

**COLORADO GUN DOG  
ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL RULES  
&  
CHUKAR TRIALS AND HUNTS  
RULES AND SCORING  
(Revision 02/2022)**

**GENERAL RULES:**

1. Members must fill out a membership application and indemnification waiver form each year when they renew their membership. Non-members must fill out an indemnification waiver form when on CGDA grounds.
2. If you use the field for training, you must clean up after yourself. Do not leave trash, dead birds, cans, etc. behind.
3. Due to insurance regulations, no one under 16 may operate a club ATV/UTV.
4. No driving trucks, cars, or other street vehicles in the fields.
5. Children:
  - No children under age 8 allowed in the fields except as a passenger in the judge's vehicle during an active trial.
  - Any child between the age 8 and of 16 with a Hunter's Safety Card and accompanied by an adult may work dogs and/or shoot.
  - Young children must be supervised by an adult that is not working the trial.
6. ANY ABUSE OF DOGS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!!!! When in the field, if your dog yelps from an E-Collar or abuse, you may be eliminated and asked to leave. Judges have full discretion and decisions are final.
7. One (1) current Board Member MUST be present at all trials from start to finish.
8. No smoking in the clubhouse or in the trial fields.
9. All members need to read and abide by the By-Laws and rules.
10. Alcoholic beverages may allowed if your trial is over. NO SHOOTING IF YOU DRINK ALCHOL.
11. Everyone should respect and understand boundaries and varying behavior and temperament of all animals including dogs. Please do not approach any dog or animal that you are not completely familiar with. Any dog exhibiting over aggressive behavior including but not limited to biting, attacking or becoming a threat on or off the field may be disqualified and subject to club disciplinary actions outlined within the bylaws.

## **TRIAL ENTRY RULES:**

1. Enter no sooner than one (1) month prior to trial date. (But no later than 8:00 p.m. the Wednesday before trial so birds can be ordered).
2. One (1) current Board Member MUST be present at the draw for each trial. In person or electronically via internet skype etc.
3. You must complete the entry form and attach payment at the same time. Send these to the trial chairperson, or if no chair, then to the Vice-President.
4. A dog may only run (1) one brace in each field, up to (2) fields total. There are no exceptions to this rule.
5. A Member may only have (1) one brace per field and (2) total braces for all hunt fields unless a trial is not full.
6. A Member may have up to (2) two novice braces in a hunt trial in addition to the chukar hunt braces allowed. However, the same dog can only run once in the novice field.
7. A Member may request additional braces by placing a dog(s) on the trial wait list.
8. Braces will be filled from the wait list as follows.
  - Wait list entries with attached payment will be taken in the order received by the trial Chairperson.
  - All members on the wait list will be given (1) one additional brace as possible before a second additional brace is given to any member.
  - If trial braces are not full after awarding (1) one additional brace to all requested member entries a second or subsequent brace(s) will be awarded in the same manner as the 1st wait list braces.
9. Any member may enter his or her dog(s) in CGDA sponsored field trials. Members may handle another member's dog at the member rate. Non-member dog entries will be charged the non-member rate even if run by a member. \$100/Run
10. Cancellations – If you need to cancel, let the Field Trial Chairman know BEFORE the drawing is published. Cancellation after the distribution or publication of the draw will result in the handler owing the fee for the trial. \$70 (Unless chairperson can fill brace from waiting list)
11. Dogs in heat are not allowed at the trial or on grounds during trials.
12. Braces are drawn and assigned by dog's name. Trading or change requests are not allowed. The trial chair may change a brace to facilitate the trial.
13. Priority of field cleanup of birds after a trial is given to those who WORK the trial and AFTER the trial chores have been completed. Once they have been the opportunity, others will be allowed into the fields.
14. All birds taken off the trial fields are the member/handler's responsibility to dispose of properly.

