

THE NATIONAL FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Est. 1979

FIELD TRIAL HANDBOOK



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THE NATIONAL FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

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FIELD TRIAL HANDBOOK

A. CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the association shall be **"THE NATIONAL FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION"** which name shall be inscribed on all official letters, papers, programmes, certificates and other notices emanating from it.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **"BFTC"** means the Border Field Trial Club.
- 2.2 **"British Breeds"** means Pointer, English Setter, Irish Setter, and Gordon Setter.
- 2.3 **"British Breeds Club"** means a Member Club that exclusively runs field trials for British Breeds according to the provisions of Schedules B and C.
- 2.4 **"CFTC"** means the Central Field Trial Club.
- 2.5 **"Constitution"** means the constitution of the NFTA as described under this Schedule A. CONSTITUTION.
- 2.6 **"Executive Committee"** means the Executive Committee of the NFTA.
- 2.7 **"F.C.I."** means Federation Cynologique Internationale (International Federation of matters relating to the world of dogs) based in Brussels, Belgium.
- 2.8 **"Force Majeure"** means an act of God or man that is unforeseen and unforeseeable and out of the reasonable control of the parties and which makes it objectively impossible for the parties to perform their obligations.
- 2.9 **"Field Trial Handbook"** means the field trial handbook of the NFTA as fully described in this document and comprises the following Schedules:
 - 2.9.1 A. Constitution;
 - 2.9.2 B. Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials for British Breeds;
 - 2.9.3 C. Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field trials for British Breeds;
 - 2.9.4 D. Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials for HPR Breeds;
 - 2.9.5 E. Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials for HPR Breeds;
 - 2.9.6 F. Regulations for the Judging of Field Tests;
 - 2.9.7 G. Guide to the Game Birds Best Suited for Field Trials;
 - 2.9.8 H. Guidelines for the Release of Game in Field Trials;
 - 2.9.9 I. A Guide to the Ideal Field Trial Terrain;
 - 2.9.10 J. A Guide to Handlers Rights and Duties;
 - 2.9.11 K. National Trophies;
 - 2.9.12 L. Field Dog Record Rules and Regulations.
 - 2.9.13 M. Allocation of Duties and Responsibilities for National Championship Stakes.
- 2.10 **"Field Trial Season"** means approximately a one-year period that extends from the conclusion of a National Championship Stake to the conclusion of the National Championship Stake in the subsequent year for each of the British Breeds and HPR Breeds respectively.
- 2.11 **"GSPGC"** means the German Shorthaired Pointer Gauteng Club.
- 2.12 **"Host Club"** means a Member Club of the NFTA hosting a field trial.

- 2.13 **“HPR Breeds”** means Brittany Spaniel, German Shorthaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer, Hungarian Vizsla, Italian Spinone, Weimaraner, Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, and any other breeds listed as Continental Pointing Dogs under FCI, Breeds Nomenclature, Group 7, Section 1.
- 2.14 **“HPR Breeds Club”** means a Member Club that exclusively runs field trials for HPR Breeds according to the provisions of Schedules D and E.
- 2.15 **“Judge”** means, as the context indicates, a judge appointed to the Judges List for British Breeds according to the provisions of Schedule B Regulations For The Conduct Of Field Trials For British Breeds; Article 10 and/or a judge appointed to the Judges List for HPR Breeds according to the provisions of Schedule D Regulations For The Conduct Of Field Trials For HPR Breeds; Article 9.
- 2.16 **“KUSA”** means the Kennel Union of Southern Africa.
- 2.17 **“KUSA Qualifying Field Trials”** means field trials offered under license to the KUSA by Member Clubs of the NFTA that are dual-affiliated to the KUSA.
- By virtue of such dual-affiliation, awards earned in KUSA Qualifying Field Trials will be recognised by the NFTA and Dogs will be eligible for NFTA titles and awards according to the provisions of Schedule D Article 3, provided that:
- 2.14.1 The Dogs comply with the provisions of Schedule D Clause 1.1, and
- 2.14.2 The owners comply with the provisions of Schedule D Clause 1.3,
- 2.18 **“KZN HPR FTC”** means the Kwa Zulu - Natal Hunt Point and Retrieve Field Trial Club.
- 2.19 **“Member Clubs”** means the member clubs of the NFTA.
- 2.20 **“National Field Trial”** means, as the context indicates, a National Championship Stake for British Breeds or a National Championship Stake for HPR Breeds.
- 2.21 **“National Championship Stake”** means, as the context indicates, a stake offered by the Executive Committee for British Breeds according to the provisions of Schedule B Regulations For The Conduct Of Field Trials For British Breeds: Clause 3.8 or a stake offered by the Executive Committee for HPR Breeds according to the provisions of Schedule D Regulations For The Conduct Of Field Trials For HPR Breeds: Clause 2.7.
- 2.22 **“NFTA”** means the National Field Trial Association, a Sports Governing Body for field trials for purebred British Breeds and HPR Breeds.
- 2.23 **“NFTC”** means the Natal Field Trial Club.
- 2.24 **“OHPRFTC”** means the Overberg HPR Field Trial Club.
- 2.25 **“Recognised Registry”** means the breed registry, appendix registry or stud book of an organisation that is recognised by the NFTA. At its discretion, the Executive Committee shall from time to time determine the organisations that it recognises for the purposes of Certification in the Field Dog Record or the Appendix Field Dog Record. The Administrator shall be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of a list of Recognised Registries.
- 2.26 **“Registered”** means a Dog that has been registered with a Recognised Registry.
- 2.27 **“Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials”** means the regulations promulgated by the NFTA for the conduct of field trials for British Breeds and HPR Breeds as the context herein indicates.
- 2.28 **“RSA”** means the Republic of South Africa.
- 2.29 **“Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials”** means the rules and guides promulgated by the NFTA for the judging of field trials for British Breeds and HPR Breeds as the context indicates.
- 2.30 **“Saint Hubert”** means a competition open to all working pointing breeds in which dogs are run singly with their handler and are judged on their relationship together, the training of the dog, their shooting skill and understanding of gun safety, their understanding and ability to hunt the ground respectfully and thoroughly, their choice of cartridges and

handling of the shotgun. The NFTA does not have regulations for the conduct of a Saint Hubert competition or rules and guides for the judging of a Saint Hubert competition.

- 2.31 **“Sports Governing Body”** means an independent, self-appointed organisation that has a regulatory or sanctioning function and governs its sport through the common consent of its Member Clubs.
- 2.32 **“The Standard”** means, as the context indicates, The Standard of Performance of British Breeds and The Standard of Performance of HPR Breeds.
- 2.33 **“WCFTC”** means the Western Cape Field Trial Club.

3. OBJECT

The object of the NFTA is to be the Sports Governing Body for the sport of field trialing in the RSA, for purebred British and HPR Breeds of pointing Dogs.

4. OBJECTIVES AND POWERS

The NFTA shall have the following objectives and powers:

- 4.1 To promote and encourage the continuance of the sport of field trialing in the RSA;
- 4.2 To draft, frame, amend, amplify and/or adopt the Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials and the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials as necessary for the conducting and judging of field trials in the RSA;
- 4.3 To promote and encourage national uniformity in the understanding and interpretation of the Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials and the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials;
- 4.4 To publish guides and/or recommendations to Judges and field stewards;
- 4.5 To grant affiliation to any field trial club and/or association of pointing dog breeds, on the condition that they recognise the NFTA as being the Sports Governing Body for field trials for British Breeds and HPR Breeds;
- 4.6 To conduct on an annual basis a National Field Trial for British Breeds;
- 4.7 To conduct on an annual basis a National Field Trial for HPR Breeds;
- 4.8 To represent the interests of the Member Clubs at any national or international forum or organization which the Executive Committee may consider to be conducive to the furthering of its objectives;
- 4.9 To annually elect representatives on national bodies related to the conservation, well-being and sustainability of all gamebirds in the RSA;
- 4.10 To make and enter into agreements and arrangements with other associations, individuals and/or bodies which might further the objectives of the NFTA and the Member Clubs;
- 4.11 To arrange international competitions between representatives of the RSA and other countries;
- 4.12 To select teams to represent the RSA in local or international events, in accordance with the rules herein provided;
- 4.13 To award NFTA Colours;
- 4.14 To maintain and distribute a list of Judges for British Breeds Trials and for HPR Breeds Trials **“Judges List”** and to determine the qualifications for Judges and standards to be abided by them;
- 4.15 To purchase, sell, exchange, lease, sub-lease, pledge, give in exchange, turn to account, mortgage, donate or otherwise deal with all movable and immovable property and all rights to such property and/or with any part of the property and rights of the NFTA;
- 4.16 To borrow or raise money in such a manner as the Executive Committee may think fit, to secure the repayment of such money, and to lend and invest the funds and monies of the NFTA in mortgages, debentures or in such other manner as may be deemed fit;

- 4.17 To accept any gift, endowment or bequest made to or for the NFTA, to carry out any trust allotted, stipulated and constituted in respect of any such gift, endowment or bequest and to make donations in furtherance of the objectives of the NFTA;
- 4.18 To enter into arrangements with any authorities (government, provincial, municipal or otherwise) or any corporations, companies, bodies or persons, for union of interests, cooperation, joint venture, reciprocal concession, affiliation or sharing of profits and to obtain for the NFTA any contracts, rights, privileges, concessions and licences and to carry out, exercise and comply with the conditions attaching to any such contracts, rights, privileges, concessions and licences;
- 4.19 To remunerate any person, firm or company rendering service to the NFTA in particular any servant or employee of the NFTA, to give pensions or gratuities to any such servant or employee, to make payments towards insurance and to form and contribute to any fund for the benefit of servants or employees of the NFTA, or any particular class of such servants and employees;
- 4.20 To purchase and sell all manner of NFTA apparatus and equipment and further purchase and sell all manner of provisions and refreshments;
- 4.21 To arrange social functions, trials and competitions, offer and grant prizes, awards and distinctions and contribute to the provision of such prizes, awards and distinctions;
- 4.22 To charge for admission and/or reserve the right of admission to any portion of the NFTA's grounds or premises or events subject to any conditions that may from time to time be imposed by the authority from whom the grounds or premises in question may have been leased or otherwise;
- 4.23 To teach or cause to be taught any skill, or transfer knowledge relating to the sport of field trialing;
- 4.24 To keep a database of purebred field trial British Breeds and HPR Breeds. The database will comprise the following-
- 4.24.1 A comprehensive primary database of field trial Dogs, that records their lineage, their field trial awards, certain health-related information and other data that are pertinent to the sport of field trialing "**Field Dog Record**", and
- 4.24.2 A secondary database of field trial Dogs, that records the insufficient data that are available on their lineage, their field trial awards, certain health-related information and other data that are pertinent to the sport of field trialing "**Appendix Field Dog Record**";
- The Field Dog Record and the Appendix Field Dog Record will be collectively referred to as the Field Dog Record unless the context dictates otherwise as provided for herein;
- 4.25 To appoint a Field Dog Record administrator "**Administrator**" to maintain the Field Dog Record in a proper manner;
- 4.25.1 The Administrator will enter field trial Dogs in either the Field Dog Record or the Appendix Field Dog Record according to the provisions of Schedule L. Field Dog Record Rules and Regulations.
- 4.25.2 Dogs that comply with the requirements for entry in the Field Dog Record or the Appendix Field Dog Record will be certified as such "**Certified**" by the Administrator with the issue of a certificate to that effect "**Field Dog Record Certificate**".
- 4.26 To institute, defend, abandon, or compromise any action or proceeding at Law in any Court, or at arbitration, by or against the NFTA or its officers, employees, Member Clubs or agents concerning the affairs of the NFTA or relative to its objective, or to assist any such officer, employee or Member Club in any such action or proceeding;
- 4.27 To do all or any of the above things and also such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the object of the NFTA or to the proper exercise of the foregoing powers or any of them.

5. CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

5.1 **Foundation Member Club**

5.1.1 The BFTC.

5.2 **Affiliated Member Clubs**

- 5.2.1 NFTC,
- 5.2.2 WCFTC,
- 5.2.3 KZN HPR FTC,
- 5.2.4 CFTC,
- 5.2.5 OHPRFTC, and
- 5.2.6 GSPGC.

5.3 **British Breeds Clubs**

- 5.3.1 BFTC,
- 5.3.2 NFTC,
- 5.3.3 WCFTC, and
- 5.3.4 CFTC.

5.4 **HPR Breeds Clubs**

- 5.4.1 KZN HPR FTC,
- 5.4.2 OHPRFTC, and
- 5.4.3 GSPGC.

6. **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

- 6.1 Application for membership shall be made in writing at least 7 (seven) weeks prior to an NFTA AGM and shall be considered by the Executive Committee.
- 6.2 The Executive Committee has complete and absolute discretion to accept or refuse any application.
- 6.3 The secretary of the NFTA “**Secretary**” shall, within 7 (seven) days after the AGM, notify the applicant of the Executive Committee's decision.
- 6.4 A copy of the applicant's constitution must accompany the application for membership

7. **STATUS, LIMIT OF INTEREST & LIABILITY OF MEMBER CLUBS**

- 7.1 The NFTA is a voluntary association capable of suing and being sued and capable of owning immovable and movable property.
- 7.2 The NFTA shall have an identity and existence distinct from its Member Clubs and office-bearers.
- 7.3 The NFTA shall continue to exist notwithstanding any change in its membership or change of its office-bearers.
- 7.4 The Member Clubs and office-bearers of the NFTA shall not become liable for any of the obligations and liabilities of the NFTA solely by virtue of their status as Member Clubs or office-bearers of the NFTA. The liability of the Member Clubs is limited to the payment of any amount owing by them to the NFTA.
- 7.5 Membership of the NFTA does not and shall not give to any Member Club any right, title, interest, claim or demand in or to any of the monies, property or assets of the NFTA, but only confers upon the members of such Member Clubs the right and privilege of entering in and upon the NFTA's premises (if any) and of using and enjoying the same in accordance with the use to which the same are devoted by the Executive Committee and subject to such reasonable restrictions as the Executive Committee may from time to time impose, subject to the Constitution and Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials and the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials of the NFTA, provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the Executive Committee from charging the Member Clubs, their members or other persons, an entrance fee to the grounds or buildings or the events of the NFTA, or any portions thereof, upon occasions when the grounds or buildings of the NFTA, are used for other special purposes or let out for hire or otherwise.

8. **TERMINATIONS OR EXPULSION OF MEMBER CLUBS**

- 8.1 Non-payment of subscriptions, fees or levies by any Member Clubs may result in expulsion.
- 8.2 Whenever the Executive Committee is of the opinion that the behaviour or conduct of a Member Club has been harmful, prejudicial or injurious to the objectives, interest, good order or character of the NFTA, the Executive Committee can reprimand, suspend, or expel a Member Club. In each case the action must be performed in writing and in a case of suspension or expulsion the Member Club has the right to firstly explain its actions to the Executive Committee and has the right to appeal at a SGM convened for that purpose.
- 8.2.1 An appeal must be lodged within 30 (thirty) days of receipt of notification of a suspension or expulsion.
- 8.2.2 A suspension cannot be imposed for longer than 12 months, during which period a Member Club cannot enjoy any of the rights of a Member Club nor be entitled to any recompense for that period.
- 8.3 In the event of a Member Club disciplining an individual, such Member Club shall be required to inform the NFTA and all Member Clubs of such disciplinary action.

9. SUBSCRIPTIONS, LEVIES, FEES

Annual subscriptions, levies or fees shall be determined by the Executive Committee from time to time and shall be due and payable upon demand.

10. MANAGEMENT OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE NFTA

- 10.1 The affairs of the NFTA shall be managed by an Executive Committee, which shall have the power to determine all matters pertaining to the NFTA, which are not inconsistent with this Constitution.
- 10.2 The Executive Committee shall be composed of two elected representatives from each Member Club. Such appointees shall hold office from election for a period to be determined by the relevant Member Club.
- 10.3 Member Clubs, may appoint one (1) additional person to attend a General Meeting in an Ex Officio capacity as an advisor, potential representative or potential Office Bearer. The appointment of such a person shall be subject to approval by the Executive Committee,
- 10.4 In the event of a vacancy occurring during the term of office of an elected Executive Committee member described in 10.2 above, the Member Club whose representative has vacated his office may elect a substitute representative.
- 10.5 An Executive Committee member shall be eligible for re-election by that person's Member Club.
- 10.6 The Executive Committee shall elect office bearers "**Office Bearers**" as follows:
- 10.6.1 From the elected representatives a president "**President**" and a vice president "**Vice President**". If a representative of a British Breeds Club is appointed as President, the Executive Committee shall appoint a representative of an HPR Breeds Club as Vice President, or vice versa.
- 10.6.2 From suitably qualified persons present at the General Meeting, a secretary "**Secretary**", and a treasurer "**Treasurer**".
- 10.6.3 The Administrator and Office Bearers may serve in any combination of roles should that serve to optimise the efficiency of the Executive Committee.
- 10.6.4 A Member Club from which an Office Bearer is elected may elect a substitute representatives from that Member Club.
- 10.6.5 The Office Bearers shall hold office from election, with their term of office ceasing at the following AGM.
- 10.7 The President shall during his/her term of office preside as chairperson at any meetings of the NFTA
- 10.8 In the event of the absence of the President at a meeting, the Vice President shall preside at such meeting.

- 10.9 A President may not be re-elected to hold such office for a period longer than 3 (three) consecutive years.
- 10.10 For a period of approximately one (1) year, from the end of a President's term of office to, and including the following AGM, the outgoing President may serve on the Executive Committee in an Ex Officio capacity in order to provide continuity in the management of the affairs of the NFTA.
- 10.11 The President of the NFTA shall perform the duties of Trustee in whom shall vest all movable and immovable property. In handling the property of the NFTA or in legal issues, the President shall always act on behalf of the NFTA in accordance with decisions of the Executive Committee.
- 10.12 All Office Bearers and Member Clubs are indemnified by the NFTA in respect of any liability incurred while acting on behalf of the NFTA, provided they acted in accordance with the directions given or decisions made by the Executive Committee and in terms of this Constitution.
- 10.13 The Executive Committee shall ensure that all trophies, books of account, minutes of meetings and property of whatever nature, are properly cared for, maintained and safely kept.
- 10.14 The Secretary of the NFTA shall be entrusted with maintaining and annually updating a Judges List.
- 10.15 A Member Club shall provide the Secretary of the NFTA with a copy of its constitution and shall notify the Secretary within 30 days of any changes made thereto.

11. DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 11.1 The Executive Committee shall annually arrange a National Field Trial for British Breeds.
- 11.2 The Executive Committee shall annually arrange a National Field Trial for HPR Breeds.
- 11.3 The hosts of the respective National Field Trials shall be rotated amongst the Member Clubs. Such rotation shall be determined by the Executive Committee.
- 11.4 The Executive Committee shall arrange and determine all matters pertaining to a National Field Trial including all disputes and/or objections, which may arise.
- 11.5 It shall be the duty of all members of the Executive Committee to further the interests of the NFTA and to ensure the provisions of this Constitution, the Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials and the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials stipulated by the NFTA are adhered to and upheld and that all decisions arrived at in general meetings are carried into effect.
- 11.6 The Executive Committee shall ensure that a Judges List reflecting the names and qualifications of Judges is maintained and annually updated.
- 11.7 The Secretary of the NFTA shall notify all Member Clubs of any changes made to a Member Club's constitution within 14 days of receipt of notice thereof.

12. GENERAL MEETINGS

- 12.1 An annual general meeting "**AGM**" will be held. An AGM shall either be face-to-face, or by teleconference, or by videoconference, or be face-to-face combined with either of the two forms of virtual attendance. The format of the meeting will be determined at the previous AGM and can be altered by the Members.
- 12.2 A Special General Meeting "**SGM**" may be convened in writing by at least 3 (three) Member Clubs. An SGM shall either be face-to-face, or by teleconference, or by videoconference, or be face-to-face combined with either of the two forms of virtual attendance by members in good standing.
- 12.3 Written notice of an AGM and/or a SGM shall be given to all Member Clubs at least 6 (six) weeks prior to the meeting.
- 12.4 At least 4 (four) weeks prior to an AGM or SGM, agenda items submitted in good time by the Member Clubs shall be referred by the Secretary to the President and the Vice

President who will jointly delegate them as far as possible to management committees as follows:

- 12.4.1 British Breeds agenda items “**BB Business**” shall be delegated to a management committee comprised of the representatives of the British Breeds Clubs “**BB Management Committee**”.
- 12.4.2 HPR Breeds agenda items “**HPR Business**” shall be delegated to a management committee comprised of the representatives of the HPR Breeds Clubs “**HPR Management Committee**”.
- 12.4.3 Together “**Management Committees**”.
- 12.5 The delegation of BB Business to the BB Management Committee and the delegation of HPR Business to the HPR Management Committee provides the British Breeds Clubs with autonomy to manage BB Business and it provides the HPR Breeds Clubs with autonomy to manage HPR Business.
- 12.6 The Management Committees shall be chaired either by the President or the Vice President, depending on their respective membership of a British Breeds Club or an HPR Breeds Club.
- 12.7 The Management Committees shall appoint secretaries to keep minutes of all Management Committee meetings. The Management Committee secretaries and the Secretary shall be jointly responsible for the timely integration and consolidation of minutes in order to enable the Secretary to distribute the minutes to all Member Clubs within 4 (four) weeks of a General Meeting as required in terms of Clause 12.14.
- 12.8 In accordance with the provisions of this Clause 12 and of this NFTA Field Trial Handbook, and as common sense dictates, the Management Committees shall together serve as seamlessly as possible as a British Breeds proxy and an HPR Breeds proxy for the Executive Committee.
- 12.9 For general matters and for matters that cannot clearly be delegated to either of the Management Committees, the Executive Committee shall be entitled to vote on such matters.
- 12.10 Decisions made by the Management Committees **will** be ratified by the Executive Committee, provided that they comply with the provisions of this Field Trial Handbook.
- 12.11 In the event of an impasse in the decision-making of the Management Committees on any matter, that matter may be referred by the President or the Vice President, as the case may be, to the Executive Committee for mediation or a vote.
- 12.12 At any General Meeting, be it a face to face meeting or a meeting by videoconference, the following procedure will be followed:
 - 12.12.1 The Executive Committee will convene at the beginning of the meeting to deal with general matters and to confirm the agenda for each Management Committee.
 - 12.12.2 The Management Committees will then convene to deal with their respective BB Business and HPR Business.
 - 12.11.3 The Executive Committee will reconvene at the end of the meeting to conclude any outstanding business and to ratify any decisions made by the Management Committees, provided that they comply with the provisions of this Field Trial Handbook.
- 12.12 The required quorum of a general meeting shall consist of a minimum of either the BFTC and/or the NFTC, and 2 (two) other Member Clubs.
- 12.13 Any general meeting of the NFTA shall be chaired by the President of the NFTA whose decision on any point of order or point of procedure shall be final.
- 12.14 Minutes of every general meeting of the NFTA shall be accurately recorded by the Secretary and distributed to all Member Clubs within 4 (four) weeks after such meetings.

- 12.15 Unless otherwise specified in this Constitution, all decisions shall be taken by simple majority and by a show of hands.
- 12.16 Each Member Club present shall be entitled to 1 (one) vote and in the event of a deadlock the BFTC and NFTC will be entitled to 2 (two) votes each.
- 12.17 All newly affiliated Member Clubs shall not be entitled to vote for a period of three years from the date of such Member Club's affiliation.
- 12.18 The following business shall *inter alia* be conducted at the AGM:
- 12.18.1 The election of office bearers;
 - 12.18.2 Approval of financial statements;
 - 12.18.3 The consideration of any application for membership;
 - 12.18.4 The nomination of an address by each Member Club for service of any notice.
 - 12.18.5 Any other relevant business including any other matters which are referred to in this Constitution.
- 12.19 All business which may otherwise have been conducted at a SGM may be conducted without holding a SGM, provided that:
- 12.19.1 For the conduct of BB Business, all the British Breeds Clubs have given written consent to the carrying out of such business or the taking of any decisions which may be required.
 - 12.19.2 For the conduct of HPR Business, all the HPR Breeds Clubs have given written consent to the carrying out of such business or the taking of any decisions which may be required.

Decisions made in the conduct of such business by the Management Committees will be submitted to and ratified by the Executive Committee by email within 2 (two) weeks, provided that they comply with the provisions of this Field Trial Handbook.

13. ACCOUNTS

- 13.1 The Executive Committee shall cause to be prepared annually, a statement of the financial affairs of the NFTA showing its receipts and expenditure during the preceding financial year.
- 13.2 The financial statements shall be compiled by the Treasurer and signed by the President and the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall ensure that the financial statements are submitted to each of the Member Clubs.
- 13.3 The financial year of the NFTA will be from the 1st of February of every year to the 31st of January of the following year.
- 13.4 The Executive Committee shall ensure that the financial transactions of the NFTA are conducted by means of a banking account.

14. AMENDMENTS

- 14.1 Schedule A. Constitution, Schedule B. Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials for British Breeds, Schedule C. Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials for British Breeds, Schedule D. Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials for HPR Breeds and Schedule E. Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials for HPR Breeds shall not be amended unless such amendments are carried by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee at an AGM or SGM.
- 14.2 A proposed amendment shall be submitted and motivated in writing to the Secretary and all Member Clubs not less than 6 (six) weeks before such meeting.
- 14.3 A numbered, dated log of all amendments to the NFTA Field Trial Handbook that are ratified by the Executive Committee shall be kept by the Secretary.
- 14.4 All amendments to the NFTA Field Trial Handbook shall be promptly incorporated into the NFTA Field Trial Handbook by the Secretary or the Secretary's nominee and once incorporated shall be submitted to the Executive Committee for ratification. Amendments

shall be submitted for ratification in final form in a MS Word file that is accompanied by a marked-up Pdf file for reference purposes.

- 14.5 Amendments shall be ratified by email by the Executive Committee within 2 (two) weeks.
- 14.6 Once ratified, the final form MS Word file will be held in safe-keeping by the Secretary, together with back-up files, as the "current version" of the NFTA Field Trial Handbook.

15. DISSOLUTION OF THE NFTA

- 15.1 Subject to the provisions of Schedule A. Constitution; Article 12. General Meetings; Clause 12.4 hereof, a proposal to dissolve the NFTA shall not be carried unless three-quarters of the Member Clubs present at a SGM convened for that purpose vote in favour of such proposal.
- 15.2 Immediately a decision to dissolve the NFTA has been taken the Executive Committee shall forthwith liquidate the NFTA's affairs. Any property or surplus assets on realisation shall be disposed of to another body or bodies which have similar interests, in the manner prescribed during a SGM at which the decision to dissolve the NFTA was taken.

16. INTERPRETATION

16.1 Headings

Topical headings used in this document are for convenience only and shall not be construed as having any substantive significance or as indicating that all of the provisions of this document relating to any topic are to be found in any particular article or provision.

16.2 Singular or Plural

Reference to the singular includes a reference to the plural and vice versa.

16.3 Gender

Reference to the masculine gender shall be considered as a reference to the feminine gender and vice versa.

16.4 Schedule, Article or Clause

Unless otherwise provided, reference to any Schedule, Article or Clause means a Schedule, Article or Clause of this Field Trial Handbook.

17. ENTIRETY

This document comprises the full and complete Field Trial Handbook of the NFTA and supersedes any and all prior versions of the Field Trial Handbook, prior communications and understandings relating to the Field Trial Handbook, whether written or oral, expressed or implied.

18. FORCE MAJEURE

- 18.1. If, in any Field Trial Season, the National Championship Stake for British Breeds or any of the Member Clubs' British Breed Field Trials are cancelled, the Executive Committee will determine whether the cause of such cancellation/s is a Force Majeure event or not. If the Executive Committee declares Force Majeure, the following stakes will serve as a minimum requirement in order for the NFTA to award NFTA Colours and the Dog of the Year for that Field Trial Season:

- 18.1.1 The National Championship Stake for British Breeds, and

- 18.1.2 At least two (2) Member Clubs' British Breed Championship Stakes.

- 18.2 If, in any Field Trial Season, the National Championship Stake for HPR Breeds or any of the Member Clubs' HPR Breed Field Trials or any of the Member Clubs' KUSA Qualifying Field Trials are cancelled, the Executive Committee will determine whether the cause of such cancellation/s is a Force Majeure event or not. If the Executive Committee declares Force Majeure, the following stakes will serve as a minimum requirement in order for the NFTA to award NFTA HPR Colours and the NFTA HPR Dog of the Year for that Field Trial Season:

- 18.2.1 The National Championship Stake for HPR Breeds, and

- 18.2.2 At least two (2) Member Club's Championship Standard Stakes including NFTA field trials and/or KUSA Qualifying Field Trials.
- 18.3 The NFTA HPR Derby Dog of the Year may be awarded by the NFTA on the basis of whatever stakes are able to be run in that Field Trial Season.

SIGNED AND ACCEPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER CLUBS OF THE NATIONAL FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION AT:

_____ **ON THIS** _____

BORDER FIELD TRIAL CLUB

NATAL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

WESTERN CAPE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

KZN HPR FIELD TRIAL CLUB

CENTRAL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

OVERBERG HPR FIELD TRIAL CLUB

**GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER
GAUTENG CLUB**

B. REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF FIELD TRIALS FOR BRITISH BREEDS

Field trials for British Breeds conducted by the Member Clubs shall be held in terms of the provisions hereof.

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 "**Brace**" means two Dogs paired to hunt together.
- 1.2 "**COM**" means a Certificate of Merit.
- 1.3 "**Dog**" means a purebred Certified British Breed or HPR Breed dog of either sex.
- 1.4 "**Host Club**" means a Member Club hosting a field trial.
- 1.5 "**Place**" means a first, second or third place.
- 1.6 "**Round**" means a complete set of pairings of Dogs drawn to compete with one another.

2. GENERAL QUALIFICATION

- 2.1 Only Dogs which are Certified in the Field Dog Record or the Appendix Field Dog Record, shall qualify to participate in a field trial conducted by the Member Clubs.
- 2.2 Except in the Puppy Stake, a Dog younger than 4 (four) months of age may not be entered in a stake.
- 2.3 A Dog may not be entered or handled in a trial held by the Member Clubs or the NFTA National Field Trials or other events unless the owner is a member in good standing with a Member Club of the NFTA

3. STAKES

- 3.1 **Puppy Stake:** is open to Dogs not older than 12 months as at the date of a trial, irrespective of prizes previously won "**Puppy Stake**".
- 3.2 **Derby Stake:** is open to Dogs not older than 24 months as at the date of a trial, irrespective of prizes previously won "**Derby Stake**".
- 3.3 **Maiden Stake:** is open to Dogs which have not been placed first, second or third in a Maiden Stake, Brace Stake or Championship Stake "**Maiden Stake**".
- 3.4 **Supplementary Maiden Stake:** is a Maiden Stake that may be offered by Member Clubs in addition to the traditional Maiden Stake that is run in conjunction with their Annual Championship Stake "**Supplementary Maiden Stake**".
- 3.5 **Brace Stake:** is open to two Dogs of the same breed handled by a single handler and owned by a single owner or partnership. Alternatively, both Dogs must have an owner in common. At least one of the Dogs must have qualified to participate in the Championship Stakes "**Brace Stake**". A Dog may be entered only once in a Brace Stake.
- 3.6 **Championship Stake:** is open to Dogs which have been placed first, second or third or have been awarded a COM in a Maiden Stake or Brace Stake. Member Clubs are permitted to hold only one Championship stake per annum "**Championship Stake**".
- 3.7 **BB Open Stake:** is open to all Dogs irrespective of prizes previously won "**BB Open Stake**".

The BB Open Stake shall be judged at a Maiden Stake standard and awards shall serve as a qualification for the Championship Stake in exactly the same manner as any Maiden Stake awards.

A BB Open Stake may only be offered by Member Clubs, as an **alternative** to their Supplementary Maiden Stakes. BB Open Stakes should strive to be inclusive and at the same time boost entries if required in order to maintain a high standard of qualifying field trials for the Championship Stake.

Application by BB Member Clubs to run a Supplementary Maiden Stake or a BB Open Stake must be made in accordance with Clause 7 of this Schedule B.

- 3.8 **Saint Hubert:** is open to all Dogs irrespective of prizes previously won.
- 3.9 **National Championship Stake:** is open to British Breed Dogs only that qualify in terms of the provisions set out hereunder "**National Championship Stake**":
- 3.9.1 **"A" Qualifiers:** are those British Breed Dogs which were placed first, second or third in the previous 2 (two) National Championship Stakes and in the Member Clubs Championship Stakes of the current and previous Field Trial Season, wherein a minimum number of 14 (fourteen) British Breed Dogs participated.
- 3.9.2 **"B" Qualifiers:** are those British Breeds Dogs which were awarded Certificates of Merit in the stakes referred to in 3.8.1 above. Participation of Dogs qualifying in terms hereof shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 3.9.3 **Participation by invitation:** To obviate a bye and to ensure sufficient number of Dogs at the commencement of the National Championship Stake, the Executive Committee, shall invite at its discretion suitable British Breed Dogs qualified for Championship Stakes to participate in the event, provided that such Dogs cannot be placed in the event.
- 3.9.4 **Entries:** The Secretary shall within 14 (fourteen) days of completion of the last Member Clubs Championship Stake, give written notice to the owners of qualifying Dogs of their entry into the National Championship Stake.
- 3.9.5 The **duties and responsibilities** for the running of a National Championship Stake will be allocated according to the provisions of Schedule M.

