



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL

RETRIEVING TRIALS

Rules for the conduct of Retrieving Trials for Gundogs

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RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF RETRIEVING TRIALS FOR GUNDOGS

PURPOSE

1. A Retrieving Trial is an event at which competitions for the working of registered Gundogs are conducted, both on land and in or through water, to determine their relative merits in the field under conditions which emulate as closely as possible those which would be found whilst shooting, but at the same time bring the work of each dog within an ambit of equality where assessment may be fairly made.
2. The function of a Retriever is to seek and retrieve fallen game, when ordered to do so. It should sit quietly with the handler or in the hide, walk at heel, or assume any station designated by the handler, until sent to retrieve. When ordered a dog should retrieve quickly and briskly without unduly disturbing too much ground. It should deliver tenderly to hand and then await further orders from the handler.
3. Accurate marking or memory of falls is of paramount importance. However, this does not imply that dogs that excel in marking should not be penalised for other faults. Ability to mark does not necessarily imply pinpointing the fall. A dog that misses the fall on the cast but recognises the depth of the area of the fall, stays in it, and quickly and systematically hunts it out has done a creditable and intelligent job of marking.
4. A dog that marks the fall of a bird, used the wind, and will take direction from its handler is of great value.
5. Directives of a Member Body shall apply to Retrieving Trials in their State/Territory and to any affiliate conducting Retrieving Trials, with the exception of National Trials, and in the event of any inconsistency the Rules of the ANKC shall apply.
6. At a National Retrieving Trial Championship the only Rules that shall apply are the Rules for the Conduct of Retrieving Trials for Gundogs, as approved by the ANKC.
7. The Shooting, Game Laws and Firearms Legislation of each State or Territory must be observed and will govern the conduct of all Trials in conjunction with the Rules and Regulations of each State or Territory Member Body as approved by the ANKC.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

8. (a) **Action and Style** - These are both seen in a fearless, well-trained dog working with purpose, enthusiasm and good free movement.
- (b) **Blinking** - Any dog that finds and deliberately passes by the game, either through nervousness or bad training is a "blinker".
- (c) **Breaking Fence** – Is the act on the part of a dog, when walking to heel, of going through, over or under a fence, without order. A dog should remain steady at both sides of a fence through or over which its handler is crossing.
- (d) **Breaking from the Hide** - A dog will be deemed to have broken from the hide if it moves outside the area designated by the Judge as the Hide. Any movement by the dog within the area of the Hide shall be classed as unsteadiness only.
- (e) **Breaking to Shot** - If a dog makes a forward movement which in the opinion of the Judge indicates a deliberate attempt to retrieve without being ordered to do so, that dog shall be deemed to have broken. If a dog makes a slight break and is brought immediately under control it shall be penalised for unsteadiness.
- (f) **Control Area** - is that area encompassed by the Control Point markers and the Firing Point markers.

- (g) **Control Point** - is the point at which a dog and handler come into the control of the Judge for the purpose of commencing a Run. This point shall be between the two markers set in position by direction of the Judge.
- (h) **Dog** – shall be taken to mean a Gundog of either sex.
- (i) **Drop or Down or Sit** - Drop or Down or Sit – A well trained dog should stop on command. A dog may sit, stand or drop in position, but must not move from that position until ordered.
- (j) **Firing Point** - is the point from which the handler will fire a gun and direct the dog to retrieve. A handler moving outside the Firing Point to handle their dog may be penalised as defined on the Judging Sheet.
- Note:** Terrain permitting, the distance between the Control Point and the Firing Point shall be not less than ten metres and the distance between the two marker pegs at the Firing Point shall be not less than 1.5 metres.
- (k) **Game – Definition of - Quail, Duck, Rabbits, Hare, Pigeons and Pheasants.** The game shown above shall include any imported game bird which may be released from time to time and has established itself in the wild.
- (l) **Game Sense** – Some dogs very apparently use a lot of sense in locating game; in working running game and in finding dead and wounded birds or game. These dogs have 'game sense'.
- (m) **Giving Tongue** - A dog is deemed to be "giving tongue" when in the opinion of the Judge the dog barks or emits other significant noise whilst being adjudicated.
- (n) **Gundog** – shall be taken to mean a registered pure breed dog of a variety accepted by a Member Body as a Gundog.
- (o) **Gun Shy** - A dog which recoils from the sight or sound of the gun is deemed to be "gun shy" and should be penalized according to the seriousness of the fault.
- (p) **Hard Mouth** - A dog is deemed to be hard-mouthed when there is unmistakable evidence of any markings or damage on game retrieved due to biting or crunching by the dog. The penalty as defined on the score sheet should be relative to the marking or damage. Where there is deliberate squeezing of game so that the bones break and the Judge considers that the game is unfit for the table, the Judge may apply Rule 68 and disqualify the dog.
- Note:** Game can be marked when thrown and this should be considered.
- (q) **Hide** - An area clearly defined by the Judge in which to leave the dog.
- (r) **In Line Game** - Items of game shall be considered to be "in line" if the lines to these items of game are separated by less than 10 metres at a distance of 50 metres from the Firing Point; less than 20 metres at a distance of 100 metres from the Firing Point and less than 30 metres at a distance of 150 metres from the Firing Point
- (s) **Member Body** - Means the Member Body of the Australian National Kennel Council which controls the canine activity in the State or Territory in which the fixture is being conducted.
- (t) **No Score** - Where a dog has been marked "No Score", the dog may continue in the Stake at the discretion of the judge, but cannot be placed. In subsequent runs they must be run after competing dogs.
- (u) **Obedience** - Prompt compliance with all commands. Dogs should act readily and not cower or cringe at their handler's signs, sounds or commands.

