the same day as a National Utility Gundog Field Trial. Entry qualifications and points awarded for a National Stake are as for a Championship Stake.

- (g) **SPECIAL STAKES:** Subject to special application and approval of the Member Body, an affiliate may conduct Special Stakes limited to persons and/or dogs of certain specified qualifications. NO POINTS will be allotted towards Championship status. Such Stakes may include any pointing breed.

PART 3 TITLES AND AWARDS

10 (a) FIELD TRIAL CHAMPION

On application the Member Body may, at its discretion, grant the title “Field Trial Champion” to a dog, which wins a Championship Stake, and to any dog awarded a total of ten (10) Championship Points in Field Trials that are held on live game that may be legally shot. A full five (5) Championship Points must be won in any one Stake. The dog must have been adequately tested on finding live game birds, and also an accumulation of 5 championship points must have been awarded to the dog in Field Trials that are held on live native game birds (Quail) and provided that no qualifying win for the Title shall be scored in any Stake in which there are fewer than six bone fide runners (Except Novice where a minimum of four is permissible).

On application the Member Body may, at its discretion, grant the title “Field Trial Champion CS” (Closed Seasons) to any dog, which wins a Closed Season Championship Stake, and to any dog awarded a total of ten (10) Championship Points in either a Shooting or Closed Season Field Trial. A full five (5) Championship Points must be won in any one Stake, and also an accumulation of 5 Championships Points must have been awarded to the dog in Field Trials that are held on live native game birds (Quail) and in those Stakes the dog must have been adequately tested on finding live game and provided that no qualifying win for the Title shall be scored in any Stake in which there are fewer than six bone fide runners (Except for Novice where a minimum of four is permissible.)

Points gained in either type of trial (Shooting or Closed Season) to count towards a title but applicant must apply for the title in the type of trial in which the majority of points awarded. If points are equal then applicant can apply for either title but not both. For a dog to be eligible for both titles it must have won a full five championship points in any one stake in both types of trials.

Novice with less than 6 bone fide runners (minimum 4), first place **only** will gain **one** championship Point.

A dog, which has won a National Championship Field Trial, may be awarded the title of National Field Trial Champion.

(b) **DUAL CHAMPION**

On application, the Committee of the Member Body may, at its discretion, grant the title of "Dual Champion" to a dog Dogs awarded two Champion Titles, one must be a conformation Champion, the other title in any of the other ANKC Ltd recognized disciplines shall be granted the title "Dual Champion" & the title shall appear before the name of the dog.

EXAMPLES:

Field Trial Champion
Retrieving Trial Champion
Obedience Trial Champion

Such titles must be indexed as:

for Ch. and F.T Champ (F)
for Ch. and R.T. Champ (R)
for Ch. and O.T. Champ (O)

(c) **TRIPLE CHAMPION**

On application the Committee of the Member Body may, at its discretion, grant the title "Triple Champion" *To a dog awarded three Champion Titles one title must be a Conformation Champion the others titles in any of the other ANKC Ltd recognised disciplines and the title shall appear before the name of the dog.*

(d) **GRAND FIELD TRIAL CHAMPION**

The title of Grand Field Trial Champion (Gr.F.T.Ch.) may be awarded to any dog that is awarded a total of 50 Championship points aggregated from 1st Place awards in National, Championship and Open Stakes and/or 2nd Place awards in National or Championship Stakes.

(e) **CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS.**

Championship Points are to be awarded as follows:

Championship Stake:	1st - 10 points	2nd - 5 points
Open & All Age Stake:	1st - 5 points	2nd - 3 points
Novice Stake:	1st - 2 points	2nd - 1 point
Novice Stake: Less than 6.	1 st - 1 point	no 2 nd place points awarded

Only dogs worthy of the award of Championship points shall be shown as first/second place getters. Championship points will be allotted at the discretion of the Judge, based on the merit of the dog's performance, but if allotted must be as specified above.

Under no circumstances shall points be allotted on a pro rata basis.

NOTE: To emphasise the all-round work of the Utility Gundog a dog that has not pointed, been shot over, shown that it is not gun shy, retrieved the game in the field, backed of its own accord, and completed a retrieve by entering water and swimming shall not be given a major award, or be entitled to Championship points, subject to Rule 13.

In States or Territories where there is no open game bird season, trials shall be conducted in accordance with these rules, except that in field rounds land retrieves shall be conducted on dead birds within gun range. (Detailed procedure is covered in PART 8 - Field Test Procedure)

If fur is encountered during field rounds it may be shot and a retrieve performed at that time. The judge may still require all dogs that are eligible –to complete a retrieve in the field on a bird.

AWARDS.