4. AWARDS

4.1 Certificate of Merit

- 4.1.1 The Judges shall be empowered to award a **COM**.
- 4.1.2 The Judges are to place COM awards in sequential order.
- 4.1.3 A COM does not constitute a placing.
- 4.1.4. The Judges are not empowered to award more than 6 (Six) COM awards in a Championship Stake.
- 4.1.5 The Judges are empowered to award an unlimited number of COM awards in the Derby and Maiden Stakes.

4.2 Placing

- 4.2.1 The Judges shall be empowered to award a first, second or a third place in any Stake.
- 4.2.2 The Judges are not empowered to award shared placings.

4.3 Certificates

Dogs that have been awarded a Place or a COM shall be entitled to a certificate specifying the stake and the details of the Place or COM.

4.4 Field Trial Champion

- 4.4.1 A Dog which has won a Member Club's Championship Stake wherein a minimum number of 14 (fourteen) British Breed Dogs competed, shall be entitled to carry the prefix F.T.Ch. to its name.
- 4.4.2 An HPR Breed Dog which has won a Member Club's British Breeds Championship Stake wherein a minimum number of 14 (fourteen) British Breed Dogs competed, shall be entitled to carry the prefix (B.B.) F.T.Ch to its name.

4.5 National Field Trial Champion

A Dog which has won a National Championship Stake shall be entitled to carry the prefix Nat.F.T.Ch. to its name.

4.6 NFTA Colours Award

The NFTA shall annually award NFTA Colours “**NFTA Colours**” to:

- 4.6.1 The winner of the National Championship Stake.
- 4.6.2 The three Dogs excluding the winner of the National Championship Stake, which have accumulated the most points during the current Field Trial Season, as per the ranking system referred to in Clause 5 below.
- 4.6.3 In the event of there being a tie involving the Dogs referred to under Clause 4.6.2, all such Dogs shall be awarded colours.

4.7 Dog of the Year

The NFTA shall annually, at the conclusion of the National Championship Stake, award the dog of the year prize "**Dog of the Year**" to the Dog which has accumulated the most points during the current Field Trial Season in accordance with the ranking system referred to in Clause 5 below and in addition has won a minimum of two awards in field trial Championship Stakes (excluding Brace Stakes) in the current Field Trial Season. Should no Dogs have won a minimum of two awards in the current Field Trial Season, this provision will not apply and the award shall go to the Dog that has accumulated the most points during the current Field Trial Season in accordance with the ranking system referred to in Clause 5 below.

The Dog which has been awarded the prize of "Dog of the Year" shall be entitled to a certificate specifying that award.

5. NATIONAL RANKING SYSTEM

- 5.1 All championship Dogs will be seeded in descending order of the cumulative points earned by each Dog in the previous ten Championship Stakes held by the NFTA and the Member Clubs “**National Seeding**”.

In the event of Dogs accumulating the same number of points, they will be given the same seeded position. The Dogs following this will be seeded from the next available seeding position.

- 5.2 The points earned by each Dog shall be calculated as follows:
 - 5.2.1 A Dog will be allocated a seeding value “**Seeding Value**” or “**SV**” at the beginning of a Championship Stake as per Table 1:

Table 1

| Seeded Position | SV |
|-----------------|----|
| 1 to 10 | 3 |
| 11 to 20 | 2 |
| 21 to 30 | 1 |

- 5.2.2 A total field value “**Total Field Value**” or “**TFV**” is calculated by adding the SV’s of all the Dogs competing in that Championship Stake.
- 5.2.3 The Dogs which are Placed or are awarded Certificates of Merit in that Championship Stake will earn the points allocated in Table 2 below, multiplied by the Total Field Value.

Table 2

| Placing | Points |
|---------|--------|
|---------|--------|

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| First | 25 |
| Second | 12 |
| Third | 8 |
| COM1 | 5 |
| COM2 | 4 |
| COM3 | 3 |
| COM4 | 2 |
| COM5 | 1 |
| COM6 | 1 |

5.3 For the award of NFTA Colours and Dog of the Year, all championship Dogs will be ranked in descending order of the cumulative points earned according to Clause 5.2.3 above by each Dog in the Championship Stakes held by the NFTA and the Member Clubs in that Field Trial Season “**National Ranking**”.

5.4 The Secretary or his/her nominee shall be responsible for the management and updating of the National Ranking system.

6. SELECTION OF WORLD CUP TEAMS AND TEAMS FOR OTHER INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

6.1 The selection of world cup teams and teams for other international events shall be made by a selector's committee appointed by the Executive Committee.

6.2 The Selector's Committee shall select Dogs in order of preference according to the ranking system referred to in Clause 5. above, subject to those Dogs being able to comply with the basic retrieving requirements on land and water in accordance with the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials for HPR Breeds.

7. DATES FOR FIELD TRIALS

7.1 Member Clubs shall apply to the NFTA by the last day in October in the current year for dates on which to hold their field trials in the following year. Such applications shall include proposed dates, venues and stakes to be run.

The Secretary shall convene a virtual meeting of the NFTA by the last day in November of the current year at which the field trial dates for the following year will be discussed and agreed to in principle. Such dates shall be submitted to the NFTA for ratification at the following AGM.

7.2 The Executive Committee shall allocate trial dates with traditional dates taking preference.

7.3 The National Field Trial shall be held annually on a date to be determined by the Executive Committee.

8. THE PROGRAMME

A Host Club shall publish a programme that contains the following:

8.1 The name of the Host Club.

8.2 The date/s of the trial.

8.3 The names of the Judges and Learner Judges for each stake, with the Chief Judge's name to appear first.

8.4 The name of the convenor.

8.5 The name of the Chief Field Steward for each stake.

8.6 The venue and starting time of the trial.

- 8.7 A definition of each stake to be run.
- 8.8 The prizes offered.
- 8.9 The entries to include the following particulars of each Dog:
 - 8.9.1 Certified name and number.
 - 8.9.2 Name, address and email address of the owner.
 - 8.9.3 Breed.
 - 8.9.4 Sex.
 - 8.9.5 Date whelped.
 - 8.9.6 Certified name of the sire and dam.
 - 8.9.7 Colour of the Dog.
 - 8.9.8 Name of the handler.
- 8.10 A statement that the trial is held under the NFTA Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials and the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials.
- 8.11 A statement that the Host Club accepts no responsibility for injury, loss or damage to person or property, however caused.
- 8.12 A list of results of the previous season's events.
- 8.13 A notice to entrants that:
 - 8.13.1 Bitches in season within the precincts of the trial are forbidden.
 - 8.13.3 Only Certified Dogs may compete.
 - 8.13.4 The trial has been sanctioned by the NFTA.
 - 8.13.5 A Dog may not be entered or handled in a trial held by the Member Clubs or the NFTA National Field Trial or other events unless he is a member in good standing with his club, or of an organisation which forms part of the NFTA

9. COPY OF THE RULES & REGULATIONS

A Host Club shall ensure that the Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials and the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials are available at the venue during a trial.

10. APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

10.1 The Judges List

The NFTA shall record, update and issue to the Member Clubs, a Judges List within 2 (two) weeks after an AGM indicating which persons are Judges or Senior Judges.

10.2 Minimum qualifications for Judges

10.2.1 Judge

A person shall not be approved as a judge “**Judge**” until that person has complied with the following:

- 10.2.1.1 Acted as a Field Steward in no less than 2 (two) stakes.
- 10.2.1.2 Acted as a Learner Judge in no less than 2 (two) Maiden, Brace and/or Championship Stakes under at least two different Chief Judges. Each Chief Judge must submit a brief written report to the prospective Learner Judge’s Club. The Chief Judge of the final stake fulfilling these requirements must state in his/her report that he/she is satisfied that the learner Judge is competent enough to be promoted to the status of Judge.
- 10.2.1.3 Has had 4 (four) years’ experience in competing with Dogs in field trials

- 10.2.1.4 Has trained and handled at least 1 (one) Dog that has qualified for Championship Stakes.

Should more than one stake be run and judged simultaneously, such stake shall be considered as a single stake in terms of these requirements. HPR Breed stakes are accepted as a recognised stake under these requirements.

A Puppy Stake will be considered as a recognised stake for the appointment of Judges, should all requirements for holding a Puppy Stake be complied with.

10.2.2 **Senior Judge**

A person shall not be approved as a Senior Judge unless that person has judged no less than 7 (seven) stakes and has had at least 7 (seven) years' experience in competing with Dogs in field trials and has trained and handled at least 2 (two) Dogs that have qualified for Championship Stakes.

Should more than one stake be run and judged simultaneously, such stake shall be considered as a single stake in terms of these requirements. HPR Breed stakes are accepted as a recognised stake under these requirements.

A Puppy Stake will be considered as a recognised stake for the appointment of Judges, should all requirements for holding a Puppy Stake be complied with.

10.3 **Recommendations to the Judges List**

- 10.3.1 A person may be recommended to the Judges List by a Member Club which shall make recommendations to the Executive Committee in writing at the AGM indicating the minimum requirements provided for under Clause 10.2 above, have been met. Such person shall be added to the Judges List if approved by the Executive Committee.

- 10.3.2 It is incumbent on any person who is to be included in the Judges List, to have knowledge and understand the logic of field trials, and to be able to interpret the Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials and the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials.

- 10.3.3 It may be required that aspirant Judges write and pass an exam set by a sub-committee appointed for that purpose by the Executive Committee.

10.4 **Foreign Judges**

A Member Club may appoint foreign Judges to judge a stake provided that the Executive Committee has approved the appointment. A foreign Judge may not be appointed as Chief Judge.

10.5 **Compulsory Number of Judges**

- 10.5.1 There shall be a minimum of three (3) Judges per stake.

- 10.5.2 At least one (1) Senior Judge shall be appointed for each stake.

- 10.5.3 The Chief Judge shall be a Senior Judge.

- 10.5.4 The National Championship Stake shall have a minimum of two (2) Senior Judges.

10.6 **Appointment of Judges**

- 10.6.1 Judges shall be appointed from the Judges List by the Host Club which shall ensure that a judging panel is well balanced.

- 10.6.2 The Judges of the National Championship Stake shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. It shall be preferable for the judging panel to consist of Judges from different Member Clubs with the Chief Judge to be nominated by the Host Club.

- 10.6.3 Learner Judges shall not be permitted at a National Championship Stake.

- 10.6.4 Should a Judge be prevented from attending or completing a trial due to ill health or otherwise, the Committee members of the Host Club present at the trial,

together with the Chief Field Steward, shall appoint another Judge from the Judges List to attend to or complete the trial.

10.7 **Learner Judges**

10.7.1 A person shall qualify as a Learner Judge if they have acted as a Field Steward in 2 (two) stakes and competed in field trials.

10.7.2 There may not be more than one Learner Judge per stake.

10.8 **Physical fitness**

Judges must be able to meet the physical demands of their task by being with, but never in front, of the handlers for the duration of a stake. The nature of the terrain on which a stake is to be held should be taken into account when selecting Judges.

10.9 **Judge's Report**

The Executive Committee may require a Chief Judge to submit a written report of a stake judged by him.

11. **THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF JUDGES**

11.1 The Judges shall assist the committee members of the Host Club to set the course that will test the standard of the Dogs.

11.2 The Judges shall liaise with the Chief Field Steward to ensure the efficient running of a trial.

11.3 The Chief Judge shall control the stake and issue instructions through the Chief Field Steward on all matters connected with the stake and shall call for the assistance of the Chief Field Steward or the committee members of the Host Club to assist wherever he/she may require.

11.4 The Judges may in consultation with the Chief Field Steward and any of the committee members of the Host Club, consider whether the weather is unfit for holding a trial and whether or not to cancel the event. If it is possible to set a new date for the trial, the Host Club shall propose a new date to the NFTA, and the NFTA will endeavour to approve that proposal or not as timeously as possible.

11.5 The Chief Judge shall be the spokesman for the judging panel.

11.6 The Judges shall determine the duration of the rounds.

11.7 The Chief Judge shall position the other Judges while judging a stake.

11.8 The Judges shall eliminate a Dog from a stake whose handler does not, without good reason, obey them or wilfully interferes with another handler or his Dog.

11.9 The Judges may at their discretion, but not without undue justification, eliminate a Dog from a stake for drug abuse and may require a Dog which is awarded a prize to be tested for drug abuse.

11.10 The Judges may require a Dog to wear a distinguishing coloured collar.

11.11 The Judges shall have an equal say in evaluating the work of a Dog and placing a Dog at the end of a stake.

11.12 The Judges shall conclude their deliberations in making a decision as to the final result at the end of a stake before leaving the field, with sufficient time to be able to run any Dogs which the Judges have not been able to sequentially place.

11.13 In the event of the Judges being unable to reach consensus the Judges shall vote to obtain a result.

11.14 **Withholding Prizes**

11.14.1 The Judges shall withhold a prize or award if, in their opinion, the Dogs competing do not show sufficient merit.

- 11.14.2 In the event of a prize winner being disqualified due to a technical disqualification, the Dogs next in consecutive order of merit may at the Judges' discretion be awarded higher prizes.
- 11.14.3 Technical disqualifications are those which are deemed to be infringements or non-compliance of these Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials and the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials, including drug abuse.
- 11.15 Competing Dogs Owned by Judges or Owned by Family Members of Judges
 - 11.15.1 A Dog may not compete in a stake if it is owned by the Chief Judge judging that stake.
 - 11.15.2 When a Dog owned by a Judge is running in a stake the Judge may not handle or interfere in any way with the Dog nor will the Dog be permitted to report back to its owner who is a Judge.
- 11.6 A Judge's duty is to determine the prize winners of an event solely on the merits of a Dog's performance during that stake and no other factor should enter into their consideration.

12. FIELD STEWARDS ELECTION, DUTIES AND POWERS

- 12.1 A person shall qualify as a Chief Field Steward if he/she is completely aware and capable of performing the duties of a Chief Field Steward as described in the Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials for British Breeds of Pointing Dogs and the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials for British Breed Dogs and has had some experience as a Deputy Field Steward or has attended or competed in field trials.
- 12.2 A Host Club shall elect the Chief Field Steward who shall be responsible for:
 - 12.2.1 The running of a stake.
 - 12.2.2 The setting of the course on the recommendations of the committee of the Host Club and by the Judges.
 - 12.2.3 Being acquainted with the course to be used during a stake.
 - 12.2.4 Jointly, with the Judges, deciding on which ground is to be re-used.
 - 12.2.5 Appointing as many Deputy Field Stewards as are required to assist him in running a stake.
 - 12.2.6 Acting as timekeeper.
 - 12.2.7 Appointing two persons to act as "Gun Stewards" for the duration of the stake.
 - 12.2.8 Ensuring that there are two shotguns and sufficient ammunition available.
- 12.3 The Chief Field Steward shall:
 - 12.3.1 Seek the co-operation of the Judges to successfully complete a stake;
 - 12.3.2 Run the stake on time, in a time-saving manner, so as to present the competing Dogs to the Judges to their best advantage;
 - 12.3.3 Control the movements of the spectators and followers to ensure that they do not obstruct the work of the Dogs or the Judges;
 - 12.3.4 Ensure that the shotguns and ammunition are ready to be handed to the handlers when they are called up and at the same time relieve the handlers of their leashes;
 - 12.3.5 Enforce the "no-smoking" rule strictly, in the interest of safety and shall announce smoking breaks at suitable places;
 - 12.3.6 Brief each pair of handlers personally as to the direction they must follow;
 - 12.3.7 Insist that the handlers maintain the set course unless a Dog is off-course due to working scent or roading game;
 - 12.3.8 Deviate from a planned course at the request of the Judges;

- 12.3.9 Ensure the handlers are assisted in negotiating fences by temporarily relieving them of the shotguns;
- 12.3.10 Promptly relieve the handlers of the shotguns and hand back the leashes at the completion of each Brace;
- 12.3.11 Subject to instructions given by the Chief Judge, call the Dogs up in the event that game in an area proves to be abundant when both Dogs have had a point and a back, to put the next Brace down for the purpose of saving time and conserving the ground;
- 12.3.12 On instructions of the Chief Judge, immediately call up a Dog that has committed an eliminating fault and to call a Dog which has drawn a bye to complete the round with the remaining Dog;
- 12.3.13 Announce the draw and the duration of each Brace;
- 12.3.14 Ensure that he is ready to make a draw for the second round upon finalisation of the Judges deliberations after the first round;
- 12.3.15 Ensure that the Dogs which were paired in the first round are not paired in the second round;
- 12.3.16 Limit the time given to each Brace in each round according to the number of Dogs remaining and the time available, subject to directions given to him by the Judges;
- 12.3.17 At the end of the second round and upon finalisation of the Judge's deliberations, make a further draw;
- 12.3.18 After completion of the third round, announce the names of the Dogs which the Judges have elected to remain in the stake.

13. MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL PROVISIONS

13.1 Record of Entries

A Host Club shall, within seven days of completion of a field trial, submit to the Secretary of the NFTA a list of all Dogs which competed in a trial with their Certification and Registration numbers.

13.2 Removal of Dogs from a trial venue

Should the committee of a Host Club, after consultation with the Judges or a veterinary surgeon, consider a Dog unfit to compete or which interferes with the safety of other competing Dogs or interferes with the prospects of success of its opponents, such a Dog shall be immediately removed from the trial venue.

14. DRAWING OF DOGS

- 14.1 A draw shall follow the procedure of assigning a card with an individual number to each entry. The numbered cards shall then be placed together, drawn randomly and the Dogs paired into Braces.
- 14.2 The Judges and Chief Field Stewards shall ensure that the Dogs which met in the first round shall not run together in the second round.
- 14.3 Unless eliminated for committing an eliminating fault, a Dog shall be entitled to participate in the first two (2) rounds.
- 14.4 At the conclusion of the second round the Judges shall select such Dogs as they consider to have shown sufficient merit to be entitled to remain in the stake. Another draw or pairing shall then be made among those Dogs for the next round.
- 14.5 At the conclusion of the third and subsequent rounds, the Judges may run Dogs in pairs as they think fit and shall ensure prior to termination of the stake that the Dog placed first has run with the Dog placed second unless they are handled by the same handler.
- 14.6 Those Dogs chosen for consideration for placing by virtue of their success in the early rounds could be held back. The event can then run to its conclusion by using those Dogs

that have been unfortunate in having had only barren rounds and those which have not had the opportunity to back.

- 14.7 Where one handler in a stake is competing with two (2) or more Dogs, such Dogs shall not be paired together.
- 14.8 All the Dogs, except those previously eliminated or withdrawn, must remain available for further participation until eliminated or until termination of the stake.

15. MANAGEMENT OF A FIELD TRIAL

15.1 Management entrusted to Member Clubs

The management of a field trial shall be entrusted to the Host Club.

15.2 Association Representatives

A Host Club shall appoint an Executive Committee member to be present at its Championship Stake.

15.3 Duration of Field Trial Stakes

- 15.3.1 A Championship Stake shall be allocated a minimum period of one and a half days.
- 15.3.2 In the event that a large number of entries are received for a stake, the Host Club may, at its sole discretion, decide to lengthen the duration of the stake beyond two days, provided this is published beforehand to all participants as well as in the official program.

15.4 Procedure in the Case of Objection

- 15.4.1 Any member of a Member Club who handles a Dog competing in a trial may make an objection to the committee of the Host Club against any Dog, official, or person competing in the trial, either before or after the conclusion of the stake. Such an objection shall be in writing, shall identify the Dog/person/official and specify the basis of the objection and shall bear the signature and address of the person who makes it.
- 15.4.2 In order for the objection to be heard, the objecting person shall lodge an amount determined from time to time by the Executive Committee, with the secretary or representative of the Host Club.
- 15.4.3 The secretary or representative of the Host Club shall notify the committee members of the Host Club who are present, of the objection.
- 15.4.4 An objection shall be adjudicated on the day of the objection by simple majority of committee members of the Host Club who are present at the trial and who are not involved in the dispute. The decision taken by those committee members shall be final.
- 15.4.5 In the event of an objection being upheld in favour of the objector, the objector shall be refunded his money. In that event the Judges must remedy the cause of the objection.
- 15.4.6 In the event of the objection being dismissed, the Host Club shall retain the money paid by the objector, which shall be forwarded together with a full report by the committee of the Host Club, duly signed by all the committee members who adjudicated upon the objection, to the Executive Committee, within two (2) weeks of the trial.

15.5 Impugning of Decisions

In the event of a participant covertly or overtly impugning the decision of the Judges without following the procedures prescribed, shall render the participant liable to be disciplined by the Host Club.

15.6 Gambling

Gambling or betting at, or on the outcome of any field trial is strictly prohibited.

15.7 Safety Measures

- 15.7.1 A handler may only carry his shotgun closed when about to fire.
- 15.7.2 The carrying of a shotgun or the loading and unloading of shotguns must be effected with due regard to the safety of competitors and spectators.
- 15.7.3 Only double barrelled breaking type shotguns may be used.
- 15.7.4 The committee of the Host Club, sub-committee, Judges, stewards or officers of the day, have the right to prevent the use of any shotgun which they consider might be a source of danger in any respect.
- 15.7.5 Only blank saluting cartridges may be used at any event, other than when live rounds are required for specific events, such as FCI/ F.I.D.I.C, Saint Hubert.

15.8 The NFTA Colours/Badge

The colours of the NFTA are Gold and Green and the Badge is approved and registered with the Department of Heraldic Services.

15.9 Remuneration

Any form of remuneration for handling of Dogs in field trials is prohibited.

15.10 Stake Money

Competing for a purse or stake money is prohibited.

C. RULES AND GUIDES FOR THE JUDGING OF FIELD TRIALS FOR BRITISH BREEDS

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FLUSH.** This is when a Dog reacts by stopping, pausing or dropping to the flush of game, usually within close proximity of the flush.
- 1.2 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SHOT.** This is as Clause 1.1 above and generally coupled to the flush, but applies to the reaction to the shot.
- 1.3 **BACK CASTING.** This is when a Dog returns to an area after already having “made it out” and moved away. The handler is usually also well past the area in question.
- 1.4 **BACKING.** This is the acknowledgement by a Dog, on sight of another Dog on point. It is indicated by it stopping spontaneously and adopting an intense attitude or pose. This is done without the scent of game.
- 1.5 **BACKING THE GUN.** This is when the Dog cannot see his Brace-mate and backs a handler, or a raised gun.
- 1.6 **BARREN POINT.** This is when a Dog gives every indication of the presence of game but after a brief pause, or period of enquiry, establishes that the game has moved on, and continues hunting. It is also considered a barren point if he readily moves off once the handler fails to prove the presence of game. The Brace-mate confirms the presence of scent in contrast to false pointing, where no interest is shown.
- 1.7 **BARREN ROUND.** This is when there has been no game during a given pairing of Dogs in a round.
- 1.8 **BLINKING GAME.** This is when a Dog deliberately turns away from, or avoids game. Typical examples are:
 - 1.8.1 Upon sight or flush of game, the Dog turns away and retreats towards his handler;
 - 1.8.2 Upon striking scent, instead of locating and pointing the game, he declines to do so and moves away;
 - 1.8.3 A Dog which deliberately leaves a point on eventually proven game, (usually by the other Dog) and continues hunting. Not to be confused with a Dog recasting from a point with the intent to prove game.
- 1.9 **BLINKING THE BACK.** This is when a Dog deliberately ignores the pointing Dog and continues hunting in a different direction, without necessarily “stealing the point” or attempting to do so. The “blinking” Dog will often snap onto a (barren) point instead of backing.
- 1.10 **BORING.** This is when a Dog runs straight into the wind instead of quartering.
- 1.11 **BRACE.** This refers to two Dogs paired to hunt together by draw or Judges’ choice.
- 1.12 **BRACE-MATE.** This is one of a pair of Dogs in a Brace.
- 1.13 **BREAKING IN ON GAME.** This is when a Dog, without instruction and generally without his handler in the immediate vicinity, deliberately rushes in on game from a point. This is often associated with CHASING.
- 1.14 **BREAKING ON SHOT.** This is when a Dog makes a deliberate movement with the intent to retrieve after the shot is fired.
- 1.15 **BUCK.** This refers to larger species of antelope that are not normally hunted over pointing Dogs.
- 1.16 **BUMPING.** See “Flush, Accidental”
- 1.17 **BYE DOG.** This refers to a Dog that is not paired with a Brace-mate in a round, due to an uneven number of Dogs in the draw.

- 1.18 **CALL UP.** This is the Judges instruction to the handler to call in and remove his Dog from the course, either for being eliminated or the expiration of the allotted time.
- 1.19 **CAST.** This is the direction and range demonstrated by a Dog while seeking game.
- 1.20 **CAST OFF.** This is the instruction to start the Dog hunting.
- 1.21 **CHASE.** This is when a Dog deliberately chases any quarry. It is often associated with “giving tongue”.
- 1.22 **CHECKING COMMAND.** This is a command issued by the handler to instruct his Dog to obey the rules when it has or is about to break them. It can be either a direct command or implied by tone of voice, action, whistle or another device.
- 1.23 **COMMAND BACK.** This is when a handler checks and/or instructs his Dog to back, when it does not do so spontaneously.
- 1.24 **COURSE.** This refers to the designated route on which the Dogs and handlers are expected to follow
- 1.25 **COVER.** This refers to the grass or shrub on the course.
- 1.26 **DANGEROUS SITUATIONS.** This refers to a situation where the Judges believe the Dog may be in danger and it is necessary to restrain and or remove the Dog from the situation. The Judges will give an order to the handler to restrain and or remove the Dog and a second order to indicate to the handlers that the situation is under control and they may continue with the round.
- 1.27 **DELAYED CHASE.** This refers to the Dog chasing quarry after a deliberate pause, it is still considered a chase. It may be after pointing, backing or acknowledgement of flush.
- 1.28 **(THE) DRAW.** This refers to the sequence in which pairs of Dogs (Brace) compete during a round, established by lot or Judges’ choice.
- 1.29 **DRAWING ON GAME.** This is when a Dog, having winded or pointed game, advances steadily towards it (usually in an attitude of stealth), and coming onto point when correctly distanced. Drawing is guided by scent, as distinct from roading, which is advancing on visual contact.
- 1.30 **DROPPING TO FLUSH OR SHOT.** This is when a Dog drops to a crouch when game is flushed, or a shot is fired. Sitting or remaining standing is acceptable (See “Acknowledgement”)
- 1.31 **FAILURE TO ENTER.** This is failure of the Dog to enter rough cover, water, ice, mud or other unpleasant situations.
- 1.32 **FALSE POINT.** This is when a Dog assumes a pointing stance and obstinately holds it where there is no evidence of game and apparently no scent, as evidenced by the lack of interest from the opposing Dog.
- 1.33 **FEATHERING.** This is when a Dog is preoccupied by scent in a restricted area, expecting to find game nearby and is evidenced by it making short excited casts in that area.
- 1.34 **FIND.** This refers to game located by a Dog.
- 1.35 **FLAGGING.** This refers to a Dog hunting below standard due to tiredness or heat.
- 1.36 **FLAGGING ON POINT.** This is a lack of staunchness on game, generally indicated by limited tail movements. This is displayed:
- 1.36.1 By older, more experienced Dogs,
 - 1.36.2 More in some breeds than in others,
 - 1.36.3 When game has left the area, but scent remains,
 - 1.36.4 When the pointed game is at some distance away
 - 1.36.5 When the Dog is unsure of the presence or distance of the game.

The actual presence of game is the criterion to be credited rather than the intensity of the point.

- 1.37 **FLASH POINT.** This is a point in which the Dog stops only momentarily before the flush of game.
- 1.38 **FLUSH, ACCIDENTAL** (also Bumping). This refers to the Dog disturbing birds by running into them without having been aware of their presence.
- 1.39 **FLUSH, DELIBERATE.** The handler, handler and Dog, or Dog only, are required to deliberately flush game by moving forward to prove the point, and steadiness to flush and shot. An unauthorized “deliberate flush” is considered out of control and termed “breaking in on game”.
- 1.40 **FOOT-SCENTING.** This refers to a Dog following ground scent of game, with nose held close to the ground.
- 1.41 **FUR.** This refers to hare or small antelope only, which could normally be shot over pointing Dogs and which can be regarded as fair game for the pot.
- 1.42 **GAME.** This refers to accepted game birds, hare or buck. (See Schedule G. Guide To The Game Birds Best Suited For Field Trials)
- 1.43 **GIVING TONGUE.** This refers to a Dog yelping or barking while quartering (to be discouraged) or more commonly, giving chase.
- 1.44 **GUNS.** This refers to persons appointed by the Field Steward to do the shooting on behalf of the handlers.
- 1.45 **GUNSHY.** This is when a Dog is unnerved by gunfire, characterized either by staying close to the handler, bolting or exhibiting a reluctance to continue hunting.
- 1.46 **HEADING.** This is an attempt by the Dog to intercept or head off running birds, by making a wide cast around them. (See Guide to Rule 6)
- 1.47 **HEELING.** This is when a Dog walks at the handler’s side, under instruction.
- 1.48 **HOLDING THE POINT.** This refers to the Dog maintaining the point until the quarry is flushed.
- 1.49 **HUNTING TRAIL.** This is when the Dog, with nose to the ground quests on and follows buck or fur scent, usually in a straight line.
- 1.50 **INTERFERENCE.** This is when a Dog or his handler hinders or impedes the performance of a Brace-mate.
- 1.51 **JUDGES’ ORDERS.** This refers to any instruction the Chief Judge might give to a handler. This is generally to command his Dog, usually to hold a point for the purpose of securing a back for a Brace-mate or for any other reason his discretionary powers may permit, including situations where the Dog is likely to be seriously injured or its life threatened.
- 1.52 **LEAVING BIRDS BEHIND.** This is when a Dog, having worked and pointed a bird(s), then leaves the vicinity in order to hunt elsewhere.
- 1.53 **MAKING GROUND GOOD.** This is the thorough hunting and searching of the course within geographical and breed characteristic limits, for the purpose of finding game.
- 1.54 **MAKING OUT THE COVEY.** This is when a Dog, ensuring that none of the birds remains unfound, makes short casts in the immediate vicinity of the previously located covey.
- 1.55 **MARKING OR MARK.**
- 1.55.1 This is the characteristic of a Dog to note the location of a bird having visually followed its flight path till it lands. This may be from an “accidental” or “deliberate” flush, or “fall” after the bird is shot. This is often followed by the Dog “taking a line” to the mark.
- Not to be confused with “viewing away”.
- 1.55.2 Also refers to the call to signify a Dog on point.

- 1.56 **MIRROR BACK.** This is when a pair of Dogs “back” each other, each assuming the other is “on point”.
- 1.57 **OUT OF CONTROL.** This is when a Dog pays no attention to a handler’s commands and cannot be effectively controlled by his handler and fails to respond on being called in. (See Guide to Rule 10).
- 1.58 **OVERLY CAUTIOUS.** This describes a Dog moving hesitantly forward at a pace generally much slower than that of his handler’s normal walking pace, usually indicating a lack of confidence.
- 1.59 **PAIRING.** This is the grouping together of pairs of Dogs that the Judges wish to see running together, or the random drawing of Dogs to run together.
- 1.60 **POINT.** This is when a Dog adopts a rigid and motionless attitude or pose indicating the presence of game accurately. Performed standing or lying down, it is an unmistakable expression of a determination not to disturb the find.
- 1.61 **POTTERING.** This is when a Dog works slowly about his handler, taking excessive time in working out scent. It also applies to the Dog that hunts ineffectually without either zest or pace.
- 1.62 **PULLING.** This is when a Dog subtly manages or attempts to get his handler to follow him and divert him from the intended course. This he does by insisting on hunting in his own direction.
- 1.63 **QUARRY.** This refers to any animal or bird that is hunted by the Dog, including non-game species.
- 1.64 **QUARTERING.** Typically this refers to the Dog while hunting, passing to and fro across the path of the handler, when there is no wind or a head wind. It is also used to describe the process of hunting back towards the handler in the cases of cheek or tail winds (See Guide to Rule 6).
- 1.65 **QUESTING.** This is the actual searching on scent the Dog has already found (See “Feathering” and “Drawing”).
- 1.66 **RECAST.** This is when the Dog, having found scent, casts off (generally downwind) in an effort to regain lost scent – not to be confused with “relocating, heading or blinking”.
- 1.67 **RELOCATE.** This is when a Dog, having pointed game, repositions himself to retain contact with the quarry.
- 1.68 **RETRIEVE.** This is to find and bring back shot game.
- 1.69 **ROADING.** This refers to the stealthy advance on SIGHTED birds by a Dog. The speed is ideally dictated by the moving quarry, but may be influenced by the handler. The Dog attempts to get nearer to the game, and comes on point when ideally distanced from the eventually concealed/stationary quarry (See “drawing on game”).
- 1.70 **RUNNER.** This refers to an injured bird that leaves the area of fall after being shot.
- 1.71 **RUNNING ORDER.** This is the sequence, established by drawing or pairing, in which all Brace will be run. Usually only the names of Dogs are listed.
- 1.72 **RUNNING STYLE.** This is the manner in which Dogs traverse a course, including speed and efficiency of movement.
- 1.73 **ROUND.** This refers to a complete set of pairings of Dogs (Brace) drawn to compete with one another. It also refers to the running of a single Brace of Dogs.
- 1.74 **SCRATCH A DOG.** This is to withdraw a Dog from an event after the draw has taken place but before the commencement of the event.
- 1.75 **SELF-HUNTING.** This is when a Dog is hunting of his own accord, with little or no acknowledgment of his handler.
- 1.76 **SET.** This refers to the crouching attitude generally adopted by the “Setter” breeds, when on “Point” (See “Point”).

