



# 2025 Field Trial Rules

# INTRODUCTION

AZPDC Field Trial Events are for the hunter who wants to do more than just hunt with his/her dog during the hunting season. These trials promote the training and use of pointing dogs in the sport of upland bird hunting and the opportunity to succeed in other local and national sanctioned venues.

AZPDC is considered a working club, which involves the participation from its members.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### - PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

#### o Member (s)

- All participants (handlers, gunners, judges) must be current AZPDC members. Prospective members sponsored by members cannot gun, judge or handle.
- Each brace shall have a maximum of 5 participants per dog in the field. This includes handlers, gunners, judges and observers.
- Handlers and judges that do not have experience will be assigned an experienced member who will mentor them. It is the responsibility of the Trial Chairperson to assign a mentor.
- All participants are required to attend a safety meeting one-half hour before the first brace.
- Handlers are required to fulfill their scheduled duties; such as judging, planting, marshaling, etc. If handlers do not fulfill their scheduled duties they run the risk of having their dog scratched from the event with no refund given and no points awarded.
- The Trial will not commence until all participants have signed up for the required duties.
- Everyone who goes out in the field must have signed an Insurance Waiver. Parent or guardian of minor children must sign on their behalf.

#### o Dog (s)

- Bye dogs will NOT be awarded points.
- Females in season may not enter any stakes. Females that come into season after the draw of braces will be scratched and the entry fee will be refunded.

#### o Grievances

- The judge shall present all grievances and protests to the Trial Chairperson within 30 minutes after the end of the brace. The grievance committee will review grievances AT THE EVENT. The findings of the grievance committee shall be final.
  - Grievance Committee will consist of Trial Chairperson, Marshals, Judges and all Board Members present at the event.

### - DEFINITION OF CLASSES

#### o Gun Dog Class

- Any dog which has progressed to a level of training where it can point, be steady to flush, steady to wing, steady to shot, and steady to fall.
- Dog should retrieve to hand.
- No E-collars are permitted in Gun Dog
- Once a dog has placed in a Gun Dog event during the current trial season, that dog will not be qualified for any future award / podium placement in Shooting

Dog or Hunter class events.

○ **Shooting Dog**

- Any dog that has progressed to a level of training where it can point, be steady to flush, steady to wing, steady to shot, and steady to fall.
- Dog should retrieve to hand.
- Training/Silent tracking devices may be used.
- Once the dog has placed in a shooting dog trial event during the current season, that dog will not be qualified for any future award / podium placement in Hunter Class events.
- Any dog that has secured a championship title with another club shall not be eligible for a podium placement or season award points.

○ **Hunter Class**

- Any dog that does not meet the requirements of Shooting or Gun Dog Class.
- Any dog designated by its owner and agreed upon by the Board.
- Training/Silent Tracking devices may be used.
  - Includes pinch collars, check cords etc.
  - All Handlers are encouraged to spend their first year in Hunter class, then moving upward, however, the dog is required to move up from Hunter class once they finish in the top 4 in a season.
  - Any dog that has secured a championship title with another club shall not be eligible for a podium placement or season award points.

- **TRIAL ENTRY FEES**

- Entry fees are set by the board and reviewed periodically.
- The Trial Chairperson will be responsible for processing the entries.
- Deadline for submitting entry application and fee will be the Wednesday prior to the trial at 7pm. (Participant must specify if entering for one or both days).
  - Exception: A new member who is participating in their first trial and only entered on Saturday to determine if they like the format.
    - If member elects to run on Sunday after completing Saturday trial.
      - Premium fee will be charged.
      - Chairperson shall make the necessary changes to the braces.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

- Requirement for all Participants (human and animal)
  - All persons WILL be treated with RESPECT and SPORTSMANSHIP.
    - Any verbal and/or physical harassment, unsportsmanlike conduct and/or interfering with a dog, handler, judge, and/or observer while on the event grounds shall be reported to the Trial Chairperson or Marshall. The Grievance Committee will review this information.
    - The above-defined infraction may result in loss of up to 50 points for each incursion of the infraction and/or ejection from the event or grounds if deemed so by the Grievance Committee.
    - Any earned points for the dog involved will not be officially recorded if ejection occurs.
  - Any verbal or physical harassment of a dog while on the event grounds shall be

reported to the Trial Chairperson.

- This information will be reviewed by the Grievance Committee and may be cause for ejection from the event or its grounds.
- Any earned points for the dog involved will not be officially recorded if ejection occurs.
- If a dog while under judgment at an AZPDC event attacks another dog and the judges are unanimously of the opinion that such attack was without reasonable cause, the judges shall report this information to the Trial Chairperson.
  - This information will be reviewed by the Grievance Committee and may be cause for ejection from the event or its grounds.
  - Any earned points for the dog involved will not be officially recorded if ejection occurs.

## TRIAL STRUCTURE

### - TRIAL SAFETY

- All participants (judges, handlers, bird planters, observers, gunners, etc.) must wear a minimum of a high visibility colored (orange, yellow, lime, pink, etc.) hat and vest while in event field.
- Any unsafe shooting or handling of firearms shall be forbidden. No loitering allowed with firearms. All firearms must be secured while on the trial grounds.
- Running with a firearm anywhere in the trail grounds, including in the gallery shall be forbidden.
- All actions must remain open until the handler calls POINT.
- Gunner must always keep safety mechanism on and finger outside of the trigger guard until ready to shoot.
- Calling Safety – Any person(s) in the event field may call “safety.” Safety may be called after the first shot. Safety means DON’T SHOOT!!
- For safety and insurance reasons, there will be NO alcoholic beverages consumed before or during the actual field event.
- Firearms are restricted to shotguns no larger than 12-gauge. Shot shells shall be equal to or less than the major manufactures’ current standard field or game loads, 2 ¾ factory ammunition, maximum 1-1/8 oz. of 7-1/2 shot. NO MAGNUM LOADS. NO MORE THAN TWO (2) SHELLS IN ANY FIREARM AT ONE TIME. You cannot shoot more than twice at the same bird, following an initial point / flush. Additional shots are permissible to “take out” a bird previously scored upon.
- Dogs are required to be staked prior to their brace or when unattended in the camp area. Chain, cables, or other types of restraint should be able to withstand being chewed through by the dog. Crating of the dog will satisfy the staked requirement. Attachment to motor vehicles is not recommended.
- Violation of any or all the above safety rules may result in disqualifications or ejection from the event grounds by the field events committee.
  - Field event committee consists of Trial Chairperson and all board members present at the event.

