

OFFICIAL RULES OF THE WESTERN GUN DOG CIRCUIT

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Glossary

- I. "Harvested bird" is defined as a bagged bird.
- II. "Competitor", "Hunter", and "Handler" can be used interchangeably.
- III. "run" or "Brace" can be used interchangeably.

EVENTS

1. "Singles Events" (pointing and flushing): consists of one (1) hunter and one (1) dog. This team has a predetermined amount of time established by the promoter to safely harvest a preset number of qualifying birds. Qualifying birds can be one of or any combination of the following species- Chukar, Pheasant, Quail, or Hungarian Partridge as long as the same quantity and combination are used for all competitors even if birds still remain in the field from the previous competitor. Two shells are allowed per bird planted. A Single Main event will have a format of preliminary run(s) and a run-off (semi-finals/finals), two run combined score, or single run tournament play to declare a winner. Any exception to these rules must be preapproved by the WGDC board.
2. "Doubles" consists of two (2) hunters and two (2) dogs. This team has a predetermined amount of time established by the promoter to safely harvest a set amount of qualifying birds. Two shells are allowed per bird planted for competitors, and the total amount of shells may be held by both hunters. Each hunter must shoot at least once or harvest a bird each (credited for a shell). If one hunter fails to get credited for at least one shot, one shell will be deducted from the final score. A doubles event will be formatted with preliminary run(s) and a run-off, two run combined score, or one single run tournament play to declare a winner. Any exceptions to these formats must be approved in advance by the WGDC board.
3. "Ladies (pointing and flushing): consists of one (1) lady hunter and one (1) dog. This team has a predetermined amount of time established by the promoter to safely harvest a preset number of qualifying birds. Two shells are allowed per bird planted. A Single Main event will have a format of preliminary run(s) and a run-off, two run combined score, or single run tournament play to declare a winner. **LADIES ENTER THE APPROPRIATE DIVISION FOR THEIR DOG AND POINTS DOUBLE COUNT FOR THE LADIES END OF THE YEAR AWARDS (NEW RULE BEGINNING APRIL 2019).**
4. "The Puppy Event" comprises one (1) competitor and one (1) dog. The dog must be less than (19) months on January 1st of the year starting the calendar year of competition. This team has a predetermined amount of time established by the promoter to safely harvest a minimum predetermined number of qualifying birds. Two shells are allowed per bird planted. A puppy event will be formatted with preliminary run(s) and a run-off, two run combined score, or one single run top score in the same field and will abide by Flushing rules. A puppy will no longer be able to compete in the puppy division when it: wins puppy of the year, wins three tournaments in a year, or wins a national title as a puppy, regardless of age. The puppy must move up to the amateur division the following calendar year. EX: a puppy is 7 months on Jan. 1, 2022. It wins 3 tournaments in the 2022 season, and it 17 months of age beginning Jan. 1, 2023. That puppy is ineligible to compete as a puppy in the 2023 season.

5. "The Youth Event" comprises one (1) competitor whose age is 12 years old, but less than 18 years old, up to but not including the first day of the event, and one (1) dog. This team has a predetermined amount of time established by the promoter to safely harvest a minimum predetermined number of qualifying birds. Two shells are allowed per bird planted. A Youth event will be formatted with preliminary run(s) and a run-off, two run combined score, or one single run top score in the same field and will abide by Flushing rules. Youth competitors must provide a copy of their gun safety certificate prior to participation at a WGDC event.

PRO DIVISIONS, AMATEUR DIVISIONS, AND CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES:

1. All dogs and competitors will be classified in the singles divisions as either a pro competitor, amateur competitor, or Hunter (IF CHOSEN BY THE HUNTER), and a pro or amateur dog. The following rules apply to classification of dogs and competitors:
 - a. A dog/competitor team who competes in another association (OF EQUAL OR HIGHER STANDARDS) in the "Pro" division shall be allowed to compete in the WGDC pro division with approval by the WGDC.
 - b. A new dog/competitor team will start in the "amateur" division and may/must move up to the pro division in certain circumstances. Situations that may require a dog/hunter to move to the Pro division:
 - i. The dog/competitor team places (1st) in any 3 WGDC tournaments or WGDC sanctioned events in a year period. (REQUIREMENT TO MOVE UP IS SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL)
 - ii. Any dog earns 400 lifetime points (subject to board approval)
 - iii. Any dog wins a national title in the Amateur division MUST move up to the pro division the following year.
 - iv. Any dog is awarded a "dog of the year award" (with exception to Lady of the year) in the amateur division MUST move up to the pro division the following year.
 - v. ***Any dog/competitor team who wishes to move to the pro division and who has not accomplished the above criteria, must obtain approval from the WGDC board prior to moving to the PRO division.
 - c. A new dog/competitor (or non-pro competitor) may enter either the "Amateur" division or the "Hunter" division at their discretion.
 - d. A designated "Pro" handler/dog team may not compete in the hunter or amateur divisions.
 - e. A pro handler may not use a dog deemed a pro dog to compete in an amateur division (No dog Swapping).
 - i. A pro handler is any handler who has;
 1. Competed in a pro division, regardless of the dog (pointing flushing specific)
 2. Won a Nationals in an amateur division
 3. Won a "Dog of the Year" award in the amateur division.

SPECIAL NOTES ****

- It is acceptable to adjust the number of qualifying birds harvested to accommodate for weather or daylight.
- Qualifying birds can be one of or any combination of the following species- Chukar, Pheasant, Quail, or Hungarian Partridge as long as the same quantity and combination are used for all competitors even if birds still remain in the field from the previous competitor.
- Lucky Dogs may be accepted with a max of one (2) lucky dog per division per tournament and will be drawn prior to the run order for any event. Lucky dogs do NOT receive lifetime points and any run which resulted from a lucky dog draw is NOT eligible for end of the year awards.
- Wild Cards may be used in Bracket play and the number will be designated by the host based on the number of entries per division.