- (v) **Pottering** - A dog that hunts around in a confined space covering ground that it has already worked, or one that lingers on an old scent, leaves it and then comes back to it is "pottering".
- (w) **Retrieving** - retrieving covers the performance of the dog from when ordered to retrieve until it delivers the game to its handler.
- (x) **Walking to Heel** - Dog's head to be close to the side of heel or immediately behind the heel of the handler.

Retrieves

9. **Single Mark Retrieve** Single Mark Retrieve shall be a retrieve where only one object of game is cast and is to be retrieved, and as further defined in Rule 26.
10. **A Walk-Up Retrieve** is one where the dog is walking at heel, the game is cast and shot at. Immediately the handler pauses to fire, the dog shall sit, drop or stand steady until ordered by handler to retrieve. A walk-Up retrieve is not permitted in a Novice Stake or Beginners' Test.
11.
 - (a) **Wounded Bird Retrieve** - Bird to be thrown by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Bird then picked up and fresh bird left in its stead.
 - (b) **Wounded Rabbit Retrieve** - Rabbit to be placed by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Rabbit is then picked up and fresh rabbit left in its stead.
12. **A Blind Find Retrieve** shall be a retrieve where a dog is in such a position that the flight, fall or placement of the game cannot be seen. The Judge may direct the dog to be placed behind a Hide in close proximity to the Firing Point. Where possible it is recommended that the Hide be part of the natural terrain or be constructed of natural materials.
13. **A Double Mark Retrieve** shall consist of two (2) Mark Retrieves and may include land and water. Except where the game is cast in a common area, game shall not be cast simultaneously and there shall be a reasonable delay between the casts.
14. **A Double Blind Retrieve.** Two items of game will be separately located and the Retrieve conducted as for a Blind Find Retrieve.
15. **A Double Rise Retrieve** A Double Rise Retrieve shall consist of a retrieve where one item of game is cast as for a Mark Retrieve at which two shots are fired in quick succession and before the dog is sent to retrieve. While the dog is returning with the first item of game, a second item of game is cast or placed **no further than** ten (10) metres from the fall of the first item of game, but at a greater distance from the Firing Point. The second item of game shall be retrieved immediately after the first item of game is delivered to hand. The second leg should not be treated as a Blind Find Retrieve.
16. **A Two-Bird Retrieve.** The first item of game shall be cast as for a Mark Retrieve, or alternatively, it may be cast or placed as for a Blind Find Retrieve. In accordance with instructions from the Judge, the dog shall be sent to recover this item of game. While dog is returning to the handler with the first item of game, a second item of game shall be cast so that the dog may mark or hear its fall. The second item of game should be at least twenty metres from first item of game and not less than forty metres from the Firing Point.
17. **Double Fall Retrieve.** The first item of game is cast as a Mark Retrieve and at which one shot is fired. While the dog is on the way out to retrieve the first item of game, a second game is cast and a shot fired so the dog may mark or hear the fall of this item of game. The first item of game must be retrieved before the second item of game. The second item of game must be cast to land not less than twenty metres from the line to the first item of game and not less than forty metres from the Firing Point. A mark will not be cast when a dog is on the way to a blind. This retrieve is limited to All Age and Championship Stakes.