11. (a) A **DIPLOMA of MERIT** is not a prize, but may only be awarded at the discretion of the Judge in a Championship Stake and the letters "DM" be added after the registered name of the dog.
- (b) A **CERTIFICATE of MERIT** is not a prize, but may only be awarded at the discretion of the Judge to any dogs, including prize winners, in an Open Stake or an All Age Stake for outstanding work during the Stake. The letters "CM" will be added after the registered name of the dog.
- (c) A **QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE** - a dog may be awarded a Qualifying Certificate in a Field Trial Stake at the discretion of the Judge of the Stake, if the dog has been shot over and shown it is not gun shy, that it will hunt, face cover, point and retrieve tenderly (i.e., with a "soft mouth") from or across water and swim, steadiness not being essential. These Certificates are awarded for work during and not after the Stake.
- (d) No Diploma of Merit, Certificate of Merit, or Qualifying Certificates, other than those of the Member Body, shall be awarded at Field Trials held under the Rules of the Member Body.
- (e) The title of **NOVICE FIELD DOG (NFD)** may be awarded to those dogs which are no longer eligible to compete in Novice Stakes because of wins on Novice or wins or placings in higher classes. (This Rule will be effective for dogs entering Stakes as from 1/1/1993 and those completing qualifications after that date.)

PART 4 JUDGES.

12. Eligibility of Judges.
- (a) No person shall be entitled to judge a Utility Gundog Field Trial Stake until he/she has supplied acceptable credentials to the Member Body and has been placed on a list of Approved Judges by the Member Body.
- (b) Applications for listing as an approved Judge must be lodged each year with the Member Body in the State or Territory in which the applicant resides and in accordance with the Rules of such body. The Member Body will consider, and where applicable, approve the listing of approved Judges for the ensuing year.
- (c) Where Restricted, Puppy or Derby Stakes are conducted, before being eligible to judge at a Novice Stake, the person must have completed to the satisfaction of the Member Body at least one (1) Restricted, Puppy or Derby Stake judging appointment.
- (d) Before being eligible to judge an All Age or Open Stake the person must have completed to the satisfaction of the Member Body at least two (2) Novice Stake judging appointments.
- (e) Before being eligible to judge Championship Stakes the person must have completed to the satisfaction of the Member Body at least four (4) All Age or Open Stake judging appointments.
13. Judges are empowered and instructed to withhold any prize or award if, in their opinion, the dogs competing do not show sufficient merit.
- On completion of the Stake, the Judge shall fill in a form showing:
- (a) place getters:
- (b) whether or not he is of the opinion that place getters are worthy of Championship Points based on their performances.

- (c) awards of Certificates of Merit and Qualifying Certificates (if any)

NOTE: All Championship Points may be awarded at the discretion of the Judge, who must certify on an applicable form that the performance of the dog warrants the award.

- 14. Judges may show their Judging Sheets to competitors and the sheets must be retained by the Judge.

PART 5 FIELD TRIAL STEWARDS.

- 15. (a) The Stewards shall be required to assist the Judge in all duties in connection with the Field Trial Stake.
- (b) When instructed by the Judge, a Steward shall take the place of the Judge and report to him results, for example, when two dogs come on point at the same time.
- (c) The Gallery Steward shall assemble and control all dogs, and also be responsible to see that dogs must be brought on leads to participate without delay in their proper turn.
- (d) If absent when called, a dog may be debarred by the Stewards from participation in the Stake.
- (e) A handler is authorised to have a steward shoot on their behalf for the duration of the trial, provided they make a request in writing on their entry form. Any person nominating a shooter on their application form **MUST** have blank cartridges only in their gun whilst competing.

A steward shall at the judges request shoot for any handler. Where a steward has been instructed to shoot for a handler, the following shall apply:

Safety to dogs and personnel must be of paramount importance.

The handler shall only have blank cartridges in the gun.

The steward shall walk with the handler at all times and must not move away from the handler to try and ensure a more advantageous position to shoot from.

When the handler's dog comes on point, the handler and the steward shall approach the dog close together and take up a position together nominated by the handler.

The handler shall order the dog to flush the game.

The handler shall fire a blank cartridge in the precise manner as would occur in trying to shoot at live game i.e.: mount the gun to the shoulder, point at the game and fire a blank cartridge. The steward can only then shoot at the game and not before.

- (f) A Steward shall not be required to carry game shot by the handler.
- (g) A Steward or Judge may debar a gun if they consider it to be faulty.
- (h) Spectators shall not be allowed to encroach on the Trial Stake grounds.
- (i) Stewards officiating at the Field Trial shall control and make all draws in the presence of competitors.

PART 6 DRAW AND BRACING – LAND RUNS.

