

RAFT JULY 2024 MTG - ATTACHMENT 8g

1. A Retrieving Trial is an event at which competitions for the working of registered Gundogs are conducted, both on land and in or through water, to determine their relative merits in the field under conditions which emulate as closely as possible those which would be found whilst hunting, but at the same time bring the work of each dog within an ambit of equality where assessment may be fairly made.

(Tas) 1. A Retrieving Trial is an event at which competitions for the working of registered Gundogs are conducted on cold game, both on land and in or through water, to determine their relative merits in the field under conditions which emulate as closely as possible those which would be found whilst hunting, but at the same time bring the work of each dog within an ambit of equality where assessment may be fairly made.

Rationale:

There is a constant use of terminology that creates uncertainty when attempting to describe what game we use. (Eg Live, real, dead and cold) The term Cold game describes what we use in Australia and the word cold game is internationally accepted . This is for Rule 1 only and the wording or letters need not be used in any other publication.

7. The Shooting, Game Laws and Firearms Legislation of each State or Territory must be observed and will govern the conduct of all Trials in conjunction with the Rules and Regulations of each State or Territory Member Body as approved by the ANKC Ltd.

(WA) 7. Retrieving Trials will be conducted and facilitated in accordance with:

(a) The Rules and Regulations of each State or Territory Body as approved by the ANKC Ltd, and

(b) The relevant Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Animal Welfare, Firearms, Game, and any other applicable legislation, of each State or Territory.

Rationale:

Clearly indicates that our trials – whether on Game or Artificial Game - are run in accordance with appropriate legislation.

Rules 8 (f) and (j)

8. (f) **Control Area** - is that area encompassed by the Control Point markers and the Firing Point markers.

(WA) 8(f) **Control Area** - is that area encompassed by the Control Point markers and the Firing Point markers. Terrain permitting, the distance between the Control Point and the Firing Point shall be not less than 10 metres.

Rationale:

It removes the note from 8 (j) and puts the relevant information from the note in 8 (j) with the appropriate definition in 8(f) and 8 (j).

8. (j) **Firing Point** - is the point from which the handler will fire a gun and direct the dog to retrieve. A handler moving outside the Firing Point to handle their dog may be penalised as defined on the Judging Sheet.
Note: Terrain permitting, the distance between the Control Point and the Firing Point shall be not less than 10 metres and the distance between the two marker pegs at the Firing Point shall be not less than 2 metres

(WA) 8 (j) **Firing Point** - is the point from which the handler will fire a gun and direct the dog to retrieve. The distance between the two marker pegs at the Firing Point shall be not less than 2 metres. A handler moving outside the Firing Point to handle their dog may be penalised as defined on the Judging Sheet.

~~**Note:** Terrain permitting, the distance between the Control Point and the Firing Point shall be not less than 10 metres and the distance between the two marker pegs at the Firing Point shall be not less than 2 metres~~

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Rationale:

It removes the note from 8 (j) and puts the information from the note with the appropriate definition in 8(f) and 8(j).

8. (k) **Game – Definition of - Quail, Duck, Pigeon, Partridge, Grouse, Ptarmigan, Pheasant, Rabbit and Hare**, inclusive of domesticated and replica variants of the above species. (Refer also to Rule No.7).

(NSW) 8.(k) Game – Definition of - Quail, Duck, Pigeon, Partridge, ~~Grouse, Ptarmigan~~, Pheasant, Rabbit and Hare, inclusive of domesticated or replica and artificial variants of the above species. (Refer also to Rule No.7). Artificial variants of game should closely resemble the size and appearance of the species that they are replicating.

Rationale:

Traditional game is becoming increasingly difficult and more expensive to acquire and store. While we are against the removal of traditional game completely we believe that artificial game needs to be an option for the long-term preservation of the sport.

(Vic) 8. (k) Game – Definition of - Quail, Duck, Pigeon, Partridge, ~~Grouse, Ptarmigan~~, Pheasant, Rabbit and Hare, inclusive of domesticated and replica variants of the above species. (Refer also to Rule No.7).

Rationale:

Grouse and Ptarmigan are items of game that cannot be sourced therefore unable to be used as cold game in Australia.

(Vic) Rule 8 (K) Game – Definition of – Quail, Duck, Cold Pigeons, Partridge, ~~Grouse, Ptarmigan~~, Pheasant, Rabbit and Hare, which have been humanely euthanised according to relevant State regulations.. Game may include domesticated or replica variants of the above. No live game can be used. (Refer also to Rule No 7.)

Rationale:

Clarifies that live game is not used.

Pigeons and rabbits are feral non-native species that currently make up more than 90% of game currently used in retrieving trials. They are typically obtained from trappers, or sometime in the case of pigeons, culls from racing pigeon lofts. They are destined to be euthanised regardless as to whether or not they would be sourced to be used in retrieving trials. This change ensures that no native game or exotic game is used.

Remove Grouse and Ptarmigan as items of game as they cannot be sourced used as cold game in Australia.

(Tas) Rule 8k Game – Definition of - Quail, Duck, Pigeon, Partridge, Grouse, Ptarmigan, Pheasant, Rabbit and Hare

inclusive of domesticated or replica-variants of the above species.

(Amended 10/23, 5.21 – effective 01/01/24) (Refer also to Rule No.7)

Rationale:

Grouse and Ptarmigan are not species of game available in Australia all other variants of game listed in rule 8k are readily available

Including replica game in rule 8k was unanimously voted against at the August 2023 meeting of NRAFT Including replica game also impacts many other rules in the Retrieving Trials for Gundogs

8. (p) **Hard Mouth** – A dog is deemed to be hard-mouthed when there is unmistakable tmarking or damage. In the event of Extreme Hard Mouth, the Judge may apply Rule 68 and disqualify the dog. Extreme Hard

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Mouth is where there is deliberate squeezing of game so that bones break or the flesh is badly ripped and the Judge considers that the game is unfit for the table.

Note: 1. Game can be marked when thrown and this should be considered.

(NSW) Rule 8 (p) Hard Mouth – A dog is deemed to be hard-mouthed when there is unmistakable evidence of any markings or damage on game retrieved due to biting or crunching by the dog. The penalty as defined on the score sheet should be relative to the marking or damage. Game can be marked when thrown and this should be considered. In the event of Extreme Hard Mouth, the Judge may apply Rule 68 and disqualify the dog.

Extreme Hard Mouth is where there is deliberate squeezing of game so that ~~bones break, or the flesh is badly ripped~~ flesh is damaged and the Judge considers that the game is unfit for the table.

If artificial game is used some dogs may readjust the hold once picked up, therefore, a judge must be aware how the dog carries the game and if excessive biting or mouthing of the artificial game is observed, then the applicable penalty or disqualification applies.

Rationale:

Hard mouth remains an undesirable quality in Gundogs. Judges often note and record the evidence of hard mouth before the retrieve has been completed with traditional game.

The deletion of (bones break or the flesh is badly ripped),

Game may be damaged when it is thrown and landing on hard surfaces. Note If bones break this would not render the game as unfit for the table and this is what should be considered by the Judge.

If the flesh is ripped whether badly or not if the dog's teeth enter the carcass, this should render the Game unfit for the table and the dog should be eliminated from further competition and this should be reflected in the judges score sheet.

The inclusion of the word (damaged) to this rule, permits the judge to form his opinion with regards to Bones Breaking and/or Flesh Badly Ripped as to whether the Game is Fit or Unfit for the table and score the dog accordingly.

(Vic) 8. (p) Hard Mouth –

Cold Game: A dog is deemed to be hard-mouthed when there is unmistakable evidence of any markings or damage on game retrieved due to biting or crunching by the dog. The penalty as defined on the score sheet should be relative to the marking or damage. In the event of Extreme Hard Mouth, the Judge may apply Rule 68 and disqualify the dog. Extreme Hard Mouth is where there is deliberate squeezing of game so that bones break or the flesh is badly ripped and the Judge considers that the game is unfit for the table.

Note: 1. Game can be marked when thrown and this should be considered.

Replica game: A dog is deemed to be hard-mouthed when there is seen unmistakable evidence of the dog mouthing and excessive rolling of the item of AG on the return the handler. The penalty for hard mouth is the maximum penalty on the score sheet.

Rationale:

There has to be a different definition of hard mouth for RG as there is no ability to determine the degree of hard mouth as the Judge would be unable to determine as to whether or not there has been deliberate squeezing of the game so bones may be broken or the flesh badly ripped. Penalty for RG hard-mouth can only be the maximum deduction of 10 points.

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(QLD) 8 (p) Hard Mouth – A dog is deemed to be hard-mouthed when there is unmistakable evidence of any markings or damage on game retrieved due to biting or crunching by the dog. The penalty as defined on the score sheet should be relative to the marking or damage. In the event of Extreme Hard Mouth, the Judge may apply Rule 68 and disqualify the dog. Extreme Hard Mouth is where there is deliberate squeezing of game so that bones break, or the flesh is badly ripped and the Judge considers that the game is unfit for the table.

Where Replica Game is used as Game, any dog observed by the Judge to be biting, chewing or excessively mouthing the dummy during the exercise may be considered to have Hard Mouth. The penalty as defined on the score sheet should be relative to the marking or damage.

. Note: Game can be marked when thrown and this should be considered.

(QLD) Rationale:

The use of Replica Game is now allowable under ANKC Rules. The Rules should now reflect any necessary alterations as such. This is an excerpt from the already approved version of Hard Mouth from the RATG Rules, so it would be most efficient to adopt this section it into the Retrieving Rules.

Note: 1. Game can be marked when thrown and this should be considered.

(WA) 8(p) Hard Mouth – A dog is deemed to be hard-mouthed when there is unmistakable evidence of any markings or damage on game retrieved due to biting or crunching by the dog. The penalty as defined on the score sheet should be relative to the marking or damage. In the event of ExtremeHard Mouth, the Judge may apply Rule 68 and disqualify the dog. Extreme Hard Mouth is wherethere is deliberate squeezing of game so that bones break or the flesh is badly ripped and the Judge considers that the game is unfit for the table.

Note: 1. Game can be marked when thrown and this should be considered.
2. This rule shall not apply to retrieves where replica game is used.

Rationale:

Addresses Rules for use of Artificial Game so that we have just one set of rules with inclusion of alternatives for both game and artificial game trials

Rule 8 (q)

8. (q) **Hide** - An area clearly defined by the Judge in which to leave the dog.

(WA) 8 (q) Hide - An area clearly defined by the Judge in which to leave the dog. Where possible it is recommended that the Hide be part of the natural terrain or be constructed of natural materials

Rationale:

Gives definition of Hide greater clarity

Rule 8 (z)

8. (z) A bona fide exhibit is an exhibit where the dog is presented to the judge for competition and cannot be withdrawn except in accordance with Rule 70. **(Added 10/15, 6.17.1)**

(WA) (z)A Bona fide exhibit is an exhibit where the dog is presented to the judge for competition and cannot be withdrawn except in accordance with Rule 70. ~~(Added 10/15, 6.17.1)~~

Rationale

Removes the reference to the change, which is now not necessary.

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8. R In Line Game - Items of game shall be considered to be “in line” if the lines to these items of game are separated by less than 10 metres at a distance of 50 metres from the Firing Point; less than 20 metres at a distance of 100 metres from the Firing Point and less than 30 metres at a distance of 150 metres from the Firing Point

(Tas) 8 (r) In Line Game - Items of game shall be considered to be “in line” if the lines to these items of game are separated by less than ~~10 metres at a distance of 50 metres from the Firing Point; less than 20 metres at a distance of 100 metres from the Firing Point and less than 30 metres at a distance of 150 metres from the Firing Point~~ 15 metres at a distance of 50 metres from the Firing Point; less than 30 metres at a distance of 100 metres from the Firing Point and less than 45 metres at a distance of 150 metres from the Firing Point. At least one item of game must be visible to the handler from the firing point.

Rationale:

In line game is being used as a trick run and both items are completely out of site of the handler and the test is not for good marking or blind work. Rule 1 is not being applied with equality.

Rule 10

10. **A Walk-Up Retrieve** is one where the dog is walking at heel, the game is cast and shot at. Immediately the handler pauses to fire, the dog shall sit, drop or stand steady until ordered by its handler to retrieve. A walk-Up retrieve is not permitted in a Novice Stake or Beginners’ Test.

WA 10 A-Walk-Up Retrieve is one where the dog is walking at heel, the game is cast and shot at. Immediately the handler pauses to fire, the dog shall sit, drop or stand steady until ~~ordered~~ directed by its handler to ~~retrieve~~ move. A ~~w~~Walk-Up retrieve is not permitted in a Novice Stake or Beginners’ Test.

Rationale:

Dogs are not necessarily sent to retrieve the Walk-Up mark as soon as it has been shot at, they are often asked to stay or heel on to the firing point to see another mark.

11. (a) Wounded Bird Retrieve - Bird to be thrown by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Bird then picked up and fresh bird left in its stead.
- (b) Wounded Rabbit Retrieve - Rabbit to be placed by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Rabbit is then picked up and fresh rabbit left in its stead.

(NSW) 11. (a) Wounded Bird Retrieve - Bird to be thrown by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Bird then picked up and fresh bird left in its stead.

(b) Wounded Rabbit Retrieve - Rabbit to be placed by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Rabbit is then picked up and fresh rabbit left in its stead.

(c) Replica game must not be used in wounded game retrieves.

Rationale:

While artificial/replica game can be scented by dogs there is insufficient scent for these exercises to be correctly executed.

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(Vic) 11 (a) Wounded Bird Retrieve - Bird to be thrown by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Bird then picked up and fresh bird left in its stead.

(b) Wounded Rabbit Retrieve - Rabbit to be placed by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Rabbit is then picked up and fresh rabbit left in its stead.

Note: Replica game shall not be used in "Wounded" retrieves

Rationale:

A drag scent cannot be established using Replica Game

11. (a) Wounded Bird Retrieve - Bird to be thrown by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Bird then picked up and fresh bird left in its stead.

(Tas) 11. (a) Wounded Bird Retrieve - Bird to be thrown by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for each dog for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Bird then picked up and fresh bird left in its stead.

Rationale:

This is in fairness to all dogs as scent lines change with weather and ground conditions and if only dragged once at the beginning of the event, then the last dog will not have the same ability to be judged as Rule 1

11. (b) Wounded Rabbit Retrieve - Rabbit to be placed by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Rabbit is then picked up and fresh rabbit left in its stead.

(Tas) 11.(b) Wounded Rabbit Retrieve - Rabbit to be placed by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for each dog for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Rabbit is then picked up and fresh rabbit left in its stead.

Rationale:

This is in fairness to all dogs as scent lines change with weather and ground conditions and if only dragged once at the beginning of the event, then the last dog will not have the same ability to be judged as Rule 1

(WA) 11 (a) Wounded Bird Retrieve - Bird to be thrown by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Bird then picked up and fresh bird left in its stead.

(b)Wounded Rabbit Retrieve - Rabbit to be placed by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Rabbit is thenpicked up and fresh rabbit left in its stead.

