**RETRIEVING ABILITY TEST FOR GUNDOGS**

**PROPOSED RULE CHANGES:**

**CURRENT RULE: 2.3**

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.

**(Tas) PROPOSED RULE CHANGES to Rule 2.3**

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, **or placed in any stake higher than a Novice stake.**

**(Tas) RATIONALE:**

**A dog that has a NQD is no-where near the standard of a dog that places second or third in a Restricted but that dog is eligible to compete in a Novice RATG.**

**Existing Rule (Effective from 1st January 2019)**

Eligibility

* 1. All events shall be restricted to dogs six (6) months of age and over. The age of a dog shall be computed from its date of birth to the date on which the Trial commences. Should finalisation of the Trial be delayed, then the increase in age shall not affect the eligibility of any qualified contestant.
  2. Main and Limited Registered Gundogs (including de-sexed registered Gundogs) and Associate Dogs of a variety accepted by a Member Body as a Gundog shall be permitted to compete in Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs in all States and/or Territories of Australia.
  3. 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.
  4. To be eligible to compete in an Open Retrieving Ability Test, a dog must have gained its title in a Novice Retrieving Ability Test or have 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.
  5. A dog which has gained its title in Novice or has gained any of the retrieving titles in 2.3 shall not be eligible to compete in Novice RATG except in a competition for which entries closed before the final pass score or retrieving title was gained. Should the handler wish to compete in the higher class (Open) then they must contact the Trial Secretary and request an upgrade, which shall be at the discretion of the Affiliate holding the RATG to allow.

**PROPOSED RULE: (Effective from 1st January 2024)**

Eligibility

* 1. All events shall be restricted to dogs six (6) months of age and over. The age of a dog shall be computed from its date of birth to the date on which the Trial commences. Should finalisation of the Trial be delayed, then the increase in age shall not affect the eligibility of any qualified contestant.
  2. Main and Limited Registered Gundogs (including de-sexed registered Gundogs) and Associate Dogs of a variety accepted by a Member Body as a Gundog shall be permitted to compete in Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs in all States and/or Territories of Australia.
  3. 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.
  4. To be eligible to compete in an Open Retrieving Ability Test, a dog must have gained its title in a Novice Retrieving Ability Test or have 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. To be eligible to compete in an Open Retrieving Ability Test, a dog must not have gained any of the following Titles as defined in the Rules for the Conduct of Retrieving Trials for Gundogs (effective 1 Jan 2010) –RRD, AARD, RT CH, Nat RT CH, Grand RT CH.

A dog which has gained its title in Novice or has gained any of the retrieving titles in 2.3

* 1. shall not be eligible to compete in Novice RATG except in a competition for which entries closed before the final pass score or retrieving title was gained. Should the handler wish to compete in the higher class (Open) then they must contact the Trial Secretary and request an upgrade, which shall be at the discretion of the Affiliate holding the RATG to allow.

**RATIONALE:**

The purpose of a RATG is to encourage competitors to compete in retrieving. Individuals that have achieved the titles of RRD, AARD, RT CH, Nat RT CH, Grand RT CH have arguably attained the highest levels of retrieving trial competition. Including these individuals in RATG competition discourages

**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.

**PROPOSAL FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**PRESENT RULE**

3. TITLES

1. 3.1 All dogs eligible to be entered in Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Class Title Certificates upon qualification and application.

2 3.2 Applications for permission to use the letters “NRA” and “ORA” shall be lodged with the applicant’s local ANKC Ltd Member Body. ‘NRA’ signifying Novice Retrieving Ability in connection with and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified to have received three relevant passes, achieved under at least two Judges, and one pass must have included water. Maximum points will be 100. To attain a pass, a dog must receive at least 50% in each exercise and an overall score of not less than 75%. All passing dogs will receive a Pass Certificate. ‘ORA’ signifying Open Retrieving Ability in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which shall be certified to have received three relevant passes, achieved under at least two Judges, and one pass must have included water, Maximum points will be 100. To attain a pass, a dog must receive at least 50% in each exercise and an overall score of not less than 75%. All passing dogs will receive a Pass Certificate.

The test schedule must indicate whether water will or will not be used in the test.

‘ORA’ signifying Open Retrieving Ability in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which shall be certified to have received three relevant passes, achieved under at least two Judges, and one pass must have included water, Maximum points will be 100. To attain a pass, a dog must receive at least 50% in each exercise and an overall score of not less than 75%. All passing dogs will receive a Pass Certificate.

