



Updated Pointing Dog Rule Change Summary

Updates to UKC Pointing Dog Program Rulebook Revision Based on Comments Received

This memo is intended to provide a concise summary of the modifications to the prior draft based on the comments received and pertinent observations of other changes where appropriate. They are covered below in chronological order as the rules provisions will appear in the new Rulebook.

Section One. Overview and Basics of UKC Pointing Dog Program

IV. (C) A sponsoring club may now sponsor any combination of Type (W) or Type (L) field trials with a maximum of four annual trials.

IV.(E) Specialty or Charity Trials Count against the number of trials a club is allotted. Youth trials or youth categories offered at a licensed trial do not count against the four trial annual limit.

V. Type (W) Field Trials may continue to be run in solo, brace or both in the Gun Class. Type (L) Gun trials are to continue to be run in solo.

V(A) A minimum of Six (6) entries running under judgement is required for results in any category to be recognized by UKC. Where braces are offered, there must be at least three braces composed of six (6) dogs entered for award classifications to count.

Section Two- Rules of General Applicability to all UKC Pointing Dog Events

I(I) Naturally Occurring birds in Type (W) Field Trials must be released sixty (60) days prior to the trial. No callback birds may be employed during a trial, and if callbacks have been used by the landowner they must be removed or released a minimum of two weeks prior to the field trial and may not be present at the time of the field trial.

Note: The observation that a CHF-W title on wild birds is now being offered was given considerable weight in making this decision to require a longer release period. Nonetheless, in our large and diverse country, it is practically unworkable to require only native birds to be used in type (W) trials, as this would eliminate a substantial number of states from ever offering a type (W) trial where bobwhite quail is the principle game bird. Further, in a number of Midwestern and Western states, it is impossible to know or accurately verify whether pheasants are truly wild, or early released naturally occurring birds. Other trialing venues provide similar tolerances for use of naturally occurring birds in trials where birds are not shot, and UKC feels that the long release period and removal of the callback preserves the integrity in this format.

IV(A). Grounds requirements remain the same. The limited successive course format provides a venue, where a large amount of ground is not available. A single bird field format is allowed only for conducting a TAN.

VI Awards. Clearly specifies that Awards are ultimately in the discretion of the sponsoring club. Suggestions set forth in the rulebook are to promote some consistency and to give some basic guidance for award specifications to new clubs. Existing inventories of awards are approved as usable as specified, and only minimal new awards for

CAC, RCAC, CAG and RCAG are required until existing inventories are used up. See the specific content of the rule addition.

Section Three-Title and Championship Requirements

II(B) The HUNT TITLE will still be restricted to dogs in the Gun Class.

II(E) Separate Titles for CHF, CHF-W and CHF-L are implemented. This will provide more opportunities for persons who trial in a specific area, or who have a strong preference for one type of trial over the other. It also provides dogs which compete frequently, to attain the prestige of multiple titles, in addition to 2x titles of a single Championship category.

II(F) The Requirements for GRCHF title remain the same as in the past, with no requirement to earn a CACT via barrage or to acquire WRT Certification.

Note: The issue of raising the requirements for GRCHF will remain on the list of topics to be reviewed in a subsequent rules revision.

II(K) Owners are required to apply for and designate which wins they desire to apply to satisfy requirements for issuance of the CHF, CHF-W, CHF-L or GRCHF titles. The required fee is minimal. All prior award classifications continue to count towards titles specified in the updated Rulebook.

Section Four-General Procedures for Clubs Sponsoring Trials

II(E) Slightly clarifies rule concerning payment of entry fees.

Section Five- Rules Applicable to Judges

(D) (1)(2) Implements basic conflict of interest rules consistent with the UKC Rule in other programs to provide that a judge may not judge any dog they own or co-own, any dog sold within three months, or any dog handled by a family member as defined.

(D)(1) Provides that judging duties and responsibility to the overall trial take precedence over handling dogs, but permits a judge to personally handle up to two of their own dogs in competitions they are not officiating, so long as the runs for such dogs do not disrupt or delay the completion of the field trial. This is thought to be a reasonable number so as to not disrupt the completion of the trial. Judges may enter as many dogs as they wish, so long that any above the two they are allowed to personally handle in a category they are not judging, are handled by a third person in categories the judge is not judging.

(H)(2) Provides that two UKC Licensed Judges are preferred for Gun Braces, but permits a sponsoring club to designate an Apprentice Judge, not participating in the field trial, to assist a single Licensed judge in observing GUN braces, with all judgements and award classifications being conferred by the UKC Licensed Judge. Open Braces require two UKC Licensed Judges at all times.

Q. Requires Judges to classify dogs as Superior (CAC, RCAC, CAG or RCAG), Excellent (EXC), or Very Good (PASS) for various award classifications by Class and Category of competition.

Subsection Q (7) permits use of barrage as tiebreaker mechanism in the limited and remote circumstance where judges from separate batteries nominate a dog for the HNQ award. This has happened in the past, and some

tiebreaker mechanism is needed. (Otherwise, the rules specify that the barrage is employed only for judging the CAC and CAG winners in batteries.)

Q (12) Revises/reorders specific criteria for judging barrages as comments suggested, while requiring consideration of all criteria rather than rating some criteria above others.

Section Six- Rules applicable to Licensure and Qualification of Judges

(I) Grandfathering provision is clarified to indicate that all UKC Licensed Judges previously qualified are grandfathered to serve in their existing capacity under the new rulebook. All prior UKC Licensed Field Trial Judges and UKC Licensed TAN Judges are further qualified to judge WRT events. Set's minimum basic criteria and process for qualifying to instruct, supervise and recommend apprentice judges for full licensure at three years active judging or a minimum of ten (field trials), two of which must involve judging Open Braces.