Note: Replica Game shall not be used in 'Wounded Retrieves'

Rationale:

Addresses Rules for use of Artificial Game so that we have just one set of rules with inclusion of alternatives for both game and artificial game trials

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(WA) 11 Wounded Game

- a) **Wounded Bird Retrieve** - Bird to be thrown by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Bird then picked up and fresh bird left in its stead.
- b) **Wounded Rabbit Retrieve** - Rabbit to be placed by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Rabbit is then picked up and fresh rabbit left in its stead.

Rationale:

It gives a heading to Rule 11.

(TAS) NEW RULE.

BOLTING RABBIT.

This will be when a rabbit leaves an area (Squat) and moved away quickly for a distance. The dog will see at least 75% of the travel of the Rabbit and will not be more that 60 meters from the dog.

The dog when ordered will then retrieve a fresh rabbit left in its stead. This is not a wounded game retrieve but may be the initial part of a wounded game retrieve. The retrieve is to be treated as a marked/sighted retrieve.

Rationale:

We currently have no retrieves on fur other than a blind or wounded game. This retrieve would be a very natural retrieve where someone has shot a rabbit. It is commonly used as the initial part of wounded game or a diversionary item.

Rule 12

- 12 A Blind Find Retrieve** shall be a retrieve where a dog is in such a position that the flight, fall or placement of the game cannot be seen. The Judge may direct the dog to be placed behind a Hide in close proximity to the Firing Point. Where possible it is recommended that the Hide be part of the natural terrain or be constructed of natural materials.

(WA) 12. A Blind ~~Find~~ Retrieve shall be a retrieve where a dog is in such a position that the flight, fall or placement of the game cannot be seen. The Judge may direct the dog to be placed behind a Hide in close proximity to the Firing Point. Where possible it is recommended that the Hide be part of the natural terrain or be constructed of natural materials. Refer Rule 8Q

Rationale:

The word *find* is not necessary and not used in heading of Rule 14.

Add 'Where possible it is recommended that the Hide be part of the natural terrain or be constructed of natural materials.' for greater clarity.

13. A Double Mark Retrieve shall consist of two (2) Mark Retrieves and may include land and water. Except where two items of game are cast to fall within 20 metres of each other the items of game shall not be cast simultaneously and there shall be a reasonable delay between the casts.

(Tas) 13. A Double Mark Retrieve shall consist of two (2) Mark Retrieves and may include land and water. Except where two items of game are cast to fall within 20 metres of each other, these two items shall be cast in the same

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direction the items of game shall not be cast simultaneously and there shall be a reasonable delay between the casts.

Rationale:

If items are cast simultaneously but coming from different directions it is impossible for the dog to mark both items and certainly not affording the dog the ability to demonstrate good dog work and their marking ability.

Rule 16: A Two Bird Retrieve. The first item of game shall be cast as for a Mark Retrieve, or alternatively, it may be cast or placed as for a Blind Find Retrieve. In accordance with instructions from the judge, the dog shall be sent to recover this item of game. While dog is returning to the handler with the first item of game, a second item of game shall be cast so that the dog may mark or hear its fall. The second item of game should be at least twenty metres from the first item of game.

(SA) Rule 16: A Two Bird Retrieve. The first item of game shall be cast as for a Mark Retrieve, or alternatively, it may be cast or placed as for a Blind Find Retrieve. In accordance with instructions from the judge, the dog shall be sent to recover this item of game. While dog is returning to the handler with the first item of game, a second item of game shall be cast so that the dog may mark or hear its fall. The second item of game shall must be cast so that the dog may mark or hear its fall. to land not less than twenty metres from the line to the first item of game and The second item of game should be at least twenty metres from the first item of game.

Rationale:

The Two Bird Retrieve works best if the second item of game is cast to land well off the line to the first item of game.

Two Bird Game cast to land on or near the dog's line back to the handler is causing some problems for newer Restricted level dogs, creating a bad habit that can be difficult to remedy. For other dogs that item of game becomes virtually a nothing bird because there is little hunting required to recover it as they have covered that ground twice already.

This brings the two Bird retrieve in line with the Double fall Retrieve. Rule 17.

(Tas) 16. A Two-Bird Retrieve. The first item of game shall be cast as for a Mark Retrieve, or alternatively, it may be cast or placed as for a Blind Find Retrieve. In accordance with instructions from the Judge, the dog shall be sent to recover this item of game. While dog is returning to the handler with the first item of game, a second item of game shall be cast so that the dog may mark or hear its fall. The second item of game should be at least twenty metres from first item of game. In a restricted trial the second item of game should be cast so it lands no closer than 20 meters from the return line.

Rationale:

Restricted dogs are progressing to higher stakes and the second article of game is being cast on occasions landing very close to the returning dog. This can create problems heading forward that's is unnecessary and the test should not be about seeing if your dog will swap game that is landing on its nose.

(WA) 16. A=Two-Bird Retrieve. The first item of game shall be cast as for a Mark Retrieve, or alternatively, it may be cast or placed as for a Blind Find Retrieve. In accordance with instructions from the Judge, the dog shall be sent to recover this item of game. While dog is returning to the handler with the first item of game, a second item of game shall be cast so that the dog may mark or hear its fall. The second item of game should be at least cast to land not less than twenty metres from the line to the first item of game

Rationale:

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Removes the word 'Find' as it is not necessary. Adding; 'cast to land_not less than' and 'the line to the' further clarifies the rule

17. Double Fall Retrieve. The first item of game is cast as a Mark Retrieve and at which one shot is fired. While the dog is on the way out to retrieve the first item of game, a second game is cast and a shot fired so the dog may mark or hear the fall of this item of game. The first item of game must be retrieved before the second item of game. The second item of game must be cast to land not less than twenty metres from the line to the first item of game and not less than forty metres from the Firing Point. This retrieve is limited to All Age and Championship Stakes.

(Tas) 17. Double Fall Retrieve. The first item of game is cast as a Mark Retrieve, or alternatively, it may be cast or placed as for a Blind Find Retrieve, and at which one shot is fired. While the dog is on the way out to retrieve the first item of game, a second game is cast and a shot fired so the dog may mark or hear the fall of this item of game. The first item of game must be retrieved (i.e. the Mark or Blind) before the second item of game. The second item of game must be cast to land not less than twenty metres from the line to the first item of game and not less than forty metres from the Firing Point. This retrieve is limited to All Age and Championship Stakes.

Rationale:

An option for another concept similar to a Two Bird Retrieve included within a Blind Find Retrieve.

(NSW) 19 A A Triple blind Retrieve shall consist of three separate blind retrieves. The items of game may be cast at different angles and may include land and water and must be separated in accordance with the specification in Rule 8 (r). One retrieve must be at a short distance.

Rationale:

Triple blinds have been set at trials previously and are an excellent test particularly if the conditions do not allow for sighted marks to be thrown such as heavily timbered areas.

22. Through or Amongst Decoy Retrieves. No less than six decoys, constructed of plastic or painted wood, shall be used. The decoys should be anchored individually. Any dog that picks up a decoy and does not immediately release it without command shall be marked with No Score. A dog which becomes entangled in the strings and attempts to break free shall not be penalised.

(Vic) 22. Through or Amongst Decoy Retrieves. No less than six decoys, constructed of plastic or painted wood, shall be used. The decoys should be anchored individually. Any dog that picks up a decoy and does not immediately release it without command shall be marked with No Score. A dog which becomes entangled in the strings and attempts to break free shall not be penalised.

Note: Replica game shall not be used in "through or amongst Decoy" retrieves.

Rationale"

Dogs should not be disadvantaged by not being able to differentiate between Replica game and decoys (refer 94 – ".....the dog must not injure game, retrieve decoys....")

(WA) 22. Through or Amongst Decoy Retrieves. No less than six decoys, constructed of plastic or wood, shall be used. The decoys must be anchored individually and must be 'non-motion' decoys. Any dog that picks up a decoy and does not immediately release it without command shall be marked with No Score. A dog which becomes entangled in the strings and attempts to break free shall not be penalised.

Note: Replica Game shall not be used in 'Through or Amongst Decoy' Retrieves.

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Rationale:

Addresses Rules for use of Artificial Game so that we have just one set of rules with inclusion of alternatives for both game and artificial game trials

23. In multiple Retrieves the Judge may stipulate the order in which items of game shall be retrieved. Any reasonable combination of the listed Retrieves shall be permissible, provided that a dog shall not be required to pick up more than three (3) items of game in any Run.

(Tas) 23. In multiple Retrieves the Judge may stipulate the order in which items of game shall be retrieved. Any reasonable combination of the listed Retrieves shall be permissible, provided that a dog shall not be required to pick up more than three (3) items of game in any Run. No more than one (1) article of game shall be considered out of site.

Rationale:

Numerous runs are now becoming luck runs were the majority of game to be retrieved are out of site and with little to no ability to correct the dog. This is not leading to good dog work but a luck situation.

24. The Judge shall not specify the order of pick-up if items of game are deemed to be "In Line" and that decision shall be left to the handler's discretion.

(WA) In Line Retrieves The Judge shall not specify the order of pick-up, ~~if items of game are deemed to be "In Line"~~ and that decision shall be left to the handler's discretion. See Rule 8 (r) for the definition of 'In Line Game'.

Rationale:

Adding In Line Retrieves –gives a heading to the rule. Adding See Rule 8 (r) for the definition of 'In Line Game' further clarifies an In Line retrieve

Rule 25(a)

- a) In All Age and Championship Stakes, a Judge may order that one (1) additional item of game be placed or cast as a diversion and this item of game shall not be retrieved by the competing dog. An item of game used as a diversion shall not be located either "in line" with or less than 20m from an item of game that is to be retrieved. See Rule 8 (r) for the definition of "in line".

(WA) **a) Diversionary Game.** In All Age and Championship Stakes, a Judge may order that one (1) additional item of game be placed or cast as a diversion and this item of game shall not be retrieved by the competing dog. An item of game used as a diversion shall not be located either "in line" with or less than 20m from an item of game that is to be retrieved. See Rule 8 (r) for the definition of "in line".

Rationale:

By adding Diversionary Game_ gives a heading to the rule. The word *Diversion* is referenced in the index as Rule 25(a).

Current Rule 25(b)

25. (b) While in competition, if a dog picks up an item of game used in connection with the Run, other than the nominated item of game, it shall be eliminated from further competition. In the event of a dog picking up an item of game not being used in connection with the Run, it shall be given a re-run and the Judge will take into consideration the performance of the dog prior to its picking up this item of game.

(WA) **25 (b)** ~~While in competition~~ **Wrong Game,** if a dog picks up an item of game used in connection with the Run, other than the nominated item of game, it shall be eliminated from further competition. In the event of a dog

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picking up an item of game not being used in connection with the Run, it shall be given a re-run and the Judge will take into consideration the performance of the dog prior to its picking up this item of game.

Rationale:

By adding Wrong Game it gives a heading to the rule. The words Wrong Game Retrieve are also referenced in the Index Rule 25(b).

26: Mark Retrieves are retrieves where a dog is in such a position at the Firing Point to be able to see a bird in the air and as it falls and where possible the cast bird should break open skyline when viewed by the dog. A dog on a Mark Retrieve should not need direction from the handler once the dog has been sent for the Retrieve. On Mark Retrieves, where more than one bird is to be retrieved, the order may be specified by the Judge. The handler is permitted to indicate clearly to the dog by hand and/or by voice which bird it is being sent for. Further handling once the dog has left the handler's side will be penalised accordingly.

(Tas) 26: Mark Retrieves are retrieves where a dog is in such a position at the Firing Point to be able to see a bird in the air and as it falls and where possible the cast bird should break open skyline when viewed by the dog. All dogs should be able to see at least 50% of the flight time in open skyline. A dog on a Mark Retrieve should not need direction from the handler once the dog has been sent for the Retrieve. On Mark Retrieves, where more than one bird is to be retrieved, the order may be specified by the Judge. The handler is permitted to indicate clearly to the dog by hand and/or by voice which bird it is being sent for. Further handling once the dog has left the handler's side will be penalised accordingly.

Rationale:

Marks are becoming test of luck with some marks breaking skyline for less than 10% of open skyline and the falling so not able to be seen by handler or dog. This creates dogs that are line running and not displaying good marking ability.

(WA) **25 Mark Retrieves** are retrieves where a dog is in a position to be able to see a bird in the air and as it falls. Where possible the cast bird should break open skyline when viewed by the dog. A dog on a Mark Retrieve should not need direction from the handler once the dog has been sent for the Retrieve. On Mark Retrieves, where more than one bird is to be retrieved, the order may be specified by the Judge. The handler is permitted to indicate clearly to the dog by hand and/or by voice which bird it is being sent for. Further handling once the dog has left the handler's side will be penalised accordingly.

Rationale:

By changing Mark Retrieves to bold, it gives a heading to the rule. Removing 'at the firing point' allows for the practise (testing steadiness) where a dog is placed remotely from the firing point and still able to clearly see a mark that the handler shoots.

28. On Blind Find Retrieves, where possible, the course should be planned in such a way that advantage is taken of natural hazards. It should be possible, at least in theory, for a dog to find a well planned Blind Find Retrieve on the initial line from its handler. The test should be planned so that the dog should be in sight at least until directed into the area of the fall, as a Blind Find Retrieve is a test of control and a dog that is out of sight for a considerable period of time cannot be said to be under control

(Vic) 28. On Blind Find Retrieves, where possible, the course should be planned in such a way that advantage is taken of natural hazards--It should be possible , at least in theory for a well trained dog should be able to find a well planned Blind Find Retrieve on the initial line from its handler. The test should be planned so that the dog should be in sight at least until directed into the area of the fall, as a Blind Find Retrieve can be a test of control

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and a dog that is out of sight for a considerable period of time cannot be said to be under control. A dog that holds the initial line provided by the handler all the way to the bird has demonstrated ultimate control. If further handling is required then points should be deducted based on where they are given and whether they are obeyed.

Rationale:

Rule No 1 stipulates what our trials are all about- and that is hunting.

The current rule can be interpreted in totally contradictory ways, and (with Rule 1 foremost in your mind) allows for judge to place "control" as a priority, not the act of a gundog using its attributes to find an item of game on the instructions of its handler. Ultimate control should be rewarded on the score sheet before the ability of a dog to respond to a whistle. In a hunting situation, other hunters do not want to listen to a shooter blowing whistles whilst they are waiting on game to be attracted to their decoys.

(Tas) 28. On Blind Find Retrieves, where possible, the course should be planned in such a way that advantage is taken of natural hazards. It should be possible, at least in theory, for a dog to find a well-planned Blind Find Retrieve on the initial line from its handler. The test should be so planned that the dog should be in sight at least until directed into the area of the fall, as a Blind Find Retrieve is a test of control and a dog that is out of sight for a considerable period of time cannot be said to be under control.

A blind find should be marked with a small object that is not visible to the dog but can be seen by the handler to assist it being able to direct his dog to the blind.