GENERAL

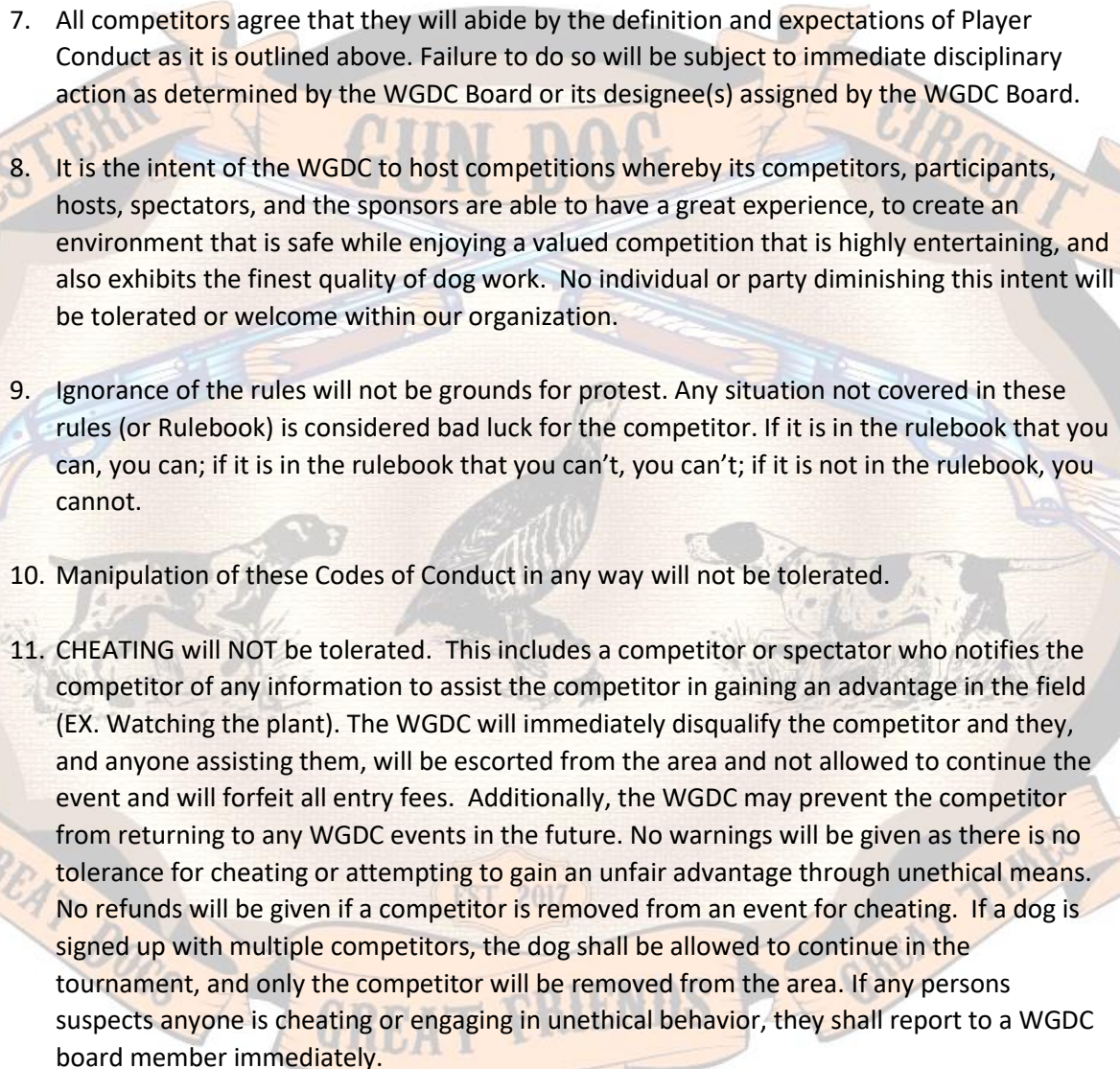
1. Electronic Collars are permitted in any event unless otherwise determined by the host or competition organizer and promoted as such prior to the competition date. GPS/e-collar combo collars are permitted for the puppy division, and/or only in the amateur division with prior WGDC board approval.
2. The WGDC requires that all competitors, scorekeepers, bird planters, spectators and others in the vicinity of the competition sign a liability and promotional release prior to their respective participation in a sanctioned or co-sanctioned WGDC competition.
3. It is required that all competition fields are flushed prior to the first run of each event, including prior to a championship/finals event whether the finals event is the first run of the day or if the field has been previously used on the same day. This activity may NOT be performed by a competitor entered in that competition or a dog entered in that competition. It is recommended that the bird planter and scorekeeper of each respective field do this with a dog not in season or ATV as a means to become familiar with "their" field. Bitches that are in season/in heat should not be used to flush a field.
4. One extra bird must be set for the first run in each utilized competition field or on the first run after a field was just flushed, unless the tournament host designates otherwise and all bird plant counts must be announce prior to the start of the event.

5. Birds are not to be released or set within close proximity of a boundary. Every effort will be made to assure that released birds remain in the field prior to a brace beginning. Any bird(s) witnessed leaving the field while the field is being set and/or up to the start of the run by either the bird planter or scorekeeper will be immediately replaced.
6. A competition field will not be planted until the competing hunter(s) are in the designated blind. The scorekeeper will direct the bird planter when to set the field and shall watch and record the plant on the score sheet prior to the start of the run.
7. Scorekeeper and bird planters are not allowed to compete in the same division that they are scoring, unless pre-determined by the host or competition organizer due to a shortage of competition personnel. All efforts should be made to prevent this from occurring. In the event of personal conflict, a second judge shall accompany that run.
8. Bitches in season will have their braces conducted last, after the last male dog has completed its run, or in an all-female field; never in a separate field. Bitches in season will be maintained inside a kennel either off site, in a vehicle or enclosed trailer, or away from any competition fields where they may affect other competitors (this applies to the blind area). A competitor must make the host and competition organizer aware of the fact that his/her bitch is in season at the earliest opportunity. Failure to do so will result in disqualification of the dog and competitor and no refunds will be given. Substitution for a bitch in season must be approved by the host prior to the start of the event.
9. All fields will be clearly defined by marked posts and/or an obvious natural boundary or other measure. It is the competitor's responsibility to learn this information prior to their run, and in no circumstance will a rerun be granted because of lack of knowledge of the boundaries.
10. It is not the requirement of the WGDC for a dog to be registered, have a documented pedigree or to be a "purebred". All dogs must be sound, in good health, and not contagious or ill at the time of the competition. The WGDC board reserves the right to inspect a dog prior to competition if any questions should arise. Proof of Age via veterinary certification or registration docs may be called upon to verify age for the puppy division and/or senior dog divisions.
11. No competitor will be allowed to walk the fields the morning prior to the competition. Upon request scorekeepers will provide to each competitor a description of the competition field.
12. Beeper collars may be used during the competition, but should only be activated at the starting gate.

13. All competitors must have no outstanding debts to the Association for competitions or events to be recognized and sanctioned. All host clubs must have no outstanding debts to the WGDC before an event.
14. All WGDC events will have a Rules Committee present consisting of at least 3 people and an alternate. The identities of the members of the Rules Committee shall be announced and/or posted at the beginning of the event.
 - A. The Rules Committee shall be responsible for determining all Rules interpretations, deciding all protests, resolving all disputed issues and answering all rules or administrative questions arising during or related to the event.
 - B. The decisions of the Rules Committee shall be final for the event at which it presides.
 - C. The Rules Committee will not be asked to meet/discuss any judgement calls in the field. This means that any rulings on a safety, non-performing bird, or caught bird cannot be challenged. The ruling of the scorekeeper is final. The scorekeeper may seek clarifying answers from a Rules Committee member before making any such rulings.
 - D. No person on the Rules Committee shall vote on any issue with respect to which he or she would have a conflict of interest, including any issue that would impact placement of the Rules Committee member or dog at that event. This member shall be replaced by a pre-designated alternate or board member during the course of the vote.

PLAYER CONDUCT

1. All competitors and those affiliated with a competitor agree to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike and socially responsible manner. Competitors will not engage in behavior that damages the image of the WGDC, its affiliates, sponsors or other competitors.
2. All competitors agree to refrain from behavior or language that might be perceived as threatening or offensive. Threatening another member will NOT be tolerated and grounds for removal from the event and forfeiture of entry fees.
3. Competitors will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with another teammate, competitor, sponsor, attendee or WGDC representative at any time. This includes post event communication via email, telephone, etc. All competitors agree not to engage in any behavior which would endanger the health or safety of themselves, another competitor, spectator, attendee, sponsor, WGDC representative, host or dog at any time.
4. All competitors agree to respect and support the decisions or rulings as administered by an official, host, Rules committee, or other WGDC representative. Once this ruling is made, it is final.
5. All competitors understand that they are financially responsible for all fees and costs associated with competing in the WGDC and all entry fees must be paid prior to the start of an entered event.

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6. All competitors agree not to use alcohol or any other controlled substance (unless prescribed by a physician) prior to or while competing. Any suspicion of a violation is at the discretion of the WGDC and will result in immediate dismissal from the event and possibly future events if deemed appropriate.
 7. All competitors agree that they will abide by the definition and expectations of Player Conduct as it is outlined above. Failure to do so will be subject to immediate disciplinary action as determined by the WGDC Board or its designee(s) assigned by the WGDC Board.
 8. It is the intent of the WGDC to host competitions whereby its competitors, participants, hosts, spectators, and the sponsors are able to have a great experience, to create an environment that is safe while enjoying a valued competition that is highly entertaining, and also exhibits the finest quality of dog work. No individual or party diminishing this intent will be tolerated or welcome within our organization.
 9. Ignorance of the rules will not be grounds for protest. Any situation not covered in these rules (or Rulebook) is considered bad luck for the competitor. If it is in the rulebook that you can, you can; if it is in the rulebook that you can't, you can't; if it is not in the rulebook, you cannot.
 10. Manipulation of these Codes of Conduct in any way will not be tolerated.
 11. CHEATING will NOT be tolerated. This includes a competitor or spectator who notifies the competitor of any information to assist the competitor in gaining an advantage in the field (EX. Watching the plant). The WGDC will immediately disqualify the competitor and they, and anyone assisting them, will be escorted from the area and not allowed to continue the event and will forfeit all entry fees. Additionally, the WGDC may prevent the competitor from returning to any WGDC events in the future. No warnings will be given as there is no tolerance for cheating or attempting to gain an unfair advantage through unethical means. No refunds will be given if a competitor is removed from an event for cheating. If a dog is signed up with multiple competitors, the dog shall be allowed to continue in the tournament, and only the competitor will be removed from the area. If any persons suspects anyone is cheating or engaging in unethical behavior, they shall report to a WGDC board member immediately.