16. (a) The Draw is the selection by ballot of the order in which dogs in a Stake-are required to compete. The Draw must be made in public, at the Field Trial site or meeting place, on the morning of the Stake, of all eligible dogs in attendance.

Dogs the bone fide property of the same owner shall not be drawn together, except at the conclusion of a Stake when a Judge may wish to see them together.

- (b) All dogs when required, shall wear collars - red for the first dog drawn, white for the second dog drawn, for each brace.

Generally, whilst handlers are together in competition, the handler of the red dog will walk on the left, and the handler of the white dog will walk on the right.

PART 7 FIELD RULES.

17. No person, other than the Judge and the Stewards shall be permitted to accompany the handlers of the dogs competing in any Stake, unless the permission of the Judge and Stewards has been previously obtained.
18. Any handler who is unacceptable to the Field Trial Committee and/or Stewards of the Stake, for any valid cause, shall be excluded from the Trial.
19. In a Stake a dog may be handled by either its owner, or a handler approved by the Stewards, but it must be one or the other. When dogs are working, an owner may not interfere with their dog if another person has been authorised to handle it.
20. No owner or handler shall be permitted to withdraw a dog from a Stake, on the field, or at any time during the progress of the Stake, without the consent of the Judge/s. Any owner or handler withdrawing their dog or dogs without such consent may be debarred from any future Field Trial.
21. All matters in connection with dogs actually under competition in a Stake, shall be in the hands of the Judge, but he may call the Stewards to his assistance if he thinks fit.
22. The privilege is granted handlers of asking the Judge for information or explanation, that has a direct bearing upon any point at issue, but it shall be at the discretion of the Judge as' to when and to whether or not information or explanation is given.
23. The Judge shall advise the handlers of the direction in which the dogs shall work, and each direction must be obeyed.
24. The Judge is empowered to turn out of the Stake any dogs whose handler does not obey him, or who wilfully interferes with another competitor or his dog.
25. The Judge may debar any dog if he considers it unfit to compete by reason of any cause which interferes with the safety or chance of winning of its brace mate.
26. Anyone taking part in a Field Trial who openly impugns the actions or decision of the Judge or who is, in the opinion of the Field Trial Committee, guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct must be cautioned by the Trial Manager or other Trial official and if thereafter he further offends he shall render himself liable to be debarred from further participation in the Trial and may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with at the discretion of the Member Body.
27. Nothing whatsoever may be administered to a dog whilst it is in the hands of the Judge or Stewards, except water, which the Judge allows the dog to take naturally.

28. To prevent any unfair advantage, the Judge and Stewards shall keep the competitors at an even pace, and as near a line as possible. The handlers of the dogs shall go together, line abreast, and hunt the brace of dogs in the Stake, as in ordinary shooting, so that the dogs shall be on an equality as to ground, and opportunities for finding, etc.

Each handler must keep to his own ground (red/left or white/right) and not cross to their opponent's ground unless directed to do so by the Judge.

29. Dogs should cover the ground over which they are hunting in front of their handlers, at a distance about 70 to 120 metres to the left and to the right, of the handlers. Whilst quartering, dogs should be thoroughly under control.
30. When one dog comes on point, then the other dog must be allowed to continue, to demonstrate whether it will back naturally of its own accord, or steal.
31. The handler of a dog in competition must walk, not run, to his dog when it finds, and shall proceed to kill or fire a blank only under instructions from the Judge, who may require the handler to shoot over his dog, and also may direct/allow a Gun Steward to shoot in support..
32. After firing at the game, the gun must be broken before or immediately after the dog has been sent to retrieve.
33. The handler must not wave the gun about unnecessarily before or after the gun has been fired and must carry the gun at all times during a retrieve, unless otherwise instructed by the Judge,
34. A handler, or Gun Steward appointed to shoot for a handler, must not shoot game in such a manner as to deliberately disadvantage an opponent's dog.
35. At no time may any person carry a loaded gun at a Field Trial unless they are in line with the handlers.
36. No competitor will have more than two cartridges/blanks in their gun at any time during the Field Trial Stake.
37. A dog catching game before it has been shot at, shall lose points according to the seriousness of the offence.
38. The person handling and hunting a dog may speak, whistle and work it by hand as he may deem proper, but he may be called to order by the Judge for making any un-necessary noise or for any disorderly conduct, and if after being cautioned he persists in such noise or disorderly conduct, the Judge may order the dog to be taken up and it then shall be regarded as disqualified from the Stake.

An opponent's dog must not be interfered with or excited.

