

General rules

- All participants must wear high visibility blaze orange as an outer garment (hat, shirt, or vest).
- Safety is the responsibility of the participant at all times. Unsafe handling of firearm or inappropriate behavior will be grounds for disqualification without refund of entry fees or any compensation.
- Shotguns will be unloaded with action open, may be loaded at the start gate and unloaded at the end of each run.
- Guns must be unloaded and handed to the judge if you require the use of both hands to gain control of your dog.
- NO RUNNING in the field. One verbal warning, a second warning will result in a 2 point penalty, and the third occurrence will result in disqualification from the run.
- If it's in the rules that you can, you can. If it's in the rules that you can't, you can't. If it's not in the rules, then you cannot.

Boundaries

- If your dog goes out of bounds for any reason other than a retrieve on a scored point or flush, you will have one minute to get the dog back in bounds. Failure to do so will result in a disqualification.
- Birds must be pointed or flushed from within the boundaries to be scored. Dogs may retrieve a scored bird that leaves the field during that piece of dog work with no time limit.
- Competitors may only leave the field to retrieve their dog; no shots shall be fired while out of bounds. Firing from out of bounds will result in disqualification.
- If a dog goes on point out of bounds the Competitor must walk directly to the dog, collar it, and lead it back into the field without intentionally disturbing the bird. If the bird enters the field while the dog is being retrieved, the bird is an illegal bird and may not be pursued. If the bird later enters the field on its own, it shall become a legal bird.
- Judges will do their best to assure that the illegal bird's entry area is marked as accurately as possible.

Dead Birds in the field

- Dead birds deemed by the judge to be from a previous brace shall not be scored on.
- Dead birds that have not been shot, are warm and limp, or seem to have died from the plant for that run or extreme weather conditions may be scored for full credit if the dog pointed the bird for 3 seconds.
- A shell will be deducted from the score and the bird must be thrown for a retrieve or a partial retrieve to be scored.
- Time will be stopped while the judge inspects the bird to make a decision on a dead bird

Non-Performing Birds

- A solid attempt must be made to put the bird into flight. If, after 20 feet or 20 seconds, it is obvious a bird has failed to fly, the competitor shall call non-performer and the scorekeeper should grant the non-performer. Once the bird is deemed a non-performer, full credit shall be given with one shell assessed. The bird must be taken out of play using one of the following methods:
 - the bird is pursued until it runs or flies out of bounds.
 - The competitor can release the dog to flush or catch the bird with no penalty
 - The Competitor may notify the scorekeeper that they want to shoot into the air to simulate a shot bird, then allow the dog to retrieve or flush the bird.
 - If the bird flies at any time, it should be shot. Any shells will not be deducted from the score with the exception of the first shell assessed upon the time the non-performer is granted.

Interference

- If a dog interferes in another field, unless pursuing a retrieve, it shall be penalized 10 points for a flushed bird and the competitor being interfered with shall receive full credit for the flushed bird with 20 seconds added onto their time.
- The person's field who is interfered with shall call their dog and gain control while the clock is stopped by the scorekeeper. Once the offending dog is out of the field, the hunt resumes and the clock starts.
- If more than one bird is flushed, the competitor returns to the blind and the number of birds flushed, minus the first bird which is credited to the competitor, will be replanted. The competitor resumes the run where they left off on the stopped clock.
- A rerun will only be granted in certain circumstances where it affects the top 5 placements or top 10 qualifying dogs as determined by the field marshal.

"Safety"

- A safety may be called by the competitor or judge for any unsafe shot without penalty and for full credit.

Pointing Division

- The dog must establish a non-advancing, fixed position and the handler must verbally declare "point". Once the competitor declares point (verbally) and the judge witnesses the point for 3 seconds, the judge will declare the point.
- If a bird is either harvested or witnessed by the judge, the point will be awarded.
- The handler is not allowed to command or manipulate the dog into a point in any manner. The handler may only signal the dog to hold point after the 3 second point is acknowledged by the judge.
- During the count, should the handler command the dog in any manner to steady the point, the handler shall be instructed to either: harvest the bird but no points will be awarded for the find, or; pull the dog off the bird, establish a new hunt for at least 3 minutes, then return to hunt the area.
- At any time during the 3 second count, should the dog advance, the count shall start over.
- If multiple birds rise after a 3 second point is granted, the Competitor can only get scored for birds that are harvested. If all birds are missed, credit will be given for one pointed bird only and the number of shells fired will be assessed.
- If the dog goes on point while returning with the bird, the Competitor may advance to the dog to complete the retrieve and then work the next find. If there is no bird produced, a partial retrieve shall be awarded.

Flushing Division

- The dog must flush/trap the bird to receive credit for one find. Wild flushes are not considered a find. The dog must be working the area to receive credit for a find.
- The dog may catch/trap a bird, but will receive a 1 point shot penalty once the bird is bagged.
- If multiple birds rise on a flush, the Competitor can only get scored for birds that are harvested. If all birds are missed, credit will be given for one flushed bird and the number of shells used will be charged to the Competitor.

Youth Division

- Youth Competitor are 12 to 17 years old and must be accompanied by a parent or his/her designee
- The youth division will follow flushing rules.
- The parent/designee may assist the youth competitor and guide them, but the competitor must make every attempt to control the dog during the run. The scorekeeper may grant the parent permission to handle the dog should they deem necessary (interfering dog), but it is the discretion of the scorekeeper.
- Youth Competitor must have attended a hunter safety course prior to the start of the competition

Ladies Division

- Ladies will designate rule set (pointing or flushing) and will abide by the rules applicable to that designation.
- Ladies may select a mentor to accompany them. The Host must be notified prior to the start of competition.
- No lady competing in the Ladies division may mentor another lady in their division.
- All dog handling must be completed by the competitor and not the mentor.

Doubles Division

- Two dogs/Two Competitor. Doubles division is flushing rules unless pre-designated as a pointing division.
- No safeties on a partner. Safeties will only be permitted under the general safety rule (dog/judge/other participants).
- There is a 50 yard limit between partners and once one Competitor either shoots or their dog flushes (or traps) a bird, the second Competitor must maintain their position until the retrieve is complete. If one Competitor is either shooting or waiting on the retrieve, and a second bird flushes, the second bird may be shot but the competitor can not move.

Scoring

- 20 points bagged bird
- 10 points pointed or flushed bird
- 10 points full retrieve
- 5 points partial retrieve
- 10 points each shell left over
- 2 points for each minute left over
- * 1 point penalty for trapped bird in flushing
- * 10 point penalty for caught bird in pointing
- * 10 point penalty for interfering flush in another field
- * 2 point running penalty, then disqualification
- ****No penalty for safeties or non-performers