Rationale:

As trailers are becoming older its is becoming more difficult in complex scenarios for handlers to exactly remember the location of the blind. It is a dog sport rather than a memory test for handlers. Suggest small piece of orange surveyor's tape as an indication

(WA) 28. ~~On Blind Find Retrieves, where possible, the course~~ should be planned in such a way that advantage is taken of natural hazards. It should be possible, at least in theory, for a dog to find a well-planned Blind Find Retrieve on the initial line from its handler. ~~The test~~ It should be so planned that the dog should be in sight at least until directed into the area of the fall. ~~As a Blind Find Retrieve is a test of control, and~~ a dog that is out of sight for a considerable period of time cannot be said to be under control.

Rationale:

By deleting On and Find and changing Blind Retrieves to bold, it gives a heading to the rule. Removing where possible, the course as it is unnecessary wording, the sentence flows well just using the words 'should be'. The word ~~Find~~ has been removed because it is not necessary.

29. Programmes should be so arranged that all dogs are thoroughly tested on land and in or through water of sufficient depth to require the dog to swim.

(Tas) 29. Programmes should be so arranged that all dogs are thoroughly tested on land and in or through water of sufficient depth to require the dog to swim, if swimming water is not available then dogs cannot be awarded wins or placings.

Rationale:

Dogs are being awarded wins and placing when not actually swimming, Rule 1 states equality and can be argued that there should be no difference between dogs across Australia however numerous sites have very little to no swimming water and judges are being forced to give awards when swimming water has not been made available. Affiliates may need to rethink their sites or put on a fourth run to make the dogs swim. This would be a last resort during a declared drought.

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30. The maximum distance for any retrieve will be 150 metres. In Novice Stakes and Beginners' Tests, Runs shall not exceed 100 metres.

~~(QLD) 30. The maximum distance for any retrieve will be 150 metres. In Novice Stakes and Beginners' Tests, Runs shall not exceed 100 metres.~~

~~30. The maximum distance for any Mark retrieve will be 130 metres.~~

~~The maximum distance for a Blind Find retrieve will be 150 metres.~~

~~In Novice Stakes and Beginners Stakes runs shall not exceed 100 metres.~~

Rationale:

Distance from the firing point to the fall of the bird is an important factor in the ability of the dog to mark the flight and fall clearly. The colour or markings of the bird in flight are also important for a clear mark, as is the background tree line or vegetation. If the dog does not see and mark the bird clearly, the run changes from being a mark and the handler must then handle the dog as in a blind retrieve losing significant points or having to retire from the stake. Shortening the maximum distance to 130 metres will help mitigate the problem when a dog does not see the mark clearly. The maximum distance for a blind find retrieve will remain at 150 metres as the sight or fall of the bird is not relevant

~~(WA) 30. The maximum distance for any retrieve will be 150 metres. **Retrieve Distances** in Beginners Tests and in Novice Stakes and Beginners' Tests, runs shall not exceed 100 metres. In all other stakes the distance for any retrieve shall not exceed 150 metres.~~

Rationale:

Adding Retrieve Distances gives the rule a heading. The wording has been rearranged to put the rule in order of stake. Add an s to Retrieve Distance in the index

Rule 31

31. No more than two (2) Runs judged by the same Judge may be linked consecutively before each competitor leaves the Control Area. No more than four (4) items of game may be retrieved in total.

WA 31. Consecutive Runs No more than two (2) Runs judged by the same Judge may be linked consecutively before each competitor leaves the Control Area. No more than four (4) items of game may be retrieved in total.

Rationale:

Adding Consecutive Runs gives the rule a heading. It is already referenced in the index.

Rule 32

32. Retrieves involving a relocation of a dog from an original Firing Point must not involve a relocation of more than twenty (20) metres. The relocated Firing Point should not unduly disadvantage the dog or handler and the area of fall must remain able to be observed by both dog and handler from the new Firing Point. Relocated retrieves are permitted when they enable better sighted retrieves to be included in the Run.

(WA) 32. Relocation Retrieves. ~~Where a dog is moved~~ Retrieves involving a relocation of a dog from an original Firing Point, the relocation must not be more than twenty (20) metres. The relocated Firing Point should not unduly disadvantage the dog or handler and the area of fall must remain able to be observed by both dog and handler from the new Firing Point. Relocated retrieves are permitted when they enable better sighted retrieves to be included in the Run

Rationale:

Adding Relocation Retrieves gives the rule a heading. Already indexed under Retrieves

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33. All events shall be restricted to dogs six months of age and over. The age of a dog shall be computed from its date of birth to the date on which the Trial commences. Should finalisation of the Trial be delayed, then the increase in age shall not affect the eligibility of any qualified contestant.

(NSW) ~~33. All events shall be restricted to dogs six months of age and over. The age of a dog shall be computed from its date of birth to the date on which the Trial commences. Should finalisation of the Trial be delayed, then the increase in age shall not affect the eligibility of any qualified contestant.~~

Rationale:

Obviously if a trial is delayed then the dog will be older and with no maximum age limits this will have no effect on the dog's eligibility for the trial.

(WA) ~~33. All events shall be restricted to dogs six months of age and over. The **Age of a dog** shall be computed from its date of birth to the date on which the Trial commences. All events shall be restricted to dogs six months of age and over. Should finalisation of the Trial be delayed, then the increase in age shall not affect the eligibility of any qualified contestant.~~

Rationale:

By moving the first sentence of the rule Age of a Dog in bold gives the rule a heading. The sentence 'Should finalisation of the Trial be delayed, then the increase in age shall not affect the eligibility of any qualified contestant.' Can be deleted as it has no relevance.

34. Registered (Main and Limited) desexed Gundogs shall be permitted to compete in Retrieving Trials in all States and/or Territories of Australia.

(NSW) ~~34. Registered (Main and Limited) desexed~~ Main Register, Limited Register and Associate Register Gundogs shall be permitted to compete in Retrieving Trials in all States and/or Territories of Australia.

Rationale:

The existing rule suggests that all competing dogs must be desexed regardless of registration status. The amended rule allows associate register gundogs to participate in retrieving trials. Dogs are only eligible for associate registration when desexed and MR/LR desexing should be at the discretion of the owner.

Eligibility of Associate registered gundogs is consistent with RATG and reflects commitment of the retrieving community to grow and preserve the sport.

(Vic) 34. Registered (Main and Limited) Gundogs shall be permitted to compete in Retrieving Trials in all States and/or Territories of Australia.

Associate Registered Gundogs who have achieved an Open Retrieving Ability (ORA) title shall be permitted to compete in Retrieving Trials up to and including Restricted Stakes.

Rationale:

Remove the word – Desexed. Not required a Gundog is a Gundog whether it is entire or desexed.

Once a dog has achieved its ORA title there are no further opportunities for the dog and handler to continue and achieve titles in RATG. The dogs have shown by obtaining the title that they have the ability to retrieve and this change will give dogs and handlers the opportunity to continue further in the discipline of retrieving.

RATG was established to encourage people to enter retrieving trials and giving eligibility to Associate Registered Gundogs allowed those handlers without papers to enter. The thought was that if they were successful with an Associate Registered dog their next dog would be a pedigree Gundog. A lot of dogs competing are of a young age

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and it could be a number of years before they are ready for another dog. We should be looking to encourage participants to continue with their Gundogs.

Definition of Terms

8 (b) Associate Gundog – a variety accepted by a Member Body as a Gundog

New Definition required if change to Rule 34 accepted

WA 34. ~~Registered (Main and Limited) desexed Gundogs~~ shall be permitted to compete in Retrieving Trials in all States and/or Territories of Australia. They may be either, main or limited register, desexed or entire (refer rules 62 and 63).

Rationale:

Gives the rule a heading. Gundog is already defined in the definitions.

35. A Stake is a competition held at a Retrieving Trial and shall consist of not less than three (3) Runs, except for a Beginners' Test, which shall consist of two (2) Runs. There shall not be more than 4 Runs in a Novice Stake

(WA) 35. A Stake is a competition held at a Retrieving Trial and shall consist of not less than three (3) Runs, except for a Beginners' Test, which shall consist of two (2) Runs. There shall not be more than 4 Runs in a Novice Stake. A trial committee may elect to conduct any Stake using 'game' or 'replica game' but not a mix of the two. The same types of 'game' or 'replica game' must be used for each dog completing the retrieves comprising a stake.

Rationale:

Addresses Rules for use of Artificial Game so that we have just one set of rules with inclusion of alternatives for both game and artificial game trials

(WA) 35. A Stake is a competition held at a Retrieving Trial and shall consist of not less than three (3) Runs, except for a Beginners Test which shall consist of two (2) Runs. There shall not be more than 4 Runs in a ~~Novice Stake~~ any other stake other than a Championship

Rationale:

Unless at championship level 4 runs in any stake is adequate. Rarely, if ever, do clubs have more than four runs in a Restricted or an All Age

(Vic) New Rule

36. A trial committee may elect to conduct any trial using cold or replica game but not a mix of the two. The same types of cold game or replica game must be used for each dog completing the retrieves comprising a Stake.

****Should this rule be accepted subsequent numbers will have to be increased to reflect the numbering of this new rule****

36. **Beginners' Test** is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have not won a Beginners Test nor have placed in any other Stake. Beginners' Tests shall consist of two (2) Runs each of which is a Single Mark Retrieve, one (1) on land and one (1) in or through water. A Walk-up Retrieve is not permitted in a Beginners Test.

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(WA) 36. Beginners' Tests ~~are~~ is confined to Gundogs that have not, won a Beginners Test, or placed in any other Stake. A Beginners Test shall consist of two (2) Runs each of which is a Single Mark Retrieve, one (1) on land and one (1) in or through water. A Walk-up Retrieve is not permitted in a Beginners Test.

Rationale:

Made plural for ease of reading.

37. Novice Stake is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have not won five (5) Novice Stakes or any other Stake (Beginners' Tests are excluded) or have gained Championship Points and/or been awarded an AARD title. The only form of retrieve in a Novice Stake is a Single Mark Retrieve. A "Walk-Up" is not permitted in a Novice Stake.

(NSW) 37. Novice Stake is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have not won five (5) Novice Stakes or any other Stake (Beginners' Tests are excluded) or have gained Championship Points and/or been awarded an AARD title. The only form of retrieve in a Novice Stake is a Single Mark Retrieve. A "Walk-Up" to a maximum of 70 metres with the game to be cast directly in front of the dog and handler is ~~not~~ permitted in a Novice Stake.

Rationale:

We think a walk up is an excellent marking test and is included in RATG which is an introduction to retrieving. We think inclusion of this will help prepare dogs for Restricted and All Age as well as provide some new concepts for career novice dogs and handlers.

(Vic) 37. Novice Stake is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have not won five (5) Novice Stakes or any other Stake (Beginners' Tests are excluded) or have gained Championship Points and/or been awarded an AARD title. The only form of retrieve in a Novice Stake is a Single Mark Retrieve. A "Walk-Up" is not permitted in a Novice Stake. ~~There is no test for steadiness in a Novice Stake.~~ The only test for steadiness in a Novice Stake is at the firing point.

Rationale:

There appears to be a propensity for Novice judges to put a "test of steadiness" in the stake. The rule clearly states that the only form of retrieve in a Novice Stake is a Single Mark Retrieve.

The definition of a Single Mark Retrieve is a retrieve where only one object of game is cast and is to be retrieved, and as further defined in Rule 26. There is no mention of "a test of steadiness", by including this additional sentence it clearly states the parameters for a Novice Stake.

(WA) 37. Novice Stakes ~~are~~ is a ~~Stakes~~ confined to Gundogs that have not won five (5) Novice Stakes or any other Stake (Beginners' Tests are excluded) or have gained Championship Points and/or been awarded an AARD title. The only form of retrieve in a Novice Stake is a Single Mark Retrieve. A "Walk-Up" is not permitted in a Novice Stake

Rationale:

Made plural for the purpose of the heading

38. Restricted Stake is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have not won five (5) Restricted Stakes or have gained Championship Points and/or been awarded an AARD title. At least one Blind Find Retrieve shall be included in a Restricted Stake. A Blind Find Retrieve should preferably be picked up after, rather than before, a Mark Retrieve, Double Rise Retrieve or a Two-Bird Retrieve. Where a Blind Find Retrieve is to be retrieved first, the angle of separation between the Blind and other items of game shall be at least 60 degrees.

(NSW) 38. Restricted Stake is a Stake confined to Gundogs that ~~have not won five (5) Restricted Stakes or~~ have not gained Championship Points and/or been awarded an AARD title. At least one Blind Find Retrieve shall be included in a Restricted Stake. A Blind Find Retrieve should preferably be picked up after, rather than before, a Mark Retrieve, Double Rise Retrieve or a Two- Bird Retrieve.

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Where a Blind Find Retrieve is to be retrieved first, the angle of separation between the Blind and other items of game shall be at least 60 degrees.

Rationale:

This rule change enables competitors to remain in the Restricted Stake indefinitely as long as they do not advance and successfully compete at All Age level.

(WA) **38. Restricted Stakes** ~~are is a Stakes~~ confined to Gundogs that have not won five (5) Restricted Stakes or have gained Championship Points and/or been awarded an AARD title. At least one Blind ~~Find~~ Retrieve shall be included in a Restricted Stake and it should preferably be picked up after, rather than before, a Mark Retrieve, Double Rise Retrieve or a Two-Bird Retrieve. Where a Blind ~~Find~~ Retrieve is to be retrieved first, the angle of separation between the Blind and other items of game shall be at least 60 degrees.

Rationale:

Made plural for the purpose of the heading. Removes the word find and improves the reading of the rule.

39. All Age Stake is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have won a Novice or have been placed first, second or third in a Restricted Stake. A Blind Find Retrieve must be included, with the dog tested for steadiness in a Hide at least once

(WA) **39. All Age Stakes** ~~are is a Stakes~~ confined to Gundogs that have won a Novice or have been placed first, second or third in a Restricted Stake. A Blind ~~Find~~ Retrieve must be included, with the dog tested for steadiness in or behind a Hide at least once.

Rationale:

Removes the word find. Made plural for the purpose of the heading. Change "in' to 'in or behind' a blind for clarity of meaning

- 40.** (a) A Championship Retrieving Trial Stake is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have been placed first in a Restricted Stake or first, second or third in an All Age Stake or have the title All Age Retrieving Dog (AARD). Proof of Eligibility must be included with the entry for a non-titled dog.
(b) A Championship Retrieving Trial Stake shall consist of not less than five (5) Runs, with at least thirteen (13) items of game to be retrieved. At least two (2) Blind Find Retrieves are to be included. A dog must be tested for steadiness from behind a Hide on at least two occasions.

(NSW)

- 40.** (a) A Championship Retrieving Trial Stake is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have been placed first in a Restricted Stake or first, second or third in an All Age Stake or have the title All Age Retrieving Dog (AARD). Proof of Eligibility must be included with the entry for a non-titled dog.
(b) A Championship Retrieving Trial Stake shall consist of not less than five (5) Runs, with at least thirteen (13) items of game to be retrieved. At least two (2) Blind Find Retrieves are to be included. A dog must be tested for steadiness from behind a Hide on at least two occasions.
(c) A Championship Retrieving Trial Stake must not include artificial/replica game.