## **FIELD RULES:**

1. Everyone in the fields must wear a blaze orange cap or vest to promote visibility & safety
2. You must check in with the desk before and after your brace.
3. **NO RUNNING IN THE FIELDS!!!**
4. Gun safety is required at all times! An entrant will be disqualified by the judge or chairman for committing an unsafe act. After disqualification that handler/shooter will be asked to leave the field immediately. Disqualification will preclude the disqualified person from running in any other event on that day. Any action that occurs anywhere on the grounds that endangers any person, dog or property will be cause for disqualification. There will be no refund for any disqualification. The chairman or committee reserves the right to refuse entries from anyone who has displayed unsafe gun practices in prior events.
5. Gun safety must always be observed. No rounds may be placed in the gun until the dog and handler are at the starting gate. Just prior to the start the handler may load his gun ensuring the safety is on. For automatics and pump shot guns the maximum shells that may be loaded into the gun is 3.
6. Safeties – Anyone in the field may call a Safety and **you may NOT shoot**. Gunners **MUST** call a safety if person or dog is in the line of fire. See field trial rules for detailed information on safeties.
7. Dogs must be on a leash until the judge gives permission to release at the start of the brace. Once time is called for your brace, dogs must be placed back on the leash, and you must leave the field promptly.
8. Any questions on scorecards must be addressed immediately after your brace. Trial chair has final ruling on all disputes.
9. Scorecards must be initialed by the handler and the judge when turned into the desk. Once initialed, you have agreed to the score. The trial chair is responsible to check and validate all scores.
10. No shot size larger than # 7 may be used. Judge may check and verify the load at any time.
11. Trainers and others in the field are not allowed to handle the dog. Only the person signed up for the brace as the handler may handle the dog.
12. If a dog interferes in your field and removes a bird from the field, time will be stopped and dog leashed, then another bird will be planted in the same quadrant. Time will then resume. A dog that interferes with another brace in another field or exhibits aggressive behavior may be disqualified from the event. The duration and extent of the interference will be the major factors when determining interference and is at the discretion of the judges.
13. A competitor found to be intentionally cleaning or loading the field for the next run will be disqualified from the event and subject to restriction from future competitions.
14. Ignorance of the rules will not be grounds for protest. **READ AND UNDERSTAND EVENT RULES BEFORE RUNNING YOUR BRACE!**

## **CHUKAR TRIALS AND HUNTS**

### **SCORING AND RULES**

**FIND:** Fifteen (15) points will be awarded for each bird pointed (Max. of 5). Dog must hold point for a minimum of three (3) seconds and remain standing and not cause or influence a flush.

Only 10 points will be awarded for the find if the dog is held or leashed after the mandatory three (3) seconds.

**RETRIEVE:** Fifteen (15) points will be awarded for each retrieve (Max. of 5). The dog must bring bird to within one large step of the handler.

**BAGGED BIRD:** Ten (10) points will be awarded for each bagged bird. A bird is considered bagged if retrieved either by the dog or handler.

**TIME:** A brace shall be for thirty (30) minutes. One (1) point shall be awarded for each full minute remaining out of the thirty (30) minute brace. Seconds (partial minutes) will not be included in the total time. **Example:** A brace of 22 minutes and 35 seconds would be scored at 22 minutes. A handler must have 5 birds totally scored (Find, retrieve, and bagged) to receive any credit for remaining minutes. If the dog is on point and time runs out, you may finish the dog work, including retrieve but no credit will be given for the retrieve or bagged bird after the time has expired. The time starts when the dog is released from the starting line and continues until the last bird is in hand. If a safety is called on the last bird, the clock continues until the dog returns to the handler and is leashed or taken by the collar.

**SHELLS:** Eight (8) shells are allowed per handler/shooter. The brace is over once all eight (8) shells have been expended. No points are awarded for unused shells. Each safety counts as an expended shell.

### **THE FIELD**

1. The field shall be approximately 30-35 acres. The rules committee must approve exceptions to field size. water containers will be provided when available. Flags will mark the field's boundaries.

### **THE BRACE**

1. A Handler/shooter (also known as a brace) shall consist of either; one or two people (handler & shooter) and one dog. No dog is permitted to run more than once in the same field. In the case of a separate shooter, the shooter must stay within 15 to 20 feet of the handler. The shooter is not permitted to co-handle the dog, give advice, or point out birds to the handler.