The test schedule must indicate whether water will or will not be used in the test.

**RATIONALE :**

By clearly stating this on the schedule for the Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs event, entrants who are potentially waiting for their “one pass that includes water” will know whether or not to enter the test.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT From NSW**

3. TITLES

1. 3.1 All dogs eligible to be entered in Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Class Title Certificates upon qualification and application.

2. 3.2 Applications for permission to use the letters “NRA” and “ORA” shall be lodged with the applicant’s local ANKC Ltd Member Body.

‘NRA’ signifying Novice Retrieving Ability in connection with and after the name of each dog, which shall be certified to have received three relevant passes, achieved under at least two Judges, and one pass must have included water. Maximum points will be 100. To attain a pass, a dog must receive at least 50% in each exercise and an overall score of not less than 75%. All passing dogs will receive a Pass Certificate.

‘ORA’ signifying Open Retrieving Ability in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which shall be certified to have received three relevant passes, achieved under at least two Judges, and one pass must have included water, Maximum points will be 100. To attain a pass, a dog must receive at least 50% in each exercise and an overall score of not less than 75%. All passing dogs will receive a Pass Certificate.

**RATIONALE:**

Rationale for removing mandatory water pass is due to intermittent drought problems (not a current problem, but certain to be one in the future), also some clubs not having availability of water. As an example, the DogsNSW grounds were used frequently for water runs until the weed infestation which made it dangerous to use for the dogs. I suggest that the mandatory requirement for water be removed. Further, the ability to use water is already in the rules:

Rule 6. Rules and exercises,

6.4 The ground for a Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs should preferably be a grassed area of sufficient size to allow for retrieves of 80 metres or more. Retrieving exercises should be conducted on an area that preferably is not closely mown. Water may be used.

6.4 states that water MAY be used. This makes it optional, not mandatory.

**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.

**SUBMISSIONS FROM DOGS NSW**

**OLD RULE:**

5.1 The handler, with dog on lead, shall advance to the Control Point/Pegs for the purpose of commencing the Test. The dog and handler are under the control of the Judge from the time the lead and collar are removed and handed to the steward at the control Point/Pegs until the lead and collar are placed back on the dog.

5.1 continued….. When the dog has retrieved the Game the handler will return with dog at heel to the Control Pegs, where the steward will take the Game and return collar and lead to the handler who will place it on the dog. The exercise is then finished.

**NEW RULE:**

5.1 The handler, with dog on lead, shall advance to the Control Point/Pegs for the purpose of commencing the Test. The dog and handler are under the control of the Judge from the time the lead and collar are removed and handed to the steward or judge or retained on the person of the handler at the control Point/Pegs until the lead and collar are placed back on the dog.

5.1 continued….. When the dog has retrieved the Game the handler will return with dog at heel to the Control Pegs, where the steward or judge will take the Game and return collar and lead to the handler, if held by the steward or judge, who will place it on the dog. The exercise is then finished.

**RATIONALE:**

It is not always possible or necessary to have a steward in this role so the judge, if they so choose, may perform these tasks.

To reduce the possible transmission of COVID or other diseases, the affiliate or judge may choose to elect that the collar and lead are retained by the handler, as has been brought in by some other dog sports such as obedience and rally.

**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 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 g 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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | | |

**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 rule

**SUGGESTED CHANGES to RETRIEVING ABILITY TEST for GUNDOGS TRAINING SCHEME**

**COMPETITORS**

a. They have competed with and taken a dog to the title of Open Retrieving Ability.

b. Completed a Judges Theory Examination and attained a score of at least 75%.

c. Passed a Practical Test to the satisfaction of their local RAFT Committee

**REVIEW:**

Encourage more competitors to become judges.

**RATIONALE:**

To encourage more competitors to become judges remove the requirement that they must have taken a dog to the title of Open Retrieving Ability. Make the require requirements similar to that of an Obedience Judge wishing to become a RATG judge

**NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITORS**

a. They must have competed and assisted by stewarding in at least 3 (three) Novice Retrieving Ability tests AND stewarding in 3 (three) Open Retrieving Ability Tests

b. Completed a Judges Theory Examination and attained a score of at least 75%.

c. Marked sheets at 3 (three) tests with a RAFT appointed Mentor.

d. Passed a Practical Test to the satisfaction of their local RAFT Committee

**OBEDIENCE JUDGES**

Any person who is qualified to judge an Open Obedience Trial is eligible to judge a Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs provided that:

a. They have completed three Retrieving Trials at Restricted level or attended Retrieving Trials to observe at least two Novice Stakes and one Restricted Stake while in the company of a designated “mentor”.

b. Completed a Judges Theory Examination on the Rules for Retrieving Ability Tests for Gundogs and attained a score of at least 75%.

**NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR OBEDIENCE JUDGES**

Any person who is qualified to judge an Open Obedience Trial is eligible to judge a Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs provided that:

a. They have completed three Retrieving Trials at Restricted level or attended Retrieving Trials to observe at least two Novice Stakes and one Restricted Stake while in the company of a RAFT appointed mentor .

b. Marked sheets at 3 (three) retrieving trials (1 Novice 2 Restricted) with a RAFT appointed Mentor.

c. Completed a Judges Theory Examination on the Rules for Retrieving Ability Tests for Gundogs and attained a score of at least 75%.

**REVIEW:**

Encourage more Obedience judges to become RATG judges

**RATIONALE:**

Consultation with Obedience judges indicate that whilst they more than comfortable with judging and scoring the obedience component of a retrieving ability test marking the retrieving component is more problematic. In addition to attending retrieving trials with a mentor as has been suggested for competitors wishing to become judges the obedience judges should also mark sheets at trials

**Retrieving Ability Tests for Gundogs from NSW**

**Existing Rule (Effective from 1st January 2019)**

OPEN CLASS: **EXERCISE 4:**

This Exercise may consist of either, a Double Mark Retrieve, or a Double Rise Retrieve; the actual Retrieve being declared by the Judge prior to the commencement of the exercise and will be the same for each competitor. It may include land and water. This exercise should be done in a completely different area from Exercise 3.

**Double Mark Retrieve**

In this Exercise one item of Game is to be cast at approximately 50 metres and one item of Game is to be cast at approximately 80 metres. Viewed from the Starting Pegs there must be at least 60 degrees of separation between the lines to where to each of the items of Game land.

**Procedure**

Dog is brought to the Control Pegs on a lead. The collar and lead are removed and handed to the steward and the dog is then in competition. On instruction from the Judge the handler with dog at heel will proceed to the Starting Pegs. The handler will then instruct the dog to sit or stand while the Game is cast from the thrower.

There should be a reasonable delay between the two casts. Once both items of Game have been cast from the thrower, the dog will be sent for the first item to be retrieved. The Judge may stipulate the order in which Game is to be retrieved, but it must be the same for all handlers. The handler is permitted to indicate clearly to the dog which item of Game to which it is being sent. However, once the dog has left the handler further handling will be penalised accordingly. After the first item of Game has been retrieved and delivered, the handler will send the dog for the second item of Game. All Game shall be delivered to hand cleanly and tenderly. The dog is then heeled back to the Control Pegs where the collar and lead are put back on the dog. The Judge will then declare that the exercise is finished.

Assessment The essentials of this test are that the dog:

a. Remains steady when the Game is cast.

b. Marks the fall of the Game.

c. Does not retrieve until instructed.

d. Retrieves the correct item of Game.

e. Does not swap Game.

f. Picks up only one item of Game at a time.

g. Does not need direction from the handler.

h. Returns directly to the handler with the Game.

**Points Awarded :35 points**

**Double Rise Retrieve**

In this exercise one item of Game is cast to land at approximately 70 metres. As the dog is returning to the handler another item of Game is thrown or placed no more than 10 metres behind where the first item landed. The dog should not see this Item being placed.

**Procedure**

Dog is brought to the Control Pegs on a lead. The collar and lead are removed and handed to the Steward and the dog is then in competition. On instruction from the Judge the handler with dog at heel will proceed to the Starting Pegs. The handler will then instruct the dog to sit or stand while the Game is cast from the thrower. The dog will be sent for the item to be retrieved. After the first item of Game has been retrieved and delivered, the handler will send the dog for the second item of Game. All Game shall be delivered to hand cleanly and tenderly. The dog is then heeled back to the Control Pegs where the collar and lead are put back on the dog. The Judge will then declare that the exercise is finished.

Assessment The essentials of this test are that the dog:

a. Remains steady when the Game is cast.

b. Marks the fall of the Game.

c. Does not retrieve until instructed.

d. On the second bird, goes directly to the area of the fall of Game.

e. Does not need direction from the handler.

f. Returns directly to the handler with the Game.

**Points Awarded:** **35 points**.

**RATIONALE:**

The addition of a blind find retrieve will assist judges to set runs in circumstances where access to terrain, stewards or throwers is limited.

