Suggested changes for RATG Rules Review – Victoria

**2. Eligibility**

2.4 To be eligible to compete in a Novice Retrieving Ability Test, a dog must not have gained its title in Novice Retrieving Ability Test or gained any of the following Titles as defined in the Rules for the Conduct of Retrieving Trials for Gundogs (effective 1 Jan 2010) – DM, CM, *~~QND~~*~~,~~ NRD, RRD, AARD, RT CH, Nat RT CH, Grand RT Ch

Review: Remove the qualification of QND as a title from eligibility to compete in a Novice Retrieving Ability Test

Rationale: There are many competitors who do not apply for nor keep records for finishes in Novice, a stake that they may have been competing in for a number of years – those that do and officially apply for the title of QND are therefore dis advantaged by being ineligible to continue competing in Novice Retrieving Ability Tests.

**4. General Regulations**

Review: New regulation

4.5 *The trial shall be run with exercises being run consecutively from Exercise 1 through to Exercise 4*

Rationale: Trials should be run in the listed order as in the rules enabling competitors to compete in all components of the competition.

**NOVICE CLASS & OPEN CLASS**

Novice

EXERCISE 2 The dog is to be put in a sit, stand or drop position. The handler is to walk away for a distance of approximately 20 metres. Then, on instruction from the Judge, the handler is to call the dog to hand. As the handler walks away the dog may change position e.g. move from a sit to a stand or drop. Movement of more than one body length is deemed a fail. *Movement of less than one body length may be penalised with a deduction of up to 5 points*.

Open

EXERCISE 2 Dog is put in the sit, stand or drop position and is required to remain in that location during which time the handler walks away from the dog. On instruction the handler will call the dog. During the recall the dog will be required to stop on command.

As the handler walks away the dog may change position e.g. move from a sit to a stand or drop. Movement of more than one body length is deemed a fail. *Movement of less than one body length may be penalised with a deduction of up to 5 points*

Review: There is no allowance for deductions for only movement whilst in the stay only f for failure to stay by moving more than one body length

Rationale: In both exercises the points deduction only states “Failure to STAY – Exercise NO SCORE” there is no allowance for deductions for a dog that may move i.e go from a sit to a lie down without moving forward. Rather than have “NO SCORE” have the deduction “Up to 5 points” this would be the same as the deduction on the retrieving score sheet for moving within or out of a hide.

**OPEN CLASS**

Exercise 1 and Exercise 2: Points awarded 10 and 20 respectively

Review: *For both exercises have the points awarded at 15 points each*

Rationale: Exercise 1 has a more complex heeling pattern that is determined by the judge, which can be different at every event making it harder for competitors as they are unable to train for a set heeling pattern

 Exercise 2 has been made easier by the removal of a stay for 1 minute

**8. Definition of Terms**

8.6 **Game** - Shall be either pigeons or dummies. Pigeons and dummies may be provided by the club conducting the event. If the club conducting the event does not provide dummies competitors must provide their own dummies, however all dummies are to be approved by the Judge prior to judging. A Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs may be conducted on either pigeons or dummies, but not both in the same Class. However a club may use pigeons in one Class and dummies in another Class. Dummies should be made of a soft material, e.g. canvas or plastic, and be of a subdued colour. Dummies length should be approximately 25cm to 30cm, with a circumference of between 20cm and 30cm and have a weight of between 300gms and 450gms and must be free of all feather and fur**. *White pigeons and white dummies shall not be used***. Dummies may include replica game. When used, they must meet the criteria for dummies with respect to size, colour and weight.

Review: Highlight that white pigeons and dummies shall not be used

Rationale: Trials that competitors supply their own dummies some competitors are only bringing white dummies – highlight that they are not to be used in the rules

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| **NOVICE**  |  |  | **RETRIEVING ABILITY TEST FOR GUNDOGS** |
|  | Competitor Number |
|   |  |  MAXIMUM POINTS |
| **EXERCISE 1** | HEELING 20-30 METRES | 10 |
| **EXERCISE 2** | RECALL |   | 15 |
| **EXERCISE 3** | RETRIEVE 50 METRES | 30 |
| **EXERCISE 4** | RETRIEVE 70 METRES | 35 |
| **ACTION AND STYLE**  |  |   | 10 |
| **TOTAL POINTS** |  |   | 100 |
| **WORKSHEET Deductions For misbehaviour** |  |   |
| *Movement whilst in the STAY**Complete Failure to STAY Exercise 2* |   | *Up to 5 points**NO SCORE* |
| Extreme Hard Mouth |   | NO SCORE |
| Failure to Retrieve | NO SCORE |
| Hard Mouth |   | Up to 5 points |
| Pottering |   | Up to 2 points |
|  |  |  |
| Fouling the Test area |   | Up to 5 points |
| Blinking |   | Up to 2 points |
| Giving Tongue |   | Up to 2 points |
| Breaking/Unsteadiness Exercises 3&4 |   | Up to 10 points |
| Dropping Game |   | Up to 5 points |
| Touching /interfering with dog |   | Up to 5 points |

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| **OPEN** |  |  | **RETRIEVING ABILITY TEST FOR GUNDOGS**  |
|  | Competitor Number |
|   |  | MAXIMUM POINTS |
| ***EXERCISE 1*** | *HEELING 30-50 METRES* | *15* |
| ***EXERCISE 2*** | *RECALL/STOP*  | *15* |
| **EXERCISE 3** | WALK UP RETRIEVE | 25 |
| **EXERCISE 4** | DOUBLE RISE or DOUBLE MARK  | 35 |
| **ACTION AND STYLE**  |  | 10 |
| **TOTAL POINTS** |   | 100 |
| **WORKSHEET - Deductions For Misbehaviour** |   |
| *Movement whilst in the STAY**Complete failure to STAY - Exercise 2* | *Up to 5 points**NO SCORE* |
| Failure to STOP -exercise 2 | NO SCORE  |
| Extreme Hard Mouth | NO SCORE  |
| Switching Game | NO SCORE  |
| Failure to Retrieve | NO SCORE  |
| Hard Mouth | Up to 5 points |
| Pottering |  | Up to 2 points |
| Fouling the Test area |   | Up to 5 points |
| Blinking | Up to 2 points |
| Giving Tongue |  | Up to 2 points |
| Breaking/Unsteadiness Apply to exercises 3&4 |  | Up to 10 points |
| Dropping Game |   | Up to 5 points |
| Touching/interfering with Dog | Up to 5 points |