2. Dogs in heat cannot compete. If a dog comes into season after the draw, it is up to the entrant to find another dog or forfeit the entry fee. If a dog comes into season prior to the draw, it is the responsibility of the entrant to notify the chairman of the trial. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of entry fee. The entrant will have the option to advise the chairman of a substitute dog.
3. Braces will be drawn before the trial. Entrants will be notified of their brace position, by either phone or email, no later than 8 pm on the Thursday prior to the event. Entrants should check in with the trial chairperson one hour before their brace. If entrants are not present at the time of bird planting, he/she forfeits their brace and entry fee.
4. A brace will end (a) when 5 birds have been bagged and are in the possession of the handler/shooter or (b) when 5 birds have been driven from the field because of actions of the handler/shooters or the dog, or (c) when the handler/shooter expends their allotted shells, or (d) when 30 minutes have lapsed; whichever occurs first. All work must be completed in the allotted time. Bonus points will be awarded for time remaining, in accordance with the scoring rules. This will be calculated from the time that the 5th bird is in hand. Handler will promptly leash dog and lead it from the field.
5. A brace is considered over when thirty (30) minutes has elapsed. The dog will be scored on the work completed within the thirty (30) minutes. If a dog goes on point and time runs out, a bird must be produced to score the find. The scored bird than should be removed from the field. Handler can complete dog work, but no points will be awarded for retrieves or bagged birds after the time has expired.
6. A dog must be leashed prior to a brace and immediately after a brace is concluded.

## **SCORING**

1. The Judge's job is to accompany the handler/shooter in the field and record what happens (points, retrieves, birds bagged, shells and time expended). The judge will enforce the rules pertaining to safety and the running of each brace. The judge is expected to act in a prudent and fair manner in accordance with the rules. A judge will not officiate in the two braces immediately preceding his/her own run. If possible, each judge will be asked to officiate in four braces. The judge will take control of all birds while in the field (place in basket on ATV).
2. Placements will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place. All dogs placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> will be qualified for the Championship Trial. If additional dogs are needed for the Championship Trial, the committee will look to 4<sup>th</sup> place dogs starting with the first trial of the season.
3. Tie breakers will be decided by the TOTAL TIME of the run. If total time is identical among competitors, or if the total time of both competitors is the full 30 minutes, the time of the earliest qualifying point (find) would then be used to break the tie.

## **THE BIRD PLANT**

1. Chukar Partridge will be the bird used in this event. The birds will be planted in a random pattern so that each quadrant of the field will contain birds. Care will be taken so a build-up of birds does not occur in one area. Consideration will be given to the cover to prevent birds from walking out of the field. The two (2) quadrants nearest the starting gate will be planted in a fashion to make the first find equitable for all contestants.
2. There will be 6 Chukar planted in the first brace and 5 in each brace thereafter.

## **THE FIND**

1. In order to receive any score, the dog must establish point on its own and hold point for the 3 seconds. No signal of any kind (oral, visual, whistle or stimulation) may be used to whoa a dog to establish a point. After the 3 seconds have elapsed you may steady the dog with commands and with lead. Judge may not hold your dog for you; however, dog may be held by either the handler/shooter member. If the dog is restrained only 10 points will be awarded for the find. All dogs must be stationary at the time of the flush.

If the dog relocates (on its own, or on command), there is no find scored. The dog *must re-establish point on its own* and hold point for an additional three seconds before the find is scored. If a bird flushes while the dog is relocating, it is considered a “bumped” bird (see the flush).

2. If multiple birds are produced off a single point and the shooter kills all birds and the dog retrieves all birds (shooter must be stationary throughout all retrieves), full credit is awarded for all birds and given credit for multiple points; however, if any bird is shot at and missed and flies out of bounds it will be counted against the handler as a contact and no credit will be given for an additional point.
3. Only 1 find per bird will be scored.
4. A find on a dead bird shall not count for a score. Whether the bird is dead or not will be determined by the judge.
5. Only scored birds may be shot (handlers are not to shoot at a wild flush or bumped birds.)

## **SCENARIO #1**

### **Assuming legal find and flush:**

1. Shooter hits bird and gets retrieve: full score
2. Shooter misses' bird and gets retrieve: full score
3. Shooter hits bird and dog does not retrieve (handler retrieves bird): a find and a bagged bird is scored
4. Shooter misses' bird and no retrieve: a find is scored
  - a. In this scenario, if the dog is unable to locate the bird and the bird is in the field, the bird may be re-worked (only the original find will be scored, no additional find can be scored on the same bird).
  - b. No retrieve will be given since the handler has moved to re-work the bird but an opportunity for a bagged bird exists if the handler is successful in harvesting the bird.
5. A miss includes an obvious attempt to shoot, including shouldering a gun with the intention to fire, with a failure to load shells, failure to take gun from safety, or a gun or shell malfunction. A retrieve can be made on a missed bird (see scenario 1), but the bird cannot be re-worked for a find.