The addition of a blind find retrieve will assist dogs that compete in both Retrieving Trial and RATG to better transition from novice to restricted RT

Proposed New Rule (Effective from 1st January 2024)

EXERCISE 4

This Exercise may consist of either, a Double Mark Retrieve, or a Double Rise Retrieve, or a Blind Find Retrieve; the actual Retrieve being declared by the Judge prior to the commencement of the exercise and will be the same for each competitor. The Double Mark Retrieve or Double Rise Retrieve may include land and water. This exercise should be done in a completely different area from Exercise 3.

**Double Mark Retrieve**

In this Exercise one item of Game is to be cast at approximately 50 metres and one item of Game is to be cast at approximately 80 metres. Viewed from the Starting Pegs there must be at least 60 degrees of separation between the lines to where to each of the items of Game land.

**Procedure:**

Dog is brought to the Control Pegs on a lead. The collar and lead are removed and handed to the steward and the dog is then in competition. On instruction from the Judge the handler with dog at heel will proceed to the Starting Pegs. The handler will then instruct the dog to sit or stand while the Game is cast from the thrower.

There should be a reasonable delay between the two casts. Once both items of Game have been cast from the thrower, the dog will be sent for the first item to be retrieved. The Judge may stipulate the order in which Game is to be retrieved, but it must be the same for all handlers. The handler is permitted to indicate clearly to the dog which item of Game to which it is being sent. However, once the dog has left the handler further handling will be penalised accordingly. After the first item of Game has been retrieved and delivered, the handler will send the dog for the second item of Game. All Game shall be delivered to hand cleanly and tenderly. The dog is then heeled back to the Control Pegs where the collar and lead are put back on the dog. The Judge will then declare that the exercise is finished.

Assessment The essentials of this test are that the dog:

a. Remains steady when the Game is cast.

b. Marks the fall of the Game.

c. Does not retrieve until instructed.

d. Retrieves the correct item of Game.

e. Does not swap Game.

f. Picks up only one item of Game at a time.

g. Does not need direction from the handler.

h. Returns directly to the handler with the Game.

**Points Awarded: 35 points**

Double Rise Retrieve

In this exercise one item of Game is cast to land at approximately 70 metres. As the dog is returning to the handler another item of Game is thrown or placed no more than 10 metres behind where the first item landed. The dog should not see this Item being placed.

**Procedure :**

Dog is brought to the Control Pegs on a lead. The collar and lead are removed and handed to the Steward and the dog is then in competition. On instruction from the Judge the handler with dog at heel will proceed to the Starting Pegs. The handler will then instruct the dog to sit or stand while the Game is cast from the thrower. The dog will be sent for the item to be retrieved. After the first item of Game has been retrieved and delivered, the handler will send the dog for the second item of Game. All Game shall be delivered to hand cleanly and tenderly. The dog is then heeled back to the Control Pegs where the collar and lead are put back on the dog. The Judge will then declare that the exercise is finished.

Assessment The essentials of this test are that the dog:

a. Remains steady when the Game is cast.

b. Marks the fall of the Game.

c. Does not retrieve until instructed.

d. On the second bird, goes directly to the area of the fall of Game.

e. Does not need direction from the handler.

f. Returns directly to the handler with the Game.

**Points Awarded: 35 points.**

Blind Find Retrieve

A Blind Find Retrieve shall be a retrieve where a dog is in such a position that the flight, fall or placement of the game cannot be seen. In this exercise the single item of Game is located no more than 50 metres from the starting pegs. It should be possible for a dog to find a Blind Find Retrieve on the initial line from its handler.

Procedure Dog is brought to the Control Pegs on a lead. The collar and lead are removed and handed to the Steward and the dog is then in competition. On instruction from the Judge the handler with dog at heel will proceed to the Starting Pegs. The handler will then instruct the dog to sit or stand and direct the dog to the site of the game. The dog will be sent for the item to be retrieved. All Game shall be delivered to hand cleanly and tenderly. The dog is then heeled back to the Control Pegs where the collar and lead are put back on the dog. The Judge will then declare that the exercise is finished.

Assessment The essentials of this test are that the dog:

a. Does not retrieve until instructed.

b. Goes directly to the area of the fall of Game.

c. Responds obediently to the direction of the handler.

d. Returns directly to the handler with the Game.

Points Awarded 35 points.

**RATIONALE:**

The addition of a blind find retrieve will assist judges to set runs in circumstances where access to terrain, stewards or throwers is limited.