\*As the party approaches the pointed bird, the gunner must verbally identify to their entire party where the obstructed shooting lanes are as well as the location of the brace mate dog and its party. Absolutely no shooting towards the gallery or parked vehicles. Violation may result in immediate removal from the field. A second violation shall result in a one-year suspension from the club.

## - **BRACES**

- Dogs shall be run two (2) at a time and the order of running shall be decided by the Trial Chairperson.
- Entries are accepted on a first come first serve basis. The braces will be limited to the number of braces able to be completed during daylight hours.
- A Handler may not enter more than three (3) dogs in a given day without permission from the Trial Chairperson.
- It is the sole responsibility of the Handler to identify a substitute judge in the event they are not able to fulfill their judging obligation. Handler shall notify and get consent from the Marshall or Chairperson of the substitution in advance of the affected brace. It is in the discretion of the Marshall or Chairperson to approve any substitution.
- Dogs being worked by the same handler or belonging to the same owner will be placed in different braces.
- Each dog in a brace must have a separate handler.
- Dogs may be run in an order different from the order in which they are drawn when, in the opinion of the Trail Chairperson, such will result in a reasonable and desirable saving of time in the conduct of the trial.
  - This will not apply to late arrivals.
- Brace Running Time:
  - Gun Dog and Shooting Dog:
    - Depending on the number of entries, the braces will be 20-30 minutes and will be left to the discretion of the chairperson and marshal.
  - Hunter:
    - Braces will be up to 30 minutes in length and split into two (2) time periods.
    - The first time period will be a regular brace scored per the rules that govern the Hunter class.
    - Remaining 5 minutes the handler will be provided a training bird and will have the opportunity to work that bird for training purposes.
- Area of trial field:
  - Gun dog and Shooting dog.
    - Minimum of forty (40) acres
  - Hunter
    - Half size of Gun dog and Shooting dog.
      - Approximately twenty (20) acres.
- Bird Planting
  - Gun Dog and Shooting Dog.
    - Six (6) birds planted in the field before each brace.
  - Hunter
    - Four (4) birds planted in the field before each brace.
    - One (1) extra training bird will be available to each handler after brace ends.

## - **TIE SCORES**

- Scores tied in positions 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> at an individual trial will result in a sudden death run-off at the end of that day's trial, unless conditions warrant a change as determined by the trial chairperson.
- One (1) less bird per number of dogs participating will be planted in the field prior to the runoff. The handlers will remain in the blind until they are notified to start the run off.
- Handlers and dog will be assigned a judge.

- The same handler must handle the dog.
- Handlers not present at the time of the run off will be placed below the handler they are tied with.
  - For example: 1<sup>st</sup> place has 20 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place are tied at 15 points and 4<sup>th</sup> place has 10 points. If one of the handlers tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place is not present then they will automatically be in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
- First dog witnessed by judges to establish point with a confirmed bird will be given the 1<sup>st</sup> run off position. Next established point with a confirmed bird will receive 2<sup>nd</sup> run off position etc.
  - Two (2) minutes will be provided to locate and confirm bird exists.
- Once the bird has been confirmed, the handler will leash the dog and all will immediately leave the trial field.
- Runoff's will continue until there are only 4 placements remaining
- **DEAD BIRDS, SAFETY SITUATIONS OR OTHER NON-SHOOTING SITUATIONS**
  - **Stop to Flush (STF) (Minimum of 3 seconds)**
    - Score STF and bird may be hunted by EITHER dog.
    - Do **not** score STF and either dog may hunt bird.
  - **Handler, judges, etc. sees bird, bumps bird, flushes bird etc.**
    - Either dog may hunt the bird.
  - **A SAFETY or MISSED SHOT equates to a "dead bird" (NON-SCORING) to the scoring handler (aka Team A).**
    - Option 1
      - The scoring team (Team A) is given the initial opportunity to take "dead bird" out of the field.
        - Team A judge starts a three (3) minute clock.
        - Team A (scoring handler) takes out "dead bird". Team A judge notifies Team B and both Teams continue to hunt other birds.
          - In order for Team A to score points in dead bird area, Team A scoring handler must produce two (2) birds, one (1) "dead bird" and one (1) scoring bird.
  - **OR...**
    - Team A (Scoring handler) dog points a different bird while pursuing the "dead bird".
      - Team B (brace mate) can now hunt Team A's dead bird.
      - Team A judge notifies Team B judge that an opportunity exists to pursue and score upon the "dead bird" with no time clock.
  - **OR...**
    - If after three (3) minutes Team A cannot locate "dead bird" OR at anytime time prior to three (3) minutes abandons "dead bird".
      - Team A judge notifies Team B judge that an opportunity exists to pursue and score upon the "dead bird" with no time clock.
  - Option 2
    - Team A (scoring handler) chooses **not** to pursue "dead bird" (non-scoring).
      - Team A (scoring handler) must audibly notify their judge that they are no longer in pursuit of "dead bird" (non-scoring).
        - Team A (scoring handler) MAY NOT score upon that dead bird throughout the duration of the brace.

- Team A judge notify Team B (brace mate) judge that opportunity exists to pursue and score upon the “dead bird” with no time clock.