- 1.77 **SHOTGUN RANGE.** This refers to the effective killing range of a shotgun, generally up to 50 metres.
- 1.78 **SHOT-OVER.** This refers to the firing of a shotgun at a reasonably close proximity to a Dog, to prove steadiness to shot or gun-shyness (See Rule 8).
- 1.79 **SNAPPING.** This is when a Dog takes an obvious lunge in an attempt to catch game in its mouth. This is usually done with malicious intent.
- 1.80 **STEALING THE POINT.** This is when a Dog fails to back and advances past or alongside the already pointing Dog in an attempt to secure the point for itself. This also applies to the Dog approaching from the front (See Rule 10). This should be distinguished from “heading” by the backing Dog.
- 1.81 **STICKINESS ON BACK.** This is when a backing Dog is over-hesitant or reluctant to continue hunting once the pointing Dog has moved off, from the area of its point. This applies as well to a Dog that is always looking for every opportunity/excuse to back the other Dog, even if there is little reason to.
- 1.82 **STICKINESS ON POINT AND SCENT.** This refers to a Dog being reluctant or refusing to “draw or road in on game”, even on command. This also applies when the Dog:
- 1.82.1 Is extremely hesitant to leave an area that holds scent,
 - 1.82.2 Is hesitant or reluctant to move off a point, even after the absence of game has been proven by the Brace-mate.
- 1.83 **STYLE.** This refers to the intensity and staunchness exhibited by a Dog whilst pointing or backing.
- 1.84 **TAKING A LINE.** This is when a Dog runs directly in the direction of a sighted bird, and without hunting or quartering or investigating likely cover in the intermediate ground. Generally, the running would lack the speed and intensity of a chase.
- 1.85 **TIME LIMIT.** It is the arbitrary time of grace a Dog is given to “come in” when such a Dog is called in.
- 1.86 **TRAILING.**
- 1.86.1 **REAR-END.** This is when one of a pair of Dogs persistently follows the other usually more experienced Dog.
 - 1.86.2 **HEAD.** This is when one of a pair of Dogs seeks out and persists in running in front of the other (Usually ahead of and slightly to one side). This indicates a jealous or dominant Dog.
- 1.87 **UNSTEADINESS.** This refers to varying degrees of reluctance, or failing to acknowledge the flush and/or shot.
- 1.88 **VIEWING AWAY.** This is when a Dog visually follows the flight of a bird, generally from an acknowledgement of flush (See “Marking”).
- 1.89 **VOCALISING.** This refers to a Dog yelping and barking excessively whilst hunting or in the gallery.

2. OBJECTIVES or GOALS

- 2.1 The objectives of this **document** are:
- 2.1.1 To achieve greater **uniformity in the running** of field trials.
 - 2.1.2 To achieve **competence and consistency in the judging** of the performances of the Dogs competing at field trials.
 - 2.1.3 To promote greater **understanding of the logic** that goes into judging a field trial for Pointing Breeds.
- 2.2 The objectives of **holding field trials** are:

- 2.2.1 To **provide competition of the highest calibre** to stimulate the enthusiastic training of the pointing breeds of Dogs, while maintaining a spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie.
 - 2.2.2 To identify, foster and promote the **most desirable working traits** of the various pointing breeds to enable breeders to maintain and improve their standards in the RSA.
 - 2.2.3 To **inform the public** of the level of performance required to perpetuate the most desirable qualities possessed by the various Pointing Breeds.
 - 2.2.4 To conduct field trials on **terrain and on quarry best suited** to the breeds' performance characteristics and standards. Quarry should be in sufficient numbers to minimize the element of luck and give each competing Dog an equal opportunity.
- 2.3 The objectives of **judging field trials** are:
- 2.3.1 To judge the Dogs' **total performance against an ultimate standard**. The Standard has been developed from the way each of the breeds executes its intended function. Whilst it is almost impossible to put into words a standard of performance that will cover all spheres of their working abilities, there is no reason why an attempt should not be made. Such an attempt follows.
 - 2.3.2 To **demonstrate**, where feasible, to competitors and spectators how their decisions are reached. It is the better Dogs who should be fully tried and not the hopeless ones.
 - 2.3.3 To judge and favour a Dog's performance in the type of **terrain and conditions** best suited to their respective breeds. Every effort should be made to utilize the prevailing conditions optimally to benefit the Dogs.
 - 2.3.4 To reward a Dog for brilliance of performance despite trivial error rather than on a basis of errorless mediocrity. While ideal to award a title to a Dog with no **faults or errors**, it is better practice to award a title to a Dog that displays all the characteristics of The Standard, even though such a Dog might incur some minor error or breach of manners, than to a Dog with an errorless, average performance.
 - 2.3.5 To determine how much credit they shall give to certain types of **exceptional performance and how much penalty** to apply because of various individual faults, or the repetitions of the same faults or combinations of various faults. Some faults are sufficiently serious to justify elimination from a stake whereas others may justify only a moderate or minor penalty.
 - 2.3.6 To be as **objective as possible** in the interpretation of the rules, with a view to awarding such Places and Certificates of Merit to those Dogs who acquitted themselves sufficiently on the day. Much of the subjectivity of the field trials can be overcome if the Judge has a firm grasp of the logic of field trials.
 - 2.3.7 To apply the discretionary powers and interpretations of performance with **consistency, honesty and within the spirit** and intent of the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials and The Standard.

3. THE STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE OF BRITISH BREEDS "The Standard"

The performance is one where the very action of the Dog denotes an interest in his work.

His work must be full of animation and at all times the Dog must be hunting for game in an independent and intelligent manner by using the wind or lack thereof correctly and productively.

His performance must reflect a credit to his breed, and the Dog should move with the least obvious exertion for the greatest effect.

The Dog must have the desire to hunt and point game with the fire and intensity that makes his work spectacular or, at least, pleasing.

The Dog must be adaptable and self-adapting, controllable and self-controlled.

The Dog serves best when saving the hunters legs and covering the most ground in the least time and he must use the different types of cover and conditions as he comes to them and negotiate each productively, going wide, far, fast, slow, close and/or narrow as the conditions dictate. The Dog must do this of his own accord, naturally through training and experience.

The Dog's performance must be complete in every respect and must consist of a positive display of manners, game finding, controlling, pointing and holding abilities, staunchness and steadiness to shot and flush. He must also display a willingness and ability to acknowledge the flush of game and the finds and points of the other Dogs by "backing" spontaneously and holding the "back" for as long as it is necessary without interference to the staunchly pointing Dog or the game being pointed.

The Dog must hunt and handle all the accepted species of indigenous game birds, and ABOVE ALL he must be in total harmony with his handler, for no other purpose than to give him the opportunity to shoot the pointed game in a manner befitting sportsmen – as there can only be one measure for a good Dog and that is how well he serves the gun.

Differentiating the Different Stake Standards

The **Championship** Dog should display **all** the elements of the above "Standard" and do so with finesse and with as few commands (instructions) as possible

The **Maiden** Dog should display **most** of the elements of the "Standard", but need not do so with the same experience, polish and inherent manners as the Championship Dog. He may require more encouragement or commands to do the same job. Checking commands may be employed but will incur penalty by the Judges.

The **BB Open Stake** shall be open to all dogs irrespective of prizes previously won, but dogs shall be judged at a Maiden Stake standard.

The **Derby** Dog should also **display the potential** to meet the elements of the "Standard", with the immaturity and zest of youth. Potential is of prime concern. When required, he may be supported in his work by commands from the handler, to which he should respond reasonably well.

Checking commands may be used to ensure that the Dog does not chase or break with reckless abandon or to ensure he backs the pointing Dog.

4. FIELD TRIAL RULES AND JUDGING GUIDES FOR BRITISH BREEDS

RULE 1. PUNCTUALITY

- 1.1 Every Dog shall be presented on time for each of its rounds. If absent for more than a quarter of an hour after being called, that Dog is liable to be disqualified by the Judges, and its opponent shall run a bye or with another Dog if required.
- 1.2 The Judges shall have the power of disqualifying both Dogs should they both be absent.
- 1.3 A Dog which has entered a stake may only be withdrawn from such stake with the consent of the Judges.
- 1.4 A Dog which is withdrawn from a stake without the consent of the Judges may be disqualified or sanctioned by the Host Club.

GUIDE TO RULE 1. (PUNCTUALITY)

- 1.a *The Field Steward, in announcing the pair down for any given round, must also announce the next pair to be on standby.*
- 1.b *Before disqualifying a Dog/s as provided for above, the Judges should be sure that the reasons for the handler being absent are inexcusable.*
- 1.c *In the interests of saving time, the next Brace may be run while waiting for the absent competitor(s).*

RULE 2. BYES

- 2.1 The Judges shall decide when and whether a bye be run or not, and if so, with which Dog the competitor shall run.
- 2.2 If not run, the Dog drawing a bye shall be run in the first pair of the following round.

GUIDE TO RULE 2. (BYES)

- 2.a *The Chief Judge through the Chief Steward should indicate to the handler of the bye Dog if, and when he will fit him into the draw.*

RULE 3. TIME ISSUES

- 3.1 Dogs should be judged from the moment of the cast-off to the moment they are called in. Any action commencing prior to, or simultaneously with the call-in may be judged on its merits or demerits, at the judges' discretion.
- 3.2 Judges should only call in Dogs if both Dogs are visible to the Judges and not working scent. A time limit applies for Dogs to prove the presence of game in these circumstances or to locate a Dog that is not visible.
- 3.3 Once the call-in order has been given by the Judges, handlers should promptly bring their Dog to leash, or at least display control by having their Dogs clearly returning.

GUIDE TO RULE 3. (TIME ISSUES)

- 3.a *Time limits are generally governed by the time available, the stake being judged and the geographical conditions of the area.*
- 3.b *The Judges, at their discretion, will allow a Dog to be out of their and the handler's sight for a limited period (approximately one minute) at the end of a Brace's allotted time, given that the Dog may be on point in thick cover nearby. Thereafter they may call up the Brace. In this instance, the lost Dog would incur no penalty.*
- 3.c *A Dog refusing to come in after it is called up should be penalized, commensurate with the degree of fault and stake being judged. A Dog may be deemed out of control, and possibly eliminated from the Stake if the handler is unable to bring the Dog to leash within approximately one (1) minute of the call-in order.*
- 3.d *Dogs on point or on scent should be allowed time to conclude that action. Discretion by the Judges must be applied as to how much time to give them to prove the point. This time limit is entirely at the discretion of the Judges as they may have seen enough of a particular Dog's work on birds, or they may wish to use the scent for other purposes.*

RULE 4. MANNER OF HANDLING

- 4.1 A handler may speak, whistle or use hand signals as he thinks proper. However, he can be called to order by the Judges, through the Chief Steward, for making unnecessary noise. If he persists in doing so, they can order the Dog to be taken up and put out of the stake.
- 4.2 The Judges, when deciding the merits of a Dog's performance shall take the extent to which it is commanded into account.
- 4.3 Checking commands are not permitted (eliminating faults) in a Championship Stake. In a Maiden Stake, repeated checking may be considered eliminating. In Derby Stakes the use of checking commands is viewed more leniently.
- 4.4 A handler may not physically block or restrain his Dog.
- 4.5 If the opponent's Dog points game, or is roading or drawing on game, the other Dog is not to be intentionally drawn across him to take the point.
- 4.6 Any handler, who considers that the behaviour of his opponent is unsettling his Dog, may, through the Chief Steward, appeal to the Judges against such behaviour.
- 4.7 If a deputy handles a Dog, the owner may walk in line with the deputy but may not take part in the working or handling of his Dog.
- 4.8 A handler of a Dog may not be substituted during a trial without the consent of the Judges.
- 4.9 The use of any device, electronic device or simulated electronic device, that may influence the Dog's action in a field trial, is forbidden.

GUIDE TO RULE 4. (MANNER OF HANDLING)

- 4.a *The object of faulting checking commands is to evaluate the Dog's SPONTANEITY to display the required manners. Judges should distinguish between encouragement of the Dog, instructional commands and checking commands. They should also advise and caution a nervous handler who unintentionally checks his Dog.*
- 4.b *If an action or sound from a handler is construed as a subtle check by the Judges, the Chief Judge should warn the handler of their opinion and demand that he refrains from doing so in subsequent rounds.*
- 4.c *In the Maiden Stake, the Judges should take the degree of checking into account when considering placement of a Dog. If a handler persists with checking, the Judges can assume the Dog is not trained sufficiently to qualify for the championships.*
- 4.e *The need for checking is a factor of training and in the Derby Stakes, potential is the primary criterion for judging. It is therefore condoned much more in this stake. However, if the Dog ignores the command, then it should be faulted in that regard.*
- 4.f *Judges are to guard against handlers trying to do the Dog's work as well as questionable handling practices – the consequence of these practices can be counterproductive and should be discouraged.*
- 4.g *“Judge the Dog, NOT the handler” - however a handler's action, or lack thereof, may affect a Dog's performance, which is what is being judged. It is not uncommon for a Judge to bring to a handler's attention the consequences of his actions. (The Judge must be careful not to unnecessarily “interfere” with a handler's style of handling).*

RULE 5. METHOD OF WORKING TERRAIN

- 5.1 Dogs must be worked together in a direction indicated by the field steward. The handlers must walk within a reasonable distance of one another, as if they were shooting together.
- 5.2 After a caution the Judges have the power to disqualify the Dog whose handler persists in ignoring this rule.

GUIDE TO RULE 5. (METHOD OF WORKING TERRAIN)

- 5.a *The Judges, through the field steward, are to insist on handlers keeping the indicated front and course.*
- 5.b *It is generally agreed that handlers should refrain from running to their Dogs with a loaded shotgun, on point or at any time – this does not preclude him from doing so. The Judges, however, are not obliged to keep pace with the running handler, and any work which may occur beyond the reasonable range or view of the Judges will not be considered. A Judge can only adjudicate what he sees - besides, it is ungentlemanly, unsafe, and should be unnecessary to run. The good Dog is meant to hold the point and / or have the situation under his control. A running handler may injure himself, may disturb the quarry, or more seriously, he may disturb or unsettle his opponent's Dog, with the possible consequences of Rule 4.6.*

RULE 6. HUNTING

- 6.1 The Judges shall decide the merits of a Dog's work based on how well his TOTAL PERFORMANCE approximates The Standard, ensuring that his finds were the result of intelligent searching and not the outcome of the opposing Dog's efforts.
- 6.2 **Penalizing faults while hunting:**
 - 6.2.1 A Dog not hunting with a minimum of the qualities expected from it in respect of The Standard, including displaying a lack of stamina, evidenced by the Dog flagging during a round.
 - 6.2.2 Not making ground good;
 - 6.2.3 Failing to use available wind (including boring);
 - 6.2.4 Trailing;

- 6.2.5 Failure to adjust to the cover being worked;
 - 6.2.6 Obvious tendency of the Dog to draw his handler off the intended course with repeated barren points – “a Dog’s job is to point game, not scent alone”;
 - 6.2.7 The handler attempting to cover up the failings in his Dog, or does his work for him;
 - 6.2.8 A Dog will only respond to noisy and/or excessive handling;
 - 6.2.9 Insistence of the Dog to hunt behind the handler;
 - 6.2.10 Excessive vocalizing;
 - 6.2.11 Repeated back-casting to return to scent.
- 6.3 **Eliminating faults while hunting:**
- 6.3.1 Lacking ability;
 - 6.3.2 Distinct chasing;
 - 6.3.3 Out of control;
 - 6.3.4 Pottering;
 - 6.3.5 Hunting trail.

GUIDE TO RULE 6. (HUNTING)

- 6.a. *To formulate an opinion on the hunting ability of a Dog in a Brace, it is very helpful if the Judge studies the prospective terrain (as described by the Chief Steward) to be covered during that Brace. Taking cognisance of wind direction, likely hotspots for birds and the ground conditions, the Judge should then create a mental picture of how he would ideally like to see the ground thoroughly covered.*
- 6.b. *Ideally, the direction of the course should be into the wind, to allow the Dogs full **use of the wind**, quartering in front of their handlers. In the event of a tail wind, the Dog should go speedily downwind in a straight line and then “quarter” back into the wind and towards his handler. With a cheek wind, he should run far crosswind and then decrease and increase his distance from the handler, until he is well windward of the handler, then repeat the process.*
- 6.c. *In all cases, the Dog should always maintain his crisscross pattern by intelligently placing himself at best advantage to use the prevailing wind. While for the bulk of the time, the Dogs will hunt “head high” to best utilise the wind, circumstances (for instance, a bird running downwind) might dictate that he puts his nose down to the ground occasionally.*
- 6.d. *The intelligent Dog will also hunt cover that is likely to hold birds, approaching it ideally into the wind. Credit must be given to Dogs that **hunt intelligently and effectively** rather than mindlessly adhering to a “perfect pattern” on barren terrain. Adjustment to different types of cover should be seamless and spontaneous in the ideal Dog.*
- 6.e. *The fittest Dogs will maintain a **high work rate throughout the round, proving stamina**. A fit Dog is also able to concentrate on its work better, whereas a Dog that is labouring through its round will not meet the fundamental requirements of The Standard.*
- 6.f. ***Harmony** between handler and Dog is paramount. The commands are few, the responses quick, and the handler can get the Dog to hunt where he wants. Conversely a Dog that is underprepared will require heavy handling, be on the edge of control throughout and won’t necessarily hunt where he is required.*
- 6.g. *In different terrain and under different conditions, each of these traits might be of greater or lesser importance. It is the role of the Judge to **weight the factors appropriately when scoring a round**.*

RULE 7. THE FIND

- 7.1 A Dog, which has not found, pointed and proved game, nor been shot over cannot be given a prize or Certificate of Merit.

- 7.2 The Judges shall not judge the merits of a Dog's performance solely on the number of times a Dog finds and points game, but rather on the quality of his work.
- 7.3 **Penalizing faults while pointing:**
- 7.3.1 Persistent false pointing;
 - 7.3.2 Persistent barren pointing;
 - 7.3.3 Flushing and failure to accurately locate birds;
 - 7.3.4 Repeatedly leaving birds behind, including not "making out the covey";
 - 7.3.5 Stickiness on point and/or scent;
 - 7.3.6 Flushing birds on taking over from an overly cautious Dog;
 - 7.3.7 Checking commands to steady the pointing Dog. (Maiden and Derby Stakes)
- 7.4 **Eliminating faults while pointing:**
- 7.4.1 Breaking in on game;
 - 7.4.2 Snapping at game;
 - 7.4.3 Blinking game.
 - 7.3.4 Obvious checking command (Championship Stakes)

GUIDE TO RULE 7 (THE FIND)

Judging the quality of a find is the essence of our sport and arguably the most contentious as subjectivity can play a role. The Judge should take the following criteria into consideration when adjudicating the quality of a find, recognizing that one might be of greater or lesser importance on any given find:

- 7.a *The quality Dog proves his find with **speed** and precision. This can mean a superior nose or greater experience. Equally such a Dog quickly sorts out old scent and moves on as opposed to one that persists on it without ever proving a find.*
- 7.b *The quality Dog presents the birds **accurately** to the gun. Species of game birds and prevailing conditions might mean that birds flush at some distance from the pointing Dog, and he shouldn't incur fault in this instance.*
- 7.c *The find can be because of **intelligence** of the Dog. For instance, heading of birds, looking in the right areas, or taking the right options when coming across scent. There are many other instances where intelligence is displayed, and these should be credited.*
- 7.d *A quality Dog **displays control** of the quarry, especially in the case of running birds. A Dog, with the quarry under his control, exudes confidence as opposed to hesitation.*
- 7.e ***Single birds**, especially after a covey is dispersed, can be difficult to find, and the Dogs should be given credit for the find.*
- 7.f ***Similarly**, a Dog that can point and hold a running covey, presenting birds to the gun, is a superior Dog. This is often a measure of the level of control of the situation the Dog has. (Make out the covey)*
- 7.g *Equally, a **bird that is found downwind** and held, is a difficult task and the Dog should get due credit. Again, the measure of quality is reflected in the speed, accuracy and control with which it is done.*
- 7.h *Credit should be given to the Dog that chooses to hunt or relocate "head-high", using the wind even on birds running downwind, as opposed to opting for "foot-scenting". In harsh conditions "foot-scenting" can often be productive and should be credited, but the Dog that casts downwind and proves game rapidly, is more desirable.*
- 7.i ***Heading of birds** is considered excellent work if executed correctly. This is an attempt by the Dog to intercept or head off running birds, by making a cast around them. The outcome of the exercise must prove his intent, and it may be on sighted or unsighted birds. Either the pointing or backing Dog may head, although generally the former. Heading by the backing Dog must be judged carefully, as it may be confused with "stealing the point".*

- 7.j. *Undue credit should not be given to the Dog that is brought to his point either by the **other Dog's work or by the handler** on marked birds.*
- 7.k. *Nothing should make a Dog voluntarily **relinquish a point** so long as he winds game and nothing but the wish to continue his point should make him neglect the acknowledgement of flush and shot.*
- 7.l. *The **find is often at some distance** from the handlers and Judges and can therefore allow the quarry time to move off. Control of this situation is a measure of quality in a Dog. Caution must be displayed as a premature deliberate flush out of range would be a cardinal sin. A Dog attempting to relocate and then flushes a bird in this instance **may** also be penalized as he may have displayed inadequate control of the quarry. Excessive caution, with the Dog remaining staunchly on point, may result in it losing touch with the moving quarry. Once the guns arrive, the pointing Dog should relocate with confidence and control, guiding the handler to the quarry.*
- 7.m. *The **number of times a Dog finds** in a trial must be taken into consideration when scoring, remembering that this can sometimes be accredited to the luck of the draw, but equally can be attributed to a superior nose or finding ability. It is the Judges' task to weight this on the day.*
- 7.n. *A Dog that proves game at a time or in **circumstances that are deemed difficult**, especially if other Dogs cannot, should be given due credit. By the same token, a Dog able to scent and draw on birds from a long distance is displaying a superior nose.*
- 7.o. *In the instance where a Dog **bumps a bird or covey, and then remains motionless** to prove the remainder of the covey, undue credit should not be given in terms of the find, rather credit the manners of the Dog. Wind direction must be taken into consideration when assessing the "bump".*
- 7.p. *In evaluating Dogs **leaving birds behind**, Judges should be certain that the Dog is not recasting. (In the latter case, he would generally go down-wind and display the intention of returning to the area). Judges should be cautious in interpreting this fault as birds do move. A bird flushing without having been pointed would be a missed opportunity, rather than being left behind.*

RULE 8. BACKING

- 8.1 A Dog cannot be placed first, second or third in any stake (other than in Derby and Puppy Stakes), unless it has backed.
- 8.2 A Dog must back of its own volition. The backing Dog's reaction should be on sight of the pointing Dog (i.e. looking at it) and should have nothing to do with scent.
- 8.3 **Penalizing faults while backing:**
- 8.3.1 Obvious reluctance to back, including putting undue pressure on pointing Dog;
- 8.3.2 Command backing especially when the Dog is about to steal a point; (Maiden and Derby Stakes)
- 8.3.3 Stickiness on back.
- 8.3.4 Flushing birds after "taking over" a point
- 8.4 **Eliminating faults while backing:**
- 8.4.1 Blinking the back;
- 8.4.2 Refusing to back;
- 8.4.3 Stealing the point;
- 8.4.4 Attempting to steal the point;
- 8.4.5 Command back (Championship Stakes).

GUIDE TO RULE 8. (BACKING)

Object of backing

- 8.a The principal object of backing is that the Brace-mate of the pointing Dog does not disturb the quarry located by the latter. This enables the handlers to approach the Brace with the situation under control. The pointing Dog now has the opportunity to prove the presence of game.
- 8.b The backing Dog is in position to help locate the quarry should it move, or the pointing Dog proves uncertain or over-cautious.
- 8.c Should the covey disperse, the backing Dog is in position to find birds left behind.

(Guides a through g refer generally to a stationary pointing Dog)

(Guides h through k refer to the situation where the pointing Dog has moved into quest)

- 8.d The **primary task of a pointing Dog is the finding of game** for himself and the less he looks to the other Dog for a back the more zealously he will attend to his task of hunting and pointing. It is quite enough that a Dog backs when the opportunity arises.
- 8.e The backing Dog is permitted to move forward cautiously while the pointing Dog remains stationary, but not jealously ahead, or beyond the position where he **could put unnecessary pressure**, to the extent of disturbing the pointing Dog, or the quarry.
- 8.f If the **pointing Dog hesitates and is clearly unsure of the location of the quarry**, (generally indicated by not being motionless or “deflating” in intensity on the point) the backing Dog could take over the initiative. This may indicate a better nose and/or more decisive hunting of game, or he could be in a better position to wind the quarry. However, if he races jealously forward and flushes the quarry, he must be faulted. Taking over in these conditions may well be interpreted as “stealing the point”.
- 8.g A Dog need no longer continue to back a Dog if, whilst so doing, **he winds/locates and points his own game** (usually indicated by the Dog **looking away from the pointing Dog** towards his own find).
- Should the backing dog now **draw directly** towards his quarry, that would be acceptable, however if he proceeds to start questing or recasting for quarry, then his intent would be viewed as “blinking the back”.
 - In the event the backing dog leaves the theatre of action completely, it would be viewed as “blinking the back”.
- 8.h The Judges should try to **recognize a pointing Dog that is clearly repeatedly false pointing**. Benefit of the doubt in these instances should be given to the backing Dog should he go **cautiously** past the pointing Dog, having first backed. Should he immediately come on point in front of the pointing Dog, then his intent should be interpreted as attempting to steal the point.
- 8.i Especially in heavy cover the handler of the **Dog requiring the back shall be permitted to bring the attention of his Dog to the pointing Dog**, provided this is done in a manner that cannot be construed as a command back.
- 8.j In the event of the **backing Dog approaching from the front or side** (of the pointing Dog), he is still required to back on sight. He should not continue advancing (or drawing on the pointing Dog) until he intercepts scent. This would be considered “stealing the point”.
- 8.k On occasion, the backing Dog will be put under undue duress to remain backing by the pointing Dog being very sticky (this may well be while the handler of the pointing Dog makes exaggerated attempts to flush the birds ahead of the pointing dog). The Judges may, under such circumstances, intervene to condone movement from the back, or encourage the backing Dog to assist in the quest.

(Guides l through o refer to the situation where the pointing Dog has moved into quest, and the birds are deemed to be moving)

- 8.l When the pointing Dog moves in to quest, the backing Dog may without word from his handler assist in the search for game, provided that in doing so, the game is not prematurely flushed. It is **considered desirable that the backing Dog “mirror” the pointing Dog’s forward movement**.

- 8.m A Dog **remaining stubbornly on back** once the pointing Dog draws on moving birds is not assisting and should be faulted if he refuses to obey his handler's command to move in.
- 8.n Taking over the initiative also applies when the **front Dog is roading or drawing on game over-cautiously**. The over-cautious or uncertain "leading" Dog may be overtaken by a more decisive Dog. The Judge may, in these circumstances, (clear stickiness) invite the handler of the backing Dog to move his Dog through the back.
- 8.o In the event the birds appear to be running rapidly ahead of the brace of dogs, which are both deemed to have scent, then the backing requirement becomes secondary to finding. A Brace of Dogs successfully handling a covey of running gamebirds in concert, should be appreciated and given due credit.
- Ideally, the brace displays awareness of each other, backing when appropriate (for instance, when a dog has lost the scent, recasts widely and comes back into the action and the other dog is on point), but gets on briskly with the primary task of pinning the running birds.
 - If they back each other over-zealously, and their progress is too slow as a result, the birds may be given an opportunity to effect an escape.
 - Should they put excessive pressure on each other, racing to the birds and flushing them way ahead of the handlers, this could be interpreted as "breaking in on quarry". Oftentimes in this situation, the backing dog can be interpreted as putting undue pressure on the pointing one.
 - Should the backing dog leave the theatre of action (as in 8g above) and if the pointing dog proves the find, this would be deemed as "blinking" (either the back, or quarry).
 - Judges should be aware of the possibility that the backing dog (in the case of running birds) might be attempting to head the running birds, which initially might be interpreted as blinking. They're advised to let the situation unfold (as long as the pointing dog is not exposed to undue risk), to prove the intent of the dog.
- 8.p At least one of the **Judges should try to position himself behind and in line** with the pointing and backing Dogs so that, without much effort, he can have both Dogs in view at all times.
- 8.q Judges are advised to caution **handlers not to obscure the view** of the backing Dog by standing or crossing between it and the pointing Dog. If the backing Dog repositions itself for the above reason and flushes game in the process, he may be pardoned for so doing provided his repositioning does not constitute "stealing the point".
- 8.r Judges should recognize the **nervous handler who unintentionally checks** his Dog, and if in doubt as to the handler's intention, request that he refrain from doing so, so that the Dog's spontaneity to back on sight can be put to the test. This also applies to other aspects of a Dog's work, such as the acknowledgements to flush and shot.
- 8.s The Judges should attempt to give a deserving Dog that has not had the opportunity to back, every chance to do so. **A pointing Dog may be held on point by order of the senior Judge (Judges Orders)** to secure a back by his Brace-mate. The pointing Dog should not incur a penalty for misbehaviour in reference to that particular point and immediate consequences of that point if held for a period longer than would be considered normal in a hunting situation (it being recognized that the Dog is being subjected to unusual restraints).

RULE 9. THE FLUSH AND SHOT

- 9.1 Both the pointing and backing Dogs are required to remain steady upon the flush of the quarry and the shot.
- 9.2 Before a Place or Certificate of Merit can be awarded to a Dog, the Judges must be satisfied that the Dog is not gun-shy and is steady to shot. It is therefore required that the Dog be shot over.

- 9.3 The handler is permitted to shoot over his Dog:
- 9.3.1 Upon the flushing of game from a point;
 - 9.3.2 When the point and flush are simultaneous;
 - 9.3.3 Upon a flush when a Dog is roading or drawing onto moving game. There should be no doubt that the Dog has the quarry and situation under control.
- 9.4 The handler (or his appointed/delegated deputy) must carry a shotgun in every instance. Only the required number of guns shall be carried during any field trial event.
- 9.5 The Judges may delegate a deputy to shoot for the handler.
- 9.6 The firing of a shotgun is only to take place within reasonable shotgun range.
- 9.7 Stringent gun safety measures must be observed at all times.
- 9.8 **Penalizing faults upon flushing:**
- 9.8.1 Failing to acknowledge flush;
 - 9.8.2 Unsteadiness to flush;
 - 9.8.3 Taking a line on flushed game;
 - 9.8.4 A Dog requiring a checking command to acknowledge flush (maiden and derby)
- 9.9 **Penalizing faults after the shot:**
- 9.9.1 Failure to acknowledge shot
 - 9.9.2 Unsteadiness to shot;
 - 9.9.3 A Dog requiring a checking command to remain steady after the shot. (Maiden and Derby Stakes)
- 9.10 **Eliminating faults after flush or shot:**
- 9.10.1 Breaking in on shot or flush;
 - 9.10.2 Distinct Chasing
 - 9.10.3 Gun-shyness.
 - 9.10.4 Checking command in Championship Stakes.

GUIDE TO RULE 9. (THE FLUSH AND SHOT)

Object of steadiness

The **object of remaining steady** after the flush and the shot is to not disturb the rest of the covey and to allow the guns to reload.