Rationale:

Championship Retrieving Trials should provide for dogs to be tested on all elements of the rules, including all run types and game.

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(WA) 40 (a) A-Championship Retrieving Trial Stakes are ~~is a Stake~~ confined to Gundogs that have been placed first in a Restricted Stake or first, second or third in an All Age Stake or have the title All Age Retrieving Dog (AARD)-. Proof of Eligibility must be included with the entry for a non-titled dog.

Rationale:

Removes the words 'Retrieving Trial' as these words are not used in the description of Novice, Restricted and All Age stakes, nor in Rule 96. Made plural for the purpose of the heading.

41. (a) A National Championship Retrieving Trial Stake is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have been placed first in a Restricted Stake or first, second or third in an All Age Stake or have the title All Age Retrieving Dog (AARD). Proof of Eligibility must be included with the entry for a non-titled dog.
- (b) A National Championship Retrieving Trial Stake shall consist of not less than eight (8) Runs with at least seventeen (17) items of game to be retrieved. At least two
- (2) Blind Find Retrieves are to be included and a dog must be tested for steadiness from behind a Hide on at least two (2) occasions.

(NSW)

41. (a) A National Championship Retrieving Trial Stake is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have been placed first in a Restricted Stake or first, second or third in an All Age Stake or have the title All Age Retrieving Dog (AARD). Proof of Eligibility must be included with the entry for a non-titled dog.
- (b) A National Championship Retrieving Trial Stake shall consist of not less than eight (8) Runs with at least seventeen (17) items of game to be retrieved. At least two
- (2) Blind Find Retrieves are to be included and a dog must be tested for steadiness from behind a Hide on at least two (2) occasions.
- (c) A National Championship Retrieving Trial Stake must not include artificial/replica game.

Rationale:

National Championship Retrieving Trials should provide for dogs to be tested on all elements of the rules, including all run types and game.

(Tas) 41. (a) A National Championship Retrieving Trial Stake is a Stake confined to Gundogs that have been placed ~~first in a Restricted Stake or first, second or third~~ in an All-Age Stake, Championship Stake or have the title All Age Retrieving Dog (AARD) or Restricted Retrieving Dog (RRD). Proof of Eligibility must be included with the entry for a non-titled dog

Rationale:

With entries increasing and being able to provide proof of eligibility it is believed that dogs entering the NATIONAL should be of an RRD quality rather than having just won a restricted stake.

WA 41(a) A-National Championship Retrieving Trial Stakes are ~~is a~~ confined to Gundogs that have been placed first in a Restricted Stake or first, second or third in an All Age Stake or have the title All Age Retrieving Dog (AARD). Proof of Eligibility must be included with the entry for a non-titled dog.

Rationale:

Removes the words 'Retrieving Trial' as these words are not used in the description of Novice, Restricted and All Age stakes, nor in Rule 96. Made plural for the purpose of the heading.

Current Rule 41 (b)

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- a) A National Championship Retrieving Trial Stake shall consist of not less than eight (8) Runs with at least seventeen (17) items of game to be retrieved. At least two (2) Blind Find Retrieves are to be included and a dog must be tested for steadiness from behind a Hide on at least two (2) occasions.

WA ~~b) A National Championship Retrieving Trial Stake~~ shall consist of not less than eight (8) Runs with at least seventeen (17) items of game to be retrieved. At least two (2) Blind ~~Find~~ Retrieves are to be included and a dog must be tested for steadiness in or behind a Hide on at least two (2) occasions.

Rationale:

Removes the words 'Retrieving Trial' as these words are not used in the description of Novice, Restricted and All Age stakes, nor in Rule 96. Made plural for the purpose of the heading. The word 'find' has also been removed for consistency. The words 'in or behind' and hide are used for greater clarity.

42 (a) In each year there shall be held not more than one (1) Championship Retrieving Trial Stake by each state or territory, except when a state or territory is holding a National Championship it may, in addition, hold a State or Territory Championship.

(WA) ~~42 a)~~ In each year there shall be held not more than one (1) Championship ~~Retrieving Trial~~ Stake by each state or territory, except when a state or territory is holding a National Championship it may, in addition, hold a State or Territory Championship.

Rationale:

Removes the words 'Retrieving Trial' as these words are not used in the description of Novice, Restricted and All Age stakes, nor in Rule 96.

42 (b) Any state or territory conducting a championship event outside its home state or territory borders shall seek consent from the state or territory Member Body in which it proposes to hold the event at least twelve months prior to the proposed event. (Amended 10/15, 6.17.1)

(WA) ~~42 b)~~ Any state or territory conducting a championship event outside its home state or territory borders shall seek consent from the state or territory Member Body in which it proposes to hold the event at least twelve months prior to the proposed event. ~~(Amended 10/15, 6.17.1)~~

Rationale:

Remove the (Amended 10/15, 6.17.1) from (b) as the reference is no longer required.

45. All wins, placings and certificate awards, made by State, Territory or Overseas Governing Bodies recognised by the A.N.K.C. shall count in relation to the eligibility of dogs for any Stake and it shall be incumbent on the Club conducting the Trial to forward within ten (10) days to the Member Body, a marked catalogue with the placings and certificates awarded.

(WA) ~~45.~~ All wins, placings and certificate awards, made by State, Territory or Overseas Governing Bodies recognised by ~~the A.N.K.C.~~ Dogs Australia shall count in relation to the eligibility of dogs for any Stake and it shall be incumbent on the Club conducting the Trial to forward within ten (10) days to the Member Body, a marked catalogue with the placings and certificates awarded.

Rationale:

Replaces the A.N.K.C. with 'Dogs Australia'.

46. Retrieving Trial Champions are eligible only for Championship and All Age Stakes

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~~(Vic) Retrieving Trial Champions are eligible only for Championship and All Age Stakes~~

Rationale:

Not required eligibility for Novice and Restricted is clearly described which precludes Retrieving Trial Champions which by default means that they are only eligible for All Age Stakes and Championships

~~(WA) 46. Retrieving Trial~~ Retrieving Champions are eligible only for Championship and All Age Stakes.

Rationale:

Retrieving Trial Champion changed to Retrieving Champion in anticipation of the rule change in 109.

51 (a) No person shall be entitled to judge a Retrieving Trial Stake until he/she has supplied acceptable credentials to the Member Body and has been placed on a list of approved Judges by the Member Body.

~~(WA) 51 a)~~ No person shall be entitled to judge a Retrieving Trial Stake until he/she has supplied acceptable credentials to the Member Body and has been placed on a list of approved Judges by the Member Body

Rationale:

Removes the word 'Trial' for consistency

51e -Before being eligible to judge Championship Stakes a person must have completed to the satisfaction of the Member Body, at least four (4) All Age Stake judging appointments.

~~(WA) 51e-~~ Before being eligible to judge a State Championship a person must have completed, to the satisfaction of the Member Body, at least four (4) All Age Stake judging appointments

51f - Before being eligible to judge a National Championship Stake that person must have completed, to the satisfaction of the Member Body, at least one (1) State Championship appointment.

51g – It's a judge's responsibility to remain conversant with the current rules and regulations and any changes that have occurred in retrieving trials

Rationale:

It is important that any judge at the National Championship should have the experience of adjudicating in at least one State Championship prior to accepting a National appointment.

51 (f) It is a judges responsibility to remain conversant with the current rules and regulations and any changes that have occurred in retrieving trials.

~~(WA) 51 f)~~ It is a judge's responsibility to remain conversant with the current rules and regulations and any changes that have occurred in retrieving trials.

Rationale:

Removes the typo 'Its' so it is correct as 'It'. Inserts an apostrophe in judge's for correct punctuation

Tas) New Rule 51 (f) and the current 51(f) will become 51 (g)

To Judge a National Retrieving Trial a Judge must have completed Judging at least to other Championship Trials.

Rationale:

Judges should have had experience at Championship level prior to being awarded a National to Judge, if coming from All Age to then judge a National is a very big step both physically, mentally and on some occasions even the

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number of dogs. The experience of the pressure is something that Judges need to be aware of and need to have experienced at State Championship level prior to attempting a National.

55. Judges are empowered and instructed to withhold any prize or award if, in their opinion, the dogs competing do not show sufficient merit. Before a dog can gain a prize or award, it must complete the Stake in which the prize or award is made.

(Tas) 55. Judges are empowered and instructed to withhold any prize or award if, in their opinion, the dogs competing do not show sufficient merit. Before a dog can gain a prize or award, it must complete the Stake in which the prize or award is made, with respect to rule 29.

Rationale:

Dogs are being awarded wins and placing when not actually swimming, Rule 1 states equality and can be argued that there should be no difference between dogs across Australia however numerous sites have very little to no swimming water and judges are being forced to give awards when swimming water has not been made available.

(WA) Change Heading before Rule 57

Duties of Trial Manager and Stake Managers

(WA) Duties of Trial Manager and Stake or Run Managers

Rationale: When more than one stake is being conducted at once, Stake managers are required so the Trial manager doesn't have to be at two or more places at once. In other trials where there is a split field due to the large number of entries eg Championships Run managers are required

- 57.**
- (a) Shall be required to assist the Judge in all duties in connection with the Trial.
 - (b) At the Judge's request shall inspect any dog for sexual causes or any other cause which interferes with the safety or performance of its opponents.
 - (c) Shall assemble and control all dogs and also be responsible to see that all dogs participate without delay in their proper order.
 - (d) May acquaint all competitors with the procedure required by the Judge.
 - (e) In some tests the Judge may consider it necessary to request an additional Steward or Stewards to observe and report as required.

(NSW)

- 57.**
- (a) Shall be required to assist the Judge in all duties in connection with the Trial.
 - (b) At the Judge's request shall inspect any dog for sexual causes or any other cause which interferes with the safety or performance of its opponents.
 - (c) Shall assemble and control all dogs and also be responsible to see that all dogs participate without delay in their proper order.
 - (d) May acquaint all competitors with the procedure required by the Judge.
 - (e) In some tests the Judge may consider it necessary to request an additional Steward or Stewards to observe and report as required.
 - (f) Shall ensure that game to be used for the trial is in a fit and proper condition, is sufficiently thawed if previously frozen, and is without obvious damage or decay.

Rationale:

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This has broad relevance to dead and artificial game. Dead game that is coated in faeces, re-used or thawed too early presents health and hygiene risks for judges, stewards and competitors. Frozen game does not “emulate as closely as possible those which would be found whilst hunting”. Artificial game items should not be mouldy, degrading or damaged.

59. (a) Shall be responsible to ensure that all game is humanely dispatched and that at the commencement of any Stake all game is in a fair and reasonable condition. In any Retrieve the condition of the game for that retrieve shall be substantially the same for each dog.

(NSW) 59. (a) Shall be responsible to ensure ~~that all game is humanely dispatched and~~ that at the commencement of any Stake all game is in a fair and reasonable condition. In any Retrieve the condition of the game for that retrieve shall be substantially the same for each dog.

Rationale:

The current rule is no longer consistent with the way game is managed by organising committees and is also inconsistent with the expectations for game stewards at trials.

64. Dogs are expected to retrieve under all natural working conditions. The Judges and Trial Committee have complete control over the mechanics and requirements of each Trial. This latitude is permitted in order to allow for the difference of conditions in various places.

(WA) 64 Dogs are expected to retrieve under all natural working conditions. The Judges and Trial Committee have complete control over the mechanics and requirements of each ~~Trial~~ Stake. This latitude is permitted in order to allow for the difference of conditions in various places.

Rationale:

Changes the word trial to stake as a more accurate term. Judges only have control over stakes they are judging.

67. The area over which a Stake shall be conducted will be decided by the Trial Committee conducting the Trial and indicated to the Judge by the appointed Trial Manager. Where possible, two (2) members of the Trial Committee will be made available to assist the Judge. The Judge shall select his/her own Runs. The Committee has the right to intervene only if the selected Runs contravene the ANKC Ltd Rules, are logistically unsound or the dogs’ safety is in serious question.

(WA) 67. The area over which a Stake shall be conducted will be decided by the Trial Committee conducting the Trial and indicated to the Judge by the appointed Trial or Stake Manager). Where possible, two (2) members of the Trial Committee will be made available to assist the Judge. The Judge shall select his/her own Runs. The Committee has the right to intervene only if the selected Runs contravene the ANKC Ltd-Dogs Australia Rules, are logistically unsound or the dogs’ safety is in serious question.

Rationale: Replaces ANKC Ltd with Dogs Australia. Addition of Stake Manager

72. No thermal vest shall be worn and nothing whatever may be administered to a dog while it is in the hands of the Judge.

(NSW) 72. No thermal vest shall be worn and nothing ~~whatever may~~ shall be administered to a dog other than minor First Aid e.g. a bandage while it is in the hands of the Judge.

Rationale:

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This amendment permits minor First Aid to a dog such as a bandage etc. if required.

77. (a) The judge shall give instructions on the conduct of each Run, and these instructions must be obeyed. These instructions must comply with the Rules for the Conduct of Retrieving Trials for Gundogs, including the application of points allocated and deducted therein. The ruling of 'No score' or "elimination" must only be invoked in response to situations where this penalty is specifically stated in the Rules.

(b) Competing dogs shall be kept in a marshalling area from which they cannot see retrieves in progress.

(NSW) 77. (a) The judge shall give instructions on the conduct of each Run, and these instructions must be obeyed. These instructions must comply with the Rules for the Conduct of Retrieving Trials for Gundogs, including the application of points allocated and deducted therein. The ruling of 'No score' or "elimination" must only be invoked in response to situations where this penalty is specifically stated in the Rules.

(b) Competing dogs shall be kept in a marshalling area from which they cannot see retrieves in progress.

(c) Procedural instructions may be given to the handler by the judge during the run. This may be at the request of the handler.

Rationale:

This amendment by addition of (c) insists the handlers are made fully aware of the judges instructions. Judges must understand with big number of entries that handlers may genuinely forget what is required.

80. The draw is the selection by ballot of the order in which dogs in a Stake are required to compete in the first Run. In a National or State Championship it is permitted to divide the field into equal sections still allowing for running of the dogs in the drawn order on the first Run. The Draw will be made by the Trial Committee entrusted with the management of the Trial. The Draw must be made in public either before or on the day of the trial. The subsequent running order, if convenient and practical, after the first run has taken place maybe rotated to ensure fairness to competitors.

(NSW) 80. The draw is the random selection by ballot of the order in which dogs in a Stake are required to compete in the first Run. In a National or State Championship it is permitted to divide the field into equal sections still allowing for running of the dogs in the drawn order on the first Run. The Draw will be made by the Trial Committee entrusted with the management of the Trial. ~~The Draw must be made in public either before or on the day of the trial.~~ The subsequent running order, if convenient and practical, after the first run has taken place maybe rotated to ensure fairness to competitors.

Rationale:

A public draw is no longer consistent with the way most clubs utilise electronic entry systems. A randomised draw can be generated by online entry providers.