## TRIAL POSITIONS DESCRIPTIONS

### - TRIAL EVENT COORDINATOR:

- Heads up the Trial Event Committee. [SEP]
- Determines the number and type of field events including the Quail Invitational, Chukar Challenge, etc. [SEP]
- Determines the date and location of the annual field trials.
- Confirms permits for the events are secured and available on-site.
- Responsible for the procurement of trophies, awards and ribbons for the trial season. [SEP]
- Provides upcoming event information to the membership through the Club Newsletter, E-Mail, and Website. [SEP]
- Arranges for the necessary amount of birds to be used for the trial season. [SEP]

### - TRIAL CHAIRPERSON (S):

- Provides the Treasurer with financial statement after the event.
- Has full responsibility for the event activities. [SEP]
- Responsible for the list of entrants, the number of dogs entered, and brace sheets.
- Braces may be between 20 or 30 minutes and will be left to the discretion of the Chairperson, but will be limited to the number of braces able to be completed during daylight hours.
- Chairperson shall make the necessary changes to the braces. [SEP]
- Responsible for setting up of the bird field boundaries and flag placement. [SEP]
- Responsible for roll call, safety meeting, and judging assignments and any other logistics. The chairperson must also have a marshal(s) designated before the first brace. Trial will not begin until assignments are completed. [SEP]
- Determines who will deliver birds and club trailer to the event.
- Ensures drinking water, batteries, snacks, gas for generator and coffee are provided. [SEP]
- Ensures approved event location permit is onsite. [SEP]
- Assigns an experienced club member as a mentor to walk with a new member during his/her first brace and coach him/her. Chairperson shall assign a mentor for handlers that do not have experience judging.
- Provides handlers with placement awards and arranges for photos. Attends grievance meetings.
- Responsible for instructing bird planter(s) of their responsibilities.

### - TRIAL MARSHAL (S):

- Have full responsibility for the activities related to the running of each brace and the communication with the judges.
- Provides judges with scorecards and radios.
- Ensures that handlers and dogs are in the blind ten (10) minutes prior to their brace.
- Coordinate the activities of the bird planters and ensure that the bird field is planted in a timely manner.
- Monitor the runtime of each brace and time limits for honors, and dead birds.



- Marshals must be at the Marshal's Table ten (10) minutes prior to the brace.
- **JUDGE (S):**
  - Must be present at least ten (10) minutes prior to the brace.
  - Communicates by radio to the marshal regarding time. Notifies marshal to start the clock to begin each brace. Notifies marshal and handler to start the clock regarding honoring and/or dead bird. A judge may be required to monitor time for honors, and/or dead birds in the event of communication issues with the marshal's table.
  - Informs the handler on time remaining in the brace and when time is up in the brace.
  - Observes all activity of the dog, handler and gunner during the brace. [SEP]
  - Utilizing the current Trial Rule Book the judge records the scoring of the performance of the dog.
  - Monitors the activity of the handler, gunner, and other participants and notifies them of any hazards which may jeopardize safety.
  - When the judge is notified by the handler that the dog is on point:
    - The pointing dog judge will:
      - Communicate with the gunner and handler as to their safest position.
      - Notify the handler of the dog on point if an honor has been requested.
    - The judge for the honoring dog will:
      - Notify the marshal to start the clock after the handler has declared the honor and begin scoring for the honor.
    - In the case of a divided find, when both dogs go on point for the same bird simultaneously and independent of each other.
      - Both dogs shall be judged on the find.
      - The retrieve will be scored as a safety.
    - Both judges will:
      - Notify handlers of the general location of a dead bird.
      - Use discretion in order to determine [SEP] when to remove dead birds (scored upon), bird in tree, bird in obstacle and all poorly flying birds in the field.
      - Notify handler of opportunity to pursue a safety bird or missed shot bird.
      - Immediately score and record dog's performance on scorecard. Notations regarding questionable events, which occur during the brace, are recommended.
      - Notify handlers to leash dogs at the end of the brace.
      - Deliver scored cards to the marshal's table.
  - Attend meeting for grievances that may have arisen during the brace.
- **BIRD PLANTER (S):**
  - Bird planters are responsible for planting birds before each brace.
  - Bird planting technique can vary depending on terrain, weather, individual birds, and the planter's personal discretion. [SEP]
  - Planters can dizzy the bird and tuck its head under a wing (often stroking the bird's chest to relax the bird) for a tight plant. The bird can also be tossed/placed without dizzying into a bush for a much looser plant. Note that most birds tend to move towards trees, so planting near the edge of a bird field with trees nearby and outside the boundary of the bird field will often result in birds migrating out of bounds. [SEP]
  - Horse owners will be compensated for the weekend as follows: Compensation is to be determined by the Board on a per day per field basis. The person bringing the horse is responsible for planting the birds for all the braces. The bird planter must find someone else to plant birds for the braces in which he will be handling/gunning a dog. In order to be compensated for the horse the owner of the horse MUST get

authorization before the trial from the trial chairman. Other horses are welcome.

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- **HANDLER (S):**
  - The handlers are responsible for handling, guiding, and/or controlling a dog during a brace. This is often the owner of the dog performing this task but is not required to be.
  - The handler must sit with the dog in a blind before his/her brace as well as collar the dog when required.
  - The handler is responsible for indicating to the judge when their dog is on point.
  - A handler can also perform gunner duties for themselves if so desired.
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- **GUNNER (S):**
  - Must be an AZPDC club member in good standing and have signed a current Insurance waiver.
  - Gunners are person(s) who have demonstrated to club members that they can safely handle a shotgun.
  - "The official gunner at field trials must be at least eighteen years of age". Per Arizona Pointing Dog Club, Inc BYLAWS , ARTICLE X.
  - Gunners are responsible for flushing the bird located by the dog on point as well as shooting the bird.
  - Gunners, handlers and mentors are considered a team and may openly communicate. Observers and judges must remain out of communication.

## GENERAL RULES

The following rules apply to all three (3) classes: Gundog, Shooting Dog and Hunter during the running of the trials.