Note: The intent of the rule is to assist in making the apprenticeship experience more meaningful for new applicant judges applying to be qualified through experience in the UKC Pointing Dog Program. While an apprentice experience is only as good as the degree to which the applicant desires to improve their skills, the supervising judge needs to know the venue to convey meaningful instruction.

III(B) New Applicants are required to complete an apprenticeship of four (4) days which includes experience in Observing Open Braces, as well as Gun Class Competition. The apprenticeship requirement rule is more relaxed for applicants seeking grandfathered status from other venues.

Note: The intent of the rule is to provide a bit more training, experience and exposure to aspiring rookie judges who have not judged before. It is felt that a person who wants to take judging seriously, should be willing to invest four days to learn from others with more experience.

II(C) Apprentice Judges must spend entire day devoted to satisfying apprenticeship requirements. Splitting the day handling dogs or not showing up at the start of the trial, undercuts and minimizes the modest apprentice requirements for New Applicants, most of whom will become beginning judges.

Section Seven-Rules Applicable to Open Class Competition

Trialer Requirement to Run in Open Braces: The proposed Title requirement of Trialer to run in Open Braces has been presently removed due to the present number of dogs with Trialer or better titles. It was felt that at present, imposing the rule might hamper the ability of regional clubs in some cases to offer Open Braces competition which meets the six (6) dog minimum entry requirement.

Note: A number of comments asserted that entry limitations are presently liberal in age as well as that the present entry criteria allow same day entries in Braces and Solo competition, and impose no title requirements to run at the highest level of competition in Open Braces. In terms of providing a real challenge so that titles are highly respected, those concerns have some validity and were noted. However, based on the present size of the venue, the number of dogs competing and the number of trials, the decision was made to err on the side of allowing more development of braces competition. In subsequent Rulebook updates, future consideration will be given to requiring a Trialer or Championship title to qualify to run in Open Braces, as employed in similar venues.

T(4) Criteria for successful retrieve in Open Class has been clarified to require "retrieve to hand or within hands reach" for award qualification.

Notes: Comments indicated there was a disparity in how retrieves are sometimes judged, where the handler cannot reach the bird, or the bird is fully retrieved but dropped prior to physical delivery. Some judges feel that delivery to hand is important, whereas quite a few others believe that a dog should receive credit where the bird is delivered to within hands reach. Judges may still take into account and score the quality of the retrieve in deciding higher award classifications, but should not eliminate a dog in such a circumstance where a retrieve is made to within hand's reach of the handler.

U(5) Open Class dogs running in braces must remain steady to wing and shot after backing and must be off leash to qualify for an award classification in Open Brace competition. Being given the command of "whoa" relegates the backing dog to nothing higher than a Pass.

U(9) Judges should require a bye dog in braces competition, where a brace mate is eliminated, unless the dog under judgment is close to the end of the course. This requirement and clarification should prevent a dog from acquiring an award classification in Brace competition, while essentially running solo for a substantial part of the heat.

Section Eight-Rules Applicable to Gun Class Competition

C) Prior rule relating to allowance of GUN Braces in Type (W) Field trials is retained to provide clubs the flexibility to run Gun Braces, solo or both. Gun Braces are precluded in Type (L) Trials.

Note: The consensus of comments was to continue to permit Gun Braces based on fundraising, participation and opportunity for learning considerations. Other comments suggest that young dogs which are not fully trained running braces is too liberal, and that actual field trial competition in braces should be reserved for the dogs which are trained to the highest level. The decision was made to maintain the status quo and to continue to permit Gun Braces for the reasons urged, but not to expand them to Type (L) trials.

L) The steadiness sequence is simplified for judges evaluating the GUN Class to assign award classifications based on a criteria defined identically as Steady to Wing or Steady to Flush. This criteria permits a judge to make an award classification for a dog in the GUN class who is steady until the point the bird flushes/lifts off the ground. Judges may consider additional steadiness demonstrated in the context of the dog's overall performance in determining which dogs classify for awards based on Superior (CAG and RCAG), Excellent (EXC) and Very Good (Pass) overall performances. Prior rule verbiage which attempted to distinguish between a Pass or higher awards classifications was deemed confusing and difficult for judges to apply in judging dogs in the GUN class.

Section Nine-TAN Rules

No additional changes to Tan Rules.

Section Ten-WRT Rules

Article One. Three dogs minimum for licensure of Water Retrieve Test. No batteries required.

Article Eight. Ducks like mallards are desired, larger game birds like chukar are preferred, small game birds like quail are discouraged, but not absolutely precluded in circumstances where no other birds are available.

Article Thirteen: Bird must be delivered on land and not dropped or delivered in the water.

Appendix A Glossary of Terms

Definitions are added for new award classification nomenclature of CAC, RCAC, CAG, RCAG, CACT, RACT, CAGT and RAGT.

Other definitions are made consistent with other rule changes.

Other Notable Issues Considered

Minimum Entry Age for Open Class- A number of persons commenting asserted that the minimum age for entry in the Open Class should be raised from one year to two. UKC elected to leave the present rule as is, and to let handlers make the decision as to when a dog is ready to run in the Open Class.

Use of Horses by Judges- Suggestions were considered concerning possible allowance of use of horses by Judges. There are multiple factors for consideration in this regard. These include the ability of clubs to secure liability coverage where use of horses is disclosed on an application, the failure to have coverage for a mishap involving a horse where not properly disclosed to the insurer in the application process, the effect on the cost of such coverage where attainable when horses are permitted, potential liability issues relating to supplying of horses to judges, effect on some dogs not used to the presence of horses on the course, and changing a fundamental traditions of this venue which is specifically designed for the foot hunter. Weighing the various considerations on all sides of the issue, UKC has decided to maintain the status quo, which does not include the use of horses by judges or handlers.