(WA) 80. The Draw is the selection by ballot of the order in which dogs in a Stake are required to compete in the first Run. In a ~~National or State Championship~~ or when there is an entry large, enough to warrant two or more judges, it is permitted to divide the field into equal sections still allowing for running of the dogs in the drawn order on the first Run. The Draw will be made by the Trial Committee entrusted with the management of the Trial. The Draw must be made in public either before or on the day of the trial. The subsequent running order, if convenient and practical, after the first run has taken place maybe rotated to ensure fairness to competitors.

Rationale:

Changes the wording to allow for large fields to be split

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Rule 82. At the Control Point, after removing the lead and collar, the handler shall place the dog at the "sit", "drop" or "stand" position - and will be handed the gun and approved inserts by the Gun Steward.

(SA) Rule 82. At the Control Point, after removing the lead and collar, the handler shall place the dog at the "sit", "drop" or "stand" position - and will be handed the gun and approved inserts by the Gun Steward or

- the gun steward places the unloaded gun and loose shells on a table near the control point
- the competitor places their lead on the table when they take the gun and shells to start their run
- individuals shall ensure personal distancing of 1.5m
- once the dog has completed the run, the handler returns to the table at the control point and places the unloaded shotgun, shells and items of game on the table for the judge's inspection.

Rationale:

SA RAFT introduced this use of a table at the control point as part of our Covid Plan in 2020. It was designed to easily enable social distancing. We have continued to use this method and it is still working well after 4 seasons.

Our first priority is the health and safety of the retrieving community and guests attending any retrieving trial. Clearly Covid (in all its variants) is still with us and is predicted to be so for some time. Consequently, any measure that we can take to help protect officials and competitors should be encouraged.

NB: We are not suggesting that the use of a table at the control point becomes mandatory, but rather that it is an optional approach offered in rule 82.

84. The Game Steward shall when directed by the Judge, cast game in the area and in such a manner as previously directed by the Judge, and where applicable from a position out of sight of the handler and in such a way that does not distract the dog.

Insofar as possible, where UHF radios are in use to set up a Run, no communication between the Judge and the Stewards shall take place via the radios while the dog is retrieving and outside the Control Area. Exceptions would include notification of incorrectly cast game, an injured dog, or situation which interferes with the Run for that dog.

(NSW) 84. The Game Steward shall when directed by the Judge, cast game in the area and in such a manner as previously directed by the Judge, and ~~where applicable~~ from a position out of sight of the handler and in such a way that does not distract the dog.

~~Insofar as possible, where~~ When UHF radios are in use to set up a Run used, no communication between the Judge and the Stewards shall take place via the radios while the dog is retrieving and outside the Control Area. Exceptions would include notification of incorrectly cast game, an injured dog, or situation which interferes with the Run for that dog. may take place but in such a way that does not distract the dog or handler.

Rationale:

This amendment permits judges the use of UHF radios during the conduct of the run, as long as the radios are used in a manner which does not interfere with dog or handler during the conduct of the run. Radios are of real benefit when judging.

88. On instruction from the Judge, and only then, shall the handler order his dog to retrieve the game. The instruction should be given by the Judge to all handlers prior to the commencement of a Run, so as to eliminate interference with the dog whilst it is at the Firing Point.

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Note: The dog must not be held or forcibly restrained by the handler whilst the dog is in competition.

(NSW)

- 88.** ~~On instruction from the Judge, and only then, shall~~ The handler may order ~~his~~ their dog to retrieve the game without further instruction from the judge provided that the judge's instructions have been communicated prior to the commencement of the Run. ~~The instruction should be given by the Judge to all handlers prior to the commencement of a Run, so as to eliminate interference with the dog whilst it is at the Firing Point.~~

~~Note:~~ The dog must not be held or forcibly restrained by the handler whilst the dog is in competition.

Rationale:

Reworded for clarity and to remove the conflict between the first and second sentences of the current rule.

92. All game must be inspected by the Judge or his authorised delegate immediately the handler completes the Run and the handler must be advised by the Judge of any penalty made for Hard Mouth.

(Vic) 92. All cold game must be inspected by the Judge or his authorised delegate immediately the handler completes the Run and the handler must be advised by the Judge of any penalty made for Hard Mouth.

If 'Replica game is used the handler must be advised by the Judge of any penalty made for Hard Mouth.

(WA) 92. All game must be inspected by the Judge or his authorised delegate immediately the handler completethe Run and the handler must be advised by the Judge of any penalty made for Hard Mouth.

Note: This rule shall not apply to Stakes where 'replica game' is used.

Rationale:

Addresses Rules for use of Artificial Game so that we have just one set of rules with inclusion of alternatives for both game and artificial game trials

(NSW) 93A Replica Game may be used by a club within the following strict guidelines:-

- No blending of traditional game and replica game on any run excluding diversionary items
- A club may choose to run all stakes on replica game including diversionary items
- The 'replica game' retrieving trial must be advertised accordingly
- Replica game must be provided by the club
- A retrieving trial schedule and advertisement must indicate if replica game will be used.

Rationale:

Clarity and simplification

94. The principal points to be considered by the Judge in assessing the merits of performances in competitive work shall be the ability to mark, sagacity, and use of nose, steadiness, dash, perseverance, attention, control, courage, style, retrieving and cleanness of delivery. Retrieving to which supreme importance must always be accorded, should be with tender mouth and right up to hand. The dog must not injure game, retrieve decoys, drop the game, or retrieve without being ordered to do so. Points should be allocated for each retrieve. (See Judging Sheet.)

(NSW) 94. The principal points to be considered by the Judge in assessing the merits of performances in competitive work shall be the ability to mark, sagacity, and use of nose, steadiness, dash, perseverance,

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attention, control, courage, style, retrieving and cleanness of delivery. Retrieving to which supreme importance must always be accorded, should be with tender mouth and right up to hand. The dog must not ~~injure~~ damage game, retrieve decoys, drop the game, or retrieve without being ordered to do so. Points should be allocated for each retrieve. (See Judging Sheet.)

Rationale:

This amendment clarifies that dead game cannot be injured but it can be damaged. During the conduct of Retrieving Trials, live game is not used and cannot be used to test dogs.

(Vic) 94. Points shall be allocated for each Retrieve on the following basis:

<u>Steadiness, obedience and walking to heel.</u>	<u>10 Points</u>
<u>Style, eagerness and action</u>	<u>10 Points</u>
<u>Retrieving</u>	<u>45 Points for each item of game retrieved</u>

For each retrieve the principal points to be considered by the Judge in assessing the merits of performances in competitive work shall be the ability to mark, sagacity, and use of nose, steadiness, dash, perseverance, attention, control, courage, style, retrieving and cleanness of delivery.

Retrieving to which supreme importance must always be accorded, should be with tender mouth and right up to hand. The dog must not injure game, retrieve decoys, drop the game, or retrieve without being ordered to do so. 45 Points shall be allocated for each item of game retrieved (See Judging Sheet.)

For the Retrieving Trial Judging Sheet

In the cell for – Retrieving 45, add Retrieving 45 points for each item of game retrieved

Rationale:

All deductions below the line and the 45 points available to a judge are relative to a single retrieve i.e the negative scores below the line are relative to the value of one retrieve. Therefore deducting more points, on each leg, below the line on a multiple retrieves with only a total of 45 points for retrieves has a huge effect on the final outcome of the score, importantly this proposal maintains the relationship between the below line deductions and the 45 points for a retrieve.

Increasing the retrieving component to 45 points for each item of game retrieved will give the judge more scope to Judge the retrieve component of a run and allow a better assessment of a dog's performance, it will also will give clarity to competitors on the breakdown of their scores.

- one item of game retrieved- 45 Points
- two items of game retrieved - 45 points for each item of game = 90 points

three items of game retrieved – 45 points for each item of game retrieved = 135 points

(QLD) 94. The principal points to be considered by the Judge in assessing the merits of performances in competitive work shall be the ability to mark, sagacity, and use of nose, steadiness, dash, perseverance, attention, control, courage, style, retrieving and cleanness of delivery. Retrieving to which supreme importance must always be accorded, should be with tender mouth and right up to hand. The dog must not damage game, retrieve decoys, drop the game, or retrieve without being ordered to do so. Points should be allocated for each retrieve. (See Judging Sheet.)

Rationale:

The use of the word 'injure' may cause some people to think of live game, as only something alive, can be injured and we need to avoid any reference to 'live' game.

Using the word 'damage' is more appropriate to any item of game that is "not alive".

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(Tas) 94. Points shall be allocated for each Retrieve on the following basis:

Steadiness, obedience, walking to heel: 10 Points

Style, eagerness and action: 10 Points

Retrieving: 45 Points for each item of game retrieved

For each retrieve the principal points to be considered by the Judge in assessing the merits of performances in competitive work shall be the ability to mark, sagacity, and use of nose, steadiness, dash, perseverance, attention, control, courage, style, retrieving and cleanness of delivery.

Retrieving to which supreme importance must always be accorded, should be with tender mouth and right up to hand. The dog must not injure game, retrieve decoys, drop the game, or retrieve without being ordered to do so. 45 Points shall be allocated for each item of game retrieved (See Judging Sheet.)

For the Retrieving Trial Judging Sheet

In the cell for – Retrieving 45, add Retrieving 45 points for each item of game retrieved.

Rationale:

All deductions below the line and the 45 points available to a judge are relative to a single retrieve i.e. the negative scores below the line are relative to the value of one retrieve. Therefore deducting more points, on each leg, below the line on a multiple retrieves with only a total of 45 points for retrieves has a huge effect on the final outcome of the score, importantly this proposal maintains the relationship between the below line deductions and the 45 points for a retrieve.

Increasing the retrieving component to 45 points for each item of game retrieved will give the judge more scope to Judge the retrieve component of a run and allow a more accurate assessment of a dog's overall performance. It will also give clarity to competitors on the breakdown of their scores.

one item of game retrieved: 45 Points.

two items of game retrieved: 45 Points for each item of game = 90 points

three items of game retrieved: 45 Points for each item of game retrieved = 135 points

96. Points to be awarded;

- (a) **National Championship Stake** – First place will be awarded eighteen (18) points, Second place twelve (12) points and Third place six (6) points.
- (b) **Championship Stake** – First place will be awarded twelve (12) points, second place six (6) points.
- (c) **All Age Stakes** – First place will be awarded six (6) points.

(Vic) 96. Points to be awarded for trials conducted on Cold/Real game:

- (a) **National Championship Stake** – First place will be awarded eighteen (18) points, Second place twelve (12) points and Third place six (6) points.
- (b) **Championship Stake** – First place will be awarded twelve (12) points, second place six (6) points.
- (c0) **All Age Stakes** – First place will be awarded six (6) points

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Rationale:

At the Dogs Australia General meeting and board meeting conducted in Melbourne on the 22nd and 23rd of October 2023 a rule change to 8K of the Retrieving rules for Gundogs was passed. This rule now states that replica game can be used from 1/1/2024.

With the introduction of this dogs would now be able to obtain Retrieving Championship (RTCH) titles on replica game. This is away from the spirit of Retrieving trials and has created a major drift as Australia would be the only country within the World (FCI inclusive) that would have any Retrieving/Field title obtained under these conditions. There are several important facets that cannot be assessed when using Replica/Artificial game.

All countries that use replica/artificial game only award placing and no accreditation for inclusion onto pedigrees. These events are considered as TESTs only.

Breeders of group 3 / FCI group 8 dogs would now be heavily affected by this decision. Internationally purchasing of Dogs or Semen from titled dogs (retrieving) will now be avoided as there will be no distinction between these dogs obtaining titles on Cold/Real game and replica/Artificial. The reversal is also likely when attempting to purchase, international sellers are interested in their lines being able to obtain titles that enhance the breed.

If these rules are altered it will in no way affect the decision of affiliates to run trials as replica game would still be able to be used, but no championship points would be awarded.

(SA) Rule 96

~~Points to be awarded~~ **Dogs Australia Retrieving & Field Trial Points Certificate** must be issued as follows:

- a) **National Championship Stake** – First place eighteen (18) points, Second place twelve (12) points and Third place six (6) points.
- b) **Championship Stake** – First place twelve (12) points, second place six (6) points.
- c) **All Age Stakes** – First place six (6) points.

Rationale:

Not all member bodies require a certificate as proof of place won when the place/s were won in that State, they just verify claims against the marked catalogues. As a result, some member body affiliates do not see the need to issue the Dogs Australia Retrieving & Field Trial Points Certificate.

This means that interstate competitors have difficulty obtaining the correct paperwork and this becomes very important when proof of points awarded is required, eg when proving eligibility to enter a championship stake or applying for a title.

This rule change would require all entities conducting Retrieving Trials For Gundogs stakes listed above to issue the correct paperwork and it would be consistent nationwide.

(Tas) ~~Points to be awarded;~~

96. **Dogs Australia Retrieving & Field Trial Points Certificate** must be issued as follows:

- a) **National Championship Stake** – First place eighteen (18) points, Second place twelve (12) points and Third place six (6) points.
- a) **Championship Stake** – First place twelve (12) points, second place six (6) points.
- b) **All Age Stakes** – First place six (6) points.

Rationale:

Not all member bodies require a certificate as proof of place won when the place/s were won in that State, they just verify claims against the marked catalogues. As a result, member body affiliates do not see the need to issue the Dogs Australia Retrieving & Field Trial Points Certificate.

Interstate competitors have difficulty obtaining the correct paperwork which becomes very important for proof of points awarded. This rule change would force everybody to issue the correct paperwork and it would be the same nationally.

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97. On completion of the Trial the Judge shall complete and sign a Judge's Certificate or official catalogue of the event indicating:
- (a) Placegetters. Only dogs worthy of the award of Championship points may be shown as first, second or third placegetters in Stakes carrying Championship points.
 - (b) Awards of Certificates of Merit, Diploma of Merit and Qualifying Certificates (if any).

(Vic) 97. On completion of the Trial the Judge shall complete and sign a Judge's Certificate or official catalogue of the event indicating:

- (a) Placegetters. Only dogs worthy of the award of Championship points may be shown as first, second or third placegetters in Stakes carrying Championship points. Dogs that have completed a stake where Replica or Artificial game was used can only be shown as placegetters, but no Championship points will be awarded.
- (b) Awards of Certificates of Merit, Diploma of Merit and Qualifying Certificates (if any).

Rationale:

At the Dogs Australia General meeting and board meeting conducted in Melbourne on the 22nd and 23rd of October 2023 a rule change to 8K of the Retrieving rules for Gundogs was passed. This rule now states that replica game can be used from 1/1/2024.

With the introduction of this dogs would now be able to obtain Retrieving Championship (RTCH) titles on replica game. This is away from the spirit of Retrieving trials and has created a major drift as Australia would be the only country within the World (FCI inclusive) that would have any Retrieving/Field title obtained under these conditions. There are several important facets that cannot be assessed when using Replica/Artificial game.

All countries that use replica/artificial game only award placing and no accreditation for inclusion onto pedigrees. These events are considered as TESTs only.