- 9.a *Ideally the Dog and handler **move in on the quarry in unison**, the latter being pressurized into flushing.*
- 9.b *Variances range from the **Dog being instructed to flush the birds** ahead of the handler, to the Dog remaining staunchly on point while the **handler attempts to flush the quarry** in front of it. While it is preferable that the Dog finds the birds, both techniques are acceptable provided the end result is successful.*
- 9.c *It is acceptable, and in some instances desirable, (a tight-sitting bird in thick cover for instance) that a handler flushes the birds ahead of the pointing Dog. If these attempts end up being exaggerated (in time, or distance from the Dog) then the Judges can decide that the handler is doing the Dog's work and/or the Dog is sticky, with the attendant penalty.*
- 9.d *Judges need to be alert to the Dog that rushes in to flush (often a single bird in thick cover) quarry under instruction, or with the handler in close attendance. This is often desirable and should be differentiated from "snapping" and "breaking in on quarry" (handler not close), which would be eliminating faults.*

- 9.e Judges should differentiate “unsteadiness” from a Dog repositioning itself to “**view away**” **flushed game**. Viewing away is permitted as long as further birds aren’t disturbed and is generally recognized by the Dog stopping once the birds are seen.
- 9.f Judges are to guard against a handler **steadying his Dog to flush by firing**, against needless persistent firing and unnecessarily delayed firing after the flush.
- 9.g Although preferable to **prove gun-shyness** and steadiness whilst a Dog is on point, it can also be achieved with a Dog on back. The Dog has, at some stage, to be shot over from a reasonably close proximity (Roughly 15m).
- 9.h There is a **clear difference in intent between unsteadiness and breaking in** on shot or flush, and the Judge needs to differentiate clearly. In the former, the Dog is not acknowledging the flush or shot (penalizing): in the latter, it is intending to retrieve or chase the flushed bird (eliminating).
- 9.i When a Dog **takes a line**, there is usually a clear indication that he has seen the flying bird and intends to find it again once it settles (penalizing). This is distinct from chasing, which is generally much more intense and usually immediate, and is eliminating.
- 9.j Dogs that “mark” birds, then make out and hunt the intermediate ground before pointing the “marked birds” should be credited rather than faulted.

RULE 10. SUMMARY OF FAULTS

Faults are listed under clauses pertaining to each action. The table below summarizes and categorizes them.

- 10.1 The Judges shall determine how much penalty to apply to Dogs committing penalizing faults. The perpetration of these faults can be a question of degree and can be adjudged as trivial through to serious. In extreme cases they can be deemed cause for elimination. Discretion must be applied by the Judges, guided by the recommendation put forward under “Objectives of Judging Field Trials”.
- 10.2 A pair of Dogs should be called up immediately if one or both Dogs commit an eliminating fault. The primary reason is to protect the innocent Dog and to leave no doubt as to the elimination of the offending Dog from the stake. However, if the nature of the fault is deemed to present no risk to the innocent Brace-mate, the Judges may allow the Brace to continue running to its conclusion.

TABLE SUMMARISING PENALIZING AND ELIMINATING FAULTS

| ACTION | PENALIZING FAULTS | ELIMINATING FAULTS |
|-----------------|--|---|
| HANDLING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability of handler to get a Dog to hunt the course. • Obvious tendency to pull the handler off the course by repeated barren points. • A handler attempting to cover up the failings of the Dog, or attempts to do the Dog’s work. • A Dog that will only respond to noisy or excessive handling. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checking commands (Championship Stake). |
| HUNTING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Dog not hunting with a minimum of qualities expected from The Standard. • Flagging during a round. • Not making ground good. • Failing to use the available wind (including boring). • Trailing. • Failure to adjust to the cover being worked. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacking ability. • Out of control. • Pottering. • Hunting trail. |

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insistence of the Dog to hunt behind the handler. • Excessive vocalizing. • Repeatedly back casting to return to scent. | |
| POINTING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent false pointing. • Persistent barren pointing. • Flushing and failure to accurately locate birds. • Leaving birds behind, including not “making out the covey”. • Stickiness on scent or point. • Checking commands to steady the pointing Dog (Maiden Stake). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking in on game. • Snapping at game. • Blinking game. • Checking commands to steady pointing Dog (Championships). |
| BACKING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obvious reluctance to back, including putting undue pressure on the pointing Dog. • Command backing, especially when the Dog is about to steal a point (Maiden Stake). • Stickiness on back. • Flushing birds on taking over from a cautious Dog. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blinking the back. • Refusing to back. • Stealing the point. • Attempting to steal the point. • Command back (Championship) |
| FLUSH AND SHOT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to acknowledge flush • Unsteadiness to flush • Taking a line on flushed game • A Dog requiring a checking command to acknowledge flush and/or shot • Failure to acknowledge shot • Unsteadiness to shot • Checking commands to steady the Dog after the shot (Maiden Stake) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking in on shot or flush • Distinct chasing • Gun-shyness • Checking commands (Championships) |

GUIDE TO RULE 10. (FAULTS)

- 10.a *Interpretation by the Judges as to the degree of a fault, as well as the sum of faults in one or more rounds must be weighed against the overall performance of the Dog.*
- 10.b *Most faults are repeatable and if doubt exists, they will often be displayed again in subsequent rounds. **“Give ‘em rope and they’ll hang themselves!”***
- 10.c *A Dog making a distinct chase should be called up immediately. If, however, in the Derby Stakes, he starts to chase and is easily checked by his handler, he may still be a good and certainly obedient Dog. He should be given credit for obedience and not ruled out for this alone.*
- 10.d *Wherever possible the calling up of a Dog, before the end of its allotted time due to an eliminating fault, must be done through the Chief Judge. This should require the other two Judges to consult him if possible. At times when he is unsighted, one or both other Judges must make a call of elimination.*
- 10.e *There must be absolutely no doubt as to the eliminating offence in this event.*

RULE 11. DOG ON QUAIL AND OTHERS

- 11.1 In judging Dogs on quail the Dog doing positive work on them should be given the credit he deserves. Should he elect to work them and faults in so doing, then he should be

penalized accordingly. Should he choose to ignore them he must not be faulted for doing so.

- 11.2 This also applies to the quasi game birds such as the various bustards, snipe and waterfowl as described herein.

GUIDE TO RULE 11. (Quail and Others)

Care must be taken when judging any action on any bird or animal not considered fair game for the pot and not generally shot over pointing Dogs in a normal hunting situation. Benefit of the doubt should be given to the Dog in these situations.

RULE 12. BRACE STAKE

- 12.1 Brace Stakes are to be judged to championship standard. All winning Brace must have run two (2) rounds, and each Dog must have at least a point and a back to his credit and must have been shot over.
- 12.2 Trailing by either Dog in this stake is an eliminating fault.

GUIDE TO RULE 12. (BRACE)

- 12.a *The object of running a Brace is to cover twice the amount of ground as that covered by one Dog and his handler.*
- 12.b *Ideally a Brace should be matched for speed and style. They should hunt independently and yet still be aware of each other.*
- 12.c *The most desirable Brace work is for the pair to cross roughly in front of their handler, during their process of quartering.*
- 12.d *As placement in the Brace Stake qualifies a Dog for Championship Stakes, Judges are to guard against placing Dogs that do not deserve to compete therein.*

RULE 13. DERBY and MAIDEN STAKES

- 13.1 Derby Stakes are to be judged according to The Standard applicable to them. Checking Commands are not considered a fault in this stake.
- 13.2 Checking Commands are considered a fault in the Maiden Stake. The degree to which a Dog is checked is to be considered when awarding prizes.

GUIDE TO RULE 13. (DERBY AND MAIDEN STAKES)

- 13.a *When judging Derby Stakes, the primary goal is to reward potential in the young Dogs. The manners are often not yet entrenched in their behaviour but, with astute training, will come in time.*
- 13.b *The Maiden Stakes are qualifiers for the Championship Stakes, so it stands to reason that the Dogs rewarded here should be able to hold their own at the higher level. All the basic requirements of a good gundog should be evident at this point.*
- 13.c *As the stakes are run concurrently, the Judges are required to differentiate the varying requirements of the different stakes. For this reason, placings may differ between Dogs in the different stakes.*

14. GENERAL GUIDES TO JUDGING RECORDS

- 14.1 *Two systems are generally in use, namely a "brace by brace" record, and secondly, a "dog by dog" record. Both are acceptable, and each has its advantages over the other. Brief notes in the field help with jarring the memory at the end of a Stake when a summation of all the work is required.*
- 14.2 *A structured record of all the dogs' work is essential once the Stake reaches the "dogs required" stage.*
- 14.3 *In the pursuit of consistency of decision making, it is very helpful to divide the "dogs required" into the following categories:*

- Group A – being outstanding dogs with finds in the stake. These are likely candidates for placings. A back might be sought to place them. Identifying the Champion is the paramount decision to be made and might occupy more of the Judges' time.
- Group B – being good dogs with finds in the stake. These are likely candidates for a COM. It might not make a difference to their award if they don't have a back.
- Group C – being outstanding dogs without finds, based purely on excellent hunting prowess. A find in the closing stages could catapult them into Group A!
- Group D – being good dogs without finds, based purely on their hunting prowess. A find would place them into contention for a COM.

Following a set structure when summing up a stake helps enormously with the critical decision making.

- 14.4 Inevitably, situations will occur that aren't covered in the above guides to judging. In these instances, it is useful for the Judge to imagine what a perfect dog would have been expected to do, then measure the action against that ideal.

RULE 15. DRUG ABUSE

Drug abuse in competing Dogs is not permitted and may result in elimination or disqualification from an event.

GUIDE TO RULE 15. (DRUG ABUSE)

- 15.a Should it come to the attention of the Executive Committee that a competing Dog is suspected of drug abuse, the Committee may at its discretion require that an impartial veterinarian present, be instructed to draw blood samples for drug testing.
- 15.b Should the sample tested prove positive on any Dog that has been awarded a Place or a Certificate of Merit, such an award will be withheld, and the Dog deemed to have been disqualified.
- 15.c If a Dog, irrespective of being placed or awarded a Certificate of Merit, has been found guilty of abusing any drug, the Executive Committee will have the right to ban or suspend such owner/handler from future competition.
- 15.d *Blood Testing*
- i) Blood testing for drug misuse must be done within the prescribed limitations and manner as required by the testing authorities.
 - ii) Should the sample tested prove positive for a banned substance, the costs of such testing, including veterinarian as well as laboratory costs will be for the owner's account.
- 15.e Prohibited drugs are generally divided into 3 categories:
- i) Anabolic Steroids: - used to build up muscle, thereby increasing speed and endurance.
 - ii) Performance Enhancers: e.g. Amphetamines, Anxiolytics etc.
 - iii) Anti Inflammatory / Painkillers: reduce symptoms of injury so that the Dog can continue competing after the body would normally tell him to stop.
- 15.f The principle objections to their use are:
- i) By masking the symptoms of pain, there is risk of further injury to the Dog by continued exertion.
 - ii) Unfair advantages of the competitors who are prepared to use drugs over those who, for the sake of their Dog's health, are not.

- iii) *Possible selection of bad traits. If arthritis (from Hip Dysplasia, poor joint or tendon conformation, and extremes in build) is masked, a Dog could continue to compete (and breed) for years, potentially harming the breed in this country.*
- iv) *Potentially lethal results from overuse of anti-inflammatory drugs - especially stomach ulcers. These occur surprisingly quickly in Dogs.*

D. REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF FIELD TRIALS FOR HPR BREEDS

Field trials for HPR Breeds conducted by the Member Clubs shall be held in terms of the provisions hereof.

1. GENERAL QUALIFICATION

- 1.1 Only Dogs which are Certified in the Field Dog Record or the Appendix Field Dog Record shall qualify to participate in a field trial conducted by the Member Clubs.
- 1.2 Except in the Puppy Stake, a Dog younger than 4 (four) months of age may not be entered in a stake.
- 1.3 A Dog may not be entered or handled in a trial held by the Member Clubs under the auspices of the NFTA or a trial held by the NFTA unless the owner is a member in good standing with a Member Club of the NFTA.
- 1.4 Congenital cryptorchid, hypoplastic, and monorchid Dogs are eligible for entry but will only qualify for a Certificate of Merit;
 - 1.4.1 If testicular irregularities are suspected, either by a Judge in a field trial or Natural Ability test, the Dog may be examined as directed by the Judge. If the irregularity is confirmed on the day, the Dog may only qualify for a COM.
 - 1.4.2 The Host Club should notify the NFTA.
 - 1.4.3 The owner of the Dog may seek a definitive diagnosis by a Veterinary reproductive specialist, bearing in mind that maturity may only be reached between 12 and 18 months of age. The cost is at the owner's expense. The results of the examination should be submitted to the Host Club of the trial or test at which the irregularity was found. The Host Club will then submit the results to the Secretary for circulation. These results will be taken as final and binding.
 - 1.4.4 Should the owner choose to neuter the animal, then the Dog may run in trials or tests and be eligible for all awards.
- 1.5 Field trials for HPR breeds can run concurrently under license of both the NFTA and KUSA, it being recognised that the field trial rules of both organisations are similar.

2. STAKES

- 2.1 **Puppy Stake:** is open to Dogs not older than 12 months as at the date of a trial, irrespective of prizes previously won "**Puppy Stake**".
- 2.2 **Derby Stake:** is open to Dogs not older than 24 months as at the date of a trial, irrespective of prizes previously won "**Derby Stake**".
- 2.3 **Maiden Stake:** is open to Dogs which have not been placed first, second or third in a Maiden, Open, Brace or Championship Stake for HPR breeds "**Maiden Stake**".
- 2.4 **Brace Stake:** is open to two Dogs of the same breed handled by a single handler and Certified with a single owner or partnership. At least one of the Dogs must have been awarded a Place or Certificate of Merit in an HPR maiden, Brace or Open Stake, or have qualified for a British Breed Championship Stake "**Brace Stake**". A Dog may only be entered in one Brace per Stake.
- 2.5 **Open Stake:** is open to all Dogs irrespective of prizes previously won. In order for an HPR Open Stake to carry Championship qualification status, the minimum number of Dogs actually participating in the Stake shall be 14 "**Open Stake**".
- 2.6 **HPR Championship Stake:** is open to Dogs which have been placed first, second, third, or been awarded a Certificate of Merit in an HPR Open Stake or Brace Stake. Only one Championship Stake per annum can be held in South Africa and may be hosted by Member Clubs on a rotational basis. The judging panel will consist of at least two senior

Judges. In order for the stake to carry Championship Status, the minimum number of qualified Dogs actually participating in the stake shall be 14 “**HPR Championship Stake**”.

- 2.7 **National Championship Stake:** is open only to HPR Breed Dogs which have been awarded a Place or a COM in the previous 4 (four) National Championship Stakes and in the Member Clubs’ Championship Standard Stakes, including KUSA Qualifying Field Trials of the current and previous 3 (three) Field Trial Seasons. Only one National Championship Stake per Field Trial Season can be held in South Africa and may be hosted by HPR Member Clubs on a rotational basis.
- 2.7.1 Participation by invitation: To obviate a bye and/or to ensure a sufficient number of Dogs (with particular reference to Clause 2.7.3 below), at the commencement of the National Championship Stake, the Executive Committee, shall invite at its discretion suitable Dogs to participate in the event, provided that such Dogs cannot receive an award in the event.
- 2.7.2 Entries: The Secretary shall give written notice to the owners of qualifying Dogs of their entry into the National Championship Stake 14 days before the National Championship Stake.
- 2.7.3 The minimum number of Dogs actually participating in the stake shall be 12 (twelve). There must be at least 10 (ten) qualified entries on the day.
- 2.7.4 A National Championship Stake may not be run simultaneously with another stake.
- 2.7.5 The duties and responsibilities for the running of a National Championship Stake will be allocated according to the provisions of Schedule M.
- 2.8 **Saint Hubert:** is open to all Dogs irrespective of registration and prizes previously won but will not earn points towards the HPR ranking.

3. AWARDS

3.1 Certificate of Merit

- 3.1.1 The Judges shall be empowered to award a certificate of merit “**Certificate of Merit**” or “**COM**”.
- 3.1.2 A COM does not constitute a placing.
- 3.1.3. It is not recommended that the Judges award more than 6 (six) COM awards in a Championship Stake or more than 4 (four) in a National Championship Stake. In Derby, Maiden and Open Stakes there is not a limitation on COMs.

3.2 Placing

- 3.2.1 The Judges shall be empowered to award a first, second or a third place “**Place**” in any Stake.
- 3.2.2 The Judges are not empowered to award shared placings.

3.3 Certificates

Dogs that have been awarded a Place or a COM shall be entitled to a certificate specifying the stake and the details of the Place or COM.

3.4 Field Trial Champion

- 3.4.1 A Dog which has won a Member Clubs’ HPR Championship Stake wherein a minimum number of 14 (fourteen) qualified Dogs competed, shall be entitled to carry the prefix F.T.Ch. to its name.
- 3.4.2 A Dog which has won two Member Clubs’ HPR Open Stakes wherein a minimum number of 14 (fourteen) Dogs per stake competed, shall be entitled to carry the prefix F.T.Ch. to its name.
- 3.4.3 A British Breed Dog which has won a Member Clubs’ HPR Breeds Championship Stake or two HPR Open Stakes shall be entitled to carry the prefix (HPR) F.T.Ch to its name.

3.5 National Field Trial Champion

A Dog which has won an HPR National Championship Stake shall be entitled to carry the prefix Nat. F.T.Ch. to its name.

3.6 NFTA HPR Colours

The NFTA shall annually award NFTA HPR Colours "**NFTA HPR Colours**" to HPR breed Dogs according to the following criteria:

- 3.6.1 For their Dogs to be eligible for NFTA HPR Colours, all participants in HPR events hosted by a Member Club of the NFTA must nominate their NFTA Home Club at the beginning of the Field Trial Season and the nominated club will remain their Home Club for the duration of that Field Trial Season.
- 3.6.2 The winner of the HPR National Championship Stake.
- 3.6.3 The three HPR Breed Dogs, excluding the winner of the HPR National Championship Stake, that have accumulated the most points during the current Field Trial Season exclusively in HPR Breed championship standard stakes (Open, Championship and National Championship stakes) "**Championship Standard Stakes**" and/or in KUSA Qualifying Field Trials according to the National HPR Ranking referred to under Clause 4.4 (below).
- 3.6.4 In the event of a tie/s involving the dogs referred to under Cause 3.6.3 above, all such Dogs shall be awarded NFTA HPR Colours.

3.7 NFTA HPR Dog of the Year

The NFTA shall annually, at the conclusion of the HPR National Championship Stake, award the prize of "**NFTA HPR Dog of the Year**" to the Dog which has accumulated the most points in NFTA Championship Standard Stakes and/or in KUSA Qualifying Field Trial Championship Standard Stakes during the current Field Trial Season in accordance with this Clause 3.7 and Article 4 below.

In order to be eligible for the NFTA HPR Dog of the Year award:

- 3.7.1 The provisions of Clause 3.6.1 above will apply, and
- 3.7.2 Dogs must have won at least two (2) awards in Championship Standard Stakes. One (1) award must be won in an HPR Championship Standard Stake and the additional award may be won in either an HPR Championship Standard Stake or a British Breed Championship Standard Stake.

Points earned in a British Breed Championship Stake will be calculated by multiplying the Total Field Value applicable to that British Breed Championship Stake by the points allocated in Table 3 below. Such points will be included in the points for NFTA HPR Dog of the Year ranking purposes at 50% of the above calculated value. Since HPR Dogs are not eligible to enter the National Championship Stake for British Breeds, points earned by British Breed Dogs in the National Championship Stake for British Breeds will be excluded from the National Ranking for NFTA HPR Dog of the Year.

The Dog which has been awarded the prize of NFTA HPR Dog of the Year shall be entitled to a certificate specifying that award.

3.8 NFTA HPR Derby Dog of the Year

The NFTA shall annually, at the conclusion of the HPR National Championship Stake, award the prize of "**NFTA HPR Derby Dog of the Year**". For the NFTA HPR Derby Dog of the Year, points are awarded to Derby Dogs for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places as well as Certificates of Merit from all KUSA Qualifying Field Trials and NFTA HPR and British Breed Field Trials held during the Field Trial Season according to the provisions of Clause 4.5 below.

Only Dogs younger than 24 months as at the commencement date of any Stake shall be eligible to accumulate points for the NFTA HPR Derby Dog of the Year award for that Field Trial Season.

4. NATIONAL HPR RANKING SYSTEM

Points are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places as well as Certificates of Merit from all KUSA Qualifying Field Trials and/or NFTA HPR and/or British Breed Championship Standard Stakes held throughout the Field Trial Season. The Secretary or his/her nominee shall be responsible for the management and updating of the National HPR Ranking system.

4.1 Dogs will be seeded in descending order of the cumulative points earned by each Dog in Championship Standard Stake awards over a period of approximately 3 years. That period shall extend from and include the Championship Standard Stake immediately preceding the club's Championship Standard Stake for which the seeding is being calculated, to and including that club's Championship Standard Stake from 3 years prior **"National Seeding"**.

In the event of any Field Trial Season being lost as a result of Force Majeure, the period of 3 years will be extended to 4 years or more in order to ensure that the seeding of dogs for any club's Championship Standard Stake can be calculated on the basis of 3 years of field trialing awards. Once it is again possible to calculate the seeding over 3 consecutive years, that period will be reduced to 3 years.

In the event of Dogs accumulating the same number of points, they will be given the same seeded position. The Dogs following this will be seeded from the next available seeding position.

4.2 Dogs will be allocated a seeding value **"Seeding Value"** or **"SV"** at the beginning of a Championship Standard Stake as per Table 2:

| Table 2 | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Seeded Position | SV |
| 1 to 10 | 3 |
| 11 – 20 | 2 |
| 21 - 30 | 1 |

4.3 A total field value **"Total Field Value"** or **"TFV"** is calculated by adding the Seeding Values of all the Dogs competing in that Championship Standard Stake.

4.3 The Dogs which are awarded Places or Certificates of Merit in that Championship Standard Stake will earn the points allocated in Table 3 below multiplied by the Total Field Value. The HPR National Championship Stake will be scored at a premium of 5 points for Places and 3 points for Certificates of Merit respectively, as per Table 3 below.

Points earned in British Breed Championship Stakes will be counted towards the NFTA HPR Dog of the Year according to Clause 3.7 above.

| Table 3 | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| Placing | Points for a Championship Standard Stake | Points for the HPR National Field Trial |
| First | 25 | 30 |
| Second | 18 | 23 |
| Third | 12 | 17 |
| COM1 | 8 | 11 |
| COM2 | 7 | 10 |
| COM3 | 7 | 9 |
| COM4 | 5 | 8 |

| | | |
|-------------|----------|------------|
| COM5 | 4 | N/A |
| COM6 | 3 | N/A |

- 4.4 For the award of NFTA HPR Colours and NFTA HPR Dog of the Year, all Dogs will be ranked in descending order of the cumulative points earned according to Clauses 4.3 and 3.7 above by each Dog in the Championship Standard Stakes held by the NFTA and the Member Clubs in that Field Trial Season, including the Championship Standard Stakes in KUSA Qualifying Field Trials “**National Ranking**”.
- 4.5 Points for the NFTA HPR Derby Dog of the Year award will be calculated according to Table 4 below.

| Points X Stakes | | Weight Per Stake | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | | HPR Stakes | Other Stakes |
| 1st = 6 | Puppy | 1 | 1 |
| 2nd = 5 | Derby | 4 | 3 |
| 3rd = 4 | Maiden | 5 | 4 |
| COM = 1 | Brace | 7 | 6 |
| | Open | 9 | 7 |
| | Championship | 10 | 9 |
| | FCI | - | 4 |
| | Nat Champ | 11 | - |

- 4.6 In order to preserve the legacy of awards and achievements in HPR field trials, an All-Time Ranking System will be maintained in the form that it has been traditionally maintained. Points for the All-Time Ranking System will be calculated according to Table 4 above, but with no restrictions in terms of prior awards or age.

The NFTA will designate an individual to maintain the All-Time Ranking System in good order.

5. SELECTION OF WORLD CUP TEAMS AND TEAMS FOR OTHER INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- 5.1 The selection of world cup teams and teams for other international events shall be made by a selector's committee appointed by the Executive Committee.
- 5.2 The Selector's Committee shall select Dogs in order of preference according to their performances in HPR field trials during the past two years according to the HPR Ranking System referred to under Clause 4 above.

6. DATES FOR FIELD TRIALS

- 6.1 Member Clubs shall apply to the NFTA by the last day in October of the current year for dates on which to hold their field trials and Natural Ability Tests in the following year. Such applications shall include proposed dates, venues and stakes or tests to be run.
- The Secretary shall convene a virtual meeting of the NFTA by the last day in November of the current year at which the field trial dates for the following year will be discussed and agreed to in principle. Such dates shall be submitted to the NFTA for ratification at the following AGM.
- 6.2 The Executive Committee shall allocate trial dates with traditional dates taking preference.
- 6.3 The HPR National Championship Stake shall be held by Member Clubs on a rotational basis as approved by the NFTA Executive Committee on a date mutually agreed by the HPR clubs.

7. THE PROGRAMME

- 7.1 A Host Club shall publish a programme that contains the following:
- 7.1.1 The name of the Host Club.
 - 7.1.2 The date/s of the trial.
 - 7.1.3 The names of the Judges and Learner Judges for each stake, with the Chief Judge's name to appear first.
 - 7.1.4 The name of the convenor.
 - 7.1.5 The name of the Chief Field Steward for each stake.
 - 7.1.6 The venue and starting time of the trial.
 - 7.1.7 A definition of each stake to be run.
 - 7.1.8 The prizes offered.
 - 7.1.9 The entries to include the following particulars of each Dog:
 - 7.1.9.1 Certified name and number.
 - 7.1.9.2 Name and address of the owner.
 - 7.1.9.3 Breed.
 - 7.1.9.4 Sex.
 - 7.1.9.5 Date whelped.
 - 7.1.9.6 Certified name of the sire and dam.
 - 7.1.9.7 Colour of the Dog.
 - 7.1.9.8 Name of the handler.
 - 7.1.10 A statement that the trial is held under the NFTA Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials and the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials.
 - 7.1.11 A statement that the Host Club accepts no responsibility for injury, loss or damage to person or property, however caused. All competitors may be required to sign an indemnity form to this effect.
 - 7.1.12 A list of results of the previous season's events.
 - 7.1.13 A notice to entrants that:
 - 7.1.13.1 Bitches in season within the precincts of the trial are forbidden.
 - 7.1.13.2 Congenital cryptorchid, hypoplastic, or monorchid Dogs are eligible for entry but will only qualify for a Certificate of Merit
 - 7.1.13.3 Only Certified Dogs may compete.
 - 7.1.13.4 The trial has been sanctioned by the NFTA.
 - 7.1.13.5 A Dog may not be entered or handled in a trial held by the Member Clubs under the auspices of the NFTA unless the owner is a member in good standing with a Member Club or the Kennel Union of South Africa.
 - 7.1.13.6 A Member Club has the right of association and may refuse any entry.
 - 7.1.13.7 A statement that the Judges' decision is final.

8. COPY OF THE REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF FIELD TRIALS AND COPY OF THE RULES AND GUIDES FOR THE JUDGING OF FIELD TRIALS

A Host Club shall ensure that the Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials for HPR Breeds and the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials for HPR Breeds are available at the venue during a trial.

9. APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

9.1 The Judges List

The NFTA shall record, update and issue to the Member Clubs, a Judges List within 2 (two) weeks after an AGM indicating which persons are Judges or Senior Judges. It is desirable that the Judges have some hunting experience.

9.2 Minimum qualifications for Judges.

9.2.1 Judge

A person shall not be approved as a Judge until that person has acted as a Field Steward in no less than 2 (two) stakes and has acted as a Learner Judge in no less than 2 (two) Maiden and/or Open and/or Championship Stakes and has had 3 (three) years of experience in competing with Dogs in field trials and has trained and handled at least 1 (one) Dog that has won a prize or Certificate of Merit in a Maiden or Open Stake.

The recommendation by a club to appoint the applicant as a Judge must be based on written reports by the Chief Judges officiating in the 2 (two) qualifying field trials. The Chief Judge of the final stake fulfilling the applicant's learner judging requirements must state in his/her report that he/she is satisfied that the Learner Judge is competent enough to be promoted to the status of Judge.

9.2.2 Senior Judge

A person shall not be approved as a Senior Judge unless that person has judged no less than 7 (seven) stakes and has had at least 5 (five) years of experience in competing with Dogs in field trials and has trained and handled at least 1 (one) Dog that has won a Place or a Certificate of Merit in an HPR Open Stake or in a British Breed Championship Standard Stake.

The recommendation by a club to appoint the applicant as a Senior Judge must include confirmation that the applicant has complied with the above requirements.

9.3 Recommendations to the Judges List

9.3.1 A person may be recommended to the Judges List by a Member Club which shall make recommendations to the Executive Committee in writing at the AGM indicating the minimum requirements reflected under Clause 9.2 above, have been met. Such person shall be added to the Judges List if approved by the Executive Committee.

9.3.2 It is incumbent on any person who is to be included in the Judges List, to have knowledge and understand the logic of field trials, and to be able to interpret the Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials and the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials.

9.3.3 It may be required that aspirant Judges write and pass an exam set by a sub-committee appointed for that purpose by the Executive Committee.

9.4 Foreign Judges

A Member Club may appoint foreign Judges to judge a stake provided that the Executive Committee has approved the appointment. A foreign Judge may not be appointed as Chief Judge or Judge in a Championship or National Championship Stake.

9.5 Compulsory Number of Judges

9.5.1 There shall be a minimum of three (3) Judges per stake.

9.5.2 At least one (1) Senior Judge shall be appointed for each stake.

9.5.3 The Chief Judge shall be a Senior Judge.

9.5.4 An HPR Championship Stake shall have two (2) Senior Judges.

9.5.5 An HPR National Championship Stake shall have two (2) Senior Judges.

9.6 Appointment of Judges

- 9.6.1 Judges shall be appointed from the Judges List by the Host Club which shall ensure that a judging panel is well balanced.
- 9.6.2 The Judges of an HPR Championship Stake shall be appointed by the Host Club. It shall be preferable for the judging panel to consist of Judges from different Member Clubs with the Chief Judge to be nominated by the Host Club.
- 9.6.3 The Judges of the National Championship Stake shall be approved by the Executive Committee. The judging panel will consist of Judges nominated by each HPR Member Club with the Chief Judge to be nominated by the Host Club. Should an HPR Member Club not nominate a Judge, the Executive Committee will nominate the Judge.
- 9.6.4 Should a Judge be prevented from attending or completing a trial due to ill health or otherwise, the Committee members of the Host Club present at the trial, together with the Chief Field Steward, shall appoint another Judge from the Judges List and according to the criteria listed under 10.6 to attend to or complete the trial.

9.7 Learner Judges

- 9.7.1 A person shall qualify as a Learner Judge if they have acted as a Field Steward in 2 (two) stakes and competed in field trials.
- 9.7.2 There may not be more than one Learner Judge per stake.
- 9.7.3 A learner Judge cannot Field Steward simultaneously or vice versa.

9.8 Physical fitness

Judges must be able to meet the physical demands of their task by being with, but never in front, of the handlers for the duration of a stake. The nature of the terrain on which a stake is to be held should be taken into account when selecting Judges.

9.9 Judges Report

The Executive Committee may require a Chief Judge to submit a written report of a stake judged by him.

9.10 Qualifying Field Trials

For the purposes of the qualification of HPR Breed Judges, qualifying field trials shall include HPR field trials run under the auspices of the NFTA or KUSA and/or British Breed field trials run under the auspices of the NFTA.

10. THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF JUDGES

- 10.1 The Judges shall assist the committee members of the Host Club to set the course that will test the standard of the Dogs.
- 10.2 The Judges shall liaise with the Chief Field Steward to ensure the efficient running of a trial.
- 10.3 The Chief Judge shall control the stake and issue instructions through the Chief Field Steward on all matters connected with the stake and shall call for the assistance of the Chief Field Steward or the committee members of the Host Club to assist wherever he/she may require.
- 10.4 The Judges may in consultation with the Chief Field Steward and any of the committee members of the Host Club, consider whether the weather is unfit for holding a trial and whether or not to cancel the event. If it is possible to set a new date for the trial, the Host Club shall propose a new date to the NFTA, and the NFTA will endeavour to approve that proposal or not as timeously as possible.
- 10.5 The Chief Judge shall be the spokesman for the judging panel.
- 10.6 The Judges shall determine the duration of the rounds.