39. In the event of a dog chasing, it may be debarred from further participation in the Stake in which the offence occurs. A dog shall be deemed to be chasing if, when it breaks, it continues to chase against the order of its handler
40. The Judge shall give credit also for a dog's nose as merited. For instance, a dog running up wind carrying its head high (and not pottering on a ground scent) pointing its bird some distance and remaining staunch on point, shall be deemed to have a better nose than the dog that works out a "foot" scent and eventually stands. Also, a galloping dog that suddenly comes to and remains staunch on point will merit full points. A dog shall not be penalised for gradually and carefully drawing up on its game after locating it, providing it approaches slowly and without danger of flushing the birds.
41. A handler who touches or physically interferes with his dog will be penalised according to the seriousness of the offence.

42. Correction, intimidation or physical punishment of a dog during a Trial or on Trial grounds will not be permitted. Any person who physically punishes a dog on the Trial grounds may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with at the discretion of the Member Body

PART 8 FIELD TEST PROCEDURE.

43. The Field Trials, both field and water testing, are to conclude on the same day, if possible. If not finalised on that day, then the Trials shall be concluded on the first available day following.
44. The dogs will be tested in the field in pairs with a judging sheet being completed during each run for each dog in competition.

Each Field Trial Stake will consist of two runs in the field and at least one water run for each dog subject to any eliminating which may eventuate during the progress of the Stake, subject to Rule 41.

If one dog points game, the other dog must not be drawn across it, to take that point, but must back of its own accord. Dogs must be hunted together and handlers must walk within a reasonable distance of one' another.

On a dog finding game, it must point staunchly, unless the game moves when a dog must maintain contact with it, until the handler arrives and then flush on command. If the game is moving, the dog will road out the game with the handler to the flush. If game is not produced within a reasonable distance, both dogs will be sent off on even terms.

When the pointing dog is instructed to road or flush game, the backing dog shall be put on down or remain steady. Dogs are expected to flush game for the gun on command. A handler shall not touch or walk in front of a pointing dog, stamp on the ground, or kick the ground cover to flush the game.

A find shall not be credited until a dog points staunchly, and until then, both dogs shall continue working.

Only the handler and/or allocated Steward are permitted to shoot over the dogs during the running of a Stake. Immediately game has been shot, handlers must stand fast and control their dogs from that position until otherwise ordered by the Judge.

Breaking to shot and retrieving before the order from the Judge may be grounds for elimination, at the discretion of the Judge.

Dogs that fail to go out to retrieve after being ordered or directed shall be eliminated. Dogs that fail to pick up fallen game that they have located shall be eliminated. Dogs that fail to locate fallen game shall be penalised under major faults. All the above applies to retrieving in both field and water work.

At the discretion of the Judge a handler may go to their dog after it has shown ability to back. If a handler is handling two dogs, when one dog finds, the second dog can be held by the Steward while the first dog works out its game and the second dog has shown its ability to back.

Judges are empowered to call up any dog for the purpose of proving its ability to perform any phase of its work including a new brace mate, which may or may not be in competition, to find and point, in order that a dominant "Bird finder" may be required to back, thus completing scoring points for its own card.

In States and Territories where there is no open game bird season, land retrieves shall be conducted according to the procedure outlined below.

At the conclusion of the field rounds or an appropriate time during the field rounds under the direction of the judge and with the support of the organising club a judge will require a field retrieve or retrieves in cover similar to that used in field work.

Dogs left in competition will be taken to a firing point.

A mechanical thrower will cast dead game birds or pigeons which have been humanely dispatched.

The thrower may be portable or static but the fall is to occur in terrain and cover similar to where the game has been pointed. The trajectory should simulate the flight of a quail and a blank fired.

If circumstances and equipment permit the judge may require this scenario to be enacted within a time frame and place as close as possible to the initial game contact and pointing.

NOVICE: Minimum of one flighted bird in the field. Between 30metres and 50 metres

OPEN: Minimum of one flighted bird in the field and one unsighted "blind retrieve" in the field Between 30metres and 50 metres

To prove steadiness to fall of game, a brace mate is placed or required to remain off lead in sight of the dog completing the retrieve no more that 7 metres to the side or behind the retrieving dog.

The handler of the brace mate to carry an unloaded gun.

Suggested distances for off lead control during field retrieves for honouring dogs:-

Novice: Handler near dog's side

Open/All/Age: Handler several metres from dog (3-5m)

PART 9 WATER TEST REQUIREMENT.

45. The water run will be run on similar lines to a Retrieving Trial.

PUPPY STAKE: Item cast in or across water (approx. 25m or less). One item only

DERBY/NOVICE STAKE: Item cast in or across water. (approx. 60m or less). One item only.

OPEN/ ALL AGE: One item of game to be picked up. Game to be in or across water. (approx. 80m or less).

CHAMPIONSHIP: Two or three items of game to be picked up. At least one item to be in or across water. (Approx 100m or less).