RULES OF SAFETY

1. A safe shot is always the RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SHOOTER. The WGDC has no liability for accidents occurring at a WGDC sanctioned/sponsored event.

2. It is the recommendation of the WGDC that all competitors and event personnel take all precautionary measures to protect themselves when they are in close proximity to a competition field or a place where shooting is conducted.
3. Running during competition is NEVER allowed. Scoresheets include "running warnings" boxes on them. Anytime a scorekeeper has to slow a competitor down or believes the competitor to be moving at an unsafe pace, they will be penalized after one warning. First penalty is 2 points, second penalty is disqualification. Any penalty will be communicated at the time of the infraction, or as soon as is reasonable and safe.
4. No bird may be shot while on the ground, this includes non-performing birds. NO EXCEPTIONS
5. No bird is to be shot in flight unless it is safe to do so. Failure to abide by this rule is subject to immediate disqualification as determined by the scorekeeper or any WGDC board member or designee for that event. The guidelines for safe shooting are determined as follows: a. The bird must be rising and at a safe distance from the dog. b. The bird must be clear of all personnel, structural property up to and including temporary structures, permanent buildings, vehicles (occupied or unoccupied), roads or traversed paths and all other hazards that present potential liability consequences to the shooter.
6. Blaze orange clothing, vests, and/or caps must be highly visible and must be worn during competition by all competitors, judges, planters, and anyone else in the field (spectator/photographer/mentor).
7. Firearms are to be free of ammunition and the action or chamber broken or open when not competing. Any competitor deemed to be negligent of safe gun handling risks immediate disqualification and banishment from future WGDC competitions.
8. Only OEM produced loads are permissible in competition. Those competitors using a twelve (12) gauge gun are allowed to use shells no longer than two and three quarters (2 ¾") inch in length and loads no greater than size six (6) shot. Competitors electing to utilize a twenty (20) gauge gun and smaller are allowed to use three (3") inch shells and loads no greater than size six (5) shot. Reloads in any caliber or load are not permissible.
9. Each host club may modify these requirements by adding to them to conform to imposed rules and regulations unique to them or otherwise enforced by an outside agency (no lead loads for instance).
10. If a competitor aids a dog across an obstruction such as a fence or other barrier, or leaves the field for any reason, competitors are able to take their gun out of bounds BUT, they must unload their firearm and the action or chamber must remain broken or open. If the competitor leaves the competition field with their gun loaded or the action/chamber is

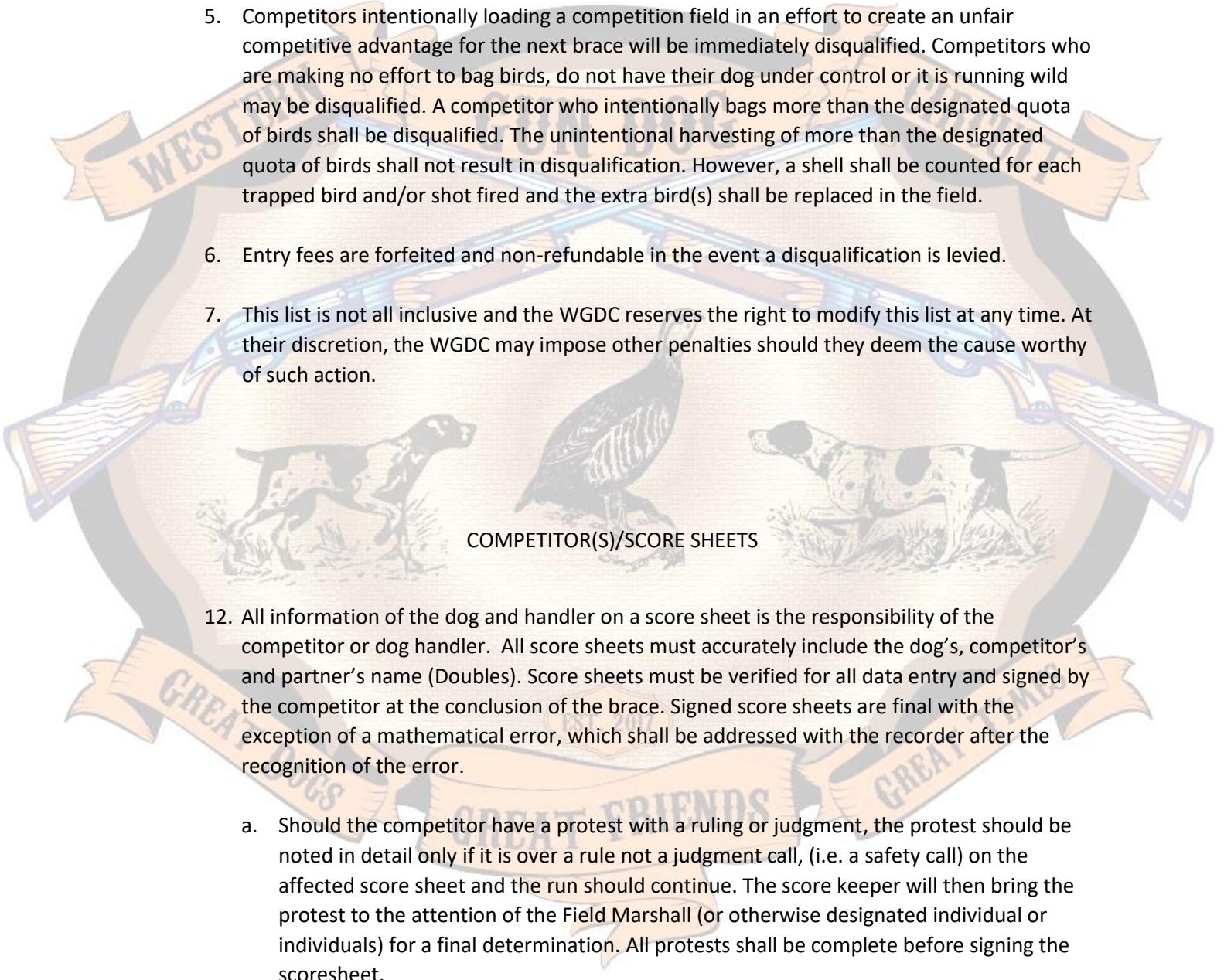
closed, it will result in an immediate disqualification. They may reload and continue upon re-entry to the field.

11. Safety is always the responsibility of the shooter and will always be respected. A scorekeeper may call a safety at any time. In doubles, a safety will not be granted on a fellow competitor in the field, but may be called for the judge, dog, or any other person or object preventing a safe shot.
12. Any gun placed on the ground prior to the run at the gate or in the competition field at any time will be declared an unsafe action and subject to immediate disqualification. A scorekeeper may hold an **unloaded** gun at the request of the shooter, but it is the discretion of the scorekeeper.
13. Competitors shall keep their dogs on a leash at all times not competing in a field. Competitors are liable for the actions of their dogs and shall indemnify WGDC and any event host or organizer for any actions of their dog or injuries caused thereby. If a dog entered in an Event attacks another dog or person, the offending dog must be reported to WGDC by the Event host or competition organizer within the same period provided for reporting scores and/or Event results. Event hosts and/or organizers shall have the option of banning any dog that has been reported to WGDC as having attacked another dog or person. A dog defending itself from an attack by another dog shall not be reported to WGDC, but removal is at the decision of the board. But if it is not clear which of two dogs instigated an attack, both dogs should be reported to WGDC.