The addition of a blind find retrieve will assist dogs that compete in both Retrieving Trial and RATG to better transition from novice to restricted RT.

**RULES REVIEW FOR FIELD TRIALS FOR UTILITY GUNDOGS**

**Proposed Rule changes 2024 from Victoria**

Stolen Retrieve

If in circumstances occurs were 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. At the judges discretion

Rule 44: Paragraph 18

Change the wording Shotgun Distance, to between 30 metres and 50 metres

**RATIONALE:**

Shotgun Distance is too open to interpretation, which could be anywhere from 10 metres to 70 metres

Nominated Shooter

Area of concern Part 5 Clause (E) Add a new clause to make it fairer for everybody

A person nominating a shooter on their application form must have blanks in their gun when competing.

**ADD**

If a person/competitor who is granted a shooter (steward) by the judge must have Blanks in their gun

**RATIONALE:**

But if the judge nominates a steward to shoot for a competitor.

a) The competitor would be expected to shoot at the bird thus having a slight advantage over a person who nominated a shooter ( 4 shoots to for a nominated shooter nominated by the judge and 2 shoots for a competitor who nominates a shooter on their application form)

Part 9 Rule 45

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

**RATIONALE:**

Welfare of the dog

A dog that has been running in the field competitively over an extended period of time and then rested, is then asked to enter cold water, to complete a retrieve. A shock to any system

**NEW RULE**

At the end of each round or the completion of the trial, the judge will give a summation of the trial up to that point, commenting on the performance of each dog and informing the competitors of the reason why the dog have been eliminated or retained.

**RATIONALE:**

To improve communication between newcomers to the sport and the judge, to explain the reason for the judge’s decisions which may not be obvious to the trailers.

**DOGS WEST SUBMISSIONS**

**Review of Rules for the Conduct of Field Trials for Utility Gundogs**

**Rule review Utility Gundogs**

**CURRENT RULE:**

**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 | MAX POINTS | WATERWORK | MAX POINTS |
| Treatment of ground | 10 each round | Steadiness,obedience,walking to heel | 10 each round |
| Pointing | 15 each round | Style eagerness and action | 10 each round |
| Steadiness | 10 each round | Retrieve | 30 each round |
| Retrieve | 15 each round |  |  |
| Backing, Game finding ability | 10 max 20 each round |  |  |
| Style | 10 each round |  |  |
| Handling and control | 10 each round |  |  |
| Flushing ability | 5 each round |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **200** |  | **50** |
|  |  |  |  |

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

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT WA**

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 | MAX POINTS | WATERWORK | MAX POINTS |
| Treatment of ground | 10 each round | Steadiness,obedience,walking to heel | 10 each round |
| Pointing | 15 each round | Style eagerness and action | 10 each round |
| Steadiness | 10 each round | Retrieving:  Novice/Open/AllAge | 20 each round |
| Retrieve | 15 each round | Championship Stakes | 30 each round |
| Backing, Game finding ability | 10 max 20 each round |  |  |
| Style | 10 each round |  |  |
| Handling and control | 10 each round |  |  |
| Flushing ability | 5 each round |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **200** |  | **40- 50** |
|  |  |  |  |

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 40-50 points.

**CURRENT RULE:**

PART 17

UTILITY GUNDOG FIELD TRIAL SCORE SHEET

Water Work Round

Retrieving Points 30

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT WA**

PART 17

UTILITY GUNDOG FIELD TRIAL SCORE SHEET

Water Work Round

Retrieving Points

Novice, Open, All Age - 20

Championship Stakes – 30

RATIONALE: Part 10 – Part 17.

To clarify the scores on Dog Assessment & the score sheets between Championship & Nov/ Open/All age.

**DOGS WEST SUBMISSIONS**

**Review of Rules for the Conduct of Field Trials for All Pointing Breeds of Gundogs;**

**CURRENT RULE:**

Part 8 FIELD TEST PROCEDURES.

43. The dogs will be tested in the field in pairs with a judging sheet being completed during each run for each dog in competition.

The Trial shall not be a knock out competition. Each Field Trial Stake will consist of two runs in the field 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.

Dogs are expected to flush game for the gun on command. A handle shall not touch or walk in front of a pointing dog, stamp on the ground or kick the cover to flush game.

When the pointing dog is instructed to road or flush game, the backing dog shall remain steady.

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.

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.

After completion of the first round the judge shall have the discretion to order a further draw or draws or may choose the pairing of the braces and order in which the braces shall compete.