Breeders of group 3 / FCI group 8 dogs would now be heavily affected by this decision. Internationally purchasing of Dogs or Semen from titled dogs (retrieving) will now be avoided as there will be no distinction between these dogs obtaining titles on Cold/Real game and replica/Artificial. The reversal is also likely when attempting to purchase, international sellers are interested in their lines being able to obtain titles that enhance the breed.

If these rules are altered it will in no way affect the decision of affiliates to run trials as replica game would still be able to be used, but no championship points would be awarded.

(Tas) 97. On completion of the Trial the Judge shall complete and sign a Judge's Certificate or official catalogue of the event indicating:

- (a) Placegetters. Only dogs worthy of the award of Championship points may be shown as first, second or third placegetters in Stakes carrying Championship points. Dogs that have completed a stake where Replica variants of game were used can only be shown as placegetters, and no Championship points will be awarded.
- (b) Awards of Certificates of Merit, Diploma of Merit and Qualifying Certificates (if any).

Rationale:

At the recent Dogs Australia General meeting and board meeting conducted in Melbourne on the 22nd and 23rd of October 2023 a rule change to 8K of the Retrieving rules for Gundogs was passed. This rule now states that replica game can be used from 1/1/2024.

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With the introduction of this, dogs would now be able to obtain Retrieving Championship titles (RTCH) on replica game. This is away from the spirit of Retrieving trials and has created a major rift as Australia would be the only country within the World (FCI included) that would have any Retrieving/Field title obtained under these conditions. **There are several important facets that cannot be assessed when using Replica variants.**

(Example - the severe mouthing of game is a disqualification in all countries.)

All countries that use replica game, only award placings and no accreditation for inclusion into pedigrees. These events are considered as TESTs only.

Australian breeders of group 3 / FCI group 8 dogs will now be heavily penalised by this decision.

Internationally, the purchase of dogs or semen from Australian titled dogs (retrieving) will now be avoided, as there will be no distinction between dogs obtaining titles on cold game or replica.

The reverse is also likely when attempting to purchase stock from overseas. International breeders are interested in their lines being able to obtain titles that enhance the breed. This means they will be reluctant to send top quality stock to Australia.

The current timetable indicates that no Retrieving Trials will be conducted outside of Victoria until March 2024.

Victoria has indicated that they will not be using replica game in 2024.

The use of replica game is not being questioned, only the awarding of Championship points when a dog may have never mouthed feather nor fur. This is an extremely important part of gundogs breeding and genetic makeup and needs to be protected. All other countries do not award Championship points to dogs that only retrieve replica game.

If this amendment is accepted it will in no way affect the decision of affiliates to run trials, as replica game would still be able to be used with no titles awarded.

HISTORY

The FTCA and the KCC (Victoria) agreed that the first water test was conducted in 1942, on the firm basis that No Championship points would ever be awarded if it was not using real game.

The rules stated that one retrieve would be from water and the other across water using cold (dead) game. (Ref - Extract from the origins 50 years of Retrieving trials. Section The beginning.)

In 1955 the rules for retrieving trials were drafted and accepted with a large degree of reference to the Labradors and the input of the 5th Duke of Buccleuch and the 3rd Earl of Malmesbury in developing specialist retrievers in the 1870's and the importance to retain good working attributes.

This was not to be a Test, but a trial and Championship points could be awarded for the first time in Australia.

1st June 1957, the first trial was conducted and Rosemoor Rajah won the event and went onto become the first KCC RTCH, later becoming KCC Dual Champion, after being awarded the challenge at the Royal Melbourne Show.

In 1958 further trials were held and NSW drafted a similar set of rules and started to hold trials.

When the ANKC was formed these rules amalgamated.

The ANKC National Championship was initiated and run on a rotating State basis. The winner being awarded the National Retrieving Trial Championship. All these trials were and have been conducted on cold game.

Conclusion

The above amendment is in keeping with the 80 year history and tradition of Retrieving within Australia.

Retrieving is one of the oldest disciplines within Australia and needs to be preserved.

(SA) Proposed new rule but we are unsure of appropriate numbering 97(c) ? 114? or 97 and add one to all subsequent rule numbers?

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(SA) Place cards will be issued for all stakes.

Rationale:

Not all member bodies require a certificate as proof of place won when the place/s were won in that State, they just verify claims against the marked catalogues. As a result, some member body affiliates do not see the need to issue place cards for each Stake.

Interstate competitors therefore have difficulty obtaining the correct paperwork which becomes very important for proof of awards when applying for a NRD or RRD title or when proving eligibility to enter a Championship Sake This rule change would require everybody to issue place certificates and it would be consistent nationwide.

98. No points will be allotted towards Championship status unless the Trial is open to all recognised breeds of Gundogs.

(Vic) 98. No points will be allotted towards Championship status unless the Trial is conducted on Cold/Real game only and open to all recognised breeds of Gundogs.

Rationale:

At the Dogs Australia General meeting and board meeting conducted in Melbourne on the 22nd and 23rd of October 2023 a rule change to 8K of the Retrieving rules for Gundogs was passed. This rule now states that replica game can be used from 1/1/2024.

With the introduction of this dogs would now be able to obtain Retrieving Championship (RTCH) titles on replica game. This is away from the spirit of Retrieving trials and has created a major drift as Australia would be the only country within the World (FCI inclusive) that would have any Retrieving/Field title obtained under these conditions. There are several important facets that cannot be assessed when using Replica/Artificial game.

All countries that use replica/artificial game only award placing and no accreditation for inclusion onto pedigrees. These events are considered as TESTs only.

Breeders of group 3 / FCI group 8 dogs would now be heavily affected by this decision. Internationally purchasing of Dogs or Semen from titled dogs (retrieving) will now be avoided as there will no distinction between these dogs obtaining titles on Cold/Real game and replica/Artificial. The reversal is also likely when attempting to purchase, international sellers are interested in their lines being able to obtain titles that enhance the breed.

If these rules are altered it will in no way affect the decision of affiliates to run trials as replica game would still be able to be used, but no championship points would be awarded.

99. No Diploma of Merit, Certificate of Merit or Qualifying Certificates, other than those of the Member Body, shall be awarded at Retrieving Trials held under the Rules of the Member Body.

(WA) 99. No Diploma of Merit, Certificate of Merit or Qualifying Certificates, other than those of the Member Body, shall be awarded at Retrieving Trials held under the Rules of the Member Body. All awards must be issued on official 'Dogs Australia Certificates'.

Rationale:

This makes it very clear to affiliates and member bodies, what must be issued to competitors at the completion of a trial. These certificates are the proof required when applying for a title/award.

Not all member bodies require a certificate as proof of place won when the place/s were won in that State, they just verify claims against the marked catalogues. As a result, member body affiliates do not see the need to issue

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the Dogs Australia Certificates. However, this means that interstate competitors have difficulty supplying their proof because they have not obtained the correct paperwork. This rule change would ensure the correct/same paperwork is issued nationally.

101. Every competing dog must be shot over before it can gain a prize, Certificate of Merit, Diploma of Merit, or Qualifying Certificate, and must satisfy the Judge that it is not gun-shy. These certificates may only be awarded to dogs in actual competition.

(Tas) 101. Every competing dog must be shot over, and swim before it can gain a prize, Certificate of Merit, Diploma of Merit, or Qualifying Certificate, and must satisfy the Judge that it is not gun-shy and able to swim. These certificates may only be awarded to dogs in actual competition.

Rationale:

In conjunction with rule 29.

Current Rule: 102. Wins and other qualifications shall count as from and including the date they are gained. Only the highest retrieving title or qualification awarded to the dog will be used with the name of the dog except for dogs that have both the titles National Retrieving Trial Champion and Grand Retrieving Trial Champion.

(WA) 102. Wins and other qualifications shall count as from and including the date they are gained. Only the highest retrieving title or qualification awarded to the dog will be used with the name of the dog except for dogs that have both the titles National Retrieving Trial Champion and Grand Retrieving Trial Champion.

New Rule Note: For the purposes of Rule 102, "the 'highest retrieving title or qualification' awarded to the dog" shall, in the context of titles or qualifications awarded to dogs on 'Replica Game' or 'Game', be the title or qualification awarded on 'Game'. For example a dog who has been awarded the titles of 'Retrieving Trial Champion (R.T.CH.) (RG)' and 'Retrieving Trial Champion' (R.T.CH.) shall only be entitled to use the title of 'Retrieving Trial Champion' (R.T.CH.) with the dog's name.

Rationale:

Addresses Rules for use of Artificial Game so that we have just one set of rules with inclusion of alternatives for both game and artificial game trials. . Also accommodates those who compete in both Game and RG Trials

(WA) 102. Wins and other qualifications shall count as from and including the date they are gained. Only the highest retrieving title or qualification awarded to the dog will be used with ~~the name of the dog's~~ registered name after application to and approval from the member body. The Dogs Australia database will be updated accordingly. The exception is except for dogs that have both the titles National Retrieving Trial Champion and Grand Retrieving Trial Champion. They shall be **Gr Rt CH. Ntl Rt CH.** (plus years if won more than one National). Only Championship titles go before the dog's registered name.

Rationale:

Included the sentence to ensure that titles can only be used if they have been applied for. The word Trial has been removed as it is unnecessary. See rules 107-112 Trial removed from titles as suggested for consistency

103. If a prize-winner is disqualified, the dogs next in consecutive order of merit, if so placed by the Judge, shall be moved into the higher places in the prize list and such placings shall there upon become the awards, subject to the qualification that the Judge must certify that such dogs are worthy of occupying that position.

(NSW) 103. ~~If a prize-winner is disqualified, the dogs next in consecutive order of merit, if so placed by the Judge, shall be moved into the higher places in the prize list~~ The dogs will be placed First, Second or Third in the prize list by the Judge in consecutive order of merit and such placings shall there upon become the awards, subject to the qualification that the Judge must certify that such dogs are worthy of occupying that position.

Rationale:

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This amendment will result with one of the following,

1. Dogs will be placed First, Second or Third in the prize list and cannot be placed Second without a First place and Third without a Second place as has been attempted by certain individual judges in the past.
 2. If the judge cannot certify qualification of the dogs which have finished the trial, therefore the judge cannot/does not award placings in the prize list.
 3. The dogs have all been eliminated from competition.
- 106.** (a) The title of Qualifying Novice Dog (QND) may be awarded to any dog that has completed five (5) Novice Stakes to the Judge's satisfaction, (and awarded by at least two different judges) having shown that they are steady to shot, under reasonable control and not "hard-mouthed" nor gun shy. The records required to apply for a Qualifying Novice Dog title are the responsibility of the owner/handler. The title of Qualifying Novice Dog is not retrospective and can only be awarded on basis of results obtained from 1 January 2010.
- (b) The title of Qualifying Restricted Dog (QRD) may be awarded to any dog that has completed seven (7) Restricted Stakes to the Judge's satisfaction, (and awarded by at least three different judges) having shown that they are steady to shot, under reasonable control and not "hard-mouthed" nor gun shy. The records required to apply for a Qualifying Restricted Dog title are the responsibility of the owner/handler. The title of Qualifying Restricted Dog is not retrospective and can only be awarded on basis of results obtained from 1 January 2015.
- (NSW)**
- 106.** (a) The title of **Qualifying Novice Dog (QND)** may be awarded to any dog that has completed five (5) Novice Stakes to the Judge's satisfaction, (and awarded by at least two different judges) having shown that they are steady to shot, under reasonable control and not "hard-mouthed" nor gun shy. ~~The records required to apply for a Qualifying Novice Dog title are the responsibility of the owner/handler.~~ The title of Qualifying Novice Dog is not retrospective and can only be awarded on basis of results obtained from 1 January 2010.
- (b) The title of **Qualifying Restricted Dog (QRD)** may be awarded to any dog that has completed seven (7) Restricted Stakes to the Judge's satisfaction, (and awarded by at least three different judges) having shown that they are steady to shot, under reasonable control and not "hard-mouthed" nor gun shy. ~~The records required to apply for a Qualifying Novice Dog title are the responsibility of the owner/handler.~~ The title of Qualifying Restricted Dog is not retrospective and can only be awarded on basis of results obtained from 1 January 2015.
- (c) A title or qualification can only be applied for if one award or qualification is received is using game that is not replica game.

Rationale:

Retrieving is the only sport that requires competitors to maintain their own records for title eligibility. Dogs Australia Qualifying Certificates should be provided for every stake. These should have been created as new title was created. This amendment links with the proposed change of Rule 113.

While we are against the removal of traditional game completely, to keep the integrity and preservation of Retrieving Titles and qualifications one must be achieved using game.

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(WA) 106. (a) The title of **Qualifying Novice Dog (QND)** or **Qualifying Novice Dog - Replica Game (QND) (RG)** may be awarded to any dog that has completed five (5) Novice Stakes to the Judge's satisfaction, (and awarded by at least two different judges) having shown that they are steady to shot, under reasonable control and not hard-mouthed and not gun shy.

Note: In order to qualify for a (QND) Title at least one of the Stakes must have been conducted on 'game' and the dog must have shown that they are not 'hard-mouthed'.

The records required to apply for a Qualifying Novice Dog title **or Qualifying Novice Dog - Replica Game (QND) (RG)** are the responsibility of the owner/handler. The title of Qualifying Novice Dog title **or Qualifying Novice Dog - Replica Game (QND) (RG)** is not retrospective and can only be awarded on basis of results obtained from 1 January 2015

(b) The title of **Qualifying Restricted Dog (QRD)** **or Qualifying Restricted Dog - Replica Game (QRD) (RG)** may be awarded to any dog that has completed seven (7) Restricted Stakes to the Judge's satisfaction, (and awarded by at least three different judges) having shown that they are steady to shot, under reasonable control and not hard-mouthed nor and not gun shy.

Note: In order to qualify for a (QRD) Title at least one of the Stakes must have been conducted on 'game' and the dog must have shown that they are not 'hard-mouthed'. The records required to apply for a Qualifying Restricted Dog title) **or Qualifying Restricted Dog - Replica Game (QRD) (RG)** are the responsibility of the owner/handler. The title of Qualifying Restricted Dog) **or Qualifying Restricted Dog - Replica Game (QRD) (RG)** is not retrospective and can only be awarded on basis of results obtained from 1 January 2015

Rationale:

Addresses Rules for use of Artificial Game so that we have just one set of rules with inclusion of alternatives for both game and artificial game trials. . Also accommodates those who compete in both Game and RG Trials

(WA) 106(a) ~~The title of Qualifying Novice Dog (QND)~~ may be awarded to any dog that has completed five (5) Novice Stakes to the Judge's satisfaction, ~~(and awarded by at least two different judges)~~ having shown that they are steady to shot, under reasonable control and not hard-mouthed nor gun shy under at least two different judges. The records required to apply for a Qualifying Novice Dog title are the responsibility of the owner/handler. ~~The title of Qualifying Novice Dog is not retrospective and can only be awarded on basis of results obtained from 1 January 2010.~~

Rationale:

Adjustment made to the heading of the rule for consistency. Rule reworded for clarity. The last sentence is no longer relevant

(WA) 106 (b) ~~The title of Qualifying Restricted Dog (QRD)~~ may be awarded to any dog that has completed seven (7) Restricted Stakes to the Judge's satisfaction, ~~(and awarded by at least two different judges)~~ having shown that they are steady to shot, under reasonable control and not hard-mouthed nor gun shy under at least three different judges. The records required to apply for a Qualifying Restricted Dog title are the responsibility of the owner/handler. ~~The title of Qualifying Restricted Dog is not retrospective and can only be awarded on basis of results obtained from 1 January 2015.~~

Rationale:

Adjustment made to the heading of the rule for consistency. The last sentence is no longer relevant

107. (a) The title of Novice Retrieving Trial Dog (N.R.D.) and/or Restricted Retrieving Trial Dog (R.R.D.) may be awarded to those dogs that have had three wins in those Stakes or those that are no longer eligible to compete in those Stakes because of wins in those Stakes or wins/placings in higher Stakes.