- Handlers, dogs, and gunners must be in the blind prior to the end of the previous brace and remain in the blind while birds are being planted.
- A bye dog will be selected if an entrant is not present ten (10) minutes before brace time or if a dog is out of the bird field for more than ten (10) consecutive minutes.
  - A bye dog will be a dog that has already run its brace or a dog that is not in contention for points.
  - Bye dog must be in the same class where they are needed.
  - A paid bye-dog is priority over a non-paying bye-dog.
- Dogs must locate birds in accordance with the characteristic of the breed. All birds that are caught on the ground that have not been scored upon, shot at, or a safety called on shall not be scored.
- Birds must be shot in the air, unless instructed by the judge to do otherwise. The judge shall encourage the bird to be safely shot on the ground when reasonable attempts to get it to fly have failed. A bird ordered by the judge to be shot on the ground will be scored as if steady to flush, wing, shot, and fall.
- If a dog is on point when the official brace time ends and the handler has called point, the handler will be given one (1) minute\* to complete all bird work, including the retrieve. (\*If the bird has been fetched and the retrieve is underway, the dog will be allowed to complete the retrieve and receive a score based upon its performance) . Points will be awarded for the work that was completed within the one (1) minute

period after the official brace time ended. The dog cannot be relocated during this one (1) minute period.

- The dog must be inside the boundaries to score points.
  - The live bird may be outside the boundaries.
  - The bird may be retrieved from out of bounds to score points for the retrieve.
- Points scored in a brace that the handler does not complete will not be scored unless judge approved removal from brace.
- Any dog who enters the trial and has a champion title from any other organization is entitled to run in Shooting Dog or Gun Dog class, however the dog shall not qualify for a podium placement or high points for the year.
- A bird(s) pointed in trees or large overgrown bushes will be scored at follows:
  - Automatic safety—will be average of all finds and retrieves. Bird will be taken out.
    - Pointing dog will be collared and birds will be shot out of tree or bush.
    - To ensure the safety of the dog, no retrieve will be allowed, judge will retrieve shot bird.
  - If there is more than one bird, then each bird must be repointed

## CLASS RULES

### Gun Dog

- **Rules for the FIND (Gun Dog)**
  - A LIVE bird must be pointed and PRODUCED to score points for the find.
  - When the dog is on point, the handler must indicate to the judge verbally or by raising their hand prior to passing the dog on point. The dog must remain on point for a minimum of three (3) seconds in order to score points for the find. Once point has been indicated all rules for steadiness will apply.
  - Judges can advise the handler that a dog may be on point only if the handler is not in view of the dog. The handler must confirm to the judge that a dog is on point to be scored for that find.
  - In the case of a divided find, when both dogs go on point for the same bird simultaneously and independent of each other:
    - Both dogs shall be judged on the find.
    - The retrieve will be scored as a safety.
  - If either of the judges witnesses a dog on point first, rather than the first handler who declares point:
    - The find will be awarded to the dog that pointed first.
    - The other handler/dog may take the interaction as an honor or move on.
    - If there are any discrepancies between judges, then it will determined to be a divided find.
  - A handler must request permission from the judge before a dog can be relocated and must call point again to re-establish the find. Relocation will not be allowed for the purpose of upgrading steadiness score.
  - Tapping the dog for release purpose is permissible.
  - Once point has been established, audible commands may be used moderately and quietly. The command should not affect the brace mate.
  - A covey is where multiple birds are located in the same immediate vicinity

within the bird field.

- All birds may be hunted and scored upon, one at a time.
  - Each bird will be scored separately only if a separate point is established for each bird.
  - In the event of a multiple bird flush, the dog shall be scored for a single find and is allowed to retrieve any single flushed bird (provided there was a shot taken), regardless of whether it is the bird shot at by the gunner. If the gunner shot at a different bird and killed it, that bird shall be picked up and removed from the field with no score. Other birds from the initial flush may be hunted by either party with no delay.
- Safety is the average of the other finds, maximum five (5) points each if all finds are safeties. However, in order for the dog to receive find points it must demonstrate a scorable find immediately following its brace on an additional planted bird. The handler shall work the dog into the planted bird and the gunner shall flush and shoot the bird. The dog shall then be judged accordingly.
  - Stolen Point
    - A stolen point is committed after a handler has indicated point and brace mate moves in front of or within five (5) feet of the dog on point.
    - A bird must be produced in order to be scored as stolen point.
    - Offending dog must be collared until completion of the find and retrieve by its brace mate.
    - Once the offending dog has been collared, the original pointing dog will be allowed to complete bird work for a score.
    - If the offending dog flushes or otherwise makes a retrieve impossible, the pointing dog will receive credit for a safety for both the point and retrieve. (Average of other birds found and retrieves in brace).
  - Scoring for a find
    - 0 PTS – Dog on point that is touched, blocked or verbally/physically harassed.
    - 1 PT – Dog points for more than 3 seconds after point is called.
    - 2 PTS – Dog is Steady to Flush (Bird has left its resting point after being moved by the Handler or Gunner).
    - 5 PTS – Dog is steady to shot and Release by handler. Handler can release their dog following the shot and fall after a full 2 second count by the judge. Pointing dog cannot move more than three (3) paws in a forward direction while holding point until release. The exception is if the dog pivots to watch a flushed bird and so long as there is no forward progress.
- **RETRIEVE (Gun Dog)**
    - The handler must attempt to shoot the bird in the air to score on the retrieve (except in case of a safety). If the bird does not fly the bird may be shot on the ground in a safe manner with judge's approval. If it cannot be done safely then a safety should be called.
    - The handler may move clear from an obstacle for the retrieve but cannot make forward or backward movement for the purpose of "encouraging the dog to complete the retrieve" (see definition) without permission of the judge.