18. **A Mark and Blind Retrieve** shall consist of one Mark Retrieve and one Blind Find Retrieve.
19. **A Triple Mark Retrieve** A Triple Mark Retrieve shall consist of three separate Mark Retrieves. The items of game may be cast at different angles and should fall at least twenty metres apart and may include land and water, terrain permitting. One retrieve should be at a fairly short distance. Items of game shall not be cast simultaneously, and there shall be a reasonable delay between the casts.
20. **A Triple Retrieve with two Blinds and one Mark** shall consist of a Double Blind Find Retrieve and a Mark Retrieve.
21. **A Triple Retrieve with two Marks and one Blind** shall consist of a Double Mark Retrieve and a Blind Find Retrieve.
22. **Through or Amongst Decoy Retrieves.** No less than six decoys, constructed of plastic or painted wood, shall be used. The decoys should be anchored individually. Any dog that picks up a decoy and does not immediately release it without command shall be marked with No Score. A dog which becomes entangled in the strings and attempts to break free shall not be penalised.
23. In multiple Retrieves the Judge may stipulate the order in which items of game shall be retrieved. Any reasonable combination of the listed Retrieves shall be permissible, provided that a dog shall not be required to pick up more than three (3) items of game in any Run.
24. The Judge shall not specify the order of pick-up if items of game are deemed to be "In Line" and that decision shall be left to the handler's discretion.
25. (a) In All Age and Championship Stakes, a Judge may order that one (1) additional item of game be placed or cast as a diversion and this item of game shall not be retrieved by the competing dog. An item of game used as a diversion shall not be located either "in line" with or less than 20m from an item of game that is to be retrieved. See Rule 8 (r) for the definition of "in line".
(b) While in competition, if a dog picks up an item of game used in connection with the Trial, other than the nominated item of game, it shall be awarded No Score. In the event of a dog picking up an item of game not being used in connection with the Run, it shall be given a re-run without penalty.
26. For any Mark Retrieve the dog should be able to see a bird in the air and as it falls and where possible the cast bird should break open skyline when viewed by the dog. A dog on a Mark Retrieve should not need direction from the handler once the dog has been sent for the Retrieve.
27. On Mark Retrieves, where more than one bird is to be retrieved, the order may be specified by the Judge. The handler is permitted to indicate clearly to the dog which bird it is being sent for. However, further handling will be penalised accordingly.
28. On Blind Find Retrieves, where possible, the course should be planned in such a way that advantage is taken of natural hazards. It should be possible, at least in theory, for a dog to find a well-planned Blind Find Retrieve on the initial line from its handler. The test should be so planned that the dog should be in sight at least until directed into the area of the fall, as a Blind Find Retrieve is a test of control and a dog that is out of sight for a considerable period of time cannot be said to be under control.
29. Programmes should be so arranged that all dogs are thoroughly tested on land and in or through water of sufficient depth to require the dog to swim.
30. The maximum distance for any retrieve will be 150 metres. In Novice Stakes and Beginners' Tests, Runs shall not exceed 100 metres.
31. No more than two (2) Runs judged by the same Judge may be linked consecutively before each competitor leaves the Control Area. No more than four (4) items of game may be retrieved in total.
32. Retrieves involving relocation of the Firing Point should not involve a relocation of more than twenty (20) metres. The relocated Firing Point should not unduly disadvantage the dog or handler and it is desirable

that the area of fall of the relocated leg be able to be observed from the new Firing Point. Relocation retrieves are best suited to Walk-Up Retrieves or to enable a better sighted retrieve to be provided to the dog.