DISQUALIFICATIONS AND PENALTIES

1. When a disqualification is determined, only the competitor will be disqualified and that score nullified. The dog may continue to compete, if previously entered in another event at that same competition. A competitor may be disqualified for any of the following acts:
 - a. Poor sportsmanship
 - b. Mistreating a dog in or out of competition field
 - c. Unsafe or reckless use of a firearm
 - d. Use of alcohol or non-prescription drugs prior to or during a competition
 - e. Failure to adhere and/or abide by the instruction of WGDC personnel
 - f. Behaving in a manner that may jeopardize the integrity of a competition or reflect poorly on the WGDC, its sponsors, personnel or other strategic partners or relationships
2. All dead birds and bird parts must be removed from the competition field if at all possible, prior to leaving that field. Intentionally leaving whole birds or bird parts in the competition field is not allowed.
3. If two or more WGDC officials or official representatives of the host club witness damage caused by pellets from an unsafe shot, they too have the authority to disqualify that competitor.

4. All competitors, their dogs and gear must be in the blind during the planting of their field and the planting of the preceding brace if so required at the event. **In a finals event, no competitor will be allowed to watch any of the runs ahead of their run, and may only watch competitors after they have completed their finals run.**
5. Competitors intentionally loading a competition field in an effort to create an unfair competitive advantage for the next brace will be immediately disqualified. Competitors who are making no effort to bag birds, do not have their dog under control or it is running wild may be disqualified. A competitor who intentionally bags more than the designated quota of birds shall be disqualified. The unintentional harvesting of more than the designated quota of birds shall not result in disqualification. However, a shell shall be counted for each trapped bird and/or shot fired and the extra bird(s) shall be replaced in the field.
6. Entry fees are forfeited and non-refundable in the event a disqualification is levied.
7. This list is not all inclusive and the WGDC reserves the right to modify this list at any time. At their discretion, the WGDC may impose other penalties should they deem the cause worthy of such action.



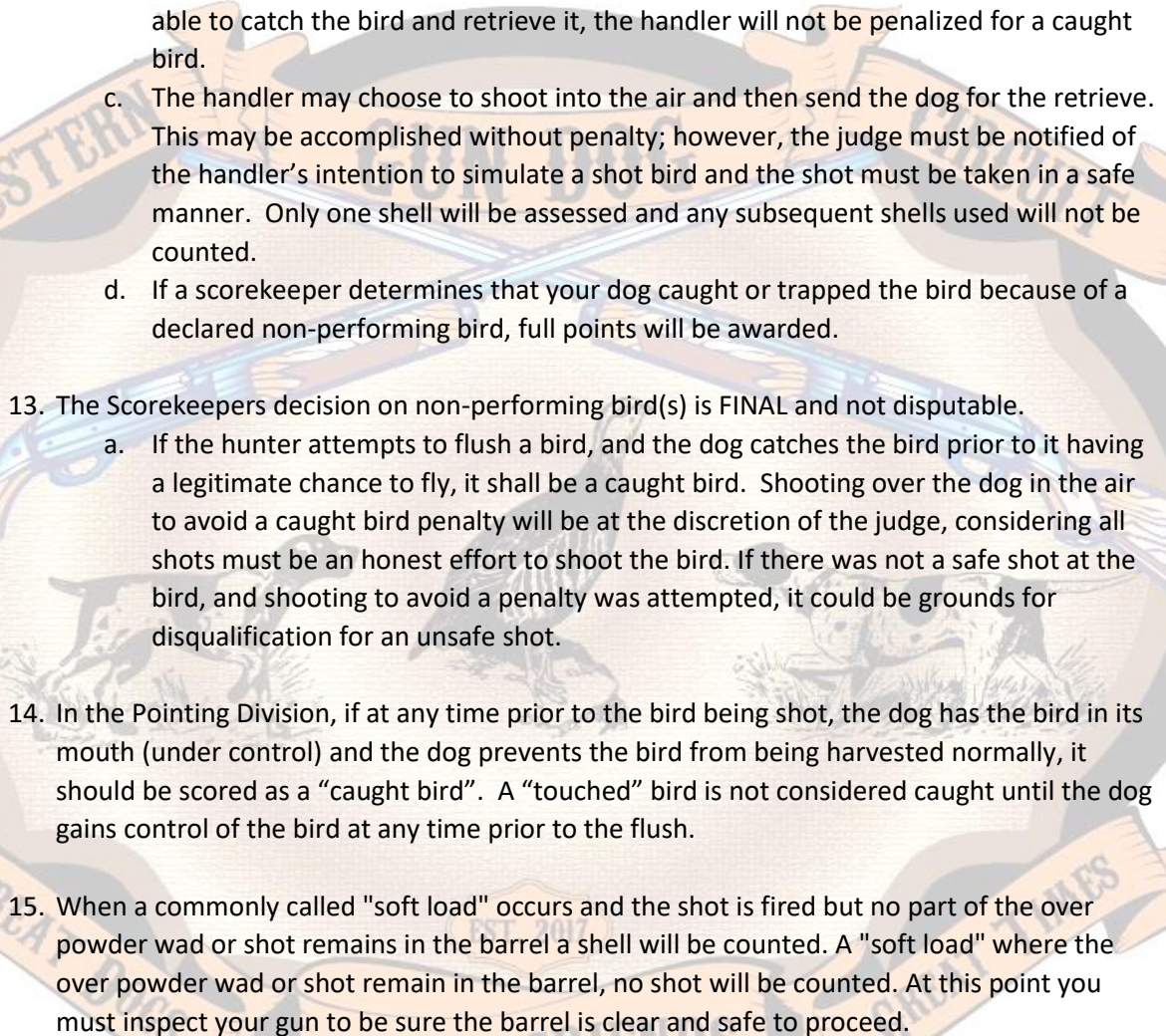
COMPETITOR(S)/SCORE SHEETS

12. All information of the dog and handler on a score sheet is the responsibility of the competitor or dog handler. All score sheets must accurately include the dog's, competitor's and partner's name (Doubles). Score sheets must be verified for all data entry and signed by the competitor at the conclusion of the brace. Signed score sheets are final with the exception of a mathematical error, which shall be addressed with the recorder after the recognition of the error.
 - a. Should the competitor have a protest with a ruling or judgment, the protest should be noted in detail only if it is over a rule not a judgment call, (i.e. a safety call) on the affected score sheet and the run should continue. The score keeper will then bring the protest to the attention of the Field Marshall (or otherwise designated individual or individuals) for a final determination. All protests shall be complete before signing the scoresheet.
 - b. Only the competitor may protest their own run. No one else can protest a run that is not their own, however, if a mathematical error is suspected on any competitor's scoresheet, no matter who finds it, it should immediately be brought to the attention of the Field Marshal or designee.

- c. Any Board member, Host, or Designee may, at any time in the event, correct a mathematical error if brought to their attention at any time during the event, being that it is reviewed by at least two scorekeepers and approved by a third board member.

SCORED POINTS TO BE AWARDED

1. If a competitor does not find a bird during the run the score will be total of unused shells.
2. Ten (10) points will be awarded for a three (3) second, non-advancing point in the Pointing division.
3. Ten (10) points will be awarded for a bird flushed to flight (or caught during an attempt to flush) in the Flushing division.
4. Twenty (20) points will be awarded for bagged birds in all divisions.
5. Ten (10) points will be awarded for a full retrieve.
6. Five (5) points will be awarded for a partial retrieve.
7. Time is called when the last bird is in hand, and total minutes and seconds recorded. A dog must immediately be brought under the hunters control.
8. Ten (10) points will be awarded for each shell not used.
9. **Ten (10)** points will be deducted for a caught or trapped bird in the pointing event.
10. **One (1) point will be deducted for a trapped/caught bird in flushing divisions**
11. If a dog points a warm dead bird (deemed so by scorekeeper), the competitor may take the bird in the bag for full score. **The bird must be thrown for a simulated retrieve.**
12. In the Pointing Division, a competitor must make at least 3 good attempts to move the bird to flight. If that effort results in the bird moving at least 20 feet without taking flight, the bird should be requested to be a non performing bird by the handler/shooter and granted by the Judge. If the bird is running and runs a minimum of 20 feet, this bird should be requested by the player to be a non performing bird and granted by the judge. Once a bird is declared a nonperformer, it will be considered a clean harvest and full points will be awarded for a full retrieve and a bagged bird (with a shell assessed). However, the non performing bird must be removed from the field by any means not prohibited by the safety rule (i.e. shooting on the ground). The handler may choose the following options when removing the non-performing bird from the field of play;