- After the shot is fired the handler has the option to release dog for a retrieve regardless if the bird is hit or not.
- The bird may be retrieved from outside the bird field to score points for the retrieve.
- NO OPPORTUNITY – A no opportunity for a retrieve shall be scored a N/O (not zero) when there is a missed shot or a bird falling in or ending up in an irretrievable location and:
  - Dog is NOT sent on a retrieve or
  - Dog breaks on shot and is stopped prior to getting to the dead bird area.
- SAFETY - Should a safety be called the dog will be scored the average of all other retrieves during the brace. If no other bird is produced for scoring a retrieve, the dog must demonstrate a retrieve immediately following its brace on a freshly killed bird. The retrieve shall be scored on that bird.
- STOLEN RETRIEVE – A stolen retrieve will be the average of other retrieves during the brace. If no other bird is produced for scoring the retrieve, the dog must demonstrate a retrieve immediately following its brace on a freshly killed bird. The retrieve shall be scored on that bird.
- ABANDON RETRIEVE – The bird may be set on the ground by the dog and repositioned in mouth as long as dog does not leave the bird by more than three (3) feet. Anything greater than three (3) feet will be considered abandoning the bird.
- Scoring for a Retrieve
  - 0 PTS – Dog will not retrieve. Handler calls off the retrieve.
  - 1 PT- Dog starts retrieve, but releases bird from mouth beyond three 3 feet of handler and abandons the bird.
  - 2 PTS - Dog releases bird from mouth during the retrieve within 3 feet of handler and abandons the bird.
  - 3 PTS – Bird is retrieved to hand properly and secured by handler with or without the use of commands. Dog may reposition bird during retrieve and bring to hand.

#### ○ **HONORING (Gun Dog)**

- The handler must declare that the dog is honoring its brace mate to the judge by raising their hand or verbally advising the judge.
  - The judge is responsible for starting a two (2) minute clock and informing the handler of clock start and end.
  - The honoring dog must be steady to the flush, wing, shot, fall and completion of the retrieve **OR**
  - The honoring dog must remain in an honor for two (2) minutes.
    - Time will start when the pointing dog handler reaches the pointing dog.
    - A relocation of the pointing dog may occur, without interference from backing dog, with two (2) minute clock continuing to run.
    - Upon expiration of two (2) minute clock the honoring dog may move on. A flush, shot or retrieve is not required in this scenario to receive honoring points.
    - After the two (2) minute honor is completed the honoring dog

must leave the area so as not to interfere with the pointing dog work, unless the pointing dog leaves the area.

- The handler informs the judge of the intent to COLLAR or NOT COLLAR the dog.
- A dog can receive only one (1) score for honoring but the score can be upgraded to a higher score later in the brace.
- There shall be no callbacks to demonstrate an honor.
- In the event that the brace ends while the dog is honoring, the two (2) minute rule will apply and the dog will be given credit upon completion of the two (2) minutes.
- Scoring for an Honor
  - 1 PTS - Dog honors the pointing dog without the use of commands AND:
    - Is then collared during the find and retrieve or:
    - Collared and two (2) minute clock completed as timed by Judge
  - 3 PTS – Dog honors the pointing dog without use of commands, before and during the honor, and:
    - Not collared during the find and retrieve or:
    - Not collared and two (2) minute clock completed as timed by Judge / Marshall.
  - There shall be no points earned by use of a command into or during the honor, whether it be voice, visual, whistle, or any other command. Handler is obligated to report to the judge about any command given that is not obvious to the judge.
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- **STOP TO FLUSH (Gun Dog)**
  - Only one (1) stop to flush per dog per brace shall be scored.
  - The dog must be in motion when it sees a flushed bird and stops (once a dog starts to point a bird, whether or not point has been called by the handler, it does not qualify for a stop to flush).
  - There will be no callbacks to demonstrate a stop to flush.
  - Handler must immediately declare a “Stop to Flush” when Stop to Flush occurs.
    - Once a Stop to Flush has been declared, the dog CAN be scored for a FIND on the same bird
  - Scoring for a Stop to Flush
    - 0 PTS – Dog does not stop to flush
    - 1 PT – The dog is commanded to stop to flush or the dog delay chases. The handler may collar the dog or heel the dog out of the area after a stop to flush.
    - 2 PTS – Dog stops to flush without use of commands. Dog is not collared. Dog must be steady for a minimum 3 second count, until released by handler.
- **Additional Scoring for Brace (Gun Dog)**
  - 1 PT – Given to each dog for completing its brace.
  - 1 PT – Given to the winner of each brace. No point will be awarded in the event of a tie.

## SHOOTING DOG

### ○ Rules for the FIND (Shooting Dog)

- A LIVE bird must be pointed and produced to score points for the find.
- When the dog is on point, the handler must indicate to the judge verbally or by raising their hand prior to passing the dog on point. The dog must remain on point for a minimum of three (3) seconds in order to score points for the find. Once point has been indicated all rules for steadiness will apply.
- Judges can advise the handler that a dog may be on point only if the handler is not in view of the dog. The handler must confirm to the judge that a dog is on point to be scored for that find.
- In the case of a divided find, when both dogs go on point for the same bird simultaneously and independent of each other.
  - Both dogs shall be judged on the find.
  - The retrieve will be scored as a safety
- If either judge witnesses a dog on point first, rather than the handler who declares point first:
  - The find will be awarded to the dog that pointed first.
  - The other handler/dog may take the interaction as an honor or move on
  - If there are any discrepancies between judges then it will be determined to be a divided find.
- A handler must request permission from the judge before a dog can be relocated and must call point again to re-establish the find. Relocation will not be allowed for the purpose of upgrading steadiness score.
- Tapping the dog for release purpose is permissible.
- Once point has been established, audible commands may be used moderately and quietly. The command should not affect the brace mate.
- A covey is where multiple birds are located in the same immediate vicinity within the bird field.
  - All birds may be hunted.
  - Each bird will be scored separately only if a separate point is established for each bird.
  - In the event of a multiple bird flush, the dog shall be scored for a single find and is allowed to retrieve any single flushed bird (provided there was a shot taken), regardless of whether it is the bird shot at by the gunner. If the gunner shot at a different bird and killed it, that bird shall be picked up and removed from the field with no score. Other birds from the initial flush may be hunted by either party with no delay.
- Safety is the average of the other finds, maximum five (5) points each if all finds are safeties. However, in order for the dog to receive find points it must demonstrate a scorable find immediately following its brace on an additional planted bird. The handler shall work the dog into the planted bird and the gunner shall flush and shoot the bird. The dog shall then be judged accordingly.
- Stolen Point
  - A stolen point is committed after a handler has indicated point and brace mate moves in front of or within five (5) feet of the dog on point.
  - A bird must be produced in order to be scored as stolen point