Retrieving Stakes and Test Eligibility

33. All events shall be restricted to dogs six months of age and over. The age of a dog shall be computed from its date of birth to the date on which the Trial commences. Should finalisation of the Trial be delayed, then the increase in age shall not affect the eligibility of any qualified contestant.
34. Registered (Main and Limited) desexed Gundogs shall be permitted to compete in Retrieving Trials in all States and/or Territories of Australia.
35. A **Stake** is a competition held at a Retrieving Trial and shall consist of not less than three (3) Runs, with the exception of a Beginners' Test, which shall consist of two (2) retrieves. A Novice Stake shall consist of not less than three Runs nor more than four Runs.
36. **Beginners' Test** is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have not won another Beginners Test nor have placed in any other Stake. Beginners' Tests shall consist of two (2) Runs each of which is a Mark Retrieve, one (1) on land and one (1) in or through water. A Walk-up Retrieve is not permitted in a Beginners Test
37. **Novice Stake** is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have not won any Stake other than two (2) Novice Stakes (Beginners' Tests excluded). A "Walk-Up" is not permitted in a Novice Stake.
38. **Restricted Stake** is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have not won three (3) Restricted Stakes or an All Age Stake or been placed first or second in a Championship Stake.
At least one Blind Find Retrieve shall be included in a Restricted Stake. A Blind should preferably be picked up after, rather than before, a Mark Retrieve, Double Rise Retrieve or a Two-Bird Retrieve. Where a Blind is to be retrieved first, the angle of separation between the Blind and other items of game shall be at least 60 degrees.
39. **All Age Stake** is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have won a Novice or have been placed first, second or third in a Restricted Stake. A Blind Find Retrieve must be included, with the dog tested for steadiness in a Hide at least once.
40. **Championship Stake** is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have been placed first in a Restricted Stake or first, second or third in an All Age Stake. A Championship Stake shall consist of not less than four (4) Runs, with at least nine (9) items of game to be retrieved. At least two (2) Blind Find Retrieves are to be included. A dog must be tested for steadiness from behind a Hide at least once.
41. **National Championship Stake** shall consist of not less than eight (8) Runs with at least seventeen (17) items of game to be retrieved. At least two (2) Blind Find Retrieves are to be included and a dog must be tested for steadiness from behind a Hide on at least two (2) occasions.
42. In each year there shall be held not more than one (1) Championship Retrieving Trial Stake in each State or Territory, except when a State or Territory is holding a National Championship it may, in addition, hold a State or Territory Championship.
43. No other Retrieving Trial carrying Points towards the title of Champion may be conducted throughout Australia on the same day as a National Championship Retrieving Trial.
44. A dog that becomes ineligible for a Stake by virtue of a win after the close of entries shall be automatically elevated into the next highest Stake at the Trial in which it is entered providing the entry fee is adjusted accordingly and/or necessary. (Subject to complying with Member Body Rules).
45. All wins, placings and certificate awards, made by State, Territory or Overseas Governing Bodies recognised by the A.N.K.C. shall count in relation to the eligibility of dogs for any Stake and it shall be incumbent on the Club conducting the Trial to forward within ten (10) days to the Member Body, a marked catalogue with the placings and certificates awarded.

46. Retrieving Trial Champions are eligible only for Championship and All Age Stakes.
47. Trials conducted by affiliates of a Member Body may, with the special permission of the Member Body, be limited to a specific breed or breeds of Gundogs but shall not count for qualification or championship points (see Rules 98 and 100).

Required Number of Entries

48. No event at any Retrieving Trial shall be conducted unless there are at least four (4) bona fide exhibits and at least four (4) different owners, except at Trials conducted north of the Tropic of Capricorn where competition up to and including Restricted Stake standard may have four (4) bona fide exhibits and two (2) different owners.
49. **Championship Stake** - a minimum of eight (8) bona fide exhibits and at least six (6) different owners to compete before the event can be recognised as a Championship.
50. **National Championship Stake** - a minimum of twelve (12) bona fide exhibits and at least eight (8) different owners to compete before the event can be recognised as a National Championship.

Eligibility/Responsibility of Judges

51. (a) No person shall be entitled to judge a Retrieving Trial Stake until he/she has supplied acceptable credentials to the Member Body and has been placed on a list of approved Judges by the Member Body.
- (b) Applications for listing as an approved Judge must be lodged each year with the Member Body in the State or Territory in which the applicant resides and in accordance with the Rules of such body.
- The Member Body will consider, and where applicable, approve the listing of approved Judges for the ensuing year.
- (c) Before being eligible to judge at a Restricted Stake, the person must have completed, to the satisfaction of the Member Body, at least two (2) Novice judging appointments.
- (d) Before being eligible to judge an All Age Stake the person must have completed, to the satisfaction of the Member Body, at least three (3) Restricted Stakes.
- (e) Before being eligible to judge Championship Stakes the person must have completed, to the satisfaction of the Member Body, at least four (4) All Age Stakes.
52. While a dog is in competition, the Judge is not permitted to advise the competing handler where the dog is nor where the item of game is in relation to the dog.
53. Where two (2) or more Judges are co-judging a retrieve no competing dog shall be put out of a Run until all Judges have conferred and reached agreement.
54. When inviting a Judge to co-Judge at a Trial the Judge must be advised by the affiliate, in writing, the name of the other Judge(s) and the Judging arrangements.
55. Judges are empowered and instructed to withhold any prize or award if, in their opinion, the dogs competing do not show sufficient merit. Before a dog can gain a prize or award, it must complete the Stake in which the prize or award is made.
56. The Judge is empowered to turn out of a Stake any dog whose handler does not obey the Judge or who wilfully interferes with another competitor or his dog.