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- a. The handler can choose to pursue the bird until it runs or flies out of bounds.
 - b. The handler may choose to send the dog to catch (retrieve) or flush the bird. If the non performing bird flies at any time during your attempt to remove the bird from the field, you should shoot it. Any shells used in an attempt to shoot a bird that has been declared by the Judge to be a non performing bird does not count. If the dog is able to catch the bird and retrieve it, the handler will not be penalized for a caught bird.
 - c. The handler may choose to shoot into the air and then send the dog for the retrieve. This may be accomplished without penalty; however, the judge must be notified of the handler's intention to simulate a shot bird and the shot must be taken in a safe manner. Only one shell will be assessed and any subsequent shells used will not be counted.
 - d. If a scorekeeper determines that your dog caught or trapped the bird because of a declared non-performing bird, full points will be awarded.
13. The Scorekeepers decision on non-performing bird(s) is FINAL and not disputable.
- a. If the hunter attempts to flush a bird, and the dog catches the bird prior to it having a legitimate chance to fly, it shall be a caught bird. Shooting over the dog in the air to avoid a caught bird penalty will be at the discretion of the judge, considering all shots must be an honest effort to shoot the bird. If there was not a safe shot at the bird, and shooting to avoid a penalty was attempted, it could be grounds for disqualification for an unsafe shot.
14. In the Pointing Division, if at any time prior to the bird being shot, the dog has the bird in its mouth (under control) and the dog prevents the bird from being harvested normally, it should be scored as a "caught bird". A "touched" bird is not considered caught until the dog gains control of the bird at any time prior to the flush.
15. When a commonly called "soft load" occurs and the shot is fired but no part of the over powder wad or shot remains in the barrel a shell will be counted. A "soft load" where the over powder wad or shot remain in the barrel, no shot will be counted. At this point you must inspect your gun to be sure the barrel is clear and safe to proceed.

DENIED SHOOTING OPPORTUNITY – "SAFETY"

Denied Shooting Opportunity ("Safety") is called for any unsafe condition involving potential injury to person, dog, or property. A denied shooting opportunity can be awarded at any time during an event.

1. The hunter should loudly proclaim "no shot, no shot" or "safety" and keep the muzzle of the gun pointed in a safe position during an unsafe shooting condition. This alerts the

scorekeepers of the unsafe condition. Once the scorekeeper has acknowledged the unsafe condition, no shot should be taken. Any shot taken after a safety has been declared and acknowledged by the scorekeeper may be grounds for immediate disqualification. Once a safety has been granted, the handler (or partner) must recall the dog and make physical contact with the dog to simulate a retrieve before advancing further in the run. All points for that bird will be awarded if a three second point had been awarded (pointing division), or the bird flushed by the dog working that area (flushing division), before the safety was awarded. If the handler (or partner in doubles) fails to make physical contact with the dog (or 1 of the dogs in doubles) before advancing from the location the safety was called, this will be scored as a partial retrieve. This is as if the dog was making a retrieve either in singles or doubles (handler and partner if in doubles) must remain stationary until physical contact is made with the dog for full credit.

2. At any time, a scorekeeper may also call "safety" with the same rules applying.
3. Full credit will be awarded in a denied shooting opportunity once the hunter recalls and makes contact with the dog prior to advancing down the field. If the hunter advances prior to touching his dog, a partial retrieve will be given.
4. If the bird stays in the field after a denied shooting opportunity is awarded you may accept the denied shooting opportunity score, pull the dog off the bird for three (3) minutes, and then hunt the bird for full points or produce another bird and then hunt the bird for full points. The scorekeeper will let the hunter know when three (3) minutes have elapsed.
5. If on the "last bird" to be bagged, a denied shooting opportunity presents itself, time should stop when the "safety" is called and the dog is either on leash or the competitor has physical control of the dog. The competitor must remain in place as if the dog was retrieving the bird or it will be scored as a partial retrieve.
6. If a scorekeeper flushes a bird, full points credit will always be awarded. If the bird remains in the field, it cannot be acted upon for three minutes or another bird must be produced in between. The safety rule (touching the dog to simulate a retrieve) does not apply.

TRAPPED BIRD/CAUGHT BIRD

1. A bird is trapped or caught when a dog places it in its mouth prior to being shot. If at any time prior to the bird being shot, the dog has the bird in its mouth and the dog prevents the bird from being harvested normally, it should be scored as a "caught bird". A bird can be in or out of its nest for this to occur. If a dog attempts to grab a bird, but the bird naturally escapes and the hunter harvests the bird normally, this is not considered a trapped bird.
 - a. A handler may choose to reposition the dog prior to the flush to allow adequate room to work the bird for the flush; however the handler may not hold the dog or collar during the flush to prevent the dog from catching the bird. This will be scored as a caught bird. If the

bird wild flushes during the reposition and the handler did not intentionally hold the dog to prevent a caught bird, this will be scored normally. Scorekeepers discretion.

b. Once a dog has placed a bird in its mouth and the bird is controlled, that same bird cannot be deemed a “non-performer”.

c. When a trapped bird occurs, once the bird is bagged, a shell is deducted upon receiving the bird safely to hand. If the bird is dropped either unintentionally by the dog, or the handler orders the dog to drop the trapped bird so that it may be shot/harvested, and a shell(s) is used to harvest the bird, only the amount of shells used will be counted. A trapped bird will still be scored regardless if a shell is used to harvest the bird, and if no shell is used, and the bird is bagged, one shell will be deducted at the time when the bird is bagged.

BAGGED BIRD

1. A bird (that is the designated species) securely in the possession of the competitor while in the field of competition is a bagged bird. If a bird escapes from a competitor’s control and is no longer in his/her possession at the conclusion of the brace, it is no longer considered “bagged”. The clock will be restarted where the birds were counted and the competitor must either find and place this bird back in his/her bag while the clock is running or find, harvest and retrieve an additional bird to meet the requirement of the event or until the allocated time has elapsed, whichever comes first.
2. Twenty (20) points will be awarded for each bagged bird (assuming it is the pre-determined, hunted species), up to the number of birds established as the quota for the respective event.

SHELLS

1. Ten (10) points will be given for each unused shell. Each competitor will be allowed a total of two (2) shells per bird.
2. One shell will be forfeited for each trapped or caught bird, safety, or non-performer. In doubles, a shell should be taken from the competitor with the most shells remaining. In a denied shooting opportunity, the shell will be taken from the competitor calling the “safety”.

BOUNDARIES

1. The competitor or competitors may not go out of bounds to produce, shoot or bag a bird except as permitted under the partial retrieve rule. A competitor cannot purposely send a

dog out of bounds or go out of bounds to harvest a bird, but a dog may retrieve a bird out of bounds.

2. If a dog goes on point out of bounds, the competitor must walk directly to the dog, collar it, and walk back into the field without intentionally disturbing the bird. Should the bird enter the field during this situation, the bird shall be deemed an illegal bird and marked by the scorekeeper. This bird can not be pursued.
3. If a bird is unintentionally pushed into the competition field by an out of bounds dog, full points are awarded as long as the bird is bagged. If a competitor leaves the field to retrieve his dog and accidentally flushes a bird back into the competition field, the competitor must pull the dog off of that bird for three (3) minutes, hunt another area of the field for (3) minutes or produce another bird prior to hunting the original bird.
4. It is considered unsportsmanlike for a competitor to refrain from calling their dog back into the competition field when the dog is out of bounds in hopes that the dog will flush a bird. The scorekeeper will make a judgment for disqualification or deduct four (4) points should the competitor ignore their direction to bring the dog back into the competition field. If a dog goes out of bounds for any reason other than a retrieve on a scored point or flush, the competitor has one minute to get the dog back under control and into the field assigned. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
5. If a dead bird is found in bounds, the competitor should collar his/her dog and the clock should be stopped by the Scorekeeper while a determination is made as to whether the bird is cold or warm. The Scorekeeper shall immediately determine whether the dead bird is warm or cold. If a cold, dead bird is found in the competition field by the dog, it will be scored as a no bird. If a warm, dead bird is pointed by a pointing dog, time shall resume and the competitor must simulate a retrieve by throwing the bird. A warm dead bird will be scored at full points given the pointing dog retrieves the bird on the simulated retrieve.
6. A dog may retrieve a scored bird that leaves the field during that piece of dog work with no time limit. If the dog loses the retrieve, and begins hunting in another field, the competitor must recall the dog.
7. No shot shall be fired from out of bounds and doing so will result in disqualification.