- Offending dog must be collared until completion of the find and retrieve by its brace mate.
  - Once the offending dog has been collared then original pointing dog will be allowed to complete bird work for a score.
  - If the offending dog flushes or otherwise makes a retrieve impossible, the pointing dog will receive credit for a safety for both the point and retrieve (average of other birds found and retrieves in brace).
- Scoring for a find
    - 0 PTS – Dog on point that is touched, blocked or verbally/physically harassed.
    - 1 PT – Dog points for more than 3 seconds after point is called. Handler may elect to collar the dog after informing the judge.
    - 3 PTS – Dog is Steady to Flush (Bird has left its resting point after being moved by the Handler or Gunner).
    - 5 PTS – Dog is Steady to Shot and Release by handler. Handler can release their dog following the shot and fall after a full 2 second count by the judge. Pointing dog cannot move more than three (3) paws in a forward direction while holding point until release. The exception is if the dog pivots to watch a flushed bird and so long as there is no forward progress.
- **RETRIEVE (Shooting Dog)**
    - The handler must attempt to shoot the bird in the air to score on the retrieve (except in case of a safety). If the bird does not fly, the bird may be shot on the ground in a safe manner with judge's approval. If it cannot be done safely then a safety should be called.
    - The handler may move clear from an obstacle for the retrieve but cannot make forward or backward movement for the purpose of "encouraging the dog to complete the retrieve" (see definition) without permission of the judge.
    - After the shot is fired the handler has the option to release dog for a retrieve regardless if the bird is hit or not.
    - The bird may be retrieved from outside the bird field to score points for the retrieve.
    - NO OPPORTUNITY – A no opportunity for a retrieve shall be scored a N/O (not zero) when there is a missed shot or a bird falling in or ending up in an irretrievable location and:
      - Dog is NOT sent on a retrieve or
      - Dog breaks on shot and is stopped prior to getting to the dead bird area.
    - SAFETY - Should a safety be called the dog will be scored the average of all other retrieves during the brace. If no other bird is produced for scoring a retrieve, the dog must demonstrate a retrieve immediately following its brace on a freshly killed bird. The retrieve shall be scored on that bird.
    - STOLEN RETRIEVE – A stolen retrieve will be the average of other retrieves during the brace. If no other bird is produced for scoring the retrieve, the dog must demonstrate a retrieve immediately following its brace on a freshly killed bird. The retrieve shall be scored on that bird.
    - Scoring for a Retrieve



- 0 PTS – Dog will not retrieve. Handler calls off the retrieve.
- 1 PT- Dog starts retrieve, but releases bird from mouth beyond three 3 feet of handler.
- 2 PTS - Dog releases bird from mouth during the retrieve within 3 feet of handler.
- 3 PTS – Bird is retrieved to hand properly and secured by handler with or without the use of commands. Dog may reposition bird during retrieve and bring to hand.

○ **HONORING (Shooting Dog)**

- The handler must declare that the dog is honoring its brace mate to the judge by raising their hand or verbally advising the judge.
  - The judge is responsible for starting a two (2) minute clock and informing the handler of clock start and end.
  - The honoring dog must be steady to the flush, wing, shot, fall and completion of the retrieve **OR:**
  - The honoring dog must remain in an honor for two (2) minutes.
    - Time will start when the pointing dog handler reaches the pointing dog.
    - A relocation of the pointing dog may occur, without interference from backing dog, with two (2) minute clock continuing to run.
    - Upon expiration of two (2) minute clock the honoring dog may move on. A flush, shot or retrieve is not required in this scenario to receive honoring points.
    - After the two (2) minute honor is completed the honoring dog must leave the area so as not to interfere with the pointing dog work, unless the pointing dog leaves the area.
- 
- The handler informs the judge of the intent to COLLAR or NOT COLLAR the dog.
- A dog can receive only one (1) score for honoring but the score can be upgraded to a higher score later in the brace.
- There shall be no callbacks to demonstrate an honor.
- In the event that the brace ends while the dog is honoring, the two (2) minute rule will apply and the dog will be given credit upon completion of the two (2) minutes.
- Scoring for an Honor
  - 1 PTS - Dog honors the pointing dog without the use of commands AND:
    - Is then COLLARED during the find and retrieve.
    - COLLARED and two (2) minute clock completed as timed by Judge.
  - 3 PTS – Dog honors the pointing dog without use of commands, before and during the honor, and:
    - NOT COLLARED during the find and retrieve OR:
    - NOT COLLARED and two (2) minute clock completed as timed by Judge.
    - There shall be no points earned by use of a command into or during the honor, whether it be voice, visual, whistle, e-collar or

any other command. The Handler is obligated to immediately disclose to the judge if it used any command that was not obvious to the judge (such as with an ecollar command).

○ **STOP TO FLUSH (Shooting Dog)**

- Only one (1) stop to flush per dog per brace shall be scored.
- There will be no callbacks to demonstrate a stop to flush.
- The dog must be in motion when it sees a flushed bird and stops (once a dog starts to point a bird, whether or not point has been called by the handler, it does not qualify for a stop to flush).
- Handler must immediately declare a “Stop to Flush” when a Stop to Flush occurs.
  - Once a Stop to Flush has been declared, the dog CAN be scored for a FIND on the same bird
- Scoring for a Stop to Flush.
  - 0 PTS – Dog does not stop to flush.
  - 1 PTS – The dog is commanded to stop to flush or the dog delay chases. The handler may collar the dog or heel the dog out of the area after a stop to flush.
  - 2 PTS – Dog stops to flush without use of commands. Dog is not collared. Dog must be steady for a minimum 3 second count, until released by handler.

○ **Additional Scoring for Brace (Shooting Dog)**

- 1 PTS – Given to each dog for completing its brace.
- 1 PTS – Given to the winner of each brace. No point will be awarded in the event of a tie.