Duties of Trial Manager and Stake Managers.

57. (a) Shall be required to assist the Judge in all duties in connection with the Trial.
- (b) At the Judge's request shall inspect any dog for sexual causes or any other cause which interferes with the safety or performance of its opponents.
- (c) Shall assemble and control all dogs and also be responsible to see that all dogs participate without delay in their proper order.
- (d) May acquaint all competitors with the procedure required by the Judge.
- (e) In some tests the Judge may consider it necessary to request an additional Steward or Stewards to observe and report as required.

Duties of a Gun Steward

58. Where a Gun Steward has been elected to fire on behalf of a handler, the gun will be fired when the bird is as near as possible to the apex of its flight. Only in the case of a handler being under age or incapacitated or prevented at law will a Gun Steward be permitted to fire for the handler. When because of a legal or physical disability a person is restricted from carrying a mock gun, that person will not be required to carry anything.

Duties of Game Stewards

59. (a) Shall be responsible to ensure that all game is humanely dispatched and that at the commencement of any Stake all game is in a fair and reasonable condition. In any Retrieve the condition of the game for that retrieve shall be substantially the same for each dog.
- (b) Shall, in the event of game being cast in a position where a retrieve is impossible or cast in a place substantially different to that directed by the Judge, inform the Judge of such fact.
- (c) Shall, unless otherwise provided for in these Rules, cast the game only when directed to do so by the Judge.
- (d) Shall take every possible precaution to ensure that unused game cannot be sighted or scented by a competing dog.
- (e) The Game Stewards will at all times, endeavour to be hidden from sight of both the handler and dog. The Game and Gun Stewards will refrain from unnecessary movement and the Gun Steward will ensure that the gun is broken at all times when not actually in use. Game to be retrieved must be at least ten (10) metres from the Game Steward.
- (f) Where possible, no competitor may act as Game Steward in any Run in which they are competing before they have run their dog(s) in that Run.
- (g) The direction to the Game Steward to cast the game shall be given by the Judge. Where applicable, such direction shall be given from a position out of sight of the handler and in a way that does not distract the dog.

General Regulations for Conduct of a Trial

60. The management of a Trial shall be entrusted to the Trial Committee of the Affiliate concerned.
61. Any handler who is unacceptable to the Committee and/or Stewards of the Trial for any reasonable cause shall be excluded from the Trial.
62. All dogs shall be examined by a competent examiner before the commencement of every Trial. Bitches in oestrus shall not be permitted to compete but may be on the property but not in the vicinity of the Trial Site or the area of Runs. No preparation for concealing oestrus shall be used.