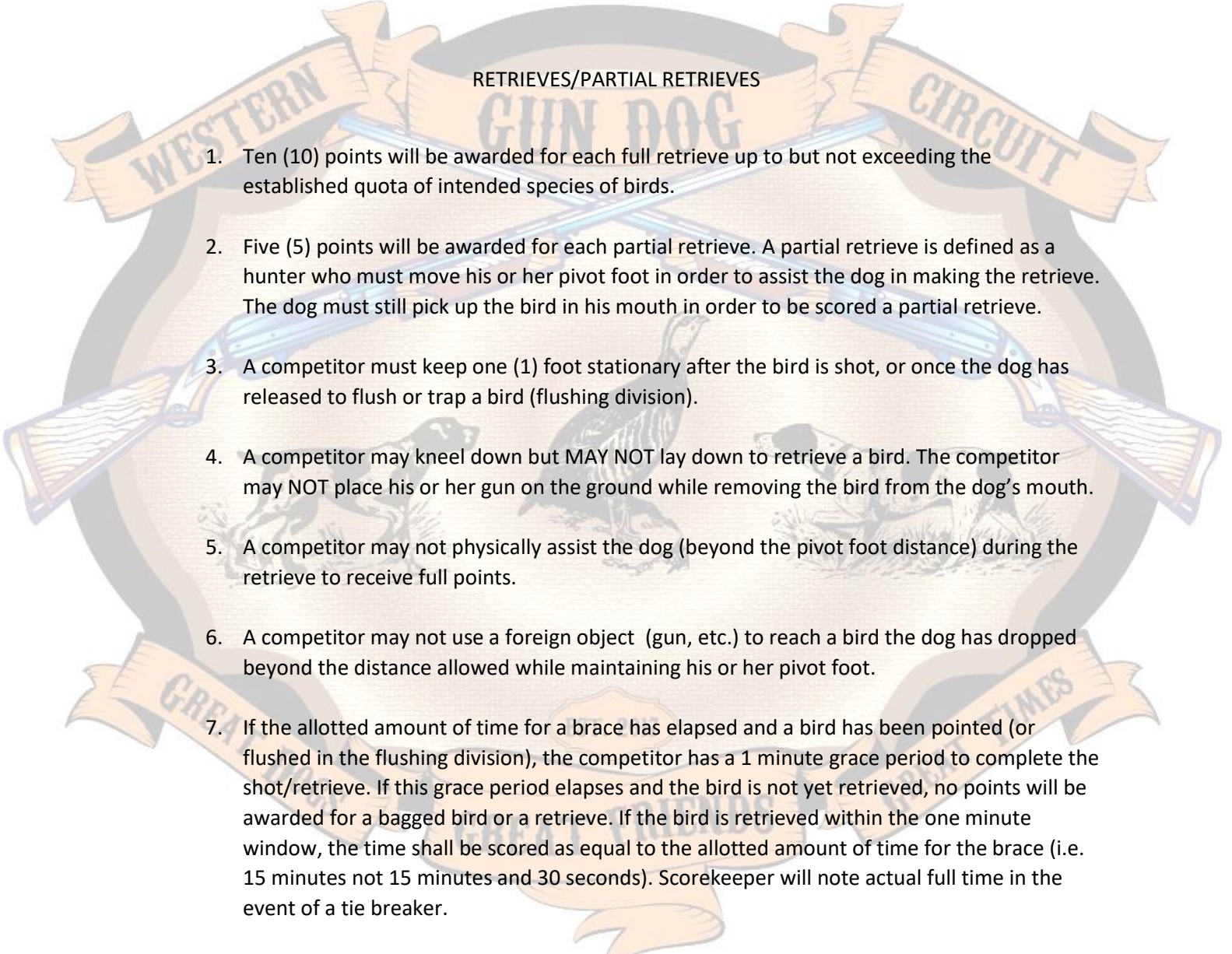
POINTED BIRDS (POINTING DIVISION)

1. Ten (10) points will be awarded for each three (3) second pointed bird of the intended species. The dog must establish a NON-ADVANCING, FIXED POSITION, (it is permissible for a dog to lift a leg and place it back down). Once the competitor declares "POINT" (and the scorekeeper witnesses the dog on point) this position becomes fixed for the dog until the

scorekeeper awards the "POINT". If at any time the dog should close the distance between it and the bird before "Point" is granted, the scorekeeper will begin the count over at one (1) until the dog has remained steady for three (3) consecutive seconds.

2. A competitor may not "whoa" or otherwise command (verbally or non-verbally, including by use of a collar) his/her dog into a point. And, once the competitor has declared "POINT", he or she may not give a command (verbal or non-verbal – including by use of a collar) to steady the dog until the scorekeeper has awarded the point. Should a command be given prior to the point being awarded the competitor has two (2) options:
 - A. Remove the dog from the area and hunt another area in the field for three (3) minutes before returning to this bird. If in a period of time less than three (3) minutes elapsed, the competitor produces another bird, he may waive the three minutes.
 - B. Flush this bird, losing the ten (10) points for a point and resume hunting.
3. Multiple three (3) second points are not awarded each time that the dog relocates whether the bird is moving or remains in the nest. Once the dog has been awarded the three second point, the dog may move, or the hunter may move the dog, to locate the bird. As long as the bird is in the area of the established point, and the bird is produced from that area, the point shall be awarded.
4. If the dog fails to establish a three (3) second point prior to catching or trapping the bird (which is then bagged), NO SCORE for the point will be awarded as the dog did not establish an approved point, a shell will be forfeited and ten (10) points deducted for caught bird.
5. If the dog establishes a three (3) second point and multiple birds rise on the flush, the dog will receive only the number of points for each bird observed by the Scorekeeper to have been shot by the competitor and bagged. But extra shells used will still be counted for unharvested birds shot at.
6. If a three (3) second point is awarded and this pointed bird (moving or otherwise) flushes at any time thereafter for whatever reason (as determined and witnessed by the scorekeeper) full points will be awarded for the point. If the dog points, and the bird flushes prior to 3 seconds but the dog remains steady for three seconds, a point shall be awarded as long as the three second rule is met.
7. If a dog, during a retrieve, locates and points a second bird, the handler can choose to walk to the dog on point, take the retrieved bird from the dog, and complete the flush, shot, and retrieve of the second bird. As long as a bird is produced from the new fixed location, full retrieve points will be given for the first bird bagged. If the second bird is not produced for any reason, a partial retrieve will be given for the first bird. The second bird need not be bagged, only produced from the location pointed during the initial retrieve.

8. It is considered unsportsmanlike for a competitor to injure a bird while attempting to flush it. Additionally, a competitor may not, on the discovery of a nest containing multiple birds, impede the flight of any of the birds while flushing another. If the birds are in a resting state, the competitor may attempt to flush them individually, but may not impede the other birds from leaving during the flushing process. The scorekeeper will make a judgment call for disqualification or deduct four (4) points per offense, whichever they deem appropriate.