## **HUNTER**

○ **Rules for the FIND (Hunter)**

- A LIVE bird must be POINTED and PRODUCED to score points for the find.
- When the dog is on point, the handler must indicate to the judge verbally or by raising their hand prior to passing the dog on point. The dog must remain on point for a minimum of three (3) seconds following a called point in order to score points for the find.
- Judge can advise the handler that a dog may be on point only if the handler is not in view of the dog. The handler must confirm to the Judge that a dog is on point in order to receive points for that find.
- In the case of a divided find, (when both dogs go on point, for the same bird, simultaneously and independent of each other).
  - Both dogs shall be judged on their work of the find.
  - The retrieve will be scored as a safety.
- If either judge witnesses a dog on point first, rather than the handler who declares point first:
  - The find will be awarded to the dog that pointed first.
  - The other handler/dog may take the interaction as an honor or move on.
  - If there are any discrepancies between judges then it will determined to be a divided find.
- One bird will be provided for use during the five (5) minute training period.

- Bird interactions during this time period will NOT be scored.
- The handler may use commands to establish a point or reinforce steadiness.
- A handler must request permission from the judge before a dog can be relocated and must call point again to re-establish the find.
- A Covey is where multiple birds are located in the same immediate vicinity within the bird field.
  - All birds may be hunted.
  - Each bird will be scored separately only if a separate point is established for each bird.
- A stolen point will be awarded two (2) PTS to the first pointing dog.
- **RETRIEVE (Hunter)**
  - The handler must attempt to shoot the bird in the air to score on the retrieve (except in the case of a safety). If the bird does not fly the bird may be shot on the ground in a safe manner with judge's approval. If it cannot be done safely then a safety should be called.
  - The handler may move clear from an obstacle for the retrieve but cannot make forward or backward movement for the purpose of "encouraging the dog to complete the retrieve" (SEE DEFINITION) without permission of the judge.
  - A shot bird may be retrieved from outside the bird field to score points for the retrieve.
  - SAFETY - Should a safety be called the dog will be scored the average of the other retrieves during the brace. If no other bird is produced for score retrieve, the dog must demonstrate a retrieve immediately following its brace on a freshly killed bird. The retrieve shall be scored on that bird.
  - Commands may be used during the Retrieve.
- **HONORING (Hunter)**
  - Handler may use commands to establish an honor.
  - A bird does not need to be produced in or to receive an honor score if the brace mate points with the characteristics of the breed.
  - Only one (1) honor will be scored per brace.
  - Honoring dogs WILL BE COLLARED during the bird work or until released by the judge.
- **STOP TO FLUSH (Hunter)**
  - Only one (1) Stop to Flush will be scored per dog per brace.
  - One (1) point will be awarded to the dogs that stop to flush on a bird WITHOUT any Delayed Chase. The bird may now be hunted. Verbal commands may be used to stop delayed chase.
- **SCORING (Hunter)**
  - **FIND:**
  - 2 PTS – For each individual bird pointed for a minimum of 3 seconds after point is called.
  - 2 PTS – For first pointing dog of a stolen point.
  - **RETRIEVE:**
  - 1 PT – For each bird that is picked up, but then abandoned.
  - 2 PTS - For each bird brought within 15 feet of the handler.
  - 3 PTS – For each bird delivered to hand.
  - **OTHER SCORING:**

- 1 PT – For one honor.
- 1 PT – For one stop to flush.
- 1 PT – For completing the brace.
- 1 PT – For winning the brace.

## AWARDS

- Awards will be given anytime a dog places. Placements will be 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> for each scoring event. A dog may run in any class (Hunter class with committee permission) but a dog may not place in any class lower than their highest-class placement for that year.

## GLOSSARY

**Audible** – Verbal or whistle.

**Bird Field Boundaries**- The bird field boundary will be the area between the flags (forty {40} acres minimum and/or approximately 1/4 mile by 1/4 mile), square or rectangular with corner flags having special markings. To increase safety, the chairperson will establish a buffer zone between the gallery/camp area and the bird field. The buffer shall be a minimum of 70 yards from the Gallery to the starting line. If there are two fields, then there shall be a buffer between them.

**Bird Planter** – person(s) designated by Field Marshal to randomly disperse birds within the boundaries of the bird field. He/she must wear high visibility hat and vest. The planter will avoid placing birds in large obstacles.

**Blind** – A barrier that prevents the handlers and dog's visibility of the bird field during the time it is being planted. This barrier is normally the Club trailer.

**Blocking** - When handler/assistant is positioned such as to restrict or interfere with the dog's natural tendencies. This occurs during honoring or pointing.

**Board of Directors** – Group of elected officials comprised of the President, Vice - President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Board Members as defined under Article III, Sect. 1 of the AZPDC Constitution.

**Board Member** –Nominated and elected persons, which serve on the board of directors per Article III, Sect. 1 of the AZPDC Constitution.

**Brace** – Is comprised of two dogs, which run together and compete against each other during a field trial event.

**Bye Dog** – Replacement dog of the same class, which is used to complete a brace.

**Collared** – Handlers physical restraint of the honoring dog during the completion of the find and retrieve by the pointing dog.

**Command** – A verbal order, whistle, ecollar or visual signal given to dog by handler.

**Covey** – Multiple birds, which are located in the same immediate vicinity within the bird field.

**Dead Bird** – Any bird which has been scored upon.

**Delayed Chase** – A dog running in the direction of a moving (flying/running) game bird. This occurs without a handler's command after a point, honor, or stop to flush.

**Divided Find** - When both dogs go on point for the same bird simultaneously and independent of each other.

**Encouraging the retrieve** - Any action, which assists the dog with completing the retrieve. For example; shortening the distance the dog must return the bird, reducing the complexity of the retrieve and physically assisting with the retrieve. \*Check Cords are permitted in Hunter Class. The handler may only advance as close to the bird as the length of their check cord.

**Entrant** – Participant of field trial event.

**Field Marshal** – Individual(s) who monitor the activities, which occur during the running of each brace (AZPDC TRIAL POSITIONS).

**Find** – Dog points and bird is produced. When the dog is on point, the handler must indicate to the judge verbally or by raising their hand prior to passing the dog on point. The dog must remain on point for minimum of 3 seconds in order to score points for the find. Once point has been indicated all rules for steadiness will apply.