63. Should two (2) members of the Trial Committee entrusted with the management of the Trial, after consultation with the Judge, consider any dog is unfit to compete by reason of sexual causes or any other causes which interfere with the safety or chance of winning of its opponents, such a dog shall be removed immediately from all competing areas.
64. Dogs are expected to retrieve under all natural working conditions. The Judges and Trial Committee have complete control over the mechanics and requirements of each Trial. This latitude is permitted in order to allow for the difference of conditions in various places.
65. All dogs shall be under the control of the Stewards and must be brought on leads to participate without delay in their proper turn. If absent, when called three (3) times, a dog will be debarred by the Stewards from participating in the Stake.
66. No person, other than the Judge and the Stewards, shall be permitted to accompany the handlers of the dogs competing in any Trial unless the permission of the Judge has been previously obtained. Spectators shall not be allowed to encroach on any area designated by the Trial Manager or Judge.
67. The course over which a Stake shall be run shall be selected by the Judge and where possible two (2) members of the Trial Committee conducting the Trial. Such Committee members shall be appointed at a Trial Committee meeting preceding the Trial and shall be members who are not competing in the particular Stake for which they have selected the Runs. The Judge shall select his/her own Runs. The Committee has the right to intervene only if the selected Runs contravene the ANKC Rules, are logistically unsound or the dogs' safety is in serious question.
68. All matters in connection with dogs actually under trial shall be in the hands of the Judge; he may call the Stewards to his assistance if he considers it necessary. The Judge is empowered to turn out of a Stake any dog that fails to retrieve or that does not work to his satisfaction. Where a dog has received a No Score, the Judge will immediately inform the handler of the situation.
69. In each Run of a Stake a dog may be handled by either its owner or a handler approved by the Stewards, but it must be one or the other. When dogs are working, an owner must not interfere with the dog if another person has been deputised to handle it.
70. No owner or handler shall be permitted to withdraw a dog from a Stake at any time during the progress of the Stake, without the consent of the Judge (which will not be unreasonably withheld) and without advising a Steward. Any owner or handler withdrawing a dog or dogs without consent may be debarred from any further Trials or penalised according to the circumstances by the Committee of the Member Body.
71. Anyone taking part in a Trial who openly impugns the actions or decision of the Judge or who is, in the opinion of the Trial Committee, guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct must be cautioned by the Trial Manager or other Trial official and if thereafter he further offends he shall render himself liable to be debarred from further participation in the trial and may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with at the discretion of the Member Body.
72. Nothing whatever may be administered to a dog whilst it is in the hands of the Judge or Stewards.
73. The person handling a dog may speak, whistle, and work it by hand as they deem proper, including using a hand to indicate to the dog which item of game it is to retrieve, but may be called to order by the Judge for making any unnecessary noise or for any disorderly conduct, and if after being cautioned they persist with such noise or disorderly conduct, the Judge may order the dog to be taken up and it then shall be regarded as being disqualified from the Stake.
74. A handler who touches or physically interferes with his dog will be penalised according to the seriousness of the offence.
75. Physical punishment of a dog during a Trial or on the Trial grounds will not be permitted. Any person who physically punishes a dog on the trial grounds may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with at the discretion of the Member Body.

76. No handler may proceed beyond the Firing Point into the area of a retrieve without the direction of the Judge: refer also to Rule 8(j).
77. The Judge shall give instruction on the conduct of each Run, and these instructions must be obeyed. Competing dogs shall be kept in a marshalling area from which they cannot see retrieves in progress.
78. In the event of a tie, a separate run-off shall be arranged by the Trial Committee entrusted with the management of the Trial in co-operation with the Judge. The Judge will select the test. The order in which the contestants will run is to be decided by the toss of a coin.
79. Decisions of the Committee of the affiliate conducting a Trial shall be subject to appeal to the Member Body.

PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING TRIALS

80. The Draw is the selection by ballot of the order in which dogs in a Stake are required to compete in the first Run. In a National or State Championship it is permitted to divide the field into equal sections still allowing for running of the dogs in the drawn order on the first Run. The Draw will be made by the Trial Committee entrusted with the management of the Trial. The Draw must be made in public.
81. The handler, with dog on lead, shall advance to the Control Point for the purpose of commencing a retrieve. It is important for handlers to know that they are under the control of the Judge from the time they remove the lead and collar from the dog, and any lack of control will be penalised accordingly by the Judge.
82. At the Control Point, after removing the lead and collar, the handler shall place the dog at the "sit", "drop" or "stand" position - and will be handed the gun and approved inserts by the Gun Steward.
83. The dog shall remain in place (at the "sit", "drop" or "stand" position) until on instructions from the judge, the handler, with dog at heel, shall advance to the Firing Point. The dog shall again be placed at the "sit", "drop" or "stand" position. Except in a "Walk-Up Retrieve", and unless otherwise instructed by the Judge, the handler will not close the gun until he reaches the Firing Point.
84. The Game Steward shall when directed by the Judge, cast the game in the area and in such manner as previously directed by the Judge, and where applicable from a position out of sight of the handler and in a way that does not distract the dog.
Insofar as possible, where UHF radios are in use to set up a run, no communication between the Judge and the stewards shall take place via the radios while the dog is retrieving and outside the Control Area. Exceptions would include notification of wrongly cast game, a wounded dog, or a situation which interferes with the Run for that dog.
85. The handler or Gun Steward shall, while the game is in the air and as near as possible to the apex of its flight, aim at the game and fire his gun from the shoulder and in the normal shooting posture. Unless otherwise directed by the Judge, the normal shooting posture will mean the handler or Steward will be standing.
86. After firing at the game, the gun must be broken before or immediately after the dog has been sent to retrieve.
87. The handler must not wave the gun about unnecessarily before or after it has been fired and must carry the gun at all times during a retrieve unless otherwise instructed by the Judge.
88. On instruction from the Judge, and only then, shall the handler order his dog to retrieve the game. The instruction may be given by the Judge to all handlers prior to the commencement of a retrieve if he so desires, so as to eliminate interference with the dog whilst it is at the Firing Point.