A blind retrieve must be included. . There must be a minimum separation of 60 degrees between the blind and other items of game. The order of pick up is at the Judge's discretion.

The Judge may direct the dog to be placed behind a "Blind" in a close proximity to the' Firing Point. Where possible, it is recommended that the "Blind" be part of the natural terrain or be constructed of natural materials.

At the competitors discretion they will be allowed to use a neoprene vest on their dog to complete the water work.

PART 10 DOG ASSESSMENT.

46. Judges may confer if they wish on any aspect of the Stake. Each Judge should make his individual assessment of the merits of the dog's work, but Judges must not Judge in conjunction.
47. The procedure for judging is divided into two parts and performance of each dog is judged in all categories of the work. At the end of the Stake, the Judge's assessment of a dog's performance, in points, is totalled. The respective score sheets are then combined, if there be more than one Judge. The top three dogs are then placed in order of merit according to the scores. These results are then handed to the Club by the Judge or Judges. By "assessment" is meant the Judge's opinion of the dog's capabilities and of how it has executed the task.

The categories, for which each Judge has to give an opinion, are: -

FIELD WORK	MAXIMUM POINTS	WATERWORK	MAXIMUM POINTS
Treatment of Ground	10 each round	Steadiness, Obedience and Walking to heel	10 each round
Pointing	15 each round	Style, Eagerness and action	10 each round
Steadiness	10 each round	Retrieving Novice/Open/All Age	20
Retrieve	15 each round	Retrieving - Championship Stakes	30
Backing	10 max.		
Game Finding Ability	20 each round		
Style	10 each round		
Handling and Control	10 each round		
Flushing Ability	5 each round		
	<hr/> 200 <hr/>		<hr/> 50 <hr/>

The Field Work points are the maximum a dog may accumulate during each of his rounds and each dog must be assessed on his overall work during the two runs (200 points).
Water work is to be judged on an overall maximum of 50 points.

48. In the event of a tie to determine a placing, both dogs must be given another run in the field or water.

PART 11 ELIMINATION, FAULTS, CREDITS.

49. Dogs shall be discarded if they have eliminated themselves according to the list of crimes laid down under "Eliminations."

GROUNDS FOR ELIMINATION.

The following shall constitute grounds for elimination (in land or water, where applicable) :

Repeated flushing of game up-wind
Chasing fur or feather (to be read in conjunction with "Out of Control" - Rule 38)
Out of Control
Failure to go out to retrieve or pick up game
Hard mouth
Failure to enter water and swim
Blinking
Lacking in general working ability
Deliberate Stealing
Breeching of State game laws

50. MAJOR FAULTS.

The following are to be considered as major faults Judges should be reminded that dogs should be penalised for crimes as listed hereunder.

Whining and barking (excessive)
Breaking to shot
Poor treatment of ground
Not quartering and not making good, ground allotted.
(A reasonable beat is 70 metres to 120 metres either side depending on type of ground.)
Working excessively beyond allotted stint
Missing game

POINTING

Excessive stickiness on point
False pointing
Inconclusive point
Lack of staunchness

RETRIEVING

Failure to find game
Slow and unbusinesslike work, poor delivery
Changing game on return

WATER WORK

Indecisive entry to water

GENERAL

Poor control
Noisy handling
Unsteadiness to flush or fall
Running in to fall of game with obvious intent, and in spite of being brought under control
Failure to back
Stealing
Failure to face cover
Deliberate Flushing
Disobedience

51. MAJOR CREDITS.

The following are major credits:

TREATMENT OF GROUND

Thorough and substantial quartering
Acknowledgement of flushed game

POINTING

Staunch, stylish and upstanding point

GAME HANDLING

Intelligent, non-sticky and economical work-out of game to flush
High headed roading on body scent

RETRIEVE

Marking ability and speed in gathering game
Polished delivery
Trailing of runners
Finding unmarked game efficiently

WATER WORK

Keeness for water
Strong swimming
Marking Ability

GENERAL

Game finding and game handling ability
Style and enthusiasm
Good control
Quiet handling
Ability to back of its own accord

PART 12 DEFINITION OF TERMS.

52. **ACTION AND STYLE:** These are both seen in a fearless, well- trained dog that covers its ground with good, free movement, head veil held, in a dog that stands veil up and very staunchly on point, with keen expression, and that moves in decidedly on running birds, yet with great stealth and caution, head and tail outstretched. Any lethargic movement is contrary to good action and style.

BACKING: When two dogs are working and providing they are suitably placed, upon' one dog coming on point, the other must immediately honour the point by adopting a pointing attitude and remaining in that position until the pointing dog moves on; the backing dog must neither dash nor creep up behind the pointing dog, nor in any way interfere with the work of the dog on game. All dogs are expected to back subject to the above conditions.