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(b) The title of All Age Retrieving Dog (A.A.R.D.) may be awarded to those dogs that have completed ten (10) All Age Stakes judged by at least three different Judges. Once a dog has been granted title of AARD it can only compete in All Age or Championship Stakes.

(NSW)

107. (a) The title of Novice Retrieving Trial Dog (N.R.D.) and/or Restricted Retrieving Trial Dog (R.R.D.) may be awarded to those dogs that have had three wins in those Stakes or those that are no longer eligible to compete in those Stakes because of wins in those Stakes or wins/placings in higher Stakes.

(c) The title of All Age Retrieving Dog (A.A.R.D.) may be awarded to those dogs that have completed ten (10) All Age Stakes judged by at least three different Judges. Once a dog has been granted title of AARD it can only compete in All Age or Championship Stakes.

(c) A title or qualification can only be applied for if one award or qualification is received is using game that is not replica game.

Rationale:

While we are against the removal of traditional game completely, to keep the integrity and preservation of Retrieving Titles and qualifications one must be achieved using game.

(WA) 107. (a) The title of **Novice Retrieving Trial Dog (N.R.D.) or Novice Retrieving Trial Dog – Replica Game (N.R.D) (RG)** and/or **Restricted Retrieving Trial Dog (R.R.D.) or Restricted Retrieving Trial Dog (R.R.D) (RG)** may be awarded to those dogs that have had three wins in those Stakes or those that are no longer eligible to compete in those Stakes because of wins in those Stakes or wins/placings in higher Stakes.

Note: In order to qualify for an (N.R.D.) or (R.R.D) Title at least two of the relevant 'Stakes' must have been conducted on 'game' and the dog must have shown they are not 'hard-mouthed'.

(b) The title of **All Age Retrieving Dog (A.A.R.D.) or All Age Retrieving Dog – Replica Game (A.A.R.D) (RG)** may be awarded to those dogs that have completed ten (10) All Age Stakes judged by at least three different Judges. Once a dog has been granted the title of AARD it can only compete in All Age or Championship Stakes

Note: In order to qualify for an (A.A.R.D.) Title at three (3) of the relevant 'All Age Stakes' completed must have been conducted on 'game' and the dog must have shown that they are not 'hard-mouthed'.

Rationale:

Addresses Rules for use of Artificial Game so that we have just one set of rules with inclusion of alternatives for both game and artificial game trials. . Also accommodates those who compete in both Game and RG Trials

(WA) 107(a) ~~The title Novice Retrieving Dog (NRD.) and/or Restricted Retrieving Trial~~ may be awarded to those dogs that have had three wins in Novice Stakes or are no longer eligible to compete in Novice Stakes because of wins/placings in higher Stakes.

~~(b) The title of Novice Retrieving Trial Dog (N.R.D.) and/or Restricted Retrieving Dog (RRD)~~ may be awarded to dogs that have had three wins in Restricted Stakes or are no longer eligible to compete in Restricted Stakes because of wins/placings in higher Stakes.

~~(c) The title of All Age Retrieving Dog (AARD)~~ may be awarded to those dogs that have completed ten (10) All Age Stakes judged by at least three different Judges. Once a dog has been granted title of AARD it can only compete in All Age or Championship Stakes

Rationale:

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Splits a into a and b and b becomes c to give clear definitions of title eligibility. Remove Trial from Novice Retrieving Trial Dog and Restricted Retrieving Trial Dog so that title is consistent with All Age Retrieving Dog as proposed earlier

108. A Retrieving Trial Championship Certificate may be awarded to any dog winning a Championship Stake provided it has completed all retrieves.

(Vic) 108. Rule to be deleted.

Rationale:

Rule 109 in combination with rule 96 makes this rule obsolete.

(WA) 108. A **Retrieving Trial Championship Certificate** may be awarded to any dog winning a Championship Stake conducted on 'game' provided it has completed all retrieves.

A **Retrieving Trial Championship Certificate RG** may be awarded to any dog winning a Championship Stake conducted on 'replica game' provided it has completed all retrieves.

Rationale:

Addresses Rules for use of Artificial Game so that we have just one set of rules with inclusion of alternatives for both game and artificial game trials

(WA) 108. A **Retrieving Championship Certificate** may be awarded to any dog winning a Championship Stake provided it has completed all retrieves

Rationale: Removes the unnecessary word trial. This rule could also be deleted altogether and left blank.

109. The title of Retrieving Trial Champion may be awarded to a dog that has gained at least twelve (12) Championship Points in Retrieving Trials; these may be awarded in any combination of points awarded in accordance with Rule 96.

(Vic) Proposed Rule 109. The title of Retrieving Trial Champion may be awarded to a dog that has gained at least twelve (12) Championship Points in Retrieving Trials; these may be awarded in any combination of points awarded in accordance with Rule 96 provided that at least 6 points have been awarded on cold game.

Rationale:

This change ensures that no dog can become a Retrieving Trial Champion unless it has been tested on feather or fur for Hard Mouth.

(QLD) 109. The title of Retrieving Trial Champion may be awarded to a dog that has gained at least twelve (12) Championship Points in Retrieving Trials; these may be awarded in any combination of points awarded in accordance with Rule 96.

Where Replica Game is used, and 12 points have been awarded, the title of RTCH shall be followed by the letters RG. Eg. RTCH RG

Rationale:

In keeping with the introduction of Replica Game as an option for Retrieving Trials in the ANKC approved rules, some members feel a necessity to differentiate between those who have gained their points on cold game VS Replica Game.

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(WA) 109 The title of **Retrieving Trial Champion (R.TCH.)** may be awarded to a dog that has gained at least twelve (12) Championship Points in Retrieving'; these may be awarded in any combination of points awarded in accordance with Rule 96.

The title of **Retrieving Trial Champion – Artificial Game (R.T.CH) (RG)** may be awarded to a dog that has gained at least twelve (12) Championship Points in Retrieving Trials **awarded in Stakes conducted on replica game**; these may be awarded in any combination of points awarded in accordance with Rule 96.

The title of **Retrieving Trial Champion (R.TCH.)** may be awarded to a dog that has gained at least twelve (12) Championship Points in Retrieving Trials **including a minimum of 6 points awarded in Stakes conducted on 'game'**; these may be awarded in any combination of points awarded in accordance with Rule 96.

Rationale:

Addresses Rules for use of Artificial Game so that we have just one set of rules with inclusion of alternatives for both game and artificial game trials. Also accommodates those who compete in both Game and RG Trials

(WA) 109. ~~The title of~~ **Retrieving Champion (RtCH)** may be awarded to a dog that has gained at least twelve (12) Championship Points in Retrieving Trials; these may be awarded in any combination of points awarded in accordance with Rule 96.

Rationale:

Removes the unnecessary word trial and gives sentence title

Current Rule: 110. A dog which has won a National Championship Retrieving Trial may be awarded the title of **National Retrieving Trial Champion (Nat R.T.CH.)** A dog which has won more than one National Championship Retrieving Trial, shall have the year(s) of those wins included after the title.

(WA) 110. A dog which has won a National Championship Retrieving Trial conducted on 'game' may be awarded the title of **National Retrieving Trial Champion (Nat R.T.CH.)**

A dog which has won a National Championship Retrieving Trial conducted on 'replica game' may be awarded the title of **National Retrieving Trial Champion – Replica Game (Nat R.T.CH.) (RG)**

Note: A dog which has won more than one National Championship Retrieving Trial, irrespective of whether the trials were conducted on 'game' or 'replica game', shall have the year(s) of those wins included after the title.

Rationale:

Addresses Rules for use of Artificial Game so that we have just one set of rules with inclusion of alternatives for both game and artificial game trials.

(WA) 110. A dog which has won a National Championship Retrieving Trial ~~Stake may shall~~ be awarded the title of **National Retrieving Trial Champion (Ntl R.CH.)** A dog which has won more than one National Championship Retrieving Trial ~~Stake shall~~ have the year(s) of those wins included after the title (eg Ntl RC 2014, 2016.)

Rationale:

Removes the unnecessary word trial. The word National abbreviated to Ntl. Change 'may be awarded' to 'shall be awarded' as the award has been won so shall be awarded

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Rule 111. On application the Member Body may at its discretion grant the title of Dual Champion. Dogs awarded two Champion titles one of which must be a Conformation Champion and the other in any of the other ANKC recognised disciplines shall be granted the title of “Dual Champion” and the title shall appear before the name of the dog and with other disciplines indicated in brackets

Example

Field Trial Champion (F)

Retrieving Trial Champion (R)

Obedience Trial Champion (O)

Such dual titles must be indexed as:

Dual CH (F)

Dual CH (R)

Dual CH (O)

On application the Member Body may at its discretion grant the title **Triple Champion**. Dogs awarded three Champion titles one of which must be a Conformation Champion and the others in any of the other ANKC recognised disciplines shall be granted the title of “Triple Champion” and the title shall appear before the name of the dog and with other disciplines indicated in brackets

Example

Field Trial Champion (F)

Retrieving Trial Champion (R)

Obedience Trial Champion (O)

Such triple titles must be indexed as:

Triple CH (F)(R)

Triple CH (R)(O)

Triple CH (O)(F)

Triple CH(R)(F)

(SA) Rule 111. On application the Member Body may at its discretion grant the title of Dual Champion. Dogs awarded two Champion titles one of which must be a Conformation Champion and the other in any of the other ANKC recognised disciplines shall be granted the title of “Dual Champion” and the title shall appear before the name of the dog and with other disciplines indicated in brackets

Example

Field Trial Champion (F)

Retrieving Trial Champion (~~R~~) (RT)

Obedience Trial Champion (O)

Such dual titles must be indexed as:

Dual CH (F)

Dual CH (~~R~~) (RT)

Dual CH (O)

On application the Member Body may at its discretion grant the title Triple Champion. Dogs awarded three Champion titles one of which must be a Conformation Champion and the others in any of the other ANKC recognised disciplines shall be granted the title of “Triple Champion” and the title shall appear before the name of the dog and with other disciplines indicated in brackets

Example

Field Trial Champion (F)

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Retrieving Trial Champion (~~R~~) (RT)
Obedience Trial Champion (O)

Such triple titles must be indexed as:

Triple CH (F) (~~R~~) (RT)
Triple CH (~~R~~) (RT)(O)
Triple CH (O) (F)
Triple CH (~~R~~) (RT) (F)

Rationale:

Effective 1 January 2021 the ANKC Rules for Rally were altered and all references to the Rally Obedience discipline were changed to Rally. Accordingly at that time the title Rally Obedience Ch (RO Ch) was altered to just Rally Ch (R) Ch so the Dual & Tri Ch Titles were also amended from Dual Ch (RO) to Dual Ch (R) and Tri Ch (RO) to Tri Ch (R).

Clearly this was an oversight on the part of the ANKC because the (R) has always indicated Retrieving.

However, to avoid confusion we are suggesting the use of the notation (RT) for Retrieving Trial Dual Ch and Triple Ch titles.

Already there is a Gundog in SA that has a Tri Ch (R) title and it certainly has not gained a Retrieving Trial title.

(WA) 111. Dual Champion (Dual CH) or Triple Champion (Tri CH) may be awarded to Dogs achieving two or three Champion titles one of which must be a Conformation Champion and the other/s in any of the other Dogs Australia recognised disciplines. The title, once granted shall appear before the name of the dog and with other disciplines indicated in brackets

Examples:

Dual CH (Rt) for a Retriever Champion or Dual CH (F) for a Field Champion

Tri CH (Rt)(F) for a Retrieving and Field Champion

Rationale:

Title of Dual CH and Triple CH needs to change to Dual CH (Rt) and Triple CH (Rt) so that there is no confusion with current RallyO title which is R CH

Rule: 112. The title of **Grand Retrieving Trial Champion (Gr.R.T.Ch.)** may be awarded to any dog that is awarded a total of 120 Championship points, of which not less than, twelve (12) have been awarded in Championship Stakes

The title of Grand RT Champion will not be awarded to dogs retrospectively, but a dog will be eligible to be awarded the title of Grand RT Champion, if it gains a minimum of twelve (12) points towards the title of Grand RT Champion (120 points) on or after the implementation date of 1.1.2005.

(WA) 112. The title of Grand Retrieving Trial Champion (Gr.R.T.Ch.) may be awarded to any dog that is awarded a total of 120 Championship points, of which not less than, twelve (12) have been awarded in Championship Stakes and twelve in Stakes or Trials conducted on 'game'.

The title of Grand RT Champion will not be awarded to dogs retrospectively, but a dog will be eligible to be awarded the title of Grand RT Champion, if it gains a minimum of twelve (12) points towards the title of Grand RT Champion (120 points) on or after the implementation date of 1.1.2005.

Rationale:

Addresses Rules for use of Artificial Game so that we have just one set of rules with inclusion of alternatives for both game and artificial game trials. Also accommodates those who compete in both Game and RG Trials

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(WA) 112. ~~The title of Grand Retrieving Trial Champion (Gr.R.T.Ch.)~~ **Grand Retrieving Champion (Gr Rt CH.)** may be awarded to any dog that is awarded a total of 120 Championship points, of which not less than twelve (12) have been awarded in Championship Stakes. ~~The title of Grand RT Champion will not be awarded to dogs retrospectively, but a dog will be eligible to be awarded the title of Grand RT Champion, if it gains a minimum of twelve (12) points towards the title of Grand RT Champion (120 points) on or after the implementation date of 1.1.2005~~

Rationale:

Simplifies the wording of the rule. The changes, including Title, also maintain consistency. Deletes the last section which is no longer relevant

113. A Qualifying Certificate (QC) is not a prize or a title, but may be awarded at the discretion of the Judge in any Stake, consisting of at least three (3) retrieves, to dogs that have completed the Stake, to the Judge's satisfaction, having shown that they are under reasonable control and not "hard-mouthed", nor gun shy.

Note: A Qualifying Certificate may be awarded to a dog only once. If a dog is eligible to receive the award in a later Trial, no Certificate will be awarded.

(NSW) 113. A Qualifying Certificate (QC) ~~is not a prize or a title, but may will~~ be awarded at the discretion of ~~the Judge by the Judge~~ in any Stake, consisting of at least three (3) retrieves, to dogs that have completed the Stake, to the Judge's satisfaction, having shown that they are under reasonable control and not "hard-mouthed", nor gun shy.