## **THE FLUSH**

1. A bird must be in bounds and flushed in bounds in order to be scored as a find. A dog out of bounds may still be credited with a find if the bird is in bounds during the flush.
2. Any bird that is out of bounds cannot be moved back onto the field by the dog or handler. Any bird moved onto the field by the dog or handler during the run cannot be scored on.
3. After the find (3 second stationary period) has elapsed, an attempt by handler/shooter member that dislodges the bird from its resting place is considered a flush, and the dog shall be allowed to move from its stationary stance.
4. In the case of a find on a standing or walking bird, the handler must notify the judge of a standing/moving bird. A walking bird is considered to be flushed when the handler changes the direction or pace of the bird.
5. All dogs should be encouraged to stay in the field. Any dog that leaves the field and interferes with any other field may be disqualified. Interference will be determined by the judges based on the duration and severity of the interference. Any retrieve made in another field must be immediate. A extended search of a downed or missed bird will not qualify for a retrieve.
6. A bird is considered “bumped” if the dog did not hold point for the minimum of three (3) seconds. If in the judge’s opinion, the dog caused the bird to flush it will be considered a contact and counted against the handler if the bird leaves the field. However, if the “bumped” bird remains in the field, it has not been scored upon and is eligible to be reworked by the handler. The initial contact will not be counted against the handler.

## **Wild Flush**

1. A flush not influenced by the dog.
2. If the bird lands within the field, then it may be worked for full credit. If the bird leaves the field it will not be replaced.
3. If a judge (on or off an ATV) or handler walking in the field causes a bird to flush it is ruled a wild flush and will not be counted against the dog. If the bird flies out of the field it will not be replaced.

## **SCENARIOS #2**

### **Dog running through the field bumps a bird.**

1. Dog stops and handler shoots the bird: This is not a find, or retrieve, since it was not a controlled scored find. Only pointed, scored birds may be shot. It was not a controlled point and will be considered a contact against the dog and no bagged bird since it was not a legal find.
2. Dog stops and bird lands in the field: The bird may be reworked for a full score.
3. Bird leaves the field: the bird is counted as a contact against the handler.

## **THE RETRIEVE**

1. Retrieves must be within one large step of the handler (one foot must remain stationary). The Handler must remain at the spot where he/she was at the time of the shot. The other team member (shooter) may get behind him/her in order to give the dog one location to retrieve.
2. The only exception to the above is to allow the handler to move left or right to clear an obstruction, but at no time is handler to advance toward the dog.

## **BAGGED BIRDS**

1. In the case of a failed retrieve on a scored bird a handler may retrieve the bird by hand and that bird will be counted as a bagged bird. Un-scored birds (not pointed) shot will not count as a bagged bird.

## **TRAINING AIDS**

1. E-Collars may be used.
2. In the braces designated as Novice, there will be no deduct for use of leads as these braces are designed for training and for handler and dog to learn.
3. Anyone abusing a dog (in the opinion of the judge or chairman), whether with an electronic collar or physically will be disqualified and removed from the field. Anyone disqualified for abusing a dog is subject to sanction from the rules committee, including the possibility of barred from future events. Disqualification is at the judge's discretion.

## **SAFETIES**

1. Any entrant or judge may call a safety. Once called, no guns shall be fired without permission of the judge. Failure to abide by this rule may cause the judge to disqualify the entrant.
2. It is the judge's discretion to allow a safety. If in the judge's opinion the safety is allowed, that bird will count for the retrieve & bagged bird. A bird that has been scored as a safety cannot be scored on again. If the scored bird lands within the field the judge should make every effort to remove the bird from the field.
3. If the bird is not removed the next bird found in that area will be considered the bird already scored upon and no additional score will be given. Handler should complete the dog work.
4. Any safety called by the shooter needs to be immediately communicated to the judges. It is the responsibility of the handler to confirm with the judges that they heard or saw the safety called by the handler.
5. Birds cannot be shot on the ground. If the bird will not fly (will occasionally happen with pen raised birds), the entrant will pick up the bird (if possible) and throw it in the air. If the bird cannot be caught and thrown to complete the dog work, the judge will call safety and full credit will be given. Shooting a bird on the ground constitutes immediate disqualification. Judge should make every effort to remove the bird from the field.
6. A shell per bird will be charged in the case of each safety.