**Firearm** - Restricted to shotguns no larger than 12-gauge. Shot shells shall be equal to or less than the major manufacturers' current standard field or game loads, 2 3/4" factory ammunition, maximum 1-1/8oz of 7-1/2 shot. NO MAGNUM LOADS. NO MORE THAN TWO (2) SHELLS IN ANY FIREARM AT ONE TIME.

**Flush** - Birds that have moved from their point of rest due to the actions of the handler or gunner and so noted by the judge.

**Forward Progress** – The movement of all four paws in the direction of the bird.

**Gallery** – Anyone who is not participating within the boundaries of the event field.

**Grievance** – A rule related disagreement registered by a handler to the judge regarding an issue that occurs during a brace. The judge shall present all grievances and protests to the Trial Chairperson within 30 minutes after the end of the brace. The grievance committee will review grievances AT THE EVENT. The findings of the grievance committee shall be final.

**Grievance Committee** - Consists of the Chairperson/s, Marshals, Judges and available Board Members. Convenes within 30 min. after the brace in order to resolve a grievance. Individual(s) involved with the grievance may be requested to attend after the initial meeting of the Committee.

**Gunner** – Individuals assigned to perform shooting/flushing duties for the handler during a brace. A

gunner needs to be a current member of the club. (AZPDC TRIAL POSITIONS)

**Handler** – Person assigned to manage the activity of a dog during the brace. (AZPDC TRIAL POSITION)

**Harassment** - To strike, trouble, or worry the dog either audibly or physically.

**Honor**– Occurs when a dog recognizes the point of its brace mate and stops.

**Judge** – Individual(s) assigned to the administration of the current AZPDC Field Trial Rules during a brace. (AZPDC TRIAL POSITIONS)

**Leashed** - All dogs are required to be leashed if not staked in or around the trial grounds. Dogs shall be leashed prior to their brace and immediately after the brace.

**Marking a Bird** – The act of a dog repositioning itself without forward progress in order to follow the flight of a bird. This may occur after the flush, wing, shot, and fall or a stop to flush.

**No Opportunity** - A missed bird, a bird falling in, or ending up in an irretrievable location. Situation where the handler of the pointing dog does not release dog for the retrieve or dog is stopped prior to getting to the dead bird area, if dog broke on shot.

**Obstacle** – Object located within the boundaries of the bird field, which may impair access to a planted bird(s). May include, rock formations, trees, bushes, etc.

**Officers** – President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer as defined under Article III, Sect. 1 of the AZPDC Constitution.

**Participants** – Handlers, gunners, chairman, judges & any potential observers.

**Placement** – The ranking based upon the points scored in the Gun Dog, Shooting Dog and Hunter Class events. Dogs, which finish 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th, are qualified for placement.

**Point** – Situation occurs when a dog stops and indicates the presence and position of game bird(s) with its muzzle facing the general direction of the bird while remaining in pointing position for no less than 3 seconds, dog can make no forward progress defined as moving all 4 paws in the direction of the bird.

**Point of Rest** – The location in which the bird was initially located and was stationary. Any movement will end point of rest.

**Relocate** – The act of a dog vacating a point to pinpoint or confirm the presence of a bird. Must be directed by the handler and a judge must grant prior permission. Relocation will not be allowed for the purpose of upgrading a steadiness score.

**Retrieve** – A retrieve begins when the dog is given a command or leaves point without a command after the point, flush, wing, shot and fall. A retrieve ends when a dog delivers a bird to hand or the retrieve is abandoned by either handler or dog in Gundog or abandoned by handler in Shooting Dog or within 15 ft. of handler (Hunter).

**Runoff** – Method used to determine trial placement in the event of a tie.

**Safety** – Occurs at a point in time when a situation is determined to be potentially dangerous to humans, animals, or property, to shoot at a bird in the field event area. The judge, gunner or any other person in the field may call “**SAFETY**”. Once a safety is called **DO NOT SHOOT**. Safety may also be called after the

first shot.

**Staked** – The act of restraining a dog to prevent free roaming or unwanted entry into the bird field.

**Steadiness Continuum** - The dog can make no forward progress during the point, flush, wing, shot and fall stages of the continuum. Any further scoring will cease once judge identifies forward progress.

**Steady** – The act of a dog remaining in pointing position without forward progress.

**Steady to Flush** – Begins when the handler indicates that the dog is on point and ends when the bird leaves its point of rest. Scoring point awarded after bird leaves point of rest and no forward progress is made.

**Steady to Wing** – Begins when the bird leaves its point of rest and ends when the gun is fired. The scoring point is awarded after gun is fired and no forward progress is made.

**Steady to Shot** - Begins when the gun is fired and ends when the bird hits the ground. The scoring point awarded after the bird contacts the ground and no forward progress is made.

**Steady to Fall** – Begins when the bird hits the ground and ends when the dog is commanded to retrieve. The scoring point is awarded after the dog is released for the retrieve.

**Stolen Point** – Is committed after a handler has indicated point and brace mate moves in front of or within 5 feet of the dog on point. A bird must be produced in order to be scored as a stolen point.

**Stolen Retrieve** – Is committed by the dog not on point. The pointing dogs brace mate attempts to retrieve or does retrieve bird after the shot and fall.

**Stop to Flush** – Occurs when a dog becomes aware of a game bird(s) in flight and stops without a chase. The dog may reposition for marking the bird.

**Tie** – Occurs when a dog and its brace mate receive equal scores at the end of their brace.

**To Hand** – Bird is delivered to handler from mouth during the retrieve, the bird may be dropped and repositioned during the retrieve. The handler may reach no more than 3 ft. to receive bird from dog. The bird may not be dropped during transfer.

**Training Device** – Any Device which physically restrains the dog for providing a correction, i.e. E-Collar, check cord, pinch collar, bird call etc. **\*A whistle is exempt.**

**Trial Chairperson** – Coordinates the activities of a field trial event. (AZPDC TRIAL POSITIONS)

**Trial Event Committee** – Group which determines the upcoming trial event schedule.

**Trial Event Coordinator** – Heads up the Trial Event Committee. (AZPDC TRIAL POSITIONS)

**Verbal Command** – Voice used to provide a command or correction.