Note: The dog must not be held or forcibly restrained by the handler whilst waiting for such instruction from the Judge.

89. The dog shall then proceed to retrieve the game with style and freedom as quickly and efficiently as the terrain permits. The handler shall remain at the Firing Point through the period of the retrieve and shall give all directions to the dog from this point unless otherwise directed by the Judge.
90. The dog shall retrieve the game cleanly and without delay shall return direct to the handler and shall deliver straight to hand in front of the handler from standing or sitting position, and as instructed by the Judge. The dog shall be stationary at delivery.
91. The handler, without stepping towards the dog shall take the game with one hand from the mouth of the dog. It is important that the dog shall deliver tenderly i.e. with a "soft mouth". Where more than one (1) object of game is to be retrieved, the handler must carry all game or place game gently on the ground while waiting for second or more game to be delivered by the dog. When all game has been retrieved the handler shall then move back to the Control Point with the dog at heel and hand over to the Steward, the gun and all game from that retrieve. The handler will then receive lead and collar from the Steward and place it back on the dog.
92. All game must be inspected by the Judge or his authorised delegate immediately the handler completes the retrieve and the handler will be advised by the Judge of any deductions made for Hard Mouth.
93. The dog should at no time drop the game during a retrieve until ordered to deliver by the handler. Any dog doing so shall be penalised according to the seriousness of the offence. The dog will have completed the retrieve when the game is brought within reach of the handler and an attempt is made to deliver without the handler stepping towards the dog. If the game is dropped during an attempt to deliver within reach of the handler, the penalty is for dropping game.

ALLOCATION OF POINTS

94. The principal points to be considered by the judge in assessing the merits of performances in competitive work shall be the ability to mark, sagacity, and use of nose, steadiness, dash, perseverance, attention, control, courage, style, retrieving and cleanness of delivery. Retrieving to which supreme importance must always be accorded, should be with tender mouth and right up to hand. The dog must not injure game, retrieve decoys, drop the game, or retrieve without being ordered to do so. Points should be allocated for each retrieve. (See Judging Sheet.)
95. Judges shall not show their Judging Sheets to unauthorised persons. The sheets must be retained by the Judge. Judging Sheets must be checked and signed by the Judge and Chief Steward and at the conclusion of the Trial and the aggregate points shall be announced for all place awards. As a minimum, at the conclusion of the presentation of trophies, the Run by Run scores of all dogs completing the Trial shall be made available. Should any competitor failing to complete the Trial request details of how he/she was scored on any Run, the Judge shall make this information available to that competitor. The Judge may, at his/her discretion, show a competitor his/her Judging Sheet.
96. Points to be awarded;
 - (a) **Championship Stake** - First place will be awarded twelve (12) points, second place six (6) points.
 - (b) **All Age Stakes** - First place will be awarded six (6) points.
97. On completion of the Trial the Judge shall complete and sign a Judge's Certificate or official catalogue of the event indicating:
 - (a) Placegetters. Only dogs worthy of the award of Championship points may be shown as first, second or third placegetters in Stakes carrying Championship points.
 - (b) Awards of Certificates of Merit, Diploma of Merit and Qualifying Certificates (if any).