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 accordingly.

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 1 flighted bird in the field. (Shotgun distances)

OPEN: Minimum of 1 flighted bird in the field and one unsighted “blind retrieve” in the field (Shotgun distance).

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 than 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)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT WA**

Part 8 FIELD TEST PROCEDURES.

42. The Field Trials, both field runs 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.

43. The dogs will be tested in the field in pairs with a judging sheet being completed during each run for each dog in competition.

The Trial shall not be a knock out competition. Each Field Trial Stake will consist of two runs in the field 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.

Dogs are expected to flush game for the gun on command. A handle shall not touch or walk in front of a pointing dog, stamp on the ground or kick the cover to flush game.

When the pointing dog is instructed to road or flush game, the backing dog shall remain steady.

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.

**ADD:**

A handler shall nominate whether the dog will seek dead or retrieve the shot game during the trial. A dog shall seek dead or retrieve only when sent by its handler.

Breaking to shot and retrieving or seek dead 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.

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.

After completion of the first round the judge shall have the discretion to order a further draw or draws or may choose the pairing of the braces and order in which the braces shall compete.

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 accordingly.

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 Seek dead, retrieve or retrieves or in cover similar to that used in field work.

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 1 flighted bird in the field. (Shotgun distances)

OPEN: Minimum of 1 flighted bird in the field and one unsighted “blind retrieve” in the field (Shotgun distance).

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 than 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)

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.

RATIONALE:

Majority of Pointers & Setter retrieve. There may be a minor group of Pointers & Setter that still seek dead. Including seek dead will allow these Pointers & Setter to enter APB.

**CURRENT RULE:**

**PART 9** **RETRIEVE TEST REQUIREMENT**

44**. NOVICE STAKE**: One item only cast (max. 40 mtrs or less).

**OPEN/ALL AGE**: Two items of game picked up.

Options May Include mix of:

· Double mark

· Double rise

· Mark and blind (blind always picked up last)

**CHAMPIONSHIP**: Two or three items of game to be picked up.

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.

· Mark/Marks blended with a Blind

· Double Rise blended with a Blind.

· Mark blended with Blinds.

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.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT WA**

PART 9 RETRIEVE TEST REQUIREMENT

44. NOVICE STAKE: One item only cast (max. 40 mtrs or less).

OPEN/ALL AGE: ~~Two items of game picked up.~~

One item of game to be picked up or Seek dead (approx. 60m or less).

~~Options May Include mix of:~~

~~· Double mark~~

~~· Double rise~~

~~· Mark and blind (blind always picked up last~~

CHAMPIONSHIP: Two or three items of game to be picked up.

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.

Options may include a mix of:

· Mark/Marks blended with a Blind

· Double Rise blended with a Blind.

· Mark blended with Blinds.

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.

RATIONALE:

Emphasize more on the field work than the retrieves at the end of the trial.

**ANKC Pointer & Setter Field Trial Rules PROPOSALS FROM VICTORIA**

**EXISTING RULE:** 2 Awards

2.1 On application and payment of the fee set out in the Scale of Charges the Committee of the Canine Control may at its discretion grant the title "Field Trial Champion" (F.T.Ch.) to a dog that wins a Championship Stake and to any dog winning a total of ten points in Field Trials. A full five points must be won in an Open or Championship Stake. See also Definition of Terms, Clause 7.13

Championship Stake: Open Stake: Novice Stake: 1st - 10 points 1st – 5 points 1st – 2 points 2nd - 5 points 2nd – 3 points 2nd – 1 point

**PROPOSED RULE:** 2 Awards

2.1 On application and payment of the fee set out in the Scale of Charges the Committee of the Canine Control may at its discretion grant the title "Field Trial Champion" (F.T.Ch.) to a dog that wins a Championship Stake and to any dog winning a total of ten points in Field Trials. A full five points must be won in an Open or Championship Stake. All eligible dogs must have a Qualifying Certificate. See also Definition of Terms, Clause 7.13

Championship Stake: 1st - 10 points 2nd - 5 points

Open Stake: 1st – 5 points 2nd – 3 points

Novice Stake:1st – 2 points 2nd – 1 point

**RATIONALE:**

The propose rule change brings rule Awards 2.1 into compliance with the existing General rule 1.9 which states that dogs need a Qualifying Certificate in order to enter a Championship stake. Therefore all dogs need a Qualifying Certificate to become a Field Trial Champion in addition to the points required.