BIRD SENSE: Some dogs very apparently use a lot of sense in locating game; in working running game, in standing on point and in finding dead and wounded birds. These dogs have "bird sense".

BLINKING: Any dog that finds and deliberately passes by the point, either through nervousness or bad training, is blinking. A dog that finds and then moves on backwards or forwards looking for the bird that has moved on must not be confused with the above mentioned type. Blinking can also occur on the retrieve.

BREAKING FENCE: Is the act on the part of the dog of going through, over or under a fence, without order. All dogs should remain steady at both sides of the fence through or over which their handlers are crossing.

BREAKING TO SHOT: If a dog makes a forward movement which in the opinion of the Judge indicates a deliberate attempt to retrieve 'without being ordered to do so, that dog shall be deemed to have broken. If a dog makes a slight break and is brought immediately under control it shall be penalised for unsteadiness.

CHASING: This is the deliberate attempt to catch game that is on the move, whether or not it has been shot at. A dog that runs in at any speed may be deemed to be chasing. A dog may retrieve only on order from the handler.

DRAWING ON: When a dog points and the game moves on, the dog, to retain contact, may at times, also move on. This may be to the order or sign of the handler, and is generally a series of quick, careful and stealthy steps. A dog should not be penalised for drawing on of its own accord providing that it will remain firm on point and that it does not flush the game.

FALSE POINT: When a dog points and there is no game at the place where it points, this is regarded as a false point. However, care must be taken to make sure that there is no game or that the game has not just moved on before deciding that the point is false.

FINDING: A dog is credited with a find when it points and game is located from the point.

FLUSHING: A dog that finds and gets too close to game, forcing it to fly or run, must be accused of flushing. A dog working up-wind has little excuse for flushing, but a dog working down-wind should not be penalised for the sudden flush of game that it has had no opportunity to wind. A dog should not be blamed for flushing when a bird rises wide out. A dog should always remain steady to a flushed bird.

GAME - DEFINITION of for UTILITY GUNDOGS:, Australian native quail, snipe (when in season), rabbit, hare, Native Hen (Tasmania) and the following imported game birds - Ringneck and Mutant Pheasant, Chukar Partridge, Bob White Quail and Californian Quail, pigeons and wild Duck. Where the word "duck" or "pigeon" is used this would generally apply to water work only except for Closed Season trials.. A dog shall be credited with a find on any game, even though the handler shall not shoot game for which no open season exists at the time. Schedules for Trials using imported Game birds shall list the species that will be used.

HARD MOUTH: When there is unmistakable evidence of any markings on game retrieved, due to biting or crunching by the dog. It is . recommended that the Judge be bound to inspect all game retrieved.

OBEDIENCE: The spontaneous action of obeying all commands. Dogs should act readily and not cower nor cringe at their handlers' signs, sounds or commands.

POINTING: A dog seeking game should, upon finding, immediately become rigid and retain this rigid pose until either the game has moved on or until ordered by the handler to move forward. Dogs may come to a point in practically any natural attitude or position, but up-right stance is preferable to a crouching pose.

POTTERING: A dog that hunts around in a confined space covering ground that it has already worked or one that lingers on an old scent, leaves it and then comes back to it is "pottering".

QUARTERING: All well-trained dogs should cover the ground over which they are hunting in front of their handlers, in a methodical and orderly manner according to the wind and the country over which they are working. A dog working "up-wind" should cross in front of the handler, and turn out in, the wind at about 70 to 120 metres to the right, and to the left. In working down-wind, a dog should cross in front of the handler and turn down-wind at the end of his cast. A "shoulder" wind, half-right or half-left, should be worked in the same way as "up-wind", but with the dog covering the ground diagonally. Whilst quartering, dogs should be thoroughly under command.

RANGING: A dog may seek game close to or wide from the handler, either fast or slow, and will work differently under the varying conditions of wind, cover and abundance or scarcity of game.

RETRIEVING: The retrieving covers the performance of the dog from when ordered to retrieve until it delivers the game to the handler.

ROADING: Roading is effected in much the same manner as "drawing-on" except that it is usually done at a much faster pace, i.e. a dog points, the handler, some distance away, takes time to reach the dog: in the meantime, the bird may have run rapidly, perhaps to the right or left across the wind. A well trained dog will then, keeping downwind of the scent, dash at high speed across wind and pick up the point again many metres to right or left. Clever roading with head held high is one of the most spectacular phases of field work. One of the worst faults is to road game, foot scenting, with nose to ground.

SHOOTING OF GAME: Game should be shot cleanly, in a sportsmanlike manner, in full flight, at a distance that will give the dog a reasonable retrieve.