AWARDS

98. No points will be allotted towards Championship status unless the Trial is open to all recognised breeds of Gundogs.
99. No Diploma of Merit, Certificate of Merit or Qualifying Certificates, other than those of the Member Body, shall be awarded at Retrieving Trials held under the Rules of the Member Body.
100. Wins and places in Stakes limited to a specific breed or breeds of Gundogs shall count only in such Stakes, but wins and places in Stakes open to all Gundogs shall count in both.
101. Every competing dog must be shot over before it can gain a prize, Certificate of Merit, Diploma of Merit, or Qualifying Certificate, and must satisfy the Judge that it is not gun-shy. These certificates may only be awarded to dogs in actual competition.
102. Wins and other qualifications shall count as from and including the date they are gained.
103. If a prize-winner is disqualified, the dogs next in consecutive order of merit, if so placed by the Judge, shall be moved into the higher places in the prize list and such placings shall there upon become the awards, subject to the qualification that the Judge must certify that such dogs are worthy of occupying that position.
104. **A Qualifying Certificate** is not a prize or title but may be awarded at the discretion of the Judge in any Stake consisting of at least three (3) retrieves to dogs that have completed the Stake to the Judge's satisfaction, having shown that they are under reasonable control and not "hard-mouthed" nor gun shy.
- Note:** A Qualifying Certificate may be awarded to a dog once only. If a dog is eligible to receive the award at a later Trial, no Certificate will be issued.
105. **A Certificate of Merit** is not a prize, but may be awarded at the discretion of the Judge to dogs in All Age Stakes, provided the competitors have completed the stake and, in the opinion of the Judge, have acquitted themselves with exceptional merit in all runs. The letters "C.M." may be added after the registered name of the dog. A Certificate of Merit carries no Championship points.
106. **A Diploma of Merit** is not a prize, but may be awarded at the discretion of the Judge to dogs in Championship and National Championship Stakes, provided competitors have completed the stake and, in the opinion of the Judge, have acquitted themselves with exceptional merit in all runs. The letters "D.M." may be added after the registered name of the dog. A Diploma of Merit carries no Championship points.
107. (a) The title of **Novice Retrieving Trial Dog (N.R.D.)** and/or **Restricted Retrieving Trial Dog (R.R.D.)** may be awarded to those dogs which are no longer eligible to compete in those Stakes because of wins in those stakes or wins/placing in higher classes. (This Rule will be effective for dogs entering trials as from 1/1/1988 and those completing qualification after that date.)
- (b) The title of **All Age Retriever Dog (A.A.R.D.)** may be awarded to those dogs that have completed ten (10) All Age Stakes judged by at least three different Judges. Once a dog has been granted title of AARD it can only compete in All Age or Championship Stakes. (This Rule will be effective for dogs entering Trials as from 1/1/2005 and those completing qualification after that date.)
108. **A Retrieving Trial Championship Certificate** may be awarded to any dog winning a Championship Stake provided it has completed all retrieves.
109. The title of **Retrieving Trial Champion** may be awarded to a dog which has gained at least twelve (12) points in Retrieving Trials; these must have been gained by winning outright a Championship Stake or similar Stake (National Championship), or by winning outright two (2) All Age Stakes, or by being placed second in two (2) Championship Stakes or similar Stake (National Championship), or by winning

outright one (1) All Age Stake and being placed second in a Championship Stake, or similar Stake (National Championship).

110. A dog which has won a National Championship Retrieving Trial may be awarded the title of **National Retrieving Trial Champion (Nat R.T.Ch.)**.

111. On application the Committee of the Member Body may at its discretion grant the title of **Dual Champion** to a dog which has been awarded the title of Champion in breed judging and one of the following titles:

Field Trial Champion
Retrieving Trial Champion
Obedience Trial Champion

Such titles must be indexed as:

For Ch. and F.T. Champ (F)

For Ch. and R.T. Champ. (R)

For Ch. and Ob.T. Champ (O)

On application the Committee of the Member Body may at its discretion grant the title "Triple Champion" to any dog which is awarded the title Champion in Breed judging and Champion for any two of the canine activities as referred to above.

112. The title of **Grand R.T.Champion (Gr.R.T.Ch.)** may be awarded to any dog that is awarded at total of 120 Championship points, of which not less than twelve (12) have been awarded in Championship Stakes.

The title of Grand RT Championship will not be awarded to dogs retrospectively, but a dog will be eligible to be awarded the title of Grand RT Champion, if it gains a minimum of twelve (12) points towards the title of Grand RT Champion (120 points) on or after the implementation date of 1.1.2005.

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NATIONAL RETRIEVING TRIALS

The Member Bodies have agreed that where approval has been granted to conduct the National Retrieving Trial, the Trial will be conducted on the nominated weekends as indicated below.

State or Territory	Nominated Weekend of Year
RNSWCC	37th
VCA	42nd
CCCQ	36th
SACA	36th
CAWA	37th
TCA	43rd
ACTCA	40th
NACA	