- 10.7 The Chief Judge shall position the other Judges while judging a stake.
- 10.8 The Judges shall eliminate a Dog from a stake whose handler does not, without good reason, obey them or wilfully interferes with another handler or his Dog or who repeatedly does not keep to the instructed course, therefore jeopardizing the subsequent rounds and fairness to other competitors.
- 10.9 The Judges may require a Dog to wear a distinguishing coloured collar.
- 10.10 The Judges shall have an equal say in evaluating the work of a Dog and placing a Dog at the end of a stake.
- 10.11 The Judges shall conclude their deliberations in making a decision as to the final result at the end of a stake before leaving the field, with sufficient time to be able to run any Dogs which the Judges have not been able to sequentially place.
- 10.12 In the event of the Judges being unable to reach consensus the Judges shall vote to obtain a result.
- 10.13 Withholding Prizes
- 10.13.1 The Judges shall withhold a prize or award if, in their opinion, the Dogs competing do not show sufficient merit.
- 10.13.2 In the event of a prize winner being disqualified due to a technical disqualification, the Dogs next in consecutive order of merit may at the Judge's discretion be awarded higher prizes.
- 10.13.3 Technical disqualifications are those which are deemed to be infringements or non-compliance of the Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials, including drug abuse.
- 10.14 The chief Judge or the appropriate Judge should instruct the guns to shoot over a Dog and when necessary nominate which Dog is sent to retrieve.
- 10.14.1 Before the commencement of each Brace, the Chief Judge will instruct the guns and handlers clearly which Dogs are to have birds shot for them.
- 10.14.2 There should be no doubt that the Dog has the quarry and situation under control.
- 10.15 The Judges, when requested, should give reasonable directions to the handler as to the area where the game has fallen.
- 10.16 A Dog may not compete in a stake if it is owned by a Judge judging that stake.
- 10.17 A Judge may not judge a Dog owned or handled by a family member but shall refer any decision to the other two (2) Judges who shall be assisted by either the Learner Judge or Chief Field Steward.
- 10.18 A Judge's duty is to determine the prize winners of an event solely on the merits of a Dog's performance during that stake and no other factor should enter into their consideration.

11. FIELD STEWARDS ELECTION, DUTIES AND POWERS

- 11.1 A person shall qualify as a Chief Field Steward if he/she is completely aware and capable of performing the duties of a Chief Field Steward as described in the Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials and the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials and has had some experience as a Deputy Field Steward or has attended or competed in field trials.
- 11.2 A Host Club shall elect the Chief Field Steward who shall be responsible for:
- 11.2.1 The running of a stake.
- 11.2.2 The setting of the course on the recommendations of the field trial manager/surveyor of the Host Club and the Judges.
- 11.2.3 Being acquainted with the course to be used during a stake.

- 11.2.4 Jointly, with the Judges and field trial manager deciding on which ground is to be re-used.
- 11.2.5 Appointing as many Deputy Field Stewards as are required to assist him in running a stake.
- 11.2.6 Acting as timekeeper.
- 11.2.7 Appointing two persons to act as Guns for the duration of the stake as approved by the Host Club.
- 11.2.8 Ensuring that the two guns appointed by the Host Club are present and observe safety measures.
- 11.3 The Chief Field Steward shall:
 - 11.3.1 Seek the co-operation of the Judges to successfully complete a stake;
 - 11.3.2 Run the stake on time, in a time-saving manner, so as to present the competing Dogs to the Judges to their best advantage;
 - 11.3.3 Control the movements of the spectators and followers to ensure that they do not obstruct the work of the Dogs or the Judges;
 - 11.3.4 Relieve the handlers of their leashes, sticks, collars etc., which may be used to intimidate a Dog;
 - 11.3.5 Enforce the “no-smoking” rule strictly, in the interest of safety and shall announce smoking breaks at suitable places;
 - 11.3.6 Brief each pair of handlers personally as to the direction they must follow;
 - 11.3.7 Insist that the handlers maintain the set course unless a Dog is off-course due to working scent or roading game;
 - 11.3.8 Deviate from a planned course at the request of the Judges;
 - 11.3.9 Ensure the handlers and guns are assisted in safely negotiating fences;
 - 11.3.10 Hand back the leashes etc. at the completion of each Brace;
 - 11.3.11 Subject to instructions given by the Chief Judge, call the Dogs up in the event that game in an area proves to be abundant when both Dogs have had a point, back and retrieve in order to put the next Brace down for the purpose of saving time and conserving the ground;
 - 11.3.12 On instructions of the Chief Judge, immediately call up a Dog that has committed an eliminating fault and to call a Dog which has drawn a bye to complete the round with the remaining Dog;
 - 11.3.13 Announce the draw and the duration of each Brace;
 - 11.3.14 Ensure that he is ready to make a draw for the second round upon finalisation of the Judges deliberations after the first round;
 - 11.3.15 Ensure that the Dogs which were paired in the first round are not paired in the second round;
 - 11.3.16 Limit the time given to each Brace in each round according to the number of Dogs remaining and the time available, subject to directions given to him by the Judges;
 - 11.3.17 At the end of the second round and upon finalisation of the Judge’s deliberations, make a further draw;
 - 11.3.18 After completion of the third round, announce the names of the Dogs which the Judges have elected to remain in the stake.

12. GUNS, APPOINTMENT, DUTIES AND POWERS

- 12.1 The Host Club will appoint Guns for their stakes.

- 12.2 Only two Guns will be employed at a time.
- 12.3 The Guns shall take instructions from the Judges.
- 12.4 The firing of a shotgun is only to take place within reasonable shotgun killing range (approximately 20-40 meters).
- 12.5 Stringent gun safety measures must be observed at all times.
 - 12.5.1 A Gun may only close his shotgun when about to fire.
 - 12.5.2 The carrying of a shotgun or the loading and unloading of shotguns must be effected with due regard to the safety of competitors and spectators.
 - 12.5.3 Only double barrelled breaking type shotguns may be used.
 - 12.5.4 The committee of the Host Club, sub-committee, Judges, stewards or officers of the day, have the right to prevent the use of any shotgun which they consider might be a source of danger in any respect.

13. MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 13.1 Record of Entries

A Host Club shall, within fourteen days of completion of a field trial, submit to the Secretary a list of all Dogs with their registration numbers, which competed in a trial.
- 13.2 Handling of Dogs
 - 13.2.1 Deputy Handling a Dog.

If a deputy handles a Dog, the owner may walk in line with the deputy but may not take part in the working or handling of his Dog.
 - 13.2.2 Substitution of Handlers

A handler of a Dog may not be substituted during the course of a trial without the consent of the Judges.
 - 13.2.3 Maximum number of Dogs

No handler may handle more than three Dogs unless he provides an assistant to hold Dogs.
 - 13.2.4 Intimidation

No handler may use any form of intimidation, or carry any object that may potentially be used to intimidate the Dog. Handlers will be requested by the Field Steward to hand over leads and any other objects, including collars that the Judges deem to be potentially intimidating. The Field Steward will retain these for the duration of the round.
 - 13.2.5 No Dog may be handled by a person other than its owner unless the committee of the Host Club has been informed as a matter of courtesy prior to the commencement of the stake.
 - 13.2.6 No Dog is allowed to wear a collar while competing unless a coloured collar is requested by the Judges for the purpose of identifying the Dog.
- 13.3 Removal of Dogs from a trial venue

Should the committee of a Host Club, after consultation with the Judges or a veterinary surgeon, consider a Dog unfit to compete or which interferes with the safety of other competing Dogs or interferes with the prospects of success of its opponents, such a Dog shall be immediately removed from the trial venue.
- 13.4 Drug Abuse

The use of substances to enhance a Dog's performance is strongly discouraged due to potential health risks.
- 13.5 Entering In More Than One Stake Simultaneously

- 13.5.1 For practical reasons the club may elect to hold Derby, Maiden and Open Stakes simultaneously.
- 13.5.2 Dogs may also enter more than one stake simultaneously provided they qualify for the specific stakes.
- 13.5.3 A Dog will be eliminated from all stakes entered during that trial, on committing an eliminating fault.
- 13.5.4 On committing penalizing faults, the Dog may be downgraded to a lower standard stake at the Judge's discretion and in accordance with the standards of the specific stake, provided that the Dog has been previously entered in that stake.

13.6 Terrain

HPR field trials must use terrain where wild gamebirds occur naturally.

14. DRAWING OF DOGS

- 14.1 A draw shall follow the procedure of assigning a card with an individual number to each entry. The numbered cards shall then be mixed together, drawn randomly and the Dogs paired into Braces.
- 14.2 The Judges and Chief Field Stewards shall ensure that the Dogs which met in the first round shall not run together in the second round.
- 14.3 Unless eliminated for committing an eliminating fault, a Dog shall be entitled to participate in the first two (2) rounds.
- 14.4 At the conclusion of the second round the Judges shall select such Dogs as they consider to have shown sufficient merit to be entitled to remain in the stake. Another random draw or pairing shall then be made among those Dogs for the next round.
- 14.5 At the conclusion of the second and subsequent rounds, the Judges may run Dogs in pairs as they think fit and shall ensure prior to termination of the stake that the Dog placed first has run with the Dog placed second unless they are handled by the same handler.
- 14.6 Those Dogs chosen for consideration for placing by virtue of their success in the early rounds could be held back, but only after the Judges have provided their list of Dogs required for the final rounds.
- 14.7 Where one handler in a stake is competing with two (2) or more Dogs, such Dogs shall not be paired together.
- 14.8 All the Dogs, except those previously eliminated or given permission to withdraw, must remain available for further participation until eliminated or until termination of the stake.

15. MANAGEMENT OF A FIELD TRIAL

15.1 Management entrusted to Member Clubs

The management of a field trial shall be entrusted to the Host Club.

15.2 Association Representatives

A Host Club shall appoint an Executive Committee member to be present at its Championship Stake.

15.3 Procedure in the Case of Objection

- 15.3.1 Any member of a Member Club who handles a Dog competing in a trial may make an objection to the committee of the Host Club against any Dog, official, or person competing in the trial, either before or after the conclusion of the stake. Such an objection shall be in writing, shall identify the Dog/person/official and specify the basis of the objection and shall bare the signature and address of the person who makes it.

- 15.3.2 In order for the objection to be heard, the objecting person shall lodge an amount determined from time to time by the Executive Committee, with the secretary or representative of the Host Club.
- 15.3.3 The secretary or representative of the Host Club shall notify the committee members of the Host Club who are present, of the objection.
- 15.3.4 An objection shall be adjudicated on the day of the objection by simple majority of committee members of the Host Club who are present at the trial and who are not involved in the dispute. The decision taken by those committee members shall be final.
- 15.3.5 In the event of an objection being upheld in favour of the objector, the objector shall be refunded his money. In that event the Judges must remedy the cause of the objection.
- 15.3.6 In the event of the objection being dismissed, the Host Club shall retain the money paid by the objector, which shall be forwarded together with a full report by the committee of the Host Club, duly signed by all the committee members who adjudicated upon the objection, to the Executive Committee, within two (2) weeks of the trial.
- 15.3.7 All objections will be handled by the Host Club or the Executive Committee of the NFTA in the spirit of the sport, sportsmanship and fairness.
- 15.4 Impugning of Decisions
- In the event of a participant covertly or overtly impugning the decision of the Judges without following the procedures prescribed, shall render the participant liable to be disciplined by the Host Club.
- 15.5 Gambling
- Gambling or betting at, or on the outcome of any field trial is strictly prohibited.
- 15.6 The NFTA Colours/Badge
- The colours of the NFTA are Gold and Green and the Badge is approved and registered with the Department of Heraldic Services.
- 15.7 Remuneration
- Any form of remuneration for handling of Dogs in field trials is prohibited.
- 15.8 Stake Money
- Competing for a purse or stake money is prohibited.

E. RULES AND GUIDES FOR THE JUDGING OF FIELD TRIALS FOR HPR BREEDS

The following apply only to HPR field trials. These reflect the functional differences between British Breed (BB) trials and HPR Breed trials as well as traditional differences as provided for in Regulations for the Conduct of Field Trials For HPR Breeds.

Rules are binding and are to be adhered to.

Guides to rules assist Judges in their interpretation of the Rules.

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FLUSH.** This is when a Dog reacts by stopping, pausing or dropping to the flush of game, usually within close proximity of the flush.
- 1.2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SHOT.** This is as 1.1 above and generally coupled to the flush, but applies to the reaction to the shot.
- 1.3. **BACK CASTING.** This is when a Dog returns to an area after already having “made it out” and moved away. The handler is usually also well past the area in question.
- 1.4. **BACKING.** This is the acknowledgement by a Dog, on sight of another Dog on point. It is indicated by it stopping spontaneously and adopting an intense attitude or pose. This is done without the scent of game.
- 1.5. **BACKING THE GUN.** This is when the Dog cannot see his Brace-mate and backs a handler, or a raised gun.
- 1.6. **BARREN POINT.** This is when a Dog gives every indication of the presence of game but after a brief pause, or period of enquiry, establishes that the game has moved on, and continues hunting. It is also considered a barren point if he readily moves off once the handler fails to prove the presence of game. The Brace-mate confirms the presence of scent in contrast to false pointing, where no interest is shown.
- 1.7. **BARREN ROUND.** This is when there has been no game during a given pairing of Dogs in a round.
- 1.8. **BLIND RETRIEVE.** Is a retrieve where the Dog does not have sight of the bird as it falls through the air.
- 1.9. **BLINKING GAME.** This is when a Dog deliberately turns away from, or avoids game. Typical examples are:
 - 1.9.1 Upon sight or flush of game, the Dog turns away and retreats towards his handler;
 - 1.9.2 Upon striking scent, instead of locating and pointing the game, he declines to do so and moves away;
 - 1.9.3 A Dog which deliberately leaves a point on eventually proven game, (usually by the other Dog) and continues hunting. Not to be confused with a Dog recasting from a point with the intent to prove or head game.
- 1.10. **BLINKING THE BACK.** This is when a Dog deliberately ignores the pointing Dog and continues hunting in a different direction, without necessarily “stealing the point” or attempting to do so. The “blinking” Dog will often snap onto a (barren) point instead of backing.
- 1.11. **BLINKING THE RETRIEVE.** This is when a Dog intentionally ignores shot bird or game after the retrieving command was issued.
- 1.12. **BORING.** This is when a Dog runs straight into the wind instead of quartering.
- 1.13. **BRACE.** This refers to two Dogs paired to hunt together by draw or Judges’ choice.
- 1.14. **BRACE-MATE.** This is one of a pair of Dogs in a Brace.

- 1.15 **BREAKING IN ON GAME.** This is when a Dog, without instruction and generally without his handler in the immediate vicinity, deliberately rushes in on game from a point. Often associated with CHASING.
- 1.16 **BREAKING ON SHOT.** This is when a Dog makes a deliberate movement with the intent to retrieve after the shot is fired and before the bird is on the ground and the retrieve command is given.
- 1.17 **BRITISH BREEDS.** This means Pointer, English Setter, Irish Setter, and Gordon Setter.
- 1.18 **BUCK.** This refers to larger species of antelope that are not normally hunted over pointing Dogs.
- 1.19 **BUMPING.** See “Flush, Accidental”
- 1.20 **BYE.** This refers to a Dog that is not paired with a Brace-mate in a round, due to an uneven number of Dogs in the draw.
- 1.21 **CALL UP.** This is the Judges instruction to the handler to call in and remove his Dog from the course, either for being eliminated or the expiration of the allotted time.
- 1.22 **CAST.** This is the direction and range demonstrated by a Dog while seeking game.
- 1.23 **CAST OFF.** This is the instruction to start the Dog hunting.
- 1.24 **CHASE.** This is when a Dog, deliberately chases any quarry. It is often associated with “Giving Tongue”.
- 1.25 **CHECKING COMMAND.** This is a command issued by the handler to instruct his Dog to obey the rules when it has or is about to break them. It can be either a direct command or implied by tone of voice, whistle or other device.
- 1.26 **COM.** This means a Certificate of Merit.
- 1.27 **COMMAND BACK.** This is when a handler checks and/or instructs his Dog to back, when it does not do so spontaneously.
- 1.28 **COURSE.** This refers to the designated route on which the Dogs and handlers are expected to follow
- 1.29 **COVER.** This refers to the grass or shrub on the course.
- 1.30 **DELAYED CHASE.** This refers to the Dog running in the direction of flushed quarry instead of obeying the handler’s command to cast off in a different direction. It may be after pointing, backing or acknowledgement of flush.
- 1.31 **DISTURBING THE GROUND.** This occurs when a Dog on a retrieve moves through an area which is considered to be outside the area of the fall, thereby causing possible accidental flushing of game or disturbing other Dogs.
- 1.32 **DOG.** This means a Certified or Registered British Breed or HPR Breed Dog of either sex.
- 1.33 **(THE) DRAW.** This refers to the sequence in which pairs of Dogs (Braces) compete during a round, established by lot or Judges’ choice.
- 1.34 **DRAWING ON GAME.** This is when a Dog, having winded or pointed game, advances steadily towards it (usually in an attitude of stealth), keeping on line if it moves and coming onto point when correctly distanced. Drawing is guided by scent, as distinct from “Roading”, which is advancing on visual contact.
- 1.35 **DROPPING TO FLUSH OR SHOT.** This is when a Dog drops to a crouch when game is flushed, or a shot is fired. Sitting or remaining standing is acceptable (See “Acknowledgement”)
- 1.36 **FAILURE TO ENTER.** This is failure of the Dog to enter rough cover, water, ice, mud or other unpleasant situations.
- 1.37 **FALSE POINT.** This is when a Dog assumes a pointing stance and obstinately holds it where there is no evidence of game and apparently no scent, as evidenced by the lack of interest from the opposing Dog.

- 1.38 **FEATHERING.** This is when a Dog is preoccupied by scent in a restricted area, expecting to find game nearby and is evidenced by it making short excited casts in that area.
- 1.39 **FIND.** This refers to game located by a Dog.
- 1.40 **FLAGGING.** This refers to a Dog hunting below standard due to tiredness or heat.
- 1.41 **FLAGGING ON POINT.** This is a lack of staunchness on game, generally indicated by limited tail movements. This is displayed:
- 1.41.1 By older, more experienced Dogs
 - 1.41.2 More in some breeds than others
 - 1.41.3 When game has left the area, but scent remains
 - 1.41.4 When the pointed game is at some distance away
 - 1.41.5 When the Dog is unsure of the presence or distance of the game.
- The actual presence of game is the criterion to be credited rather than the intensity of the point.
- 1.42 **FLASH POINT.** This is a point in which the Dog stops only momentarily before the flush of game.
- 1.43 **FIELD TRIAL MANAGER /CONVENOR.** The person tasked with organising the logistics of a field trial including course design and surveying
- 1.44 **FLUSH, ACCIDENTAL** (also “Bumping”). This refers to the Dog disturbing birds by running into them without having been aware of their presence. Acknowledgement must follow the flush.
- 1.45 **FLUSH, DELIBERATE.** The handler, handler and Dog, or Dog only, are required to deliberately flush game by moving forward to prove the point, and steadiness to flush and shot. An unauthorized “deliberate flush” is considered out of control and termed “breaking in on game”.
- 1.46 **FOOT-SCENTING.** This refers to a Dog following ground scent of game, with nose held close to the ground.
- 1.47 **FREEZING.** Freezing on the bird occurs when the Dog is reluctant to release the retrieved bird to his handler.
- 1.48 **FUR.** This refers to hare or small antelope only, which could normally be shot over pointing Dogs and which can be regarded as fair game for the pot.
- 1.49 **GAME.** This refers to accepted game birds, hare or buck. (See Schedule G. Guide To The Game Birds Best Suited For Field Trials).
- 1.50 **GIVING TONGUE.** This refers to a Dog yelping or barking while quartering (to be discouraged) or more commonly, giving chase.
- 1.51 **GOING OUT OF HIS WAY.** This is when a Dog approaches a fallen bird without certainty of purpose or to avoid going into the water in a water-retrieve.
- 1.52 **GUNS.** This refers to persons appointed by the Field Steward to do the shooting on behalf of the handlers.
- 1.53 **GUNSHY.** This is when a Dog is unnerved by gunfire, characterized either by staying close to the handler, bolting or exhibiting a reluctance to continue hunting.
- 1.54 **HARD MOUTH.** Hard mouth occurs when, on a retrieve, a Dog badly damages the game, which, in the opinion of the Judges, was not caused by either the shot or the fall.
- 1.55 **HEADING.** This is an attempt by the Dog to intercept or head off running birds, by making a wide cast around them. (See Guide to Rule 6)
- 1.56 **HEELING.** This is when a Dog walks at the handler’s side, under instruction.
- 1.57 **HOLDING THE POINT.** This refers to the Dog maintaining the point until the quarry is flushed.

- 1.58 **HOST CLUB.** This means a Member Club hosting a field trial.
- 1.59 **“HPR BREEDS.** This means Brittany Spaniel, German Shorthaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer, Hungarian Vizsla, Italian Spinone, Weimaraner, Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, and any other breeds listed as Continental Pointing Dogs under FCI, Breeds Nomenclature, Group 7, Section 1.
- 1.60 **HPR TRIAL or STAKE.** This means a Hunt, Point and Retrieve trial or stake.
- 1.61 **HUNTING TRAIL.** This is when the Dog, with nose to the ground quests on and follows buck or fur scent, usually in a straight line.
- 1.62 **INTERFERENCE.** This is when a Dog or his handler hinders or impedes the performance of a Brace-mate.
- 1.63 **JUDGES’ ORDERS.** This refers to any instruction the Chief Judge might give to a handler. This is generally to command his Dog, usually to hold a point for the purpose of securing a back for a Brace-mate, or for any other reason his discretionary powers may permit. Including close contact situations where the Dog is likely to be seriously injured or its life threatened.
- 1.64 **LOST BIRD.** Occurs when neither the Dog sent to retrieve the bird, nor the Brace-mate can find the bird and all other reasonable attempts by the Judges and Field Stewards also fail to find a shot bird.
- 1.65 **MAKING GROUND GOOD.** This is the thorough hunting and searching of the course within geographical and breed characteristic limits, for the purpose of finding game.
- 1.66 **MAKING OUT THE COVEY.** This is when a Dog, ensuring that none of the birds remains unfound, makes short casts in the immediate vicinity of the previously located covey.
- 1.67 **MARKING OR MARK.** This is the characteristic of a Dog to note the location of a bird having visually followed its flight path till it lands. This may be from an “accidental” or “deliberate” flush, or “fall” after the bird is shot. This is often followed by the Dog “taking a line” to the mark.
Not to be confused with “viewing away”.
- 1.68 **MARKED RETRIEVE.** A retrieve where the Dog saw the fall of the bird through the air.
- 1.69 **MIRROR BACK.** This is when a pair of Dogs “back” each other, each assuming the other is “on point”.
- 1.70 **NATURAL ABILITY TEST.** A test designed to recognise those Dogs that conform to the minimum standards of performance, conformation, and temperament that are considered acceptable in terms of the functional requirements of the HPR Breeds.
- 1.71 **OUT OF CONTROL.** This is when a Dog pays no attention to a handler’s commands and cannot be effectively controlled by his handler and fails to respond on being called in. (See Guide to Rule 10).
- 1.72 **OVERLY CAUTIOUS.** This describes a Dog moving hesitantly forward at a pace generally much slower than that of his handler’s normal walking pace, usually indicating a lack of confidence.
- 1.73 **PAIRING.** This is the grouping together of pairs of Dogs that the Judges wish to see running together, or the random drawing of Dogs to run together.
- 1.74 **POINT.** This is when a Dog adopts a rigid and motionless attitude or pose indicating the presence of game accurately. Performed standing or lying down, it is an unmistakable expression of a determination not to disturb the find.
- 1.75 **PRESENTING GAME TO THE GUN.** This is when a Dog holds a bird on point in order for the guns to advance within shooting range.
- 1.76 **POTTERING.** This is when a Dog works slowly about his handler, taking excessive time in working out scent. It also applies to the Dog that hunts ineffectually without either zest or pace.

- 1.77 **PULLING.** This is when a Dog subtly manages or attempts to get his handler to follow him and divert him from the intended course. This he does by insisting on hunting in his own direction.
- 1.78 **QUARRY.** This refers to any animal or bird that is hunted by the Dog, including non-game species.
- 1.79 **QUARTERING.** Typically this refers to the Dog while hunting, passing to and fro across the path of the handler, when there is NO wind or a head wind. It is also used to describe the process of hunting back towards the handler in the cases of cheek or tail winds (See Guide to Rule 6).
- 1.80 **QUESTING.** This is the actual searching on scent the Dog has already found (See “Feathering” and “Drawing”).
- 1.81 **RECAST.** This is when the Dog, having found scent, casts off (generally downwind) in an effort to regain lost scent – not to be confused with “relocating, heading or blinking”.
- 1.82 **RELOCATE.** This is when a Dog, having pointed game, repositions himself to retain contact with the quarry.
- 1.83 **REFUSAL TO RETRIEVE** - This is when a dog:
- 1.83.1 Does not finish the retrieve, abandoning the game before reaching the handler within a practical hunting distance (two (2) meters – see Rule 10.2)
- 1.83.2 Is clearly not interested in the finding and retrieving the shot game, but rather hunts for more game to find and point and ignores the retrieve. This is usually manifested when the dog has been able to mark the bird down, but goes in a different direction to hunt, or easily gives up the search for the retrieve and continues hunting in spite of the handler’s efforts to get the dog to retrieve.
- 1.84 **RETRIEVE.** This is to find and bring back shot game.
- 1.85 **ROADING.** This refers to the stealthy advance on SIGHTED birds by a Dog. The speed is ideally dictated by the moving quarry, but may be influenced by the handler. The Dog attempts to get nearer to the game, and comes on point when ideally distanced from the eventually concealed/stationary quarry (See “Drawing on game”).
- 1.86 **ROUND.** This refers to a complete set of pairings of Dogs (Braces) drawn to compete with one another.
- 1.87 **RUNNER.** This refers to an injured bird that leaves the area of fall after being shot.
- 1.88 **RUNNING ORDER.** This is the sequence, established by drawing or pairing, in which all Brace will be run. Usually only the names of Dogs are listed.
- 1.89 **RUNNING STYLE.** This is the manner in which Dogs traverse a course, including speed and efficiency of movement.
- 1.90 **SCRATCH A DOG.** This is to withdraw a Dog from an event after the draw has taken place but before the commencement of the event.
- 1.91 **SELF-HUNTING.** This is when a Dog is hunting of his own accord, with little or no acknowledgment to of his handler.
- 1.92 **SET.** This refers to the crouching attitude generally adopted by the “Setter” breeds, when on “Point” (See “Point”).
- 1.93 **SHOTGUN RANGE.** This refers to the effective killing range of a shotgun, generally up to 50 metres.
- 1.94 **SHOT-OVER.** This refers to the firing of a shotgun at a reasonably close proximity to a Dog, to prove steadiness to shot or gun-shyness (See Rule 8 and 22).
- 1.95 **SNAPPING.** This is when a Dog takes an obvious lunge in an attempt to catch game in its mouth. This is usually done with malicious intent.
- 1.96 **STEALING THE POINT.** This is when a Dog fails to back and advances past or alongside the already pointing Dog in an attempt to secure the point for itself. This also applies to the

Dog approaching from the front (See Rule 10). This should be distinguished from “heading” by the backing Dog.

- 1.97 **STICKINESS ON BACK.** This is when a backing Dog is over-hesitant or reluctant to continue hunting once the pointing Dog has moved off, from the area of its point. This applies as well to a Dog that is always looking for every opportunity/excuse to back the other Dog, even if there is little reason to.
- 1.98 **STICKINESS ON POINT AND SCENT.** This refers to a Dog being reluctant or refusing to “draw or road in on game”, even on command. This also applies when the Dog:
- 1.98.1 Is extremely hesitant to leave an area that holds scent.
- 1.98.2 Is hesitant or reluctant to move off a point, even after the absence of game has been proven by the Brace mate.
- 1.99 **STYLE.** This refers to the intensity and staunchness exhibited by a Dog whilst pointing or backing.
- 1.100 **TAKING A LINE.** This is when a Dog runs directly in the direction of a “marked bird”, without hunting or quartering or investigating likely cover in the intermediate ground.
- 1.101 **TIME LIMIT.** It is the arbitrary time of grace a Dog is given to “come in” when such a Dog is called in. **TRAILING.**
- 1.101.1 **Rear-end.** This is when one of a pair of Dogs persistently follows the other; usually more experienced Dog.
- 1.101.2 **Head-on.** This is when one of a pair of Dogs seeks out and persists in running in front of the other (Usually ahead of and slightly to one side). This indicates a jealous or dominant Dog.
- 1.102 **UNSTEADINESS.** This refers to varying degrees of reluctance, or failing to acknowledge the flush and/or shot.
- 1.103 **VERSATILE BREED.** A term used to refer to the HPR breeds
- 1.104 **VIEWING AWAY.** This is when a Dog visually follows the flight of a bird, generally from an acknowledgement of flush (See “Marking”).
- 1.105 **VOCALISING.** This refers to a Dog yelping and barking excessively whilst hunting or in the gallery.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of this document are:
- 2.1.1 To promote greater understanding of the logic that goes into judging a field trial for Pointing Breeds.
- 2.1.2 To achieve greater uniformity in the running of field trials.
- 2.1.3 To achieve consistency in the judging of the performances of the Dogs competing at field trials.
- 2.2 The objectives of Field Trials are:
- 2.2.1 To identify, foster and promote the most desirable traits of HPR breeds with reference to The Standard, to enable breeders to maintain and improve their breeds in the RSA.
- 2.2.2 To provide competition of the highest calibre and encourage owner participation.
- 2.2.3 To conduct field trials on suitable terrain and quarry. Quarry should be in sufficient numbers to minimize the element of luck and give each competing Dog an equal opportunity.
- 2.2.4 To inform the public of the level of performance required to perpetuate the most desirable qualities possessed by the HPR breeds.
- 2.3 The objectives of judging field trials are:

- 2.3.1 To “Judge the Dog’s TOTAL performance” against The Standard.
- 2.3.2 To demonstrate, where feasible to competitors and spectators, how their decisions are reached. It is the better Dogs who should be fully tried and not the hopeless ones.
- 2.3.3 That it is desirable that the winners incur no errors or faults. It is also good practice to award a title to a Dog that displays all of the characteristics of The Standard even though such a Dog might incur some minor error or breach of manners, than to award a title to a Dog lacking many of these qualities.
- 2.3.4 A Dog should be rewarded for brilliance of performance in spite of trivial error rather than on a basis of errorless mediocrity.
- 2.3.5 The responsibility of the Judges is to determine how much credit they shall give to certain types of exceptional performance and how much penalty to apply because of various individual faults, or the repetitions of the same faults or combinations of various faults. Some faults are sufficiently serious to justify elimination from a stake whereas others may justify only a moderate or minor penalty. Some of the latter may be so minor that for practical purposes they can be ignored. On the other hand, minor faults can summate into moderate or serious faults through repetition or through a combination of several types of fault
- 2.3.6 That the judging of Dogs in field trials can best be described as an attempt at the objective interpretation of the rules, with a view to awarding such placings and Certificate of Merit to those Dogs who acquitted themselves sufficiently on the day. Much of the subjectivity of the field trials can be overcome if the successful Judge has a firm grasp of the logic of field trials. This can be complicated at times by varying opinion as to what constitutes an acceptable standard of a Dog’s performance in the various stakes.
- 2.3.7 The Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials make numerous references to the discretionary powers of and interpretations of merit by the Judges and it is therefore essential that these are exercised with consistency, honesty and within the spirit and intent of the Rules and Guides for the Judging of Field Trials and The Standard.

3. THE STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE OF THE HPR BREEDS “The Standard”

The performance is one where the actions of the Dog reflect efficient hunting.

His work must be full of animation and at all times the Dog must be hunting for game in an independent and intelligent manner by using the wind or lack thereof correctly and productively.

His performance must reflect a credit to his breed, and the Dog should move with the least obvious exertion for the greatest effect.

The Dog must have the desire to hunt and point game with the fire and intensity that makes his work spectacular or, at least, pleasing.

The Dog must be adaptable and self-adapting, controllable and self-controlled.

The Dog serves best when saving the hunters legs, and covering the most ground in the least time and he must use the different types of cover and conditions as he comes to them and negotiate each productively, going wide, far, fast, slow, close and/or narrow as the conditions dictate. The Dog must do this of his own accord, naturally through training and experience.

The Dog’s performance must be complete in every respect and must consist of a positive display of manners, game finding, controlling, pointing and holding abilities, staunchness and steadiness to shot and flush. He must also display a willingness and ability to acknowledge the flush of game and the finds and points of the other Dogs by “backing” spontaneously and holding the “back” for as long as it is necessary without interference to the staunchly pointing Dog or the game being pointed.

He must retrieve the shot game on command in a quick and expeditious manner without unduly disturbing too much ground as well as retrieve efficiently from water when required and should deliver tenderly to hand,

The Dog must hunt and handle all the accepted species of indigenous game birds (See: Guide to Accepted Game Bird Species), and ABOVE ALL he must be in total harmony with his handler, for no other purpose than to give him the opportunity to shoot the pointed game in a manner befitting sportsmen – as there can only be one measure for a good Dog and that is how well he serves the gun.

