

RAC Committee proposed rule changes voted in by Board and at Sept. 2007 Delegate meeting.

Field Trial Rules and Standard

Procedure for Retrievers which would now read:

The following rule changes become effective as if November 2007.

Chapter 8

Section 12

Any dog entered and present at a field trial may be withdrawn from Competition by its handler upon notification to the stake marshal without loss of the dog's eligibility to compete in any other stake in which the dog was entered. The entry fee for the stake entered and withdrawn shall be forfeit.

Chapter 14

Section 5

Only stakes which are run on game birds and on both land and water shall be permitted in licensed retriever field trials. Premium lists should specify the kind of game to be used in each stake and, unless otherwise specified in the premium list, only pheasants and/or ducks may be used.

Board of Director and RAC Committee proposed rule changes voted in by Board May 2008 and by Delegates at Sept. 2008 meeting.

Field Trial Rules and Standard

Procedure for Retrievers which would now read:

Effective January 2010

Chapter 8

Section 1

No dog shall be eligible to be entered in a licensed or member field trial unless it is either individually registered with the AKC or individually registered with a foreign registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration. A dog with an AKC Limited Registration shall be eligible to be entered in licensed or member Field Trials and/or Hunting Tests.

A dog that is individually registered with a foreign registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration may be entered in licensed or member field trials that are held not later than 30 days after the date of the first licensed or member field trial in which the dog was entered, but only provided that the individual foreign registration number and the name of the country of birth are shown on the entry form, and provided further that the same name, which in the case of an imported dog must be the name on the foreign registration, is used for the dog each time.

Chapter 8

Section 2

No individually registered dog with a foreign registry organization that has not been individually registered with The American Kennel Club when first entered in a licensed or member field trial shall be eligible to be entered in any licensed or member field trial class that is started more than thirty (30) days after the first entry in a licensed or member field trial unless the owner has received from The American Kennel Club an extension notice authorizing further entries of the

hound for a specified period of time with its foreign registration number. No such extension will be granted unless the owner can clearly demonstrate, in a letter addressed to the Performance Events Department of The American Kennel Club requesting such extension, that the delay in registration of the Hound is due to circumstances for which he is not responsible. Any such extension notice will be void upon registration of the Hound or upon expiration of the period for which extension has been granted, but upon application, further extensions may be granted.

The following rule changes become effective as of July 1, 2009

(Provisions to Improve the Quality of Judging)

New Section 5 – Upon receipt of a request any field trial club may, with the approval of the designated stake judges, authorize a person who is an amateur in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who has not previously judged an all-age stake to participate as an “Apprentice Judge” at an all-age stake. Such person shall, at his or her own expense, listen to and observe all aspects of the all-age stake including the entire set-up day; the conduct of the stake itself including call backs and the placement process as well as all mechanical aspects of the stake. The report of the Field Trial Secretary to the American Kennel Club shall include the name and address of any Apprentice Judge and the identity of the stake observed. No person may participate as an Apprentice Judge in more than one all-age stake at any given field trial.

Chapter 14

Section 23

In stakes carrying championship points, the experience of the two Judges should be such that their combined experience includes the judging of 8 stakes carrying championship points.

No person who has not previously judged an all-age stake shall be approved to judge a stake carrying championship points unless that person has satisfied at least one of the following requirements: (a) completion of two assignments as an Apprentice Judge pursuant to the terms of Section 5, Chapter 5; or (b) completion of one assignment as an Apprentice Judge and experience as the judge of two, or more, minor stakes; or (c) experience as the handler of a dog in fifteen or more all-age stakes in the previous three years resulting in the award of a judges’ aware of merit or a place in, at least, one such stake.

In a Derby and Qualifying Stake the experience of the Judges selected should be such that their combined experience satisfies at least one of the following standards: (a) the judging of two stakes carrying championship points; (b) the judging of one stake carrying championship points and the judging at three minor stakes; or (c) judging five minor stakes.

(Provisions to Clarify the Movement of Retired Guns)

Chapter 14

Section 8

On marked retrieves, a dog should be able to see each bird in the air and as it falls, and the Guns should be so stationed as to be conspicuous to and easily identified by the dog. No Dry Guns should be stationed in the field and visible to the dog while a marking test is run, or while the marking portion of a combination mark/blind test is run. Guns may be requested to shoot twice at every bird. After birds have been shot, all Guns shall remain quiet and shall not move their positions unless and

until so instructed by the Judges. Judges may instruct Guns and their associated bird throwers to retire from the sight of the dog, or dogs, on line provided that every reasonable effort must be made to insure that the movement of retired Guns is only permitted at a time and under conditions to minimize the chance that the running dog will be distracted by such movements.

The permitted movement of retired guns and their associated bird throwers should be limited to the minimum distance required for effective concealment. Such retirement should be in a direction away from the direction in which the bird is thrown.

Retired Guns and throwers should be concealed by a blind that provides complete coverage, adequate space, and natural camouflage to conceal the distinctive shape of the blind. The blind must be located as to minimize the development of a trail that will lead the running dog away from the area of the fall. In no circumstances should the judges have the guns move to another position to mislead dogs in their marking. No blinds should be placed in the field in a marking test except in accordance with the provisions set forth in this paragraph or for the purpose of protecting the running dogs from injury by unseen hazards.

(Provision for Poisoned Bird Blinds)

Chapter 14

Section 20

In stakes carrying championship points, and in a Qualifying Stake there should be at least one handling test or blind retrieve – and preferably two, one on land and one in water.

A poisoned bird or birds, (but not more than two) may be used as a diversion in a blind retrieve, but only if the poisoned bird (or birds) is/are thrown or shot so that the running dog has a clear view of each such poisoned bird as it is thrown or shot. No bird which the running dog does not see may be placed and hidden on the general path to a blind. Nothing in this provision precludes the use of visible flyer crates, bagged birds, placed at the location of previous gun stations, or bird throwers as diversions from the blind.

(Provision for Qualifications of Canadian Kennel Club Registered Retrievers)

Chapter 14

Section 10, New Paragraph

Any retriever eligible to enter who has been awarded a Canadian Field Championship or a Canadian Amateur Field Championship shall be qualified to participate in any AKC licensed or member retriever field trial stake, including any Open All-Age, Limited All-Age, Special All-Age or Restricted All-Age Stake or any Amateur All-Age Stake subject to the additional requirements of an Owner-Handler Amateur All-Age Stake provided that the Canadian registered dog has satisfied the requirements for admission to the All-Age stake in question by achieving the required level of success in either Canadian trials or AKC trials in the same fashion as required by AKC registered dogs. Subject to Chapter 8 sections 1 & 2.

(Provisions for the Elimination of Walk Ups)

Chapter 14

Section 25

During the period from the moment when the handler signals readiness for the birds to be thrown until the dog's number is called, the handler of the working or honoring dog should remain silent. Also, in all marking tests during such period, the handler's hands should remain

quietly in close proximity to his body. A handler who projects his hand during such period, whether for the purpose of assisting his dog to locate a fall or otherwise, should be considered to have used a threatening gesture, and his dog penalized accordingly.

After the running dog comes to the line in a test that includes marks, the judges shall allow a reasonable time for the handler of the running dog to identify the locations of the guns and bird boys and to line up the dog. After such time the judges may notify the handler that the birds are about to be called for and thereafter signal for them. When so notified the handler may immediately verbally steady the dog prior to the birds being thrown.