STAUNCHNESS: Any dog that, without moving, holds a point well is regarded as staunch on point. A dog following running birds steadily and firmly over any considerable distance so that the handler will get the shot, is a staunch worker.

STEADINESS: A well-trained dog should remain steady at command to shot, wing, or running fur instantly, and to remain in position without creeping or crawling in. A dog may sit or stand in position or drop, but must not move from that position until ordered.

STICKINESS: Where a dog has come on point and has been ordered to flush the game, and repeatedly, refuses to do so.

STEALING: When the finding dog is drawing up after winding game, roading, working game after indicating a find by pointing, or standing on point, any dog that moves in front of the dog on game shall be regarded as stealing. Dogs are expected to back immediately they sight the pointing dog.

In circumstances where a dog is disadvantaged by its brace mate stealing the retrieve and is unable to get a retrieve in that round (due to lack of game or other reasons) It should be given a chance to retrieve as per Rule 44 at the conclusion of the round or at the judge's discretion.

WALKING TO HEEL: Dog's head to be close to the side of heel or immediately behind the heel of the handler, preferably on the left side for a right-handed shooter, e.g., away from the gun.

WORKING FUR AS WELL AS FEATHER: A dog shall work fur as well as feather within the definition of game and shall be awarded the same number of points for the work.

PART 13 GUIDE FOR JUDGES OF UTILITY GUNDOGS.

The, purpose of Field Trials is to test the dogs for their ability as gundogs serving the gun. The Utility Gundog's task is to search for game; to point game; to flush for guns to shoot and to retrieve game shot.

The attitude of the Judge to handlers is important. Many competitors may never have handled a dog in a Field Trial Stake before, and will need clear instructions from the Judge.

The continued success of Utility Gundog Field Trials will depend to a large extent on each dog being given a fair and full run and every opportunity to show his working ability throughout the full extent of the schedule. Subject to "eliminations" dogs should, whenever possible, be retained in the Stake even if they have "blotted their copybook" from the prize winning point of view.

In conforming to the purpose of the Trials and the spirit in which they should be conducted, the Judge should maintain the highest standards of work -when they are judging.

Utility Gundogs when being shot over must remain steady.

Stamina is essential in 'the Utility Gundog, which must be able to work all day. searching for game and retrieving it. Stamina is usually as important as speed.

For Utility Gundogs, the Judge's assessment should be continuous, covering two land runs and a water retrieve. The purpose should not be to discard dogs on technicalities but to place all dogs which have not eliminated themselves in an order of merit for all round performance and at the end of the day be able to express an opinion of the dog's work and give some explanation to handlers and spectators of how decisions were reached.

The Judge should consult with the Manager of the Field Trial regarding the availability of game, and co-operate with the Judge's Steward in getting the day's work started promptly. If more than one Judge, the Judges should decide which of them is going to give, instructions to handlers. The Judge should get the handlers together before the start and explain how the Stake will be conducted and what is expected of the handlers.

The Judge should co-operate with the Judge's Steward regarding procedure and conduct of the Stake in accordance with the A.N.K.C. and Member Body Rules.

It should be the aim of the Judge to retain as many dogs as possible and put them through, the full schedules that they can be seen and judged' as all-rounders, provided they are carrying out their purpose of finding and pointing game and retrieving it, and have not eliminated themselves.

The dog has to quarter the beat allotted by the Judge thoroughly, making good all ground, missing no game, pointing staunchly, working out to the flush, with the greatest economy of: time and ground, mark the fall and retrieve on command clearly and quickly, and' deliver to hand. The Judge should penalise dogs that quarter too short, turn back, quarter behind handler, false point persistently, are sticky on point. They should penalise for unsteadiness at and after flush. If a dog is unsteady but is checked and brought under control by the handler and eventually retrieves on command, it should not be eliminated. A point that is made on ground which the Judge agrees is excessively beyond the allotted beat should not count, but if the behaviour comes under "Elimination", it will be judged accordingly. The Judge should penalise bad marking, sloppy or unbusinesslike retrieving and poor delivery. At the water hesitant (not cautious) entry, poor swimming and putting down game to shake should be penalised. A dog that has had a gruelling session of quartering should not be severely penalised for putting game down to take a firmer grip and this applies especially to a young dog mustering a runner.

Not more than two dogs should be tried on any one bird for retrieve. For all retrieves, the handlers shall stand fast while his dog is retrieving. Once a Judge has walked forward and located a lost bird, no dog should be tried on it. When more than one bird is down and the dog changes birds on the way back he should be penalised.

Game finding ability, keenness, initiative, courage, method and style, and an air of enjoyment about the dog at

his work are very important, and should be taken into account by the Judge in his assessment.