The **Open/Championship Dog** should display all the elements of The Standard and do so with finesse and with as few instructions as possible. He should be a polished campaigner that possesses superior application in hunting and finding abilities, independent yet always working in partnership with the handler to this end, and with impeccable manners. His steadiness should be complete from pointing to flush to shot and fall of the bird, whether pointing or backing. Backing should be spontaneous and willing. He should retrieve eagerly, efficiently and deliver directly to hand from land and water.

The **Maiden Dog** should display most of the elements of The Standard, but need not do so with the same experience, polish and inherent manners as the Open Dog. He may require more encouragement or commands/instructions to do the same job. He must find readily, point staunchly, and be steady to flush, although steadiness to the shot and retrieve may yet be less than perfect and require verbal support or commands. Spontaneous backing is highly desirable, but the main concern is that he does not interfere with the pointing Dog, and will honour or be controllable if only on command. He should not steal the pointing Dog's bird, or interfere unduly with the retrieve. He should retrieve capably from land and water, and deliver to at least within reach of the handler.

The **Derby Dog** should also display most of the elements of The Standard, but will usually do so with the immaturity and zest of youth. Potential is of prime concern. When required he may be supported in his work by commands/instructions from the handler, but should respond reasonably well. Staunch pointing is required, but total steadiness to flush may not yet be entirely spontaneous, nor may be steadiness to the shot and fall of the bird. Checking commands may be used sparingly to ensure that the Dog does not chase or break with reckless abandon. Spontaneous backing is desirable, but the main concern is that he does not interfere with the pointing Dog, and will honour or be controllable if only on command. He should not steal the pointing Dog's bird, or interfere unduly with the retrieve. He should retrieve functionally from land and deliver to within at least a reasonable distance of the handler.

4. FIELD TRIAL RULES FOR HPR BREEDS.

The rules depicted below are compulsory and reflect practical and effective hunting. If in doubt of a situation or the interpretation of a rule, the guides to the rules should be referred to.

RULE 1. PUNCTUALITY

- 1.1 Every Dog shall be presented on time for each of its rounds. If absent for more than fifteen minutes for no good reason after being called, that Dog is liable to be disqualified by the Judges, and it's opponent shall run a bye or with another Dog if required.
- 1.2 Withdrawal of Dogs
 - 1.2.1 A Dog which has entered into a stake may only be withdrawn from such stake with the consent of the Judges.
 - 1.2.2 A Dog which is withdrawn from a stake without the consent of the Judges may be refused entry at the next trial.

GUIDE TO RULE 1.

- 1.a *The Field Steward, in announcing the pair down for any given round, must also announce the next pair to be on standby.*
- 1.b *Before disqualifying a Dog/s as provided for above, the Judges should be absolutely sure that the reasons for the handler being absent are inexcusable.*

RULE 2. BYES

- 2.1 The Judges shall decide when and whether a bye be run or not, and if so, with which Dog the competitor shall run.

- 2.2 If not run, the Dog drawing a bye shall be run in the first pair of the following round.

GUIDE TO RULE 2.

The Chief Judge through the Chief Steward should indicate to the handler of the bye Dog if and when he will fit him into the draw.

RULE 3. TIME ISSUES

- 3.1 Dogs should be judged from the moment of the cast-off to the moment they are called in..
- 3.2 Judges should only call in Dogs if both Dogs are visible to the Judges and not working scent. A time limit applies for Dogs to prove the presence of game in these circumstances or to locate a Dog that is not visible.

GUIDE TO RULE 3.

- 3.a *Time limits are generally governed by the time available, the stake being judged and the geographical conditions of the area.*
- 3.b *The Judges, at their discretion, will allow a Dog to be out of their and the handler's sight for a limited period at the end of a Brace's allotted time, given that the Dog may be on point. Thereafter they may call up the Brace.*
- 3.c *Dogs on point or on scent should be allowed time to conclude that action. Discretion by the Judges must be applied as to how much time to give them to prove the point. This time limit is entirely at the discretion of the Judges as they may have seen enough of a particular Dog's work on birds, or they may wish to use the scent for other purposes.*

RULE 4. MANNER OF HANDLING

- 4.1 A handler may speak, whistle or use hand signals as he thinks proper. However, it should be in the context of practical hunting and he can be called to order by the Judges, through the Judge or Chief Steward, for making unnecessary noise. If he persists in doing so, they can order the Dog to be taken up and put out of the stake.
- 4.2 The Judges, when deciding the merits of a Dog's performance shall take the extent to which it is commanded into account.
- 4.3 In the Derby and Maiden Stakes, checking commands will be allowed but should not cause undue interference with the Bracemate.
- 4.4 In Championship standard stakes, checking commands may be penalising or eliminating depending on the circumstances and degree.
- 4.5 A handler may not physically block or restrain his Dog. However in situations likely to cause serious injury or threaten the life of the Dog, a handler may upon command by a Judge physically restrain a Dog or even carry the Dog away from the danger zone (the Dog being under Judge's orders).
- 4.6 If the opponent's Dog points game, or is roading or drawing on game, the other Dog is not to be intentionally drawn across him so as to take the point.
- 4.7 Any handler, who considers that the behaviour of his opponent is unsettling his Dog, may, through the Chief Steward, appeal to the Judges against such behaviour.
- 4.8 Deputy Handling a Dog
If a deputy handles a Dog, the owner may walk in line with the deputy but may not take part in the working or handling of his Dog.
- 4.9 Substitution of Handlers
A handler of a Dog may not be substituted during the course of a trial without the consent of the Judges.
- 4.10 The use of any device, electronic device or simulated electronic device, that may influence the Dog's action in a field trial, is forbidden.

GUIDE TO RULE 4.

- 4.a *The stake being judged will influence the discretion applied by the Judges with regard to the extent of commanding.*
- 4.b *The object of faulting checking commands is to evaluate the Dog's spontaneity to display the required manners. Judges should distinguish between encouragement of the Dog, instructional commands and checking commands. They should also advise and caution a nervous handler who unintentionally checks his Dog.*
- 4.c *Judges are to guard against handlers trying to do the Dog's work as well as questionable handling practices – the consequence of these practices can be counterproductive and should be discouraged.*
- 4.d *“Judge the Dog, NOT the handler” - however a handler's action, or lack thereof, may affect a Dog's performance, which is what is being judged. It is not uncommon for a Judge to bring to a handler's attention the consequences of his actions. (The Judge must be careful not to unnecessarily “interfere” with a handler's style of handling).*
- 4.e *Once a Judge's order is issued, a Dog will not be judged for any misbehaviour until the Judge clearly indicates that such a Dog is no longer under Judge's orders. A situation likely to cause serious injury or death may be defined as when a Dog encounters or points an animal such as a Snake, Porcupine, Warthog, Bushpig, Caracal, Leopard or any other animal likely to cause serious injury or death. Mongooses, Meerkats, domestic and wild Cats, Rodents etc. are not regarded as likely to cause serious injury or be life threatening. It also being recognized that a Judge may instruct a handler to take his Dog away from an unmoving situation.*
- 4.f *Judges should differentiate between handlers touching their Dogs as a means of restraining versus encouraging them.*

RULE 5. METHOD OF WORKING TERRAIN

- 5.1 Dogs must be worked together in a direction indicated by the field steward. The handlers must walk within a reasonable distance of one another, as if they were shooting together.
- 5.2 After being cautioned the Judges have the power to disqualify the Dog whose handler persists in ignoring this rule.

GUIDE TO RULE 5.

- 5.a *The Judges, through the field steward, are to insist on handlers keeping the indicated front and course.*
- 5.b *It is generally agreed that handlers should refrain from running to their Dogs on point or at any time, but this does not preclude him from doing so. The Judges, however, are not obliged to keep pace with the running handler, and any work which may occur beyond the reasonable range or view of the Judges will not be taken into account. A Judge can only adjudicate what he sees. The guns are not allowed to run as it is unsafe and should be unnecessary. The good Dog is meant to hold the point and / or have the situation under his control. A running handler may injure himself, may disturb the quarry, or more seriously, he may disturb or unsettle his opponent's Dog, with the possible consequences of Rule 4.6.*

RULE 6. POINTING

- 6.1 The point is the most distinguishing characteristic of a pointing Dog and the point must be unmistakable as such.
- 6.2 The Dog must present the game to the gun by holding the game on point in order for the guns to advance within shooting range.
- 6.3 The Dog should locate game by scent.
- 6.4 Checking commands in Championship standard stakes when the Dog is on point will not be permitted.

GUIDE TO RULE 6.

- 6.a *The style of pointing is not important as long as it is unmistakable as such; usually indicated by a rigid posture of the head and body irrespective of whether the Dog is standing or laying down.*
- 6.b *Judges must be sure that the Dog holds the game on point until the guns are within shooting range. They must be aware of situations where a Dog bumps a bird or pushes up a bird and while acknowledging flush another bird might be flushed by the guns of which the Dog is unaware of. Such a Dog should not be credited with a point or find.*
- 6.c *Judges must give full credit to a Dog that picks up scent and then draws or roads in on the game to hold it on point, as opposed to situations where a Dog stops spectacularly into a sight point.*

RULE 7. HUNTING

- 7.1 The Judges shall decide the merits of a Dog's work based on how well his TOTAL PERFORMANCE approximates The Standard, ensuring that his finds were the result of intelligent searching and not the outcome of the opposing Dog's efforts.
- 7.2 The Judges shall not necessarily judge the merits of a Dog's performance solely on the number of times a Dog finds and points game, but rather on the quality of his work and the degree of difficulty of the finds.
- 7.3 A Dog, which has not found, pointed and proved game, nor been shot over cannot be given a Place or Certificate of Merit.

GUIDE TO RULE 7.

- 7.a *To formulate an opinion on the hunting ability of a Dog in a Brace, it is very helpful if the Judge studies the prospective terrain (as described by the Chief Steward) to be covered during that Brace. Taking cognisance of wind direction, likely hotspots for birds and the ground conditions, he then should create a mental picture of how he would like to see the ground covered. The Dog's hunting is then judged against that mental image.*
- 7.b *Heading of birds is considered excellent work if executed correctly. This is an attempt by the Dog to intercept or head off running birds, by making a wide cast around them. The outcome of the exercise must prove his intent, and it may be on sighted or unsighted birds. Either the pointing or backing Dog may head, although generally the former. Heading by the backing Dog might indicate a more decisive or experienced Dog and must be executed in such a way as not to interfere with the pointing Dog's work. Heading is normally manifested by a wide cast of the backing Dog around both the front Dog and birds. This must not be confused with stealing the point where the backing Dog surges right past the pointing Dog.*
- 7.c *Nothing should make a Dog voluntarily relinquish a point so long as he winds game and nothing but the wish to continue his point should make him neglect the acknowledgement of flush and shot.*
- 7.d *Undue credit should not be given to the Dog who is brought to his point by the other Dog's work, by the handler on marked birds, by a sight point, or a to a Dog who has done no spade work of his own locating the quarry.*
- 7.e *The find is often at some distance from the handlers and Judges, and can therefore allow the quarry time to move off. Control of this situation is a measure of quality in a Dog, the end goal always being to present the game to the gun. Caution has to be displayed as a premature deliberate flush out of range would be a cardinal sin. Excessive caution displayed by the Dog remaining staunchly on point may result in it losing touch with the moving quarry. Once the guns arrive, the pointing Dog should relocate with confidence and control, guiding the handler to the quarry.*
- 7.f *Ideally, the direction of the course should be into the wind to allow to Dogs full use of the wind, quartering in front of their handlers (See Definition: "Quartering"). However, this is often not possible. In the event of a tail wind, the Dog should go speedily downwind in a straight line and then "quarter" back into the wind and towards his handler. With a cheek wind, he should run far crosswind and then decrease and increase his distance from the handler, until he is well windward of the handler, then repeat the process.*

- 7.g *In all cases, the Dog should always maintain his criss-cross pattern by intelligently placing himself at best advantage to use the prevailing wind.*
- 7.h *A Dog that proves game under difficult circumstances, particularly when other Dogs cannot, should be given due credit*

RULE 8. BACKING

- 8.1 A Dog cannot be placed first, second or third in a Maiden, Open or Championship Stake or first in a Derby Stake, unless it has backed.
- 8.2 A Dog must back of its own volition. The backing Dog's reaction should be on sight of the pointing Dog (i.e. looking at it) and should have nothing to do with scent.
- 8.3 **Penalizing faults while backing:**
- 8.3.1 Obvious reluctance to back, including putting undue pressure on pointing Dog;
 - 8.3.2 Command backing especially when the Dog is about to steal a point; (Maiden and Derby Stakes)
 - 8.3.3 Stickiness on back.
 - 8.3.4 Flushing birds after "taking over" a point
- 8.4 **Eliminating faults while backing:**
- 8.4.1 Blinking the back;
 - 8.4.2 Refusing to back;
 - 8.4.3 Stealing the point;
 - 8.4.4 Attempting to steal the point;
 - 8.4.5 Command back (Open Stakes).

GUIDE TO RULE 8. (BACKING)

Object of backing

- 8.a *The principal object of backing is that the Brace-mate of the pointing Dog does not disturb the quarry located by the latter. This enables the handlers to approach the Brace with the situation under control. The pointing Dog now has the opportunity to prove the presence of game.*
- 8.b. *The backing Dog is in position to help locate the quarry should it move, or the pointing Dog proves uncertain or over-cautious.*
- 8.c. *Should the covey disperse, the backing Dog is in position to find birds left behind.*

(Guides a through g refer generally to a stationary pointing Dog)

(Guides h through k refer to the situation where the pointing Dog has moved into quest)

- 8.d *The **primary task of a pointing Dog is the finding of game** for himself and the less he looks to the other Dog for a back the more zealously he will attend to his task of hunting and pointing. It is quite enough that a Dog backs when the opportunity arises.*
- 8.e *The backing Dog is permitted to move forward cautiously while the pointing Dog remains stationary, but not jealously ahead, or beyond the position where he **could put unnecessary pressure**, to the extent of disturbing the pointing Dog, or the quarry.*
- 8.f *If the **pointing Dog hesitates and is clearly unsure of the location of the quarry**, (generally indicated by not being motionless or "deflating" in intensity on the point) the backing Dog could take over the initiative. This may indicate a better nose and/or more decisive hunting of game, or he could be in a better position to wind the quarry. However, if he races jealously forward and flushes the quarry, he must be faulted. Taking over in these conditions may well be interpreted as "stealing the point".*

- 8.g A Dog need no longer continue to back a Dog if, whilst so doing, **he winds/locates and points his own game** (usually indicated by the Dog **looking away from the pointing Dog** towards his own find).
- Should the backing dog now **draw directly** towards his quarry, that would be acceptable, however if he proceeds to start questing or recasting for quarry, then his intent would be viewed as “blinking the back”.
 - In the event the backing dog leaves the theatre of action completely, it would be viewed as “blinking the back”.
- 8.h The Judges should try to **recognize a pointing Dog that is clearly repeatedly false pointing**. Benefit of the doubt in these instances should be given to the backing Dog should he go **cautiously** past the pointing Dog, having first backed. Should he immediately come on point in front of the pointing Dog, then his intent should be interpreted as attempting to steal the point.
- 8.i Especially in heavy cover the handler of the **Dog requiring the back shall be permitted to bring the attention of his Dog to the pointing Dog**, provided this is done in a manner that cannot be construed as a command back.
- 8.j In the event of the **backing Dog approaching from the front or side** (of the pointing Dog), he is still required to back on sight. He should not continue advancing (or drawing on the pointing Dog) until he intercepts scent. This would be considered “stealing the point”.
- 8.k On occasion, the backing Dog will be put under undue duress to remain backing by the pointing Dog being **very sticky** (this may well be while the handler of the pointing Dog makes exaggerated attempts to flush the birds ahead of the pointing dog). The Judges may, under such circumstances, intervene to condone movement from the back, or encourage the backing Dog to assist in the quest.

(Guides l through o refer to the situation where the pointing Dog has moved into quest, and the birds are deemed to be moving)

- 8.l When the pointing Dog moves in to quest, the backing Dog may without word from his handler assist in the search for game, provided that in doing so, the game is not prematurely flushed. It is **considered desirable that the backing Dog “mirror” the pointing Dog’s forward movement**. 8.m A Dog **remaining stubbornly on back** once the pointing Dog draws on moving birds is not assisting and should be faulted if he refuses to obey his handler’s command to move in.
- 8.n Taking over the initiative also applies when the **front Dog is roading or drawing on game over-cautiously**. The over-cautious or uncertain “leading” Dog may be overtaken by a more decisive Dog. The Judge may, in these circumstances, (clear stickiness) invite the handler of the backing Dog to move his Dog through the back.
- 8.o In the event the birds appear to be running rapidly ahead of the brace of dogs, which are both deemed to have scent, then the backing requirement becomes secondary to finding. A Brace of Dogs successfully handling a covey of running gamebirds in concert, should be appreciated and given due credit.
- Ideally, the brace displays awareness of each other, backing when appropriate (for instance, when a dog has lost the scent, recasts widely and comes back into the action and the other dog is on point), but gets on briskly with the primary task of pinning the running birds.
 - If they back each other over-zealously, and their progress is too slow as a result, the birds may be given an opportunity to effect an escape.
 - Should they put excessive pressure on each other, racing to the birds and flushing them way ahead of the handlers, this could be interpreted as “breaking in on quarry”. Oftentimes in this situation, the backing dog can be interpreted as putting undue pressure on the pointing one.

- *Should the backing dog leave the theatre of action (as in 8g above) and if the pointing dog proves the find, this would be deemed as “blinking” (either the back, or quarry).*
 - *Judges should be aware of the possibility that the backing dog (in the case of running birds) might be attempting to head the running birds, which initially might be interpreted as blinking. They’re advised to let the situation unfold (as long as the pointing dog is not exposed to undue risk), to prove the intent of the dog.*
- 8.p *At least one of the **Judges should try to position himself behind and in line** with the pointing and backing Dogs so that, without much effort, he can have both Dogs in view at all times.*
- 8.q *Judges are advised to caution **handlers not to obscure the view** of the backing Dog by standing or crossing between it and the pointing Dog. If the backing Dog repositions itself for the above reason and flushes game in the process, he may be pardoned for so doing provided his repositioning does not constitute “stealing the point”.*
- 8.r *Judges should recognize the **nervous handler who unintentionally checks** his Dog, and if in doubt as to the handler’s intention, request that he refrain from doing so, so that the Dog’s spontaneity to back on sight can be put to the test. This also applies to other aspects of a Dog’s work, such as the acknowledgements to flush and shot.*
- 8.s *The Judges should attempt to give a deserving Dog that has not had the opportunity to back, every chance to do so. **A pointing Dog may be held on point by order of the senior Judge (Judges Orders)** to secure a back by his Brace-mate. The pointing Dog should not incur a penalty for misbehaviour in reference to that particular point and immediate consequences of that point if held for a period longer than would be considered normal in a hunting situation (it being recognized that the Dog is being subjected to unusual restraints).*

RULE 9. THE FLUSH AND SHOT

- 9.1 Both the pointing and backing Dogs are required to remain steady upon the flush of the quarry and the shot.
- 9.2 Before a Place or Certificate of Merit can be awarded to a Dog, the Judges must be satisfied that the Dog is not gun-shy and is steady to shot. It is therefore required that the Dog be shot over.

GUIDE TO RULE 9.

- 9.a *Judges and guns are referred to their respective responsibilities in terms of when birds are to be shot under Clause 10.14 and Article 12. of Schedule D. REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF FIELD TRIALS FOR HPR BREEDS.*
- 9.b *Ideally the Dog and handler move in on the quarry in unison, the latter being pressured into flushing.*
- 9.c *Variances range from the Dog being instructed to flush the birds ahead of the handler, to the Dog remaining staunchly on point while the handler attempts to flush the quarry in front of it. While it is preferable that the Dog finds the birds, both techniques are acceptable if the end result is successful.*
- 9.d *In the first case, the advantages are that the Dog is more accurately able to induce a flush, while also freeing the gun to focus on his shot. In the second case, the handler is sometimes not able to induce the flush, and has in the interim disturbed the ground ahead of the Dog.*
- 9.e *Judges should differentiate “unsteadiness” from a Dog repositioning itself to “view away” flushed game. Viewing away is permitted as long as further birds aren’t disturbed, and is generally recognized by the Dog stopping without command once the birds are seen.*
- 9.f *Although preferable to prove gun-shyness and steadiness whilst a Dog is on point, it can also be achieved with a Dog on back. The Dog has, at some stage, to be shot over from a reasonably close proximity (approximately 10 - 15 metres).*
- 9.g *The object of remaining steady after the flush and the shot is to mark the fallen bird and not to disturb the rest of the covey and to allow the guns to reload.*

- 9.h *In the Derby and Maiden Stakes, checking commands will be allowed but should not cause undue interference with the Brace-mate.*
- 9.i *In Championship standard stakes, checking commands may be penalising or eliminating depending on the circumstances and degree.*

RULE 10. RETRIEVE OF SHOT BIRD

- 10.1 It is a requirement that a Dog has retrieved before a Place be awarded.
- 10.2 On command, the Dog should go quickly to the fallen bird, pick it up and return directly to the handler and then wait calmly until told to release the bird to hand. The dog must bring the bird to within two (2) meters of the handler for the retrieve to be considered complete. Abandoning the bird en route before this distance is reached is an eliminating fault (Out of Control) in a Championship Stake. Maiden and Derby Stakes may be judged more leniently.
- 10.3 Putting the bird down anywhere *en route* before being commanded to release it must be penalised, except that the Judges should be alert for any exceptional situation which might legitimately call for a change of a Dog's hold on the bird.
- 10.4 The Dog should hold the bird gently but firmly with a balanced grip. Unduly damaging the bird during the retrieve must be faulted. A Dog that so badly mutilates the bird as to render it unfit for the table should be eliminated. The Judges will examine each retrieved bird for signs of "hard mouth" and determine whether any significant damage was the result of shot or mishandling by the Dog.
- 10.5 The backing Dog must remain steady until the retrieve is completed. However, after the backing Dog has demonstrated his steadiness to the flush, shot and fall of the bird, and the commencement of the retrieve by the pointing Dog, the handler may command his Dog to remain steady during the retrieve.
- 10.6 If a Dog, with otherwise outstanding performance fails to secure a retrieve on account of a miss by the guns or another Dog stealing its bird, the Judges, at their discretion, may set up an artificial retrieve as for the water retrieve, except that the bird is thrown on land. A dead bird is thrown as high as possible by a hidden thrower to land in cover, not less than 40 metres from the stationary Dog. The gun, or guns, shall be positioned approximately 3 meters to the side of the dog and handler, and shall fire in the direction of the thrown bird.
- As the dead bird reaches its maximum height, a shot is fired. No location shot should be fired. The Dog should remain steady throughout the throw, shot and fall of the bird without any command or intimidation by the handler. The handler should remain at least two meters from, but not in front of, his Dog. The handler sends the Dog on command.

GUIDE TO RULE 10.

- 10.a *A good Dog will accomplish the retrieve quickly, happily and eagerly bringing game to hand.*
- 10.b *While the pointing Dog is retrieving, the handler of the Brace-mate (backing Dog) must ensure that his Dog is kept under control so that in the opinion of the Judges it does not interfere with the work of the retrieving Dog or disturb game. The Judges may caution a handler that if a Dog is not kept under control he may be eliminated for being out of control.*
- 10.c *The Judges, when requested, should give reasonable directions to the handler as to the area where the game has fallen.*
- 10.d *Judges, guns and field stewards should refrain from talking to anybody while a Dog is out working on a retrieve. They should furthermore be careful not to influence this phase of the trial by moving around excessively, or by standing directly behind or in front of the handler and thus confusing the Dog.*

RULE 11

Handlers may not move up to the fallen bird with the intention of pointing out the bird to the Dog. Judges shall warn the handler that he must stay in position or possibly be eliminated under Clause 10.8 (failing to take orders from a Judge).

GUIDE TO RULE 11.

- 11a *A handler may reposition himself or move slightly forward in order to direct the Dog by command towards the fallen bird in the case of an unsighted fall.*
- 11b *From the moment a Dog starts to retrieve a Judge should make every effort to keep that Dog in view and to position himself in such a manner as to enable him to observe every movement of the Dog until the game is delivered to hand.*

RULE 12. ADVICE TO THE HANDLER

While the Dog is out working during a retrieve, no person other than a Judge may give advice regarding the position of the Dog or bird to the handler. Judges may, however, ask a Gun or the Field Steward to assist.

RULE 13. DOUBLES

Where the guns have shot more than one bird out of a rising covey the Judges may elect to share the retrieving between the pointing Dog and the backing Dog, thus giving each the opportunity to retrieve. The pointing Dog should be sent out first. The backing Dog may only be sent out after the pointing Dog has completed its retrieve, and only at the command of the Judge.

GUIDE TO RULE 13.

The Judges must take cognisance of the fact that the backing Dog may well be presented with a "blind retrieve" due to the position he was backing from and should Judge the retrieves according to their degree of difficulty.

RULE 14. BREAKING ON SHOT

A Dog making a deliberate movement during the flush, shot or fall of the bird with the intent to retrieve, must be faulted (see also rule 25.4.1). There should be a distinct time interval after the bird hits the ground and the command to retrieve by the handler.

GUIDE TO RULE 14.

- 14.a *In the Derby and Maiden Stakes, if a Dog makes a slight break and is brought immediately under control within a few metres and without unduly disturbing the ground or other Dog, that Dog need not be eliminated.*
- 14.b *If a Dog creeps or jumps forward a reasonable distance short of breaking as birds are shot and no effort is made by the handler to stop or restrain him, the Judges should not interpret such as a deliberate intent to retrieve, since nothing was done to stop the Dog. A Dog may, however, take a few steps forward after the shot in order to mark the fall of the bird as long as it halts of its own free will.*
- 14.c *The handler will flush the bird as he would if armed and actually hunting. The handler must not deliberately place any part of his body between the Dog and bird with the intent to physically block the Dog from breaking. Neither should he attempt to physically restrain or intimidate the Dog for the same purpose.*
- 14.d *If carried, leashes and flushing whips must be handed to the field steward for the duration of the round. Talking to the Dog in a soft, calm voice is permissible as a matter of course.*
- 14.e *The handler's command to fetch, whether it be done by voice, whistle or hand signal, must be clearly recognisable by the Judges so that there can be no doubt as to whether the Dog acted on command or on its own initiative.*
- 14.f *In the Derby and Maiden Stakes, breaking on shot is a penalizing fault. However, breaking on the flush of the bird must be construed as a chase and remains an eliminating fault unless the Dog can be stopped within a short distance.*
- 14.g *The Judges must be aware that the backing Dog could potentially also start to retrieve on the command of the handler of the pointing Dog. Therefore, once the backing Dog has*

demonstrated his steadiness to the flush, shot and fall of the bird, it should not be eliminated provided it can be brought under control by the handler before it steals the retrieve.

RULE 15. LOST BIRD

- 15.1 In the case where the pointing Dog is sent out to retrieve, but fails to find the bird, the Judges must send out the Brace-mate to attempt to complete the retrieve.
- 15.2 Should the Brace-mate also fail to find the bird, neither the pointing Dog nor the Brace-mate will be penalised.
- 15.3 Should the Brace-mate find the bird, the pointing Dog may be penalised according to the guide below.

GUIDE TO RULE 15.

- 15.a *Judges should take the degree of difficulty of the retrieve into account. A Dog may be presented with an unsighted or unmarked retrieve, and due credit should be given to the Dog able to execute such a retrieve.*
- 15.b *Should the Brace-mate find the bird the Judges must ascertain whether the pointing Dog:*
 - 15.b.(I) *Failed to find or mark*
 - 15.b.(II) *Blinked the retrieve*
 - 15.b.(III) *Refused to retrieve*

The degree to which the pointing Dog should be penalised for failing to find, will be at the Judge's discretion taking into consideration all circumstances
- 15.c *Judges must ensure that the Brace-mate makes every effort to locate the shot bird.*

RULE 16. GATHERING OF GAME

All shot or wounded game must be gathered in as soon as possible and killed at the earliest opportunity. All reasonable efforts should be made to recover shot game. If a bird has been shot and the competing Dogs cannot find it, non-competing Dogs requested by the field steward shall proceed immediately in an effort to recover the bird.

RULE 17. DELIVERY OF GAME

Delivery of the bird should be made to the handler directly upon return from the retrieve and should be given up willingly.

GUIDE TO RULE 17.

- 17.a *A dog should deliver to hand*
- 17.b *A Dog should not "freeze" or be unwilling to give it up.*
- 17.c *He should not jump after the bird once the handler has taken it from him.*
- 17.d *Dogs should not be faulted for stopping to reposition the bird in the mouth as long as the Dog does not release its hold on the bird.*

RULE 18. INSPECTION OF RETRIEVED GAME / HARDMOUTH

- 18.1 All game retrieved and delivered to the handler shall be inspected by one of the Judges and examined for damage caused by hard mouth. Where a case of hard mouth is suspected the Judge shall offer the game in question to the other Judges for their opinion. Judges must be unanimous in their decision to eliminate a dog for hardmouth.
- 18.2 Dogs displaying hard mouth must be eliminated from the stake.
- 18.3 In cases of doubt the benefit should be given to the Dog.
- 18.4 In instances where the Judges have eliminated a Dog for hard mouth, the crushed or damaged bird shall be shown to the handler in the presence of the Judges.

- 18.5 Hardmouth at the water retrieve and at the artificial land retrieve remains an eliminating fault. However, elimination for hardmouth can only be applied where the Dog so severely damaged the bird as to make it unfit for the table and by demonstrating obvious signs of damaging the game, such as chewing, shaking, tearing and eating, resulting in a severely visually damaged bird. In such circumstances, each Judge must examine the bird and present it to the handler for inspection. Subtle signs of hardmouth such as crushed ribs and intestines hanging out cannot be applied here. Each bird should be examined by the Judges beforehand for visible signs of prior damage and the extent of any damage before the retrieve and this should be taken into account when judging the Dog for hardmouth.

GUIDE TO RULE 18.

- 18.a *The accepted measure of "hardmouth" is based on the game having been so severely damaged by the Dog as to make it unfit for the table. "Unfit" is generally accepted to mean that the game is in an unfit condition to be served intact, primarily as a result of chew and teeth marks or missing body parts.*
- 18.b *Hardmouth can be visually evident when the external damage is severe and the game is obviously damaged with torn or missing body parts or with a crushed and/or flattened skeleton. In such instances the Dog often demonstrates obvious signs of damaging the game, such as chewing, eating, shaking, or tearing. The crushing of the bones can often be heard. Many hard mouthed Dogs, however, will give no obvious indications of damaging the game. Conversely, many Dogs which mouth game never actually damage the game, and are not guilty of hardmouth.*
- 18.c *Each bird must therefore be inspected for damage. Judges must satisfy themselves that the damage was caused by the Dog, and not by the shot, fall, or capture.*
- 18.d *In the event of doubt as to the cause of damage, the Dog must be afforded the benefit of the doubt. Judges should be aware that a difficult capture or a strong runner being retrieved by an inexperienced Dog may result in damage which, if not too severe, need not result in that Dog being eliminated.*

RULE 19. PICKING UP GAME WHILE HUNTING

- 19.1 If there has been an obvious picking up, killing and/or retrieving of any live bird or animal, whilst hunting during the round, the offending Dog should be eliminated.
- 19.2 The picking up of any cold dead bird, obviously sick, injured or poisoned bird or known unrecovered, wounded bird from an earlier round is not a penalizing or eliminating fault.

RULE 20. RETRIEVING A BIRD OTHER THAN THE ONE SHOT

Retrieving a bird other than the one that has been shot, whilst on a retrieving command, should not be faulted.

GUIDE TO RULE 20.

The Dog cannot be faulted even if it picks up a live and uninjured bird since it is under a retrieving command.

RULE 21. POINTING WHILE RETRIEVING

- 21.1 A Dog that finds and points another bird or covey whilst executing a retrieve should be given full credit for such work, it being recognised that the primary function of a pointing Dog is to find game.
- 21.2 After the second find has been worked out and the bird retrieved, the Dog should attempt to complete its original retrieve.

GUIDE TO RULE 21.

The Judges must ensure that the find is within the retrieving range and that the Dog is actively looking for the retrieve and did not disobey the retrieving command.

RULE 22. WATER RETRIEVE

- 22.1 Before a Place can be awarded to a Dog in an Open, Maiden or Championship Stake, the Dog must demonstrate its ability to do a water retrieve by means of an artificial water retrieve.
- 22.2 Dogs will be given only one opportunity to complete the water retrieve, except under exceptional circumstances when, in the Judges' opinion, the retrieve is somehow compromised by external influences or is significantly materially different to the other Dogs' opportunities.

GUIDE TO RULE 22.