RETRIEVES/PARTIAL RETRIEVES

1. Ten (10) points will be awarded for each full retrieve up to but not exceeding the established quota of intended species of birds.
2. Five (5) points will be awarded for each partial retrieve. A partial retrieve is defined as a hunter who must move his or her pivot foot in order to assist the dog in making the retrieve. The dog must still pick up the bird in his mouth in order to be scored a partial retrieve.
3. A competitor must keep one (1) foot stationary after the bird is shot, or once the dog has released to flush or trap a bird (flushing division).
4. A competitor may kneel down but MAY NOT lay down to retrieve a bird. The competitor may NOT place his or her gun on the ground while removing the bird from the dog's mouth.
5. A competitor may not physically assist the dog (beyond the pivot foot distance) during the retrieve to receive full points.
6. A competitor may not use a foreign object (gun, etc.) to reach a bird the dog has dropped beyond the distance allowed while maintaining his or her pivot foot.
7. If the allotted amount of time for a brace has elapsed and a bird has been pointed (or flushed in the flushing division), the competitor has a 1 minute grace period to complete the shot/retrieve. If this grace period elapses and the bird is not yet retrieved, no points will be awarded for a bagged bird or a retrieve. If the bird is retrieved within the one minute window, the time shall be scored as equal to the allotted amount of time for the brace (i.e. 15 minutes not 15 minutes and 30 seconds). Scorekeeper will note actual full time in the event of a tie breaker.
8. If a competitor fails to cleanly shoot a bird so that it lands in the field of competition forcing the competitor to move for any reason to assist the dog, it will be scored as a partial retrieve as long as the dog picks up the bird in its mouth. If a fence prohibits the dog from making an out of bounds retrieve it should be considered unfortunate and bad luck, unless designated as a safety prior to the hunt. Tournament Directors have latitude in the setting of fields and in addressing fence rules prior to the start of a tournament should they wish.

- a. If, in the course of attempting a retrieve, a pointing dog appears to go on point on a new or different bird, the handler or competitor is allowed to move to this “new position” to flush the second bird with no penalty. However, this position is now the position that the dog must make the retrieve to in order to receive full retrieve points for the second bird. Should the handler or competitor move to this position and the scorekeeper does not witness a produced bird, the original retrieve may only be scored as a partial retrieve.
 - a. If the dog is retrieving the last bird required by the quota and goes on point on a second bird, the handler may walk to the dog, take the bird, and must show the scorekeeper that a bird is there. They may leash the dog and show the scorekeeper the bird is present by showing the judge the location of the bird or flushing the bird, but not shooting or allowing the dog to retrieve or touch the bird. If the bird flushed leaves the competition field, it must be replaced for the next run.
9. If a shot at bird lands in a tree or obstacle out of bounds, and is not considered a retrievable bird, it is considered bad luck you are charged a shell and are not awarded a bird in the bag.
10. If a shot bird lands in a tree located in the competition field or within retrieve range, and the scorekeeper determines the bird is dead, full points for the retrieve are to be awarded. If the bird remains alive, the competitor may shoot or throw an object at the bird and if it falls out of the tree, the dog must retrieve the bird to the competitor to receive full retrieve points or if the competitor moved from the original spot where the shot was taken, the competitor may elect to take a partial retrieve. If the bird dies in the tree but fails to fall to the ground, full retrieve points will be awarded.
 - A. Competitors may use a foreign object (golf ball, hat, water bottle, etc.) to toss out to help the dog locate a mismarked bird. No “live” shells should be used to help mark a bird
11. A dog may go out of bounds to retrieve a shot or flushed bird so long as it was produced inside the boundaries of the field.

EST. 2017
GREAT DOGS
GREAT FRIENDS
GREAT TIMES
FLUSHED BIRDS (FLUSHING DIVISION)

1. Ten (10) points will be awarded for each flushed bird of the intended species, up to but not exceeding the predetermined quota.
2. If a dog flushes multiple birds, flushed bird points will be awarded for only the number of birds observed by the Scorekeeper to have been shot by the competitor or trapped by the dog, and retrieved by the dog. Extra shells used will still be counted for missed birds when acted upon as described above.
3. If a bird is trapped or caught by a dog in the Flushing division, ten (10) points will be awarded in place of a flush, and a shell must be forfeited. If a flushing dog

scares the bird to flight and the dog IS WORKING the area that the bird was in, full flushing points are to be awarded.

4. In the flushing division, 1 point will be deducted for each trapped bird or caught bird.

TIME/TIE BREAKERS

1. Time will be recorded by the scorekeeper in minutes and seconds. For scoring purposes, unused time is calculated by rounding up to the next minute (Example: 12 minutes 30 seconds equals 13 minutes). Points earned from time left over is calculated from the allotted brace time minus the whole minutes used (does not include seconds not used). Example: for a recorded brace time of thirteen (13) minutes in a brace that is allotted twenty (20) minutes, the unused time is seven (7) minutes. Seconds are only calculated to determine a winner in the event of a tie. Time of each bagged bird should be noted by the scorekeeper.
2. Any event using two runs added together to generate a final score will first add both individual scores to determine the final score.
 - a. In the event of a tie breaker, the following method will be used to determine the winner or advancement in the event of preliminary runs:
 - i. The record keeper will add the total times together from each run (minutes and seconds). The amount of time allotted for each brace will be added together also to determine an overall time allotted. The total time used for both runs will be deducted from the total time allotted for both runs, and a final time will be established.

Example : Run 1 – 6:59 in a brace allowing 20 total minutes. Run 2 – 5:59 in a brace allowing 20 total minutes. Total Time for both runs = 12:58 / Total Time allotted = 40 minutes.

The total time used will be subtracted from 40 minutes: $40 - 12:58 = 27:02$.

- b. For two runs combined and preliminary (qualification) run divisions, the secondary tie breaker will be conducted using the total time combined (combined score and preliminary run divisions) of the last bird bagged which did not stop the clock in the run. This tie breaker method will continue sequentially until the first bird bagged is used as a tie breaker.
- c. For single run events, the secondary tie breaker will be the lesser of time used. If a tie still stands, the tie breaker will then go to the last bird bagged which did not stop the clock in the run. This tie breaker method will continue sequentially until the first bird bagged is used as a tie breaker.

- d. If in the event a tie still exists after the last tie breaker, a tie will be awarded and both dogs advance in a preliminary run, or two placements awarded in a two run combined scoring tournament and the next placement will be forfeited. EX. 1st place, 2nd place ties, 3rd place is forfeited, 4th place, and so on...
3. A scorekeeper shall declare "Time" for any of the following reasons.
 - a. A competitor or their dog cease to hunt. In this instance, NO POINTS will be awarded for unused minutes. A full time will be used.
 - b. The competitor has the last bird in hand and dog is in the competitor's control. Any unused minutes are awarded in this case. Should a bird escape from the competitor or all intended bagged birds cannot be accounted for (less safety birds and non-performers), the clock must restart and the hunt continued when the competitor re-enters the field at the closest point to his current position and until the allotted birds are accounted for in the competitors possession.
 - c. All shells have been used or forfeited. In this case, no points are to be awarded for unused time unless the established quota of the intended species has been bagged.
 - d. If points are awarded on the last bird due to a denied shooting opportunity, the clock should be stopped when the competitor has touched the dog. The hunter must then gain control of the dog immediately.
 - e. An infraction of a rule, which requires that the competitor be immediately disqualified.
 4. If a dispute in the competition field should arise, the scorekeeper will note the time and the details, and the brace shall continue. If the Hunter chooses to stop to protest the run, the time shall continue until the allotted time has expired.
 5. If time must be stopped for any reason during the run, the dog must be immediately leashed. Once the dog is leashed the time will stop. The dog must not be unleashed until the clock is restarted and a scorekeeper orders a run to continue.
 6. Once the hunt has begun, the clock may only be stopped at the discretion of the scorekeeper.

REPLANT / RERUN

1. A replant is defined as a temporary aborted run which is begun again after replacing a quantity of birds in the field. In the event of a replant, the field will not be flushed but will be replanted with the number of birds removed by reasons other than the competitor or dog since the beginning of the original run (minus the one bird credited for if granted for Interference) while the competitor returns to the blind. Replants are called for various reasons (See section regarding Interference.) The planted birds will be placed in the quadrant of the original plant and the competitor will restart from the same location they

were when the clock stopped. If a replant is granted for unforeseen circumstances not covered by this rule, the ruling body can adjust this rule.