The handler should not touch his dog while it is working. The better the dog the less apparent the handling. The dog should be obedient to signals and under control. When a dog is called to retrieve unmarked game, the handler will direct his dog and this can be a credit, as can handling the dog in water for unmarked game. At delivery, game should not be grabbed from the dog's mouth. Noisy or ineffective handling should be penalised, a failure to control the dog is marked also under this heading.

All game retrieved should be examined for hard mouth. Superficial damage is not acceptable evidence, nor is the apparent mouthing or chewing of the bird by the dog. The retrieve of a strong runner, or a retrieve from a difficult situation such as thick brambles, through thick hedge of heavily wired fence, or a badly shot bird, could result in superficial damage. To examine for hard mouth, if the ribs are crushed and flattened, that can be taken as evidence of hard mouth. The Judge should be familiar with the feel of normal and uncrushed ribs. In the event of a case of hard mouth, the opportunity should be given to the handler of inspecting the damaged game in the presence of the Judge at the time, but the decision of the Judge is final. The dog should be given the benefit of the doubt, but the Judge may order a further retrieve for the dog. If the bird is alive when delivered, the dog is unlikely to be hard mouthed. A runner brought back dead is not in itself, a proof of hard mouth.

After the awards have been announced, the Judge should take the opportunity to explain to those present how his decisions were made and how he came to his conclusions, and give his impressions, whether good or bad, on the day's work. They may profitably say something to newcomers by way of advice and encouragement.

When present at a Stake, a learner may, with permission, walk in company with the Judge and Judge's Steward, take notes and if necessary for practice, mark a sheet but not participate in the judging.

PART 14 JUDGES' CODE OF PRACTICE – RETRIEVING & FIELD TRIALS.

53. All Judges accepting appointments to judge Utility Gundog Field Trials shall familiarize themselves with and observe the current ANKC Ltd National Judges Code of Practice for Field and Retrieving Trials.

PART 15 FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

- (a) The management of a Field Trial shall be entrusted to the Field Trial Committee, which will have complete responsibility for the planning and conducting of the Field Trial of the Affiliate concerned.
- (b) The Field Trial Committee shall appoint from its members of the Committee, a Field Trial Manager and Field Trial Secretary, who shall be held responsible for compliance with all of the Field Trial Rules and Procedures, except those coming under the sole jurisdiction of the Judge.
- (c) The Field Trial Manager will be responsible for :-
 - (1) The appointment of a competent Canine Examiner to examine all dogs before the commencement of each Field Trial Stake. Bitches in oestrus shall not be permitted on or near the Field Trial grounds.
 - (2) All dogs will be examined for clinical signs of contagious diseases.
- (d) If after consultation with the Judge, the members of the Field Trial Committee present consider a dog unfit to compete by reason of contagious disease or physical condition. such a dog shall be removed immediately from the ground, and from the Field Trial site.
- (e) The Field Trial Committee shall have authority to :-
 - (1) Reserve the right to substitute a Judge, if the contracted Judge is unable to fulfill his assignment.
 - (2) Decide upon any matter arising during the running of the Field Trial, except any matter coming under the jurisdiction of the Judge.
- (f) Decisions of the Field Trial Committee conducting the Field Trial may be subject to appeal to the Member Body.

PART 16

Allocation of National Utility Field Trial Championships

The National Championship shall be allocated between the states on a rotational basis.

In the circumstances where a state does not conduct Utility Field Trials or cannot fulfil its responsibility any year then the next state on the rotation shall be given the opportunity to undertake the National.

PART 17

UTILITY GUNDOG FIELD TRIAL SCORE SHEET

Water Work Round

Retrieving Points

Novice, Open, All Age - 20

Championship Stakes - 30



PART 17

UTILITY GUNDOG FIELD TRIAL SCORE SHEET

Judge: _____ Stake: _____

Competitor No: _____

Points shall be allocated for each retrieve on the following basis:

Field Work	Round	Points
Ground Treatment (max 10) each round	1	
	2	
Pointing (max 15) each round	1	
	2	
Steadiness (max 10) each round	1	
	2	
Retrieve (max 15) each round	1	
	2	
Backing (max 10)		
Game finding Ability (max 20) each round	1	
	2	
Style (max 10) each round	1	
	2	
Handling & Control (max 10) each round	1	
	2	
Flushing Ability (max 5) each round	1	
	2	
TOTAL MAXIMUM		200
Field Working Points		
Water Work Points		
FINAL TOTAL		

Water Work	Round	Points
Steadiness, obedience and walking to heel (max 10)	1	
	2	
Style, Eagerness and action (max 10)	1	
	2	
Retrieving (max 30)	1	
	2	
TOTAL MAXIMUM		50

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