22.a General Guidelines for the Water Retrieve

- 22.a(i) *All Dogs reaching the final rounds in all stakes except the Derby Stakes of the trial must be tested with a water retrieve.*
- 22.a(ii) *The dam or stream used for the above purpose, should be of a suitable and appropriate size and depth.*
- 22.a(iii) *Dogs will be required to retrieve a saluted game bird at an approximate distance of 40 metres.*
- 22.a(iv) *The water must be deep enough to require the Dog to swim in order to reach the game bird, and the bank of the dam or stream must be wide enough to allow the handler and Dog to position themselves approximately 3 metres from the water's edge.*
- 22.a(v) *The Dog should remain steady throughout the shot, throw and fall of the bird.*
- 22.a(vi) *Only when the bird has landed in the water, may the handler command his Dog to retrieve.*
- 22.a(vii) *The handler must remain in the designated position as the Dog executes the retrieve.*
- 22.a(viii) *The Dog should deliver to hand.*
- 22.a(ix) *The gallery may watch the water test from a position indicated by the field steward, but not closer than 25 meters from the Dog under judgement.*
- 22.a(x) *Dogs not being tested may remain out of sight or earshot, as the handler wishes, but must be prompt in coming into the line when called.*
- 22.a(xi) *Should the handler and Dog remain with the gallery in order to watch the test, then the Dog must remain quiet and under control. Should such a Dog disrupt the test by whining or other means, the steward will instruct the handler to remove his Dog to a position where it cannot be a nuisance.*
- 22a(xii) *If, in the opinion of the Judges, a Dog in the gallery has induced misbehaviour by the Dog under judgement, the Dog under judgement must be afforded a second opportunity to be tested, without penalty.*

22.b Execution of a Water Retrieve

- 22.b(i) *The Field Steward will marshall all competitors prior to the water retrieve, and the Chief Judge, or another Judge in the Stake, will explain in detail how the water test will be run, and what will be expected of the handler and Dog.*
- 22b(ii) *The Field Steward will call the handler and Dog into line and will also announce the next Dog to be tested.*
- 22.b(iii) *The handler will proceed to the position indicated by the Judge, who will repeat the requirements of the test at this time. If necessary the Judge will explain or answer any questions that the handler may have. Once the Judge is satisfied that the handler understands the test requirements, he will give the handler an opportunity to settle his Dog. The handler will then prepare the Dog for the retrieve, speaking and handling him as he/she so wishes, and when satisfied that the Dog is settled and is ready to commence with the water retrieve, will hand his lead and any other objects that could be used to intimidate the Dog to the Judge.*

The handler should not position himself in front of the dog but should remain by the dog's side or slightly behind the dog.

- 22b(iv) *At that point, the Judge will indicate to the handler that the Dog is under judgement for the water retrieve, and once the Judge has done so, the handler may not speak to or touch his Dog without incurring a penalty and/or elimination.*
- 22b(v) *The Judge will signal the gun and thrower to proceed.*
- 22.b(vi) *For the first Dog under judgement for the water retrieve, a shot will be fired and a dead bird will be thrown as high as possible by a hidden thrower to land not less than 40 metres from the stationary Dog on the bank. As the bird reaches its maximum height, a second shot will be fired. For the remaining Dogs, only one shot will be fired as the bird reaches its maximum height.*
- 22b(vii) *The handler will command the Dog to retrieve only after the bird has landed in the water. The handler must remain stationary, and under no circumstances move closer to the water until the Dog has delivered to hand, at which time the Judge will take the bird and return the lead to the handler. At that point, the Dog and handler will cease to be under judgement, and may retire from the line.*

22.c Judgement of the Water Retrieve

The purpose of the water retrieve is to test the Dog's ability to efficiently execute a retrieve from water and should be regarded in perspective with the overall hunting efficiency of the Dog.

This comprises the Dog's steadiness and self-control at the water, willingness to enter water and to swim, game handling skills, as well as co-operation with the handler by the return and delivery of the game to hand. Good HPR's should easily satisfy all of these requirements, and the judgement of this test should reflect the fact that these are essential aspects of an HPR's performance.

- 22c(i) *Steadiness – The steadiness requirements of the water retrieve are exactly the same as those that apply in the fieldwork. Once the handler and Dog are under judgement, the Judge must strictly enforce the steadiness requirements of each individual Stake. Any Dog that displays a total lack of self-control by whining excessively while in line will be eliminated. A Dog that is vocal while swimming on the retrieve shows signs of over eagerness and should not be faulted.*
- 22c(ii) *Willingness to Enter Water and Swim– The Dog must enter water readily without influence by the handler. It is unimportant whether the Dog leaps into the water or enters in a slower manner; it is only important that the Dog enter willingly. Should a handler have to command the Dog more than once to retrieve in order to make it enter water, that Dog will be faulted. Repeated, unsuccessful efforts by the handler to make the Dog enter water and retrieve will result in elimination for either failure to retrieve or to enter. Dogs should be able to swim with ease, although it should be recognised that an excited or an inexperienced Dog may splash or paddle upwards in its efforts to reach the bird.*
- 22c(iii) *Game Handling – Dogs should readily grasp the game in the water and return with it without dropping or leaving the game anywhere en route. Repositioning the game to get a better grip will not be faulted, but putting the game down to nose or mouth it, or leaving it at the water's edge will be faulted in relation the degree and number of times the fault is repeated.*
- 22c(iv) *Co-operation – Delivery – Dogs will display their co-operation and training, by their immediate return with the game and delivery to hand. Dogs that refuse to deliver to hand may have poor game handling skills, lack training or they may be simply uncooperative. Either cause is to be faulted, in relation to the seriousness of the misdemeanour, and in relation to the Stake requirements. Open Dogs are required to deliver willingly to hand without fuss, and those Dogs that require several commands to deliver to hand will be faulted. Maiden Dogs should be*

judged more leniently in all aspects. Normal encouragement of the Dog should not be faulted. Hardmouth remains an eliminating fault.

RULE 23. AWARDS

23.1 MAIDEN, OPEN AND CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES.

No Dog shall be placed first, second or third unless it has found, pointed and proven game, presented game to the gun, been shot over, backed and retrieved satisfactorily on land and in water.

23.2 DERBY STAKE

No Dog shall be placed first unless it has found, pointed and proven game, presented game to the guns, been shot over, backed and retrieved satisfactorily on land. No Dog shall be placed second or third unless it has found, pointed and proven game, present game to the guns, and been shot over.

22.3 CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

In all stakes, other than a Puppy Stake, a Dog which has not found, pointed and proven game, presented game to the guns, and been shot over shall be awarded a Certificate of Merit. Additionally, in Maiden, Open and Championship Stakes, no Dog which has not retrieved satisfactorily on land and in water shall be awarded a Certificate of Merit.

| Table of Requirements for Awards in the Various Stakes | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Award</u> | <u>Present Game, Find/Point, Fired Over</u> | <u>Back</u> | <u>Land Retrieve</u> | <u>Water Retrieve</u> |
| Placement 1st – 3rd | Derby | Derby (1 st Only) | Derby (1 st Only) | Maiden |
| | Maiden | Maiden | Maiden | Open |
| | Open | Open | Open | Championship |
| | Championship | Championship | Championship | |
| Certificate of Merit | Derby | | Maiden | Maiden |
| | Maiden | | Open | Open |
| | Open | | Championship | Championship |
| | Championship | | | |

RULE 24. PENALISING FAULTS

The Judges shall determine how much penalty to apply to Dogs committing the following faults. The perpetration of these faults can be a question of degree, and can be adjudged as trivial through to serious. In extreme cases they can be deemed cause for elimination. Discretion has to be applied by the Judges, guided by the recommendation put forward under “Objects of Judging Field Trials”.

24.1 Faults while hunting:

- 24.1.1 A Dog not hunting with a minimum of the qualities expected from it in respect of The Standard;
- 24.1.2 Not making ground good;
- 24.1.3 Failing to use available wind (including boring);
- 24.1.4 Trailing;
- 24.1.5 Inability of the handler to get a Dog to hunt the course;
- 24.1.6 Obvious tendency of the Dog to draw his handler off the intended course with repeated barren points – “a Dog’s job is to point game, not scent alone”;

- 24.1.7 Failure to adjust to the cover being worked;
- 24.1.8 The handler attempting to cover up the failings in his Dog, or does his work for him;
- 24.1.9 A Dog will only respond to noisy and/or excessive handling;
- 24.1.10 Insistence of the Dog to hunt behind the handler;
- 24.1.11 Excessive vocalizing;
- 24.1.12 Repeatedly back-casting to return to scent; and
- 24.1.13 Hunting Trail.
- 24.2 **Faults while pointing:**
 - 24.2.1 Persistent false pointing;
 - 24.2.2 Persistent barren pointing;
 - 24.2.3 Flushing and failure to accurately locate birds;
 - 24.2.4 Repeatedly leaving birds behind, including not “making out the covey”;
 - 24.2.5 Stickiness on point and/or scent;
 - 24.2.6 Flushing birds on taking over from an overly cautious Dog;
 - 24.2.7 Checking commands to steady the pointing Dog.
- 24.3 **Faults while backing:**
 - 24.3.1 Obvious reluctance to back, including putting undue pressure on pointing Dog;
 - 24.3.2 Command backing especially when the Dog is about to steal a point;
 - 24.3.4 Stickiness on back.
- 24.4 **Faults upon flushing:**
 - 24.4.1 Failing to acknowledge flush;
 - 24.4.2 Unsteadiness to flush;
 - 24.4.3 Taking a line on flushed game;
 - 24.4.4 A Dog requiring a checking command to acknowledge flush.
- 24.5 **Faults after the shot:**
 - 24.5.1 Unsteadiness to shot;
 - 24.5.2 If a handler has to command the Dog to remain steady after the shot.
- 24.6 **Faults whilst retrieving**
 - 24.6.1 Switching birds / areas of fall
 - 24.6.2 Failure to mark
 - 24.6.3 Failure to find
 - 24.6.4 Disturbing the ground
 - 24.6.5 Pointing the shot bird without retrieving it
 - 24.6.6 Freezing on the bird
 - 24.6.7 Not delivering game to hand and/or poor delivery
 - 24.6.8 Urinating on way to fall
 - 24.6.9 Reluctance to enter cover or water.

GUIDE TO RULE 24.

- 24.a *Interpretation by the Judges as to the degree of a fault, as well as the sum of faults in one or more rounds must be weighed against the overall performance of the Dog.*
- 24.b *Most faults are repeatable and if doubt exists, they will often be displayed again in subsequent rounds.*
- 24.c *Dogs that “mark” flushed birds, then make out and hunt the intermediate ground before pointing the “marked birds” should be credited rather than faulted.*

RULE 25. ELIMINATING FAULTS

A pair of Dogs should be called up immediately one or both Dogs commit an eliminating fault. The primary reason being to protect the innocent Dog and also to leave no doubt as to the elimination of the offending Dog from the stake. However if the nature of the fault is deemed to present no risk to the innocent Brace-mate, the Judges may allow the Brace to continue running to its conclusion.

A Dog committing an eliminating fault will be eliminated from all stakes entered during a specific trial with the exception of the specific criteria as described for Derby, Maiden and Puppy Stakes.

25.1 Eliminating faults while hunting:

- 25.1.1 Lacking Ability;
- 25.1.2 Distinct Chasing;
- 25.1.3 Out of Control;
- 25.1.4 Pottering;
- 25.1.5 Physically restraining or blocking of the Dog by the handler.

25.2 Eliminating faults while pointing:

- 25.2.1 Breaking in on game without a flushing command;
- 25.2.2 Snapping at game;
- 25.2.3 Blinking quarry.

25.3 Eliminating faults while backing:

- 25.3.1 Blinking the back;
- 25.3.2 Refusing to back; even on command
- 25.3.3 Stealing the point;
- 25.3.4 Attempting to steal the point;
- 25.3.5 Being physically restrained by the handler.

25.4 Eliminating faults after flush or shot:

- 25.4.1 Breaking in on shot or flush;
- 25.4.2 Gunshyness.
- 25.4.3 Being physically restrained by the handler

25.5 Eliminating faults while retrieving:

- 25.5.1 Refusal to retrieve;
- 25.5.2 Hardmouth, and
- 25.5.3 Blinking the retrieve.

GUIDE TO RULE 25:

- 25.a *The ability of a Dog will be gauged against the average standard required of the competitors in a particular stake and, if considered by the Judges to be below the standard required in the stake, the Dog shall be discarded by elimination.*

- 25.b *A Dog making a distinct chase should be called up immediately. If, however, in the Derby Stakes, should the Dog start to chase and is easily checked by his handler, he may still be a good and certainly obedient Dog. He should be given credit for obedience and not ruled out for this alone.*
- 25.c *A Dog is considered to be out of control if he cannot effectively be controlled by his handler to keep to the course, or fails to respond to being called in and is obviously self-hunting.*
- 25.d *Wherever possible the calling up of a Dog, before the end of its allotted time due to an eliminating fault, must be done through the Chief Judge. This should require the other two Judges to consult him if possible. At times when he is unsighted, one or both of the other Judges have to make a call of elimination. There must be absolutely no doubt as to the eliminating offence.*

RULE 26. EXCEPTIONS FOR DERBY AND MAIDEN STAKES

In these stakes, penalizing and eliminating faults apply as for Open and Championship Stakes with the following exceptions:

- 26.1 Breaking in on shot is a penalising fault. This includes breaking on shot during the water retrieve.
- 26.2 Refusal to back is a penalising fault provided that the Dog is kept under control by the handler in order not to steal the point. Stealing the point remains an eliminating fault.
- 26.3 Breaking on shot which results in a retrieve is only allowed for the pointing Dog.
- 26.3.1 Breaking on shot by the backing Dog will more often than not result in stealing the retrieve and interfere with the positive work of the pointing Dog. Therefore unless the backing Dog can be brought under control without interfering with the pointing Dog's work, breaking by the backing Dog should be an eliminating fault in order to protect the pointing Dog.
- 26.3.2 In the event of both Dogs pointing at the same time and breaking at the same time, the Judges should give the benefit of the doubt to both Dogs.

GUIDES TO RULE 26.

- 26.a *When judging Derby Stakes, the primary goal is to reward potential in the young Dogs provided the rules as described herein is adhered to.*
- 26.b *As the stakes are run concurrently, the Judges are required to differentiate the varying requirements of the different stakes. For this reason placings may differ between Dogs in the different stakes.*

RULE 27. DOG ON QUAIL AND OTHERS

- 27.1 In judging Dogs on quail the Dog doing positive work on them should be given the credit he deserves. Should he elect to work them and faults in so doing, then he should be penalized accordingly. Should he choose to ignore them he must not be faulted for doing so.
- 27.2 This also applies to the quasi game birds such as the various bustards, snipe, waterfowl and fur as described herein.

GUIDE TO RULE 27.

- 27.a *Care must be taken when judging any action on any bird or animal not considered fair game for the pot and not generally shot over pointing Dogs in a normal hunting situation. Benefit of the doubt should be given to the Dog in these situations.*
- 27.b *Judges must use their discretion in judging hardmouth on Quail.*

RULE 28. BRACE STAKES

- 28.1 Brace Stakes are to be judged to championship standard. No Brace shall be placed first, second or third unless it has found, pointed and proven game, presented game to the gun,

been shot over, backed and retrieved satisfactorily on land and in water All winning Braces must have run at least two (2) rounds.

28.2 Trailing by either Dog in this stake is an eliminating fault.

GUIDE TO RULE 28.

- 28.a *The object of running a Brace is to cover twice the amount of ground as that covered by one Dog and his handler.*
- 28.b *Ideally a Brace should be matched for speed and style. They should hunt independently, yet be aware of each other.*
- 28.c *The most desirable Brace work is for the pair to cross roughly in front of their handler, during their process of quartering.*
- 28.d *As placement in the Brace Stake qualifies a Dog for Championship Stakes, Judges are to guard against placing Dogs that do not deserve to compete therein.*

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR EFFICIENT JUDGING OF HPR FIELD TRIALS

USE OF NOSE

The quality of a Dog's nose, more than any other single factor, determines its usefulness as an HPR BREED. However, quality of nose is not in itself sufficient. As the Dog develops it must learn to use its nose if maximum effectiveness is to be achieved.

A Dog that finds birds rapidly and repeatedly under various conditions has a good nose. Conversely, a Dog that continuously bumps birds or fails to find birds compared to its Brace-mate, certainly leaves much to be desired as far as nose is concerned.

Short checks of scent spots where game has been, without pointing, indicates a good nose as well as the ability to discriminate between scents. Consistent "false pointing" i.e. assuming a pointing stance without producing game, may be an indication that the Dog has only a fair to poor nose. Pointing dead game may also be an indication of an uncertain or inexperienced nose.

A Dog will sometimes scent game at a great distance and, while checking the scent, will move up on the game as if being pulled to the spot by an invisible string attached to the nose. The relative distance from the point where scent is first detected, to the point where the game is found can be an indication of the quality of the nose.

A Dog is said to "bump" a bird when it runs into it and causes the bird to flush without giving any indication that the Dog was aware of the bird's presence. This is more apt to happen when the Dog is questing downwind in a stiff breeze and under these conditions is not considered a major fault. To bump a bird while working into wind without showing any awareness that game is present may be an indication of a deficient nose. However, poor scenting conditions, as indicated by other Dogs in the trial, may also result in birds being bumped.

Weather, the conditions of ground and cover, the type of game, even air pollution are all factors to be considered while judging a Dog, for all these elements have an important influence on a Dog's scenting ability.

The pointing instinct must not be equated with the quality of nose. An intense point is a manifestation of desire, not nose.

SEARCH (QUESTING)

From start to finish, the search should indicate but one purpose - to produce game for the gun. The good Dog will leave the impression that in the terrain covered by the search no game has been missed.

No time should be wasted in searching obviously barren ground or by returning to cover that has already been thoroughly searched.

An eager, cooperative Dog will readily adapt to the terrain and cover over which it is being hunted regardless of its "home ground" experience and it will not hesitate to search rough cover if the situation demands it.

Throughout the search, the Dog should display eagerness, interest and stamina. The Dog that goes to heel before the end of the run and from then on must be pushed, not only says that the owner has possibly not conditioned the Dog but also raises serious doubts about the Dog's desire and basic stamina.

Sufficient independence to leave the handler in order to check likely cover is desirable, particularly if the Dog later checks back with the handler.

Apparent use of eyes rather than nose to search for game is a serious fault; however, use of eyes to maintain contact with the handler is a natural result of the Dog's desire to please.

The Dog should conduct its search at a practical distance from the gun depending on the terrain. For example, in open terrain with short grass cover the Dog will be most efficient if he hunts far and wide to locate coveys. Conversely, in dense bushveld areas the Dog will only be efficient if he hunts a short distance from the gun. Therefore, considerations of terrain cover and other variables make it manifest that practical range cannot be measured in metres. Rather, it must be measured in terms of covering the maximum amount of likely game cover without loss of control or sacrificing the all-important cooperation that must exist between Dog and hunter. Suffice it to say that the uncontrolled Dog running out of sight most of the time is of little use to the on-foot hunter, as is the one that remains so close to the gun that it constitutes an under foot nuisance. It is the hallmark of a brilliant Dog that he will adapt to any kind of terrain.

During the search the Dog may work with its head high or low depending on the scenting conditions and game species. For example, the Dog may be more efficient in short grass areas in locating game by hunting with his head high as opposed to the bushveld areas, where searching with his nose lower to the ground may be more efficient in locating game. The sole measure of the manner in which a Dog works, is the efficiency with which he operates and produces game.

The Dog's search must take advantage of the air currents. Running downwind for excessive distances without turning into the wind in an effort to fix game between Dog and gun must be faulted. Likewise, working for a long distance into the wind without quartering is not using air currents to best advantage.

The general pattern of search should be in a forward direction; however, "back casting" (passing in rear of the gunner as he moves forward) should not be faulted unless done too often, particularly not when the gunner makes an abrupt change of direction and the Dog passes to the rear in order to re-establish itself ahead of the gun.

Tireless and successful efforts are to be rewarded more highly than eye-catching style combined with unproductive casts. Dogs that repeatedly and definitely miss game during the search are to be severely penalised.

POINTING

The instinct to point must be clearly evident in the Dog.

Pointing and questing are the two major aspects of the Dog's work "before the shot". An industrious search and a productive point are a thrilling spectacle. Little game is crippled or lost when the hunter can approach game prepared for a clean shot.

The pointing stance must be intense, convincing and unmistakable as a point and, in the end, the point must be productive. No Dog must be favoured more for a certain "style" of pointing as long as these criteria are met.

The Dog must demonstrate an instinct to point scent as opposed to merely pointing on sight. Again, however, the pointing instinct must not be equated with the quality of the nose.

A Dog is to be rewarded rather than faulted for creeping low to the ground for short distances in order to re-establish point on a runner. "Blinking", i.e. deliberately avoiding birds or pointing and then leaving game before the handler can arrive to flush the bird, or leaving the point for any reason other than re-establishing point on a running bird is to be severely penalized. However, a young Dog in a Puppy Stake may break and chase after clearly establishing point without being penalised.

All points should be on game. Pointing turtles, sparrows and the like has no bearing on the work at hand, which is the production of game. However, a very young Dog might be forgiven for a point on a non-game species if not done too frequently and the point could be favourably

considered as an indication of the presence of the pointing instinct. This latter would be the case only if the Dog had no fair opportunity to point actual game. Pointing non-game species must be considered a grave fault in the case of an older Dog.

STEADINESS ON GAME

A good HPR Dog should display self-control in the presence of game and when the gun is fired. The Dog should remain steady through the flush, shot and fall of the bird and until commanded by the handler to begin the retrieve. (In the case of a miss by the Gun the Dog should remain steady until commanded to continue the search). However, the Dog faced with an obstructed view that takes a few steps forward after the shot in order to mark the fall of the game and then halts of its own free will should be rewarded rather than penalised.

The handler will flush the bird as he would if armed and actually hunting. The handler must not deliberately place his body between the Dog and bird with the intent to physically block the Dog from breaking. Neither should he attempt to physically intimidate or restrain the Dog for the same purpose. If carried, leashes and flushing whips must be handed to the field steward for the duration of the round. Talking to the Dog in a soft, calm voice is permissible as a matter of course.

To demonstrate steadiness to fall, there should be a distinct time interval after the bird hits the ground and the handler's command to fetch, but no specific time is prescribed and the Judges will not signal the handler to send his Dog. An experienced handler with confidence in his Dog will probably achieve this time interval with something like "One thousand - Two thousand - Fetch". (The handler's command to fetch, whether it be done by voice or whistle or hand signal, must be clearly recognisable by the Judges so that there can be no doubt as to whether the Dog acted on command or on its own initiative).

DESIRE TO WORK

The desire to work is the hallmark of a good HPR Dog and this desire is expressed in every phase of the work from beginning to end, whether on land or in water. The Dog must demonstrate that it wants to find game and is willing to work hard to that end.

The desire or lack thereof, provides a clear index of the Dog's character and usefulness. A Dog with proper desire will manifest it as an attitude, a force, a compulsion as it were, and the Dog's work will reflect determination and a strong sense of purpose.

Aimless running, whining and barking must not be confused with desire. Dogs that go to heel after running for a short time and have to be coaxed repeatedly to continue their work must be penalised.

COOPERATION

Cooperation can be defined as voluntary willingness on the part of the Dog to apply its own initiative and special talents while working with the master in pursuit of a common goal - in this case, bringing game to bag.

When both master and Dog know their tasks, cooperation appears as a silent thing that is like an invisible bond cemented with mutual trust.

Over-dependence on the master must not be confused with cooperation. The cooperative Dog is sure of himself and his work displays eagerness. An overly dependent Dog appears suppressed or disinterested and lacking spirit.

The intelligent cooperative Dog seems to sense his master's wishes and movements. Even while on a solid point, the HPR Dog will often slowly turn his head to make sure the hunter is moving up. A cooperative young Dog will maintain contact with his handler. For example, when a puppy chases a bird and returns of his own volition, he demonstrates cooperation.

STAMINA

Stamina is the physical counterpart of the Dog's desire to work.

Without stamina, even the most willing Dog cannot be fully effective for any length of time. The Dog should display a smooth and even movement which permits him to cover the ground effortlessly. The Dog must display good stamina throughout its rounds.

HANDLING AND OBEDIENCE

A good HPR Dog must be controllable. Experienced hunters are aware that during any outing in the field, occasions can arise when obedience on the part of the Dog must take first priority. The safety of the Dog and simple "good citizenship" on the part of both the Dog and the master demand it.

Also, the natural success of the hunt can hinge on an obedient Dog that will willingly suppresses its natural instincts and desires and obey commands when the master decides to change the scenario, so to speak. The Dog should readily take hand, voice or whistle signals as a matter of course when a change of direction by the handler or the end of the work demands it.

A calm, understanding handler and an eager, cooperative, yet controlled Dog working as a team are a joy to watch and it has been proven that the less unnecessary fuss and noise made by the handler as they go about their work, the better the obedience, assuming, of course, that the Dog understands the commands in the first place. Although the Dog and not the handler is under judgment in a field trial, the handler who loses his sense of values and constantly screams and shouts and "leans on the whistle" to the utter consternation of the Dog, is doing the animal a terrible injustice.

GENERAL GUIDES TO JUDGING RECORDS

Two systems are generally in use, namely a "brace by brace" record, and secondly, a "dog by dog" record. Both are acceptable, and each has its advantages over the other. Brief notes in the field help with jarring the memory at the end of a Stake when a summation of all the work is required.

A structured record of all the dogs' work is essential once the Stake reaches the "dogs required" stage.

In the pursuit of consistency of decision making, it is very helpful to divide the "dogs required" into the following categories:

- Group A – being outstanding dogs with finds and possibly other credits in the stake. These are likely candidates for placings. A back or a retrieve might be sought to place them. Identifying the Champion is the paramount decision to be made and might occupy more of the Judges' time.
- Group B – being good dogs with finds and possibly other credits in the stake. These are likely candidates for a COM. It might not make a difference to their award if they don't have a back.
- Group C – being outstanding dogs without finds but possibly with other credits, based purely on excellent hunting prowess. A credit in the closing stages could move them into Group A!
- Group D – being good dogs without credits, based purely on their hunting prowess. A find could place them into contention for a COM.

Following a set structure when summing up a stake helps enormously with the critical decision making.

Inevitably, situations will occur that aren't covered in the above guides to judging. In these instances, it is useful for the Judge to imagine what a perfect dog would have been expected to do, then measure the action against that ideal.

F. REGULATIONS FOR THE JUDGING OF FIELD TESTS

The Natural Ability Test

1. Objectives of the natural ability test

The aim of the Natural Ability Test is to recognise those Dogs that conform to the minimum standards of performance, conformation, and temperament that are considered acceptable in terms of the functional requirements of the Hunt Point and Retrieve (HPR) breeds. A Dog which passes the test will be awarded a Natural Ability Certificate and may carry the affix NA after its name. This will provide a minimum standard for prospective breeders and buyers of HPR breeds in South Africa. The selective use of Dogs that have passed the Natural Ability Test should serve to maintain and improve the standards of performance of the HPR breeds in South Africa.

The Natural Ability Certificate does not represent an award in recognition of excellence, but rather a minimum qualification for HPR breeds in South Africa. Field trials in particular, and working tests will remain the ultimate test of a Dog's performance against that of other outstanding Dogs.

2. Rules governing the Natural Ability Test

- 2.1 A Natural Ability Test for HPR breeds may be run at an HPR field trial or at a Natural Ability meeting.
- 2.2 Only clubs which hold HPR field trials, may run Natural Ability Tests.
- 2.3 Permission to run a Natural Ability Test must be applied for at the NFTA stating the date and Judges for the Test.
- 2.4 Permission to run a Natural Ability Test must be obtained from the NFTA.
- 2.5 The test must be conducted by three (3) official Judges, two (2) of whom will be HPR field trial Judges, and one (1) of whom will be either on the KUSA Gundog Group Panel or on the KUSA Panel for the breed(s) being tested. The club will appoint a Senior Judge, who must be an HPR field trial Judge. HPR field trial Judges will be responsible for evaluating the obedience and fieldwork sections of the test. Should there be a difference of opinion between these two Judges, the Senior Judge will have the casting vote. The conformation Judge will be responsible only for the conformation evaluation.
- 2.6 The test must be conducted in the presence of the other Dogs and handlers participating in the test on the same date and place. A minimum of five (5) Dogs must be entered and present in order to conduct the Natural Ability Test.
- 2.7 Dogs must be given ample opportunity to pass an event but only two (2) attempts per event shall be allowed during a test.
- 2.8 Upon completion of the test, the Judges will inform the participants whether or not they have successfully passed.
- 2.9 Should a Dog fail the test, it may be re-tested at any time at a later test. However, Dogs will only be allowed three (3) attempts to pass the test.
- 2.10 General requirements of the natural ability test

The natural ability requirements are obvious from the functional requirements of the HPR Breeds, and can be tested under artificial conditions. All Dogs falling under the HPR breed classification should exhibit the desire to range and search for game, the ability to locate and point game, should also be capable of retrieving the game from land or water, and should show no signs of gunshyness.

Good temperament is a fundamental attribute in any gundog. A minimum standard of obedience is also required to test the Dog's tractability or co-operation, in that only those Dogs with a tendency to co-operate and respond to training can fulfil their function as hunting Dogs. Intractable Dogs are useless in the hunting field and should therefore not be used in breeding programs regardless of their other natural abilities. Insofar as breed conformation is concerned, it is recognised that the primary function of field trial clubs is to promote the working abilities of Dogs and that conformational standards are mainly the prerogative of the breed clubs. However, hunting Dogs should be sound representatives of their breed and any major defects that might detract from the functionality of a Dog or its

progeny will render a Dog unfit to earn the Natural Ability Certificate. As far as physical standards are concerned, the Dog must be judged as a pure-bred example of its breed without any major breed defects or abnormalities.

3. **The Natural Ability Certificate and Title**

3.1 The award of a Natural Ability Certificate may be reflected on the Dog's Field Dog Record Certificate by the letters NA (Natural Ability), as a testimonial to the fact that the Dog has been judged to have demonstrated at least the minimum natural working ability acceptable for HPR Breeds in South Africa, that it is conformationally sound, that it has a good temperament and that it is tractable. Those Dogs that have earned a Natural Ability Certificate may carry the title NA as an affix.

3.2 Upon successful completion of the Test, the owner will be issued an official Natural Ability Certificate by the club holding

The Certificate will state the owner's name, the Dog's Certified name and number, Certified names and numbers of the Dog's sire and dam, the breed of Dog, and that the Dog has been tested as an all-purpose, versatile hunting Dog complying with the minimum standards and natural abilities of an HPR breed (refer 8.1.7.1 SPECIMEN NATURAL ABILITY CERTIFICATE). The Certificate shall be signed by all Judges and by the secretary of the Club holding the test. (Clubs may, at their discretion, issue an informal club certificate to a Dog which passes the Obedience, Field and Water work sections, but which fails the Conformation test. This certificate must be clearly marked to indicate that the Dog is not qualified to carry the NA title).

3.3 Official test sheets (refer to 4.4 SPECIMEN NATURAL ABILITY TEST EVALUATION SHEET) of those Dogs successfully completing the test shall be completed and signed by all Judges and by the secretary of the Club holding the test (refer to 4.4). It will be the duty of the club secretary to send the results to the Secretary, who shall copy the **Administrator** in order that the NA title may be reflected on the Dog's NFTA Field Dog Record Certificate.

4. **Guidelines for Conducting the Natural Ability Test**

4.1 Judges are required to complete official test sheets provided by the officiating Club, which will reflect the criteria tested and any other relevant information provided by the Judges. Judges are encouraged to write additional comments regarding the Dog's conformation, behaviour and performance as they see fit, in order to provide information to potential breeders and to aid the handler of the Dog. Outstanding traits as well as negative traits should be noted. For instance, if a Dog has particularly good aspects of conformation or shows evidence of an outstanding nose or water love, Judges should record it.

On the other hand, if a Dog has conformation faults that do not necessarily warrant failing the test or shows areas of deficiency in the field work that could be improved either through training or breeding, then Judges are encouraged to record these weaknesses.

4.2 Throughout the entire test the Dog's behaviour towards other Dogs and handlers is observed. At the Judge's discretion, other handlers and Dogs may be brought near the Dog being tested to observe its reactions, bearing in mind at all times their safety.

4.3 Upon presentation to the Judges, the Dog's physical attributes and obedience are tested.

4.4 For the Field Test a live pigeon or other live game bird of choice is hidden in a cage in thick cover in such a way that it is invisible to the Dog. No artificial marks to indicate the position of the game may be used, but the Judges must be aware of the exact location of the hidden game. Sufficient time must elapse after placing the bird to ensure that the Dog will not follow the foot scent. To ensure that the find is by scent only and not by sight, or by following the handler's foot scent, the handler must not personally hide the bird. The bird must be placed at least one hundred metres (100 metres) away from the point of release but preferably two hundred metres (200 metres) away.