2. A rerun is defined as a run which is aborted completely and completed at a future time. A rerun will provide a complete replant of a set of birds equal to the original number and the competitor shall start at the starting gate with the clock set at 0.
3. When a full rerun is granted, a competitor cannot better his/her time or erase penalties incurred in the original run. Example, at 10 minutes the competitor is interfered with or a rule misunderstood by the scorekeeper. The competitor has two birds in the bag and a partial retrieve. On the rerun, the competitor runs 8 minutes clean. His/Her run score will revert to the 10 minute run with the partial.
3. In the event that a lack of sunlight does not permit that the rerun be held that day, it should commence prior to the first brace the next day. In this circumstance, the field will be reset as it was for the competitor's original brace minus any extra birds.
4. A rerun may be awarded for various safety reasons (example: lightning) or for any inconsistencies in scoring or quota, and is determined by the WGDC board.
5. Reruns will only be granted for interference, or any circumstance in which the field Marshal or designee determines a rerun could affect the top 5 placements or top 10 qualification dogs in a preliminary run.

INTERFERENCE

1. If a dog interferes in a field, the hunter in the "interfered" field should stop the clock, get control of his dog and leash his dog. The scorekeeper should note the time, and wait for the interfering dog to leave. If the interfering dog points or identifies the location of a bird, several options are warranted;
 - A. The interfering dog can be removed and if the bird is not disturbed, once the dog is removed from the field, the competitor may continue hunting the bird immediately upon start of the clock.
 - B. If the bird is disturbed, flushed, or removed from the field by the interfering dog, full credit will be awarded to the competitor and 20 seconds will be added to the clock prior to the competitor continuing the hunt. Once the 20 seconds has passed, the hunter will continue their run as normal.
 - C. Otherwise the score keeper will determine if a rerun is warranted, based on the following:
 - a. A rerun will be granted only if a Field Marshall or Event Coordinator determines it made a difference in the Top 5 Placements or a Top 10 Run-off situation.

2. The dog that Interferes in another field will be deducted 10 points for a flushed bird, unless the interfering dog is actively retrieving a bird produced from their field or a legal bird. If the handler can not get control of the interfering dog, and the dog flushes more than one bird, the dog shall be disqualified from the run. Disqualification of an interfering dog is at the discretion of the judge.

INJURED COMPETITOR

A competitor that is injured during a competition and can not continue their run, will receive the score they have accomplished and no points for unused time will be awarded.

SPECTATOR

Hosts and/or competition organizers shall have the discretion of prohibiting competitors and/or spectators from observing fields of competition during or prior to an event.

MISCELLANEOUS RULES

1. Rules and Regulations may be amended by the WGDC at any time.
2. Ignorance of the rules will not be grounds for protest. Any situation not covered in these rules or in this rulebook, is considered bad luck for the competitor. If it's in the rulebook that you can, you can; if it's in the rulebook that you can't, you can't; if it's not in the rulebook, you cannot.
3. Manipulating these rules in a way that they were not intended will not be tolerated.

POINTING LABS PARTICIPATION

1. A pointing lab may compete in the pointing division, however, they are bound by the rules of that division.

NO SHOW & LATE CANCELLATION

To protect WGDC promoters from having out-of-pocket expense due to competitors who do not show up or decide at the last minute that they are not going to attend, the WGDC is implementing a NO SHOW AND LATE CANCELLATION POLICY. This will be a penalty that is incurred to competitors who enter an event and do not show up at an event and do not give a promoter any notification that they are not attending. Late cancellation is defined as a cancellation made to the promoter within 72 hours or less of the event. No show and late cancellation penalty will result in the competitor paying 100% of their entries fees to the promoter. Payment deadlines are determined by the Host. Penalty incurred for a cancellation after the entry deadline, but before the 72 hour late cancellation period is 50% of all entry fees.

Updated 2/06/22

Promoters will inform the WGDC of these penalties and competitors will be unable to participate in WGDC related events until the promoter is paid in full. Late Entries will be Accepted at the discretion of the Host or Promoter and any penalty for late entries shall be specified on the Host entry form.



LIFETIME POINTS

1. Life time Points scoring system:

- A. Lifetime points are scored based on placement in a tournament (1 point for every dog beat)
- B. Preliminary runs (Final preliminary placements) are considered one tournament
- C. Semi-finals and/or Championships are considered additional tournaments and will also be awarded individual points for each dog beat.
- D. For two runs combined (points awarded on final standings after 2 runs)
- E. Single runs are awarded based on final score after one run

2. Lifetime Points status:

***Lucky Dog entries Do NOT count towards lifetime points (beginning 1/1/18)**

200 points = 1 time champion

300 points = 2 time champion

400 points = 3 time champion (An amateur dog must move to Pro Division once 400 points attained)

500 points = 4 time Champion

700 points = Grand Champion

1000 Points = Elite Champion

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS

- A. The eligible run scores will be preliminary runs, semi-finals, and finals given that there is a 3 bird/15 minute format (or conversion thereof).
- B. Scores obtained from Lucky Dog Runs will NOT count towards end of the year awards or lifetime points.
- C. The hunter/dog must be the same combination for end of the year awards in each division.
- D. Any tie for Dog of the year will be determined by fastest run overall, then fastest bird.

Updated 2/06/22

- E. All awards will be announced at the WGDC Western States Nationals event, TBD upon each calendar year

Pro Pointing and Pro Flushing Dog of the year, Ladies Dog of the Year, Amateur Pointing and Amateur Flushing Dog of the year, Top Young Gun (Youth Division), Doubles Team of the Year, Puppy of the Year

The dog of the year awards will be awarded for the hunter(s)/dog(s) team(s) in each division that obtains the top (TBD) runs combined score during the Calendar year (season). The amount of runs will be determined by the total runs possible for the year.

*** Other Awards may be provided at individual hunts and will be announced by the host at the time of the hunts.

*** In the event there are a lower number of runs provided during the season which are required to be qualified for the end of the year awards, the number of qualifying runs may be adjusted by the WGDC board

2022 NATIONALS QUALIFYING RULES

IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR NATIONALS, THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY:

- 1. YOU MUST QUALIFY EACH DOG IN AT LEAST ONE DIVISION TO EARN A BID TO NATIONALS.**

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO QUALIFY A DOG:

- 1. PLACE 1ST THROUGH 3RD IN ANY OF THE QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS AND YOU HAVE AN AUTOMATIC BID INTO NATIONALS (FOR THAT DOG).**
- 2. ENTER A SINGLE DOG IN AT LEAST 3 OUT OF THE 4 QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS AND WIN A BID TO NATIONALS (WITH THAT DOG)**

ADDITIONAL RULES, RESTRICTIONS, AND EXEMPTIONS:

- 1. A HOST(S) AUTOMATICALLY EARNS ONE TOURNAMENT CREDIT (ALL OF THEIR DOGS) FOR THEIR TOURNAMENT IF THEY CHOOSE TO NOT COMPETE IN ORDER TO RUN THE TOURNAMENT, OR DON'T RUN A DOG(S) DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS OR BIRD COUNT WHILE RUNNING THEIR TOURNAMENT.**
- 2. A DOUBLE/DOUBLE TOURNAMENT WILL COUNT AS TWO TOURNAMENTS AS ENTRIES ARE ALLOWED ON A PER DAY BASIS, NOT A SINGLE ENTRY FOR THE WEEKEND.**
- 3. ALL DOGS INDIVIDUALLY QUALIFIED IN AT LEAST ONE DIVISION ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY INTO THE DOUBLES DIVISION AT NATIONALS.**
- 4. ANY/ALL YOUTH WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN AT LEAST ONE TOURNAMENT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR ARE ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONALS.**
- 5. QUALIFICATION IS FOR THE DOG, NOT THE HUNTER/HANDLER, AND EACH DOG MUST QUALIFY, BUT THE HANDLER MUST COMPETE IN AT LEAST ONE W.G.D.C. SANCTIONED EVENT TO PARTICIPATE AT NATIONALS.**