On the Judges' consent the Dog is sent out and the Judges must carefully establish the Dog's desire to hunt and find game, generally indicated by the Dog's eagerness to search, range and cover the ground in an intelligent manner.

The location of the game should be by virtue of the Dog's nose and not by accident. Under no circumstances may the Dog be lead onto the game by the handler or Judges.

Upon finding the bird, the point must be clear and unmistakable as such. A Dog that immediately attempts to catch the game without even momentarily pausing in a distinct point will fail the test. Misdemeanours after the point, such as chasing or trying to catch the game, will be ignored in the test.

- 4.5 The Dog is then led away from the game to a new venue and the retrieving tested. A land and a water retrieve of between twenty (20) and forty (40) metres are required. The land retrieve must be in thick cover and preferably up-wind to test the Dog's nose. Either a dummy or a fresh dead bird may be used for the retrieve, and the handler must indicate to the Judges, which is his choice of retrieving object. In either case, a shot must be fired during the land retrieve.

For the purposes of the water retrieve, the game or dummy must land in clear sight of the Dog, the aim being to test the Dog's willingness to enter water and to swim. The water test should take place at a spot offering easy gradual access to deep water.

5. **Evaluation Criteria For The Natural Ability Test**

The evaluation criteria have been designed to be as simple as possible so as to facilitate consistent and objective evaluation.

The following criteria must be tested:

5.1 **Conformation**

With reference to the KUSA breed standards, the Judges must be satisfied that the Dog in question is a sound representative of its breed without any major abnormalities that might hinder its functionality or that of its progeny. The following physical attributes must be checked and noted for each Dog, with the following defects considered to be disqualifying:

- 5.1.1 Any defects of the eyes - such as entropion, ectropion, distichiasis, trichiasis
- 5.1.2 Bite and teeth - overshot and undershot, wry bite. (Level bite and missing teeth, unless specifically mentioned as disqualifying faults in the standard, should be noted, but will not disqualify);
- 5.1.3 Any testicular abnormalities (refer to Schedule D. Regulations for The Conduct of Field Trials for HPR Breeds; Article 1. General Qualification; Clause 1.4 for the procedure to be followed).
- 5.1.4 Any defects of the legs and feet - such as pronounced cow hocks or severe knuckling over in front;
- 5.1.5 Other obvious defects - spinal curvature or pronounced swayback;
- 5.1.6 General conformation and build - extreme deviations from type, size and substance requirements of the breed;
- 5.1.7 Motion faults not due to injury;
- 5.1.8 Where the FCI Breed Standard contains any disqualifying faults these must also be considered.

It should be recognised that no Dog is perfect and that minor defects will not render the Dog unfit to qualify for a Natural Ability Certificate. Defects due to injury will not disqualify a Dog. The Judge must also take the Dog's age into consideration since the conformation of young Dogs might change as they mature. In order to promote sensible and responsible breeding, any minor defects or abnormalities which do not warrant that the Dog fail the test should be noted on the official test sheets and be brought to the attention of the owner.

5.2 **Obedience**

5.2.1 **Temperament**

The Dog's behaviour towards other Dogs in the test, strange handlers and the Judges should be observed during the course of the test. Excessive

aggressiveness or excessive nervousness must be regarded as serious defects and such Dogs will not qualify for a Natural Ability Certificate.

5.2. 2 Tractability

The Dog must show a willingness to accept discipline, this being an indication of its co-operation and tractability. It will be required of the owner to make his Dog sit on command without touching the Dog, command the Dog to stay and then walk away approximately twenty (20) metres before calling the Dog to him. A Dog ignoring these simple commands or which requires excessive handling will fail the test. Inability of the handler to keep the Dog reasonably quiet or under control during any part of the test (including the Fieldwork) will also result in the Dog failing the test.

5.3 Field work

5.3.1 Hunting Desire

The desire to hunt is the single most important working characteristic of a hunting Dog. A Dog with the required level of desire will demonstrate this in its eagerness to range and search for game and in its manner of questing. Hunting desire cannot be taught to a Dog, it can only be built upon. Dogs lacking initiative and requiring considerable encouragement by the handler to hunt and cover the ground will be severely penalised and will fail the test. Judges must be left with the impression that the Dog has covered the available ground in such a manner as to produce game for the gun if game were present. Judges must also be satisfied that the Dog's quest is for game and is not merely aimless running.

5.3.2 Nose

An HPR Dog cannot function adequately without an extraordinary sense of smell. This will be evident in its finding of hidden game while questing and retrieving. A Dog with an apparently poor sense of smell must be severely penalized and will fail the test. The scenting conditions, as indicated by the other Dogs present and being tested, must be taken into account by the Judges.

5.3.3 Pointing

This is the most distinctive characteristic of an HPR breed. The point must be clear and unmistakable as such and must be a natural point induced by the scent (not sight) of the bird. The style is not important. The Judges must be alert to Dogs that have been trained to stand on sight or smell of game. A lack of pointing instinct is often indicated by a Dog's lack of intensity and/or by its tail, which will be held limply instead of rigidly. If the Dog fails to produce a point, or, in the Judges' opinion the Dog lacks the instinct to point, then the Dog will fail the test. Any command or inducement by the handler to cause the Dog to point will result in failure of this portion of the test.

5.3.4 Retrieving from Land and Water

The Dog must clearly demonstrate a retrieving instinct, which generally manifests itself in an eager pickup. Again, the Judges must distinguish between a lacklustre forced trained retrieve and an innate desire to retrieve. Two (2) retrieves are required for the test – one (1) on land and one (1) in water. The land retrieve must be in thick grass to test the Dog's nose and the water retrieve must be conducted in water deep enough to indicate the Dog's eagerness to enter water and ability to swim. Dogs that do not display a retrieving instinct or that will not enter water and swim will fail the test.

5.3.5 Gunshyness

During the land retrieve a shot must be fired from either a shotgun or a dummy launcher, not more than two (2) metres away, to determine whether the Dog is gun-shy or not. A gun-shy Dog will not qualify for a Natural Ability Certificate.

5.4 **NATURAL ABILITY TEST EVALUATION SHEET**

Certified Name of Dog: _____

Call Name of Dog: _____

Certification/Reg. No.: _____

Breed: _____ Date of Birth : ____/____/____

Sex: _____

Colour: _____

Sire: _____

Certification/Reg. No.: _____

Dam: _____

Certification/Reg. No.: _____

Breeder: _____

Owner: _____

Tel. No. : _____

Address: _____

TEST RESULTS

(CHIEF JUDGE TO WRITE 'PASS' OR 'FAIL' AND INITIAL THE RESULTS)

1. CONFORMATION

a. Eyes: Pass or Fail? _____

b. Bite: Pass or Fail? _____

c. Legs: Pass or Fail? _____

d. General Conformation: Pass or Fail? _____

e. Motion: Pass or Fail? _____

f. Other defects: Pass or Fail? _____

2. TEMPERAMENT: Pass or Fail? _____

3. TRACTABILITY: Pass or Fail? _____

4. HUNTING DESIRE: Pass or Fail? _____

5. NOSE: Pass or Fail? _____

6. POINTING: Pass or Fail? _____

7. RETRIEVING (LAND: Pass or Fail? _____

8. RETRIEVING (WATER): Pass or Fail? _____

9. GUNSHOT: Pass or Fail? _____

COMMENTS:

I hereby certify that the above-named Dog has passed all the requirements of the Natural Ability Test

Chief Judge: _____

Judge: _____

Secretary: _____

Date: _____

JUDGE'S COMMENTS:

G. GUIDE TO THE GAME BIRDS BEST SUITED FOR FIELD TRIALS

Listed below are the species of Terrestrial Game Birds most commonly found and utilized in field trials in the Republic of South Africa due mainly to their suitability and acceptable range of habitat:

1. **Greywing Francolin**
2. **Redwing Francolin**
3. **Shelley's Francolin**
4. **Orange River Francolin**

These are typical grassveld species occurring from mountain slopes to savannah. They generally sit tight and are very acceptable for field trial purposes.

Others are:-

5. **Swainson's Francolin**

Generally suitable for field trial purposes but have a tendency to run under certain conditions. They inhabit a wide spectrum of habitat, from bushveld to open grassland, and frequent heavy cover around lands and contour strips and have adapted well to cultivated agriculture. A good and abundant field trial bird if found in suitable conditions.

6. **Coqui Francolin**

Occur in territorial coveys in open bushveld and often found in Protea veld. These birds, if found in reasonably open grassland, are an ideal bird for use under field trial conditions.

The other francolin species such as:

7. **Red Billed Francolin;**
8. **Natal Francolin;**
9. **Red Necked Francolin;**
10. **Crested Francolin;**
11. **Cape Francolin**

Cape Francolin are not really suited for field trial purposes as their habitat generally includes riverine or heavy bush which is often unsuitable for field trial use. They are also very limited in numbers but on occasions are found in suitable terrain and must be used and judged accordingly.

12. **Guineafowl**

This species presents a good field trial prospect when there are young pullets, chicks or doting hens. They are found in late summer or early autumn and in open grassland conditions. Unfortunately, field trials are not normally held at this time of year.

If, during the winter, one is able to split the flock of guinea fowl and they settle and sit tight in fairly heavy vlei type cover, they would be acceptable for field trials as the Dogs could then hunt them. Accordingly, guinea fowl are considered satisfactory for field trial purposes. This is not always possible or practical and if hunted the un-split flock lead even a very good Dog a merry dance by just running out of range and always pulling the Dogs to the limits of their control and often beyond. It is not uncommon for a Chief Judge to allow a handler to call his Dog off a troop of guinea fowl or to instruct the Field Steward to avoid them completely.

13. **Quail (all 3 varieties) (*Coturnix*)**

When around in sufficient quantities and in their restricted geographical areas, these birds can be successfully used in field trials but unfortunately this mainly occurs in mid-summer when trials are not held. Not suitable for use when present in large numbers in November and December during their breeding season.

The occasional quail is found, or flushed in winter but not in sufficient numbers to be seriously considered as ideal for field trials. Many Dogs are also trained to ignore them due to their close resemblance to ground larks and grass birds, which appear to have scent. Mainly due to their scarcity, most Dogs seldom have an opportunity to work or train on these timid birds.

Buttonquails (*Turnix*) (Three Toed) are almost indistinguishable in flight and appearance from Common Quail (*Coturnix*) and appear to not have much scent.

14. **Fur**

Fur is only be regarded as those animals and species that would be shot in a normal hunting scenario over pointing Dogs and regarded as fair game for the pot – these would be hares and smaller species of buck which could and do occasionally sit sufficiently well to be pointed.

Large species of buck generally not hunted with shotguns should not be regarded as “fur” but referred to as “buck”.

H. GUIDELINES FOR THE RELEASE OF GAME IN FIELD TRIALS

1. General Principles

In instances where there is a lack of, or scarcity of, naturally occurring wild game, reared game birds may be used in field trials. Reared birds may be used to either supplement natural game or they may be utilised exclusively, but only as a last resort to natural game. Clubs should make every effort to find suitable venues to run field trials on natural game. However, if this is not possible and reared birds must be utilised, then it is essential that the Host Club adhere to certain guidelines for the use and release of game. These guidelines are discussed below.

The most important consideration when using reared birds is that the birds should be released in such a manner as to simulate trialing conditions on natural game. As in a natural trial, the competing Dogs should earn their opportunities by way of their superior game finding abilities; and they can only do so if birds are released relatively sparingly and over a large area. Under no circumstances are birds to be released in such numbers as to give all Dogs a “point” or “full house”. The Host Club must therefore use integrity and common sense to avoid the temptation to release game birds in such a way as to make the trial easy to run or solely in order to have a result.

2. General Guidelines

2.1 Game birds that can be used

Reared pheasant, guinea fowl, francolin or partridge of various species may be utilised successfully in field trials. It is essential that the correct cover conditions exist over the area the trial is to be run. It is also essential that the birds are strong, healthy and good flyers.

Releasing game birds is most successful when the cover is sufficiently thick and high for them to hide completely, and particularly when the cover is sufficiently thick to prevent them running ahead of the Dogs and handlers. The fynbos of the Western Cape, for instance, is reasonably thick and high, but has little cover between thick bushes and therefore encourages pheasant to run ahead of the Dogs and handlers, much like guinea fowl do in sparse cover. It is not always possible to tell whether the cover will hold the game bird or not simply by looking at it, so it is strongly recommended that clubs test various areas before the trial in order to determine whether or not the cover will be suitable. “Suitable” can be taken to mean that the cover will hold the birds so that they act in a reasonably natural manner, being able to take cover and hide sitting fairly tight on approach of the Dog, yet still flying when under pressure by the Dog or handler.

2.2 Care of the game

As discussed above, only very healthy and strong birds should be used for field trials. In order to get the best results from these birds the following guidelines must be followed:

- 2.2.1 If birds are to be kept in crates, then they should be kept there for the minimum period of time logistically possible and certainly not for more than 24 hours at a time.
- 2.2.2 Ideally, birds should be collected and crated less than 24 hours before the start of the trial. If birds are to be collected before this time, then a release pen should be available in which to keep them until such time as they are transported to the trial venue.
- 2.2.3 If birds are to be kept at the trial venue for more than 24 hours, then a release pen must also be available to them there.
- 2.2.4 A game steward, or another designated person, must be responsible for the care, watering and feeding of the game. The game must have access to food and fresh water at all times, except when they are in transit for short periods of time.

- 2.2.5 The game steward will also be responsible for keeping the shot game in good condition and for keeping live game and dead game separate at all times.

3. Duties of the Field Steward and/or Game Steward

The club should appoint a person or persons to be responsible for the release of game. This may be the field steward or the game steward or both may work together. Their duties include the following:

- 3.1 To liaise with the club to determine when, where and how the game is to be released.
- 3.2 To be responsible for supervising the transport and release of game.
- 3.3 To indicate to the Judges the general areas or course over, which game, has been released. The field steward will follow the main fairway of the course, and may not under any circumstances lead the Dogs to the exact positions where the game has been released or indicate to Judges or competitors those positions.
- 3.4 To see that the guidelines for the release of game are adhered to.

4. Guidelines for releasing the game

The club will have determined, prior to the trial, a suitable course over which birds will be released, the number of birds to be released and a suitable density of birds for that particular trial. These will be determined by a number of factors such as cover and terrain, the area of ground the Dogs are expected to cover, the average duration each Brace runs during the rounds, the number of Dogs running and to some extent scenting and temperature conditions. Generally only one bird per 10 minute round should be released. The "course" will essentially be a large fairway along which the game is to be released, and an effort should be made to release game at the extremities of this course as well as the main areas.

Neither the field trial Judges nor any handler may be involved in the actual release of game, nor may they know the exact positions where the game has been released. They will, however, participate in determining the areas in which the various rounds of the trial are to be run and also in determining the density of birds to release for each round. For instance, Judges may prefer less game contact in the first few rounds, or to work the Dogs over more difficult terrain in the last rounds, and if the field steward is in agreement then the game may be released accordingly.

The following guidelines must be adhered to when releasing game:

- 4.1 Persons handling the game must wear clean cotton gloves so as to minimise the amount of human scent on the birds. Birds should not be held to the body or come in contact with anything other than the gloved hand.
- 4.2 Birds must be "released". They may not be "planted" in cover, and the use of cages, hobbles or any other form of tethering the birds to prevent them moving is not permitted under any circumstances. Dizzying the birds in order to make them sit still for a period of time is also expressly prohibited, and should be unnecessary if the proper cover is used.
- 4.3 Birds are to be released either by letting them out of the crate, one or two at a time, or by launching them from one's hand. The birds should be released or thrown in such a way as to let them find a suitable place of their own choice to land. They should fly or move a reasonable distance away from the point of release.
- 4.4 The birds should be released at random intervals along the course, alternating between the farthest left and right of the course and the middle areas of the course.
- 4.5 Game must be released at least one hour prior to the start of each round or session.

5. Wounded birds

All reasonable efforts should be made to recover wounded game. If a bird has been wounded and the competing Dogs cannot find it, then the Dogs selected by the field steward shall proceed immediately in an effort to recover the bird. Birds that have been released and are not found during the trial may be recovered after the trial is completed.

I. A GUIDE TO THE IDEAL FIELD TRIAL TERRAIN

The ideal field trial terrain should be one where there are enough evenly distributed game birds for field trial purposes.

Secondly, the type of terrain which does not impinge on the performance characteristics and intended fundamental use of the Dogs would be ideal. This is generally open grassland with few, if any, natural obstructions such as heavy bush, rocky inaccessible areas, dongas and very tall (approximately three quarters of a meter long) grass and scrub which will inhibit the Dog's free running style and make it difficult to observe even at close quarters.

Likewise, barren grasslands or swampy "vleis", rocky steep slopes with impossible footing, standing crop lands or other areas which are criss-crossed with fences into small camps and/or camps which are heavily populated with livestock are not acceptable. Similarly, areas which are too heavily populated with the accepted species of game bird (making it a "chicken run") are unacceptable.

Some of the undesirable aspects of terrain as described above are always found even in the best of field trial venues. This factor must be recognised and accepted as a "local condition" but Field Stewards should endeavour to avoid these where possible.

A good Dog should accept and handle such "local conditions" i.e. "different types of cover and conditions" as referred to in The Standard.

It is desirable that the climatic conditions on the ideal field trial terrain be such, that when holding trials, extremes in temperature are limited. The terrain should also be sufficiently large in area so that there can be an even flow of Dogs competing on as equitable a basis as possible, encompassing cover, conditions, birds, wind, etc."

Consideration must be given to the handlers, Judges, stewards and the gallery when considering "ideal field trial terrain". If in a normal hunting situation, reasonably fit and willing sportsmen hunters would not utilise an area for hunting, it will generally not be fit for use for field trialing.

Finally, if all the above criteria are met and the area still caters for the trial management infrastructure such as access, accommodation, etc. the ideal field trial terrain will have been found - and when found - Look after it!

J. A GUIDE TO HANDLERS RIGHTS AND DUTIES

1. A handler has the right:

- 1.1 to be judged fairly and treated by other competitors in a sportsman-like manner;
- 1.2 to be judged by competent and physically fit Judges;
- 1.3 to be given, where possible, every opportunity to show off his Dog to its best advantage, in the best possible circumstances and conditions;
- 1.4 to know why his Dog was eliminated;
- 1.5 to enquire of the Senior Judges, only at the conclusion of an event, opinion of his Dog's performance;
- 1.6 not to be pressured or overtaken by the Judges or any other officials, competitor or the gallery whilst running his Dog;
- 1.7 to refuse, for good reason, whilst under Judges orders, any instruction which in his opinion is contrary to his or his Dog's best interest, while bearing in mind that such refusal may in fact prove contrary to such interests, this due to the wide discretionary powers at the Judges disposal.

Whilst every handler has these rights, it must be remembered that exercising these rights is no excuse for unsportsmanlike attitudes or behaviour;

A handler does not have the right to impugn the Judges' decision at any time and the Judge's decision is final in all matters.

WITH RIGHTS COME OBLIGATIONS

2. A handler also has the following duties:

- 2.1 Not to train or run his Dogs on the field trial venue courses;
- 2.2 Not to train his Dogs behind the gallery;
- 2.3 Not to pass any comments intended for the Judges ears;
- 2.4 Not to pass any comments on missed or flushed birds behind the Judges;
- 2.5 To be present when required;
- 2.6 Not to intimidate either his Dog, his Brace-mate and/or his Dog;
- 2.7 Keep his Dog on leash and under control at all times whilst not actually under Judges' orders;
- 2.8 To respect all the rules as well as fellow competitors;
- 2.9 Hunters and field trialers have the honourable obligation to see that wounded game is brought to bag, as anything short of this is wasteful;
- 2.10 Not to act in a manner contrary to good sportsmanship and detrimental to the best interest of field trialing, nor to bring the sport into disrepute.

K. NATIONAL TROPHIES

TROPHIES AWARDED

1. Ownership of all trophies is vested with the NFTA.

It is incumbent upon the recipients of these trophies to undertake, once awarded, that due care will be taken by them to ensure that the trophies are well cared for and properly insured whilst in their possession and they will be held responsible for their replacement if lost, stolen or irreversibly damaged and be liable for costs incurred for the repairs of such damages they may sustain.

Further, it is required that they be returned to the Secretary at least one month prior to the running of the next National Field Trial.

2. **British Breed Trophies**

- 2.1 First Place – **“The S.A.F.T.C. Cup”**

Awarded in memory of E.P. Martin by F. Poretti

- 2.2 Second Place – **“The Fairwood Trophy”**

Awarded in memory of V. Edmunds by F. Poretti

- 2.3 Third Place – **“The Oklahoma Bowl”**

Awarded by B. Kraut

- 2.4 **“The Founders Trophy”**

Awarded to the Dog of the Year

- 2.5 **“The George Dorn Trophy”**

Awarded by George Dorn for the winner of any F.C.I./F.I.D.I.C./Saint Hubert event.

- 2.6 Honouring Outstanding Achievement since 1908 - **“The NFTA Honours Trophy”**

Donated in memory of Bruce Bryant, by Big Sky Kennel.

3. **HPR Breed Trophies**

- 3.1 First Place

Awarded by the NFTA.

- 3.2 Second Place

Awarded by the KZN HPR Field Trial Club.

- 3.3 Third Place

Awarded by the Western Cape Field Trial Club.

- 3.4 Gun's Choice

Awarded by Renate Smit

- 3.5 Dog of the Year

Awarded by the Transvaal Hunt Point and retrieve Field trial club

L. FIELD DOG RECORD RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Certification of all Dogs in the NFTA Field Dog Record shall be subject to the provisions hereof:

1. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Field Dog Record Administrator who shall maintain the Field Dog Record in a proper manner.
2. All Certification of British Breeds and HPR Breeds in the Field Dog Record shall be subject to the Dog's necessary information relating to its lineage, certain health-related information and other data that are pertinent to the sport of field trialing, which information must be acceptable to the Administrator.
3. Imported Dogs may be Certified in the Field Dog Record by virtue of the fact that they are Registered with a Recognised Registry.
4. A Dog which was bred by artificial insemination, may only be Certified if a certificate is produced by the veterinary surgeon who conducted the insemination.
5. The NFTA in its sole discretion and in order to verify parentage of the Dog may require DNA testing by a recognised authority, at the owner's expense.
6. All transfers of ownership of Certified Dogs shall immediately be notified to the Administrator.
7. A member of the Member Clubs may, for ease of identification of his or her Dogs, be allocated a unique prefix "**NFTA Prefix**" to append to a Dog's name, which shall secure the sole right to use such an NFTA Prefix. An NFTA Prefix may be ceded to, or inherited by another person.
8. The Executive Committee of the NFTA shall investigate any allegation, suspicion or complaint that a person has given false information for the Certification of a Dog and in the event of the Executive Committee finding that false information has been given, the Executive Committee shall take steps against such person as it deems fit, including the following:
 - 8.1 Refuse to Certify the Dog.
 - 8.2 Recommend to the relevant Member Clubs to expel the person from the Member Clubs.
 - 8.3 Remove any Dog from the Field Dog Record which was Certified by virtue of misrepresentation or false information.
 - 8.4 Report the matter to the South African Police Service for prosecution.
- 9.0 The NFTA is cognisant of and supports the principles enshrined in the Animal Protection Act No 71 of 1962.

Since the health of NFTA field trial competitors is of paramount importance, awareness of the potentially serious issue of hip dysplasia should be taken into account by breeders before any breedings are conducted.

The Field Dog Record and Appendix Field Dog Record together comprise a database of key data for field trial competitors that in terms of their achievements and lineage goes back to 1908, and in terms of their health/hip evaluation data goes back to 2007. The NFTA endeavours to collect hip dysplasia data on an ongoing basis in order to be able to make such data available to all members of Member Clubs of the NFTA.

To the extent that the NFTA is a Sports Governing Body, it is empowered only to make breeding recommendations. Nevertheless, it seeks to promote the following guidelines to the NFTA field trialing community to the maximum extent possible as "**the right and responsible thing to do**":

Dogs with hip scores suggestive of any measure of dysplasia should not be bred with, and Dogs with marginal hip scores be bred only to Dogs with good or at least better hip evaluation scores. Furthermore, it is recommended that breeders acquire hip evaluation certificates

before dogs are bred, to enable them to make breeding decisions on an informed basis.

10. In terms of Article 3 above, Imported Dogs are exempt from the provisions of this Article 10. Certification of all other Dogs in the Field Dog Record shall be further subject to the following provisions:
 - 10.1 Hip evaluation certificates must be provided to the Administrator in respect of both the sire and the dam of the relevant Dog.
 - 10.2 Hip evaluation certificates must reflect either a microchip number or tattoo number to be reflected on the x-ray films which have been verified by the Veterinarian who produced the x-ray plates.
 - 10.3 Individual Dogs that are not eligible for Certification in the Field Dog Record by virtue of the absence of their hip evaluation certificates may be Certified in the Appendix Field Dog Record until such time as their hip evaluation certificates have been produced to the satisfaction of the Administrator.
 - 10.4 Upon submission of acceptable hip evaluation certificates the Administrator shall be entitled to remove the relevant Dog from the Appendix Field Dog Record, enter said Dog on the Field Dog Record and provide the necessary Field Dog Record Certificate to that effect to the owner upon application.
 - 10.5 Hip evaluation authorities recognized by the NFTA shall include (but not necessarily be limited to) the following:
 - 10.5.1 FCI Scrutineers in South Africa and Europe
 - 10.5.2 The British Veterinary Association Hip Scheme (**BVA**) - UK and Australia.
 - 10.5.3 The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals Hip Scheme (**OFA**) – USA.
 - 10.5.4 **PennHIP** Scheme – USA and Australia.
 - 10.5.5 Zimbabwean Veterinary Association HD screening panel.
 - 10.5.6 Recognition by the NFTA of any other authorities will require the approval of the NFTA Executive committee. Such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.
 - 10.6 Semen collected prior to 30 September 2019 and imported semen shall be exempted from the NFTA HD screening requirements. Semen collected from Dogs post 30 September 2019 whose owners are resident in southern Africa shall be subject to the NFTA HD screening requirements.
 - 10.7 The Field Dog Record shall be available to Member Clubs and members of Member Clubs in order to raise the awareness of the danger of hip dysplasia among field trial competitors. To this end, all available hip evaluation scores shall be published in the following manner:-
 - 10.7.1 On all Field Dog Record Certificates issued by the Administrator.
 - 10.7.2 All available hip evaluation scores shall be made available on the NFTA website.
- 11 The Appendix Field Dog Record shall also include Dogs that have no previous bloodline history.
 - 11.1 Before Certification of a Dog by the Administrator in the Appendix Field Dog Record, the Dog must be screened by a panel of 3 senior Judges who will certify in writing whether these Dogs are true to breed (phenotype).
 - 11.2 In the event of the Dog being satisfactorily screened by the senior Judges as provided for in Clause 11.1 above, they may be Certified in the Appendix Field Dog Record with an Appendix Field Dog Record number with the prefix APDXA.

- 11.3 Since the NFTA is a Sports Governing body for purebred British Breed and HPR Breed Dogs, it is imperative that such Dogs and their future progeny maintain a documented purebred lineage in order to remain eligible to compete in NFTA field trials. The progeny of these Certified Dogs with no previous parentage history may therefore only be Certified in the Appendix Field Dog Record provided that they are bred to Dogs that are Certified in the Field Dog Record. The prefix APDXA will sequentially change to APDXB and APDXC respectively for each subsequent generation of progeny that is Certified in the Appendix Field Dog Record. The progeny of Appendix Field Dog Record Dogs with an APDXC prefix may be Certified in the Field Dog Record.
- 12 The Executive Committee shall determine the administration fees applicable from time to time, and the Administrator shall advise the Member Clubs of the said fees.
- Administration fees are payable according to the following categories upon submission of the relevant application to the Administrator. These fees are revised annually and information regarding the exact fee payable by members and non-members of Member Clubs respectively may be obtained from the Administrator.
- 12.1 Entire Litters – Birth to 4 Months per pup.
 - 12.2 Entire Litters – 4 Months to 12 Months per pup.
 - 12.3 Dogs over 12 Months each.
 - 12.4 Subsequent transfers each.
 - 12.5 Allocation of Prefix.
 - 12.6 Certified Copy of Field Dog Record Certificate.
- 13 Applications for entry and Certification in the Field Dog Record shall be submitted to the Administrator who shall, upon entry and Certification in the Field Dog Record, produce a Field Dog Record Certificate to that effect which shall be issued to the applicant.
- 14 Applications for entry and Certification in the Field Dog Record shall be submitted on the prescribed application form, which may be obtained from the Administrator at info@NFTA.co.za.
- 15 Completed application forms are to be forwarded with the appropriate fee to:
The Administrator, National Field Trial Association, info@NFTA.co.za.
- 16 The administration fee may be paid by electronic transfer made to "NATIONAL FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION". Alternatively payments may be deposited into the NFTA Bank account with the following details:
ABSA Savings Account Number: 90 7575 9441; Account Name: National Field Trial Association.

M. ALLOCATION OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES

The duties and responsibilities for the running of National Championship Stakes for British Breeds and HPR Breeds shall be delegated to the Management Committees. Since National Championship Stakes are NFTA stakes, the Management Committees will collaborate with the NFTA Executive Committee and the NFTA Secretary as appropriate.

Duties and responsibilities for the running of National Championship Stakes shall be allocated as follows:

| NFTA DUTIES | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|-----------|------------|
| Duty | Action | Responsibility | Due Date | BB | HPR |
| Approve Date | | Management Committees / NFTA Executive Committee | March | * | * |
| Approve Host Club | | Management Committees / NFTA Executive Committee | March | * | * |
| Appoint NFTA co-ordinator for the National Championship Stake, to interface with Host Club | | Management Committees / NFTA Executive Committee | March | * | * |
| Invitations to National Championship Stake | | NFTA Secretary | After the last Member Club Championship Stake or Championship Standard Stake of the Field Trial Season | * | * |
| Nominate Judges | | Member Clubs | | * | * |
| Appoint judges | | Management Committees / NFTA Executive Committee | | * | * |
| Ensure trophies are present | | Management Committees / NFTA Secretary / Appointee | | * | * |
| Ensure medals are present | | Management Committees / NFTA Secretary / Appointee | | * | * |
| Ensure certificates are present | | Management Committees / NFTA Secretary / Appointee | | * | * |
| Prepare list of qualifiers | Send to Host club secretary for programme | Management Committees / NFTA Secretary | | * | * |
| Prepare updated ranking list | | Management Committees / NFTA Secretary | | * | * |
| Update Colours and DOY ranking standings | | NFTA Secretary | | * | * |
| Mail this document to host club | | NFTA Secretary | | * | * |
| Reimburse judges travel costs | | NFTA Treasurer | 2 weeks post the National Championship Stake | * | * |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------|--|---|---|
| Log Results in Field Dog Record | | NFTA Secretary | 2 weeks post the National Championship Stake | * | * |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------|--|---|---|

| HOST CLUB DUTIES | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|-----------|------------|
| Duty | Responsibility | Due Date | BB | HPR |
| Choose Venue and HQ | Host Club Executive Committee | After the last Member Club Championship Stake or Championship Standard Stake of the Field Trial Season | * | * |
| Nominate Chief Judge | Host Club Executive Committee | | * | * |
| Compile and Print Programme | Club Programmer | | * | * |
| Arrange Accommodation for participants | Convenor | | * | * |
| Arrange Accommodation for Judges | Convenor | | * | * |
| Judges Accommodation and Meals (Costs borne by nominating club) | Convenor | | * | * |
| Arrange Bar, Meals including Gala dinner | Convenor | | * | * |
| Appoint Stewards | Host Club Executive Committee | | * | * |
| Ensure Guns and Ammunition Available | Convenor | | * | * |
| Provide Ducks for Water Retrieve | Convenor | | | * |
| Secure Hunting Licenses | Host Club Secretary | | | * |
| Report Results of the National Championship Stake to NFTA secretary | Host Club Secretary | 1 week post the National Championship Stake | * | * |

| GALA DINNER | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Duty | Responsibility | BB | HPR |
| Calculate DOY | NFTA Secretary / Appointee | * | * |
| Calculate National Colours | NFTA Secretary / Appointee | * | * |
| Appoint Master of Ceremonies | NFTA Secretary / Appointee | * | * |
| Co-ordinate with Host Club re sequence of Events | NFTA Secretary / Appointee | * | * |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| Toasts (Dogs and Country) | NFTA Secretary / Appointee | * | * |
| President's Address | NFTA President | * | * |
| Collation and preparation of Prizes / Medals / Certificates | NFTA Secretary / Appointee | * | * |
| Announce results of National Trial | Chief Judge | * | * |
| Presentation of Annual NFTA Colours | NFTA President / Appointee | * | * |
| Presentation of Annual DOY | NFTA President / Appointee | * | * |