~~Note: A Qualifying Certificate may be awarded to a dog only once. If a dog is eligible to receive the award in a later Trial, no Certificate will be awarded.~~

Rationale:

The Qualifying Certificate was created prior to NRD, QND, RRD, QRD, and AARD titles being created. The purpose was to provide a mechanism by which dogs with fundamental retrieving skills could be recognised on pedigrees. It is no longer necessary. In its current form, this particular rule obstructs the creation of Dogs Australia qualifying certificates that allow competitors to evidence eligibility for all the titles listed above. It also causes ongoing issues with language used in the rules referencing eligibility for the titles listed above.

Amendment of this rule will allow the creation of Dogs Australia qualifying certificates for all the lower titles, providing national consistency within our sport but also between this sport and every other Dogs Australia sport. Ours is the only sport that requires competitors to get judges' signatures on a little piece of paper they carry around or for clubs to create their own certificates.

(WA) 113. ~~A Qualifying Certificate (QC)~~ **Qualifying Certificate** is not a prize or a title, but may be awarded at the discretion of the Judge in any Stake, consisting of at least three (3) retrieves, to dogs that have completed the Stake, to the Judge's satisfaction, having shown that they are under reasonable control and not hard-mouthed, nor gun shy. ~~Note: A Qualifying Certificate may be awarded to a dog only once. If a dog is eligible to receive the award in a later Trial, no Certificate will be awarded.~~

Rationale:

(QC) is removed because it is not a title. In the previous rules the title was noted in brackets. Wording of rule is simplified.

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CURRENT RETRIEVING TRIAL JUDGING SHEET

Name of Club _____

LAND/WATER Type Venue Stake Date

Competitor No. _____

Retrieve No. _____ Breed _____

MAX
Points

Points shall be allocated for each Retrieve on the following basis:																				
Steadiness, obedience and walking to heel. 10																				
Style, eagerness and action 10																				
Retrieving 45																				
Total 65																				
Less Deductions (if any)																				
Net Total																				
Points may be deducted for each Retrieve on the following basis:																				
Breaking to Shot Up to 10																				
Blinking and over-running game Up to 5																				
Pottering Up to 5																				
Giving tongue Up to 5																				
Dropping game Up to 5																				
Hard mouth Up to 10																				
Failure to obey command and direction Up to 10																				
Not firing from shoulder at game and/or Handler moving outside of Firing Point and/or Breaking from the Hide Up to 5 each offence																				
Total Deductions																				

Points for deduction are to be applied to points allocated.

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Failure to complete retrieve: No score.
In multiple retrieves where the dog switches game: No score. Extreme Hard
mouth: No Score

(Signed)

Judge

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(WA) REPLICA GAME RETRIEVING TRIAL JUDGING SHEET

Name of Club _____

LAND/WATER Type Venue Stake Date

Competitor No. _____

Retrieve No. _____ Breed _____

MAX
Points

Points shall be allocated for each Retrieve on the followingbasis:														
Steadiness, obedience and walking to heel. 10														
Style, eagerness and action 10														
Retrieving 45														
Total 65														
Less Deductions (if any)														
Net Total														
Points may be deducted for each Retrieve on the followingbasis:														
Breaking to Shot Up to 10														
Blinking and over-runninggame Up to 5														
Pottering Up to 5														
Giving tongue Up to 5														
Dropping game Up to 5														
Hard mouth Up to 10 <u>(Not applicable to replica game)</u>														
Failure to obey command and direction Up to 10														
Not firing from shoulder at game and/or Handler movingoutside of Firing Point and/orBreaking from the Hide Up to 5 each offence														
Total Deductions														

Points for deduction are to be applied to points allocated.Failure to complete retrieve: No score.
In multiple retrieves where the dog switches game: No score.Extreme Hard mouth: No Score. (Not applicable to replica game)

(Signed)

Judge

Rationale:

Addresses Rules for use of Artificial Game so that we have just one set of rules with inclusion of alternatives for both game and artificial game trials

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RETRIEVING TRIAL JUDGING SHEET

Existing deductions: (part thereof) Last section of Judging Sheet

Not firing from shoulder at game and/or Handler moving outside of Firing Point and/or Breaking from the Hide Up to 5 each offence

(QLD) Proposed Changes ([Judging Sheet – Deductions](#))

Not firing from shoulder at game and/or Handler moving outside of Firing Point.

[Dog Breaking from the Hide; Dog soiling the ground during judging.](#)

Up to 5 each offence [per run](#)

Change to the Rule book

[\(Vic\) Include a brief reference list of rule changes to the front of the rule book after the Revised Date for quick reference to the current rule changes.](#)

[Example - Revised 2024 changes to the rules](#)

[Rule 8k – Game](#)

[Rule 17 – Double Fall Retrieve](#)

[Rule 94 – Allocation of points](#)

[Etc](#)

[\(WA\) INDEX/DEFINITIONS: GUN- Either a 12G Shotgun OR alternative.](#)

Rationale:

Currently there is no definition of a gun. This addendum takes into account the POSSIBILITY of any State losing, for whatever reason, the ability to conduct a trial using a shotgun.

[\(WA\)](#)There are a number of areas in the Rule Book that have discrepancies which could be addressed to ensure consistency throughout.

1. Remove full stops from Titles for greater consistency:
Gr Rt Ch, Ntl Rt Ch as opposed to Gr.R.T.CH. Ntl.R.T.Ch.
or NRD. TDX. SWN. as opposed to N.R.D. T.D.X. S.W.N.
SO: NRD, RRD, Rt Ch, Gr Rt Ch, Ntl Rt Ch.
2. To create greater consistency across all Titles we suggest these become:
NRD and RRD as Novice and Restricted Retrieving Dog but Rt CH become Retrieving Champion. By dropping the word Trial from title it becomes more consistent with other titles. (Needs to be Rt CH as Rally Oh are taking on title R Ch for Rally O Champion. Further Gr Rt CH becomes Grand Retrieving Champion and Ntl Rt CH becomes National Retrieving Champion
3. The term **Blind Find** is mentioned 18 times within the rules. The word find is rarely used and is not necessary. It is mentioned once in Rules 12, **14, 15**, 16, **18, 20, 21**, 39, 40, 41 and twice in the Index. Mentioned three times in Rule 28, 38. We propose this becomes “blind” in all references rather than ‘Blind find”

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4. Other items of note that should be just housekeeping is to:
 - Replace **Australian National Kennel Council Ltd** with Dogs Australia it is used twice on pages 1 and 2 and in Rule 8 (s)
 - Replace **ANKC** with Dogs Australia it is used in Rules 5, 6, 7 (a), 45, 67, and twice in 111

(Vic) New Rule

Proposed Rule Change Introduce Hunt Test competition for artificial game

Proposed Change is to introduce a new Retrieving Competition called HUNT TEST using artificial game, the new HT rules will have modified rules using the current Retrieving Trial rules as the model.

Rationale:

Dogs Australia Executive has recently endorsed the inclusion of **Artificial Game** (AG) or variants, along with the Native species which are now included in the Retrieving Trial rules. This is not inclusive. It is however possibly the most significant rule change in the history of dog trialling in Australia.

The creation and introduction of a new retrieving competition for artificial game called HUNT TEST would alleviate any confusion between an event using real game (Retrieving Trial) and event using artificial game (HUNT Test), the two different events will have their own rules and will clearly define the differences between Titles, Points, Hard Mouth, Drags, etc. for example RT Champion, HT Champion.

The attached document presents a logical and practical path forward for the introduction of artificial game into our Retrieving Trials, and provides evidence and supports the introduction of a Hunt Test competition.

Document – HUNT TEST Introduction of AG to RT 20231202 can be found as a separate attachment

APPENDICES TO RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF RETRIEVING TRIALS FOR GUNDOGS

That the already written Artificial Game Rules (2018/19) or the new discipline, Hunt Test be added to the Rules for the conduct of Retrieving Trials for Gundogs as an appendix.

Rationale:

The rules for trials using artificial game be incorporated as an appendix to the existing rules to enable clubs, judges and competitors to work from one document. This would also keep the rules and required rule changes to occur at the same time.

MOTION

THAT All references to 'ANKC' in the Rules be amended to read 'Dogs Australia'.

Tas For inclusion after Rule 113.

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APPENDIX A.

Rules for the use of Artificial/Replica game.

REPLICA GAME TRIALS :

(Tas) New Proposal

[A new discipline for the use replica game only be adopted by the ANKC to be known as Replica Game Trials for Gundogs Draft Rules attached](#)

Rationale:

This discipline was discussed at NRAFT level several years ago and a document of Draft Rules was submitted to NRAFT but at the time it was decided to put them on the back burner until a later date when the need arose for them to be put on the Agenda once again

With all the turmoil of the past few months regarding the use of Cold game RAFT Tas believe the time has come to once again look at a discipline using only Replica game for those who chose not to participate in Retrieving Trails that use cold game. This new discipline to be Appendix A

Rules

1. A Replica Game Trial is an event at which competitions for Gundogs are conducted, both on land and in or through water. but at the same time bring the work of each dog within an ambit of equality where assessment may be fairly made.

2. The function of the dog is to seek and locate fallen game, when ordered to do so. It should sit quietly with the handler or in the hide, walk at heel, or assume any station designated by the handler, until sent. When ordered a dog should quickly and briskly without unduly disturbing too much ground. It should deliver to hand and then await further orders from the handler.

3. Accurate marking or memory of falls is of paramount importance. However, this does not imply that dogs that excel in marking should not be penalised for other faults. Ability to mark does not necessarily imply pinpointing the fall. A dog that misses the fall on the cast but recognises the depth of the area of the fall, stays in it, and quickly and systematically hunts it out has done a creditable and intelligent job of marking.

4 A dog that marks the fall of a bird, uses the wind and takes direction from its handler is of great value.

5. Directives of a Member Body shall apply to Replica Game Trials in their State/Territory and to any affiliate conducting Replica Game Trials.

6. The Shooting, Game Laws and Firearms Legislation of each State or Territory must be observed and will govern the conduct of all Trials in conjunction with the Rules and Regulations of each State or Territory Member Body as approved by the ANKC Ltd.

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Definitions and Terms

8. (a) **Action and Style** - These are both seen in a fearless, well-trained dog working with purpose, enthusiasm and good free movement.
- (b) **Blinking** - Any dog that finds or is seen to acknowledge the presence of game but deliberately passes by the game is "Blinking Game".
- (c) **Breaking Fence** – Is the act on the part of a dog, when walking to heel, of going through, over or under a fence, without order. A dog should remain steady at both sides of a fence through or over which its handler is crossing.
- (d) **Breaking from the Hide** - A dog will be deemed to have broken from the hide if it moves outside the area designated by the Judge as the Hide. Any movement by the dog within the area of the Hide shall be classed as unsteadiness only.
- (e) **Breaking to Shot** - If a dog makes a forward movement which in the opinion of the Judge indicates a deliberate attempt to leave without being ordered to do so, that dog shall be deemed to have broken. If a dog makes a slight break and is brought immediately under control it shall be penalised for unsteadiness.
- (f) **Control Area** - is that area encompassed by the Control Point markers and the Firing Point markers.
- (g) **Control Point** - is the point at which a dog and handler come under the control of the Judge for the purpose of commencing a Run. This point shall be between the two markers set in position by direction of the Judge.
- (h) **Dog** – shall be taken to mean a dog of either sex.
- (i) **Drop or Down or Sit** - Drop or Down or Sit – A well trained dog should stop on command. A dog may sit, stand or drop in position, but must not move from that position until ordered.
- (j) **Firing Point** - is the point from which the handler will fire a gun and direct the dog. A handler moving outside the Firing Point to handle their dog may be penalised as defined on the Judging Sheet.
Note: Terrain permitting, the distance between the Control Point and the Firing Point shall be not less than 10 metres and the distance between the two marker pegs at the Firing Point shall be not less than 2 metres.
- (k) **Game – Definition of** – Commercially available replica game
- (l) **Game Sense** – Some dogs very apparently use a lot of sense in locating game; These dogs have 'game sense'.
- (m) **Giving Tongue** - A dog is deemed to be "giving tongue" when in the opinion of the Judge the dog barks or emits other significant noise whilst being adjudicated.
- (n) **Dog** – shall be taken to mean a registered gundog of a variety accepted by a Member Body as a dog
- o) **Gun Shy** - A dog which recoils from the sight or sound of the gun is deemed to be "gun shy" and should be penalized according to the seriousness of the fault.
- (p) **Hide** - An area clearly defined by the Judge in which to leave the dog.
- (q) **In Line Game** - Items of game shall be considered to be "in line" if the lines to these items of game are separated by less than 10 metres at a distance of 50 metres from the Firing Point; less than 20 metres at a distance of 100 metres from the Firing Point and less than 30 metres at a distance of 150 metres from the Firing Point
- (r) **Member Body** - Means the Member Body of the Australian National Kennel Council Ltd which controls the canine activity in the State or Territory in which the fixture is being conducted.

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(s) **No Score** - Where a dog has been marked "No Score", the dog may continue in the Stake at the discretion of the Judge, but is to be considered as a non competing dog. In subsequent Runs they must be run after competing dogs.

(t) **Obedience** - Prompt compliance with all commands. Dogs should act readily and not cower or cringe at their handler's signs, sounds or commands.6

(u) **Pottering** - A dog that hunts around in a confined space covering ground that it has already worked, or one that lingers on an old scent, leaves it and then comes back to it is "pottering".

Working-Working covers the performance of the dog from when ordered to retrieve until it delivers the game to its handler.

(v) **Run** - This term collectively describes those activities that occur between the time the competitor comes under the control of the Judge and when the competitor ceases to be under the control of the Judge. A competitor comes under the control of the Judge at the Control Point when the lead is removed from the dog and ceases to be under the control of the Judge when the handler returns to the Control Point and places the lead back on the dog. See also Procedures for Conducting Trials, Clauses 80 through 93 inclusive.

(x) **Walking to Heel** - Dog's head to be close to the side of heel or immediately behind the heel of the handler.

(y) A bona fide exhibit is an exhibit where the dog is presented to the judge for competition and cannot be withdrawn except in accordance with Rule 70

Retrieves

9. **Single Mark Retrieve** A Single Mark Retrieve is a retrieve where only one object of game is cast and is to be retrieved, and as further defined in Rule 26.

10. **A Walk-Up Retrieve** is one where the dog is walking at heel, the game is cast and shot at. Immediately the handler pauses to fire, the dog shall sit, drop or stand steady until ordered by its handler to retrieve. A walk-Up retrieve is not permitted in a Novice Stake or Beginners' Test.

11. (a) **Wounded Bird Retrieve** - Bird to be thrown by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Bird then picked up and fresh bird left in its stead.

(b) **Wounded Rabbit Retrieve** - Rabbit to be placed by Steward as in other retrieves, but to have line attached by which it is dragged for a distance of at least twenty (20) metres. Rabbit is then picked up and fresh rabbit left in its stead.

12. **A Blind Find Retrieve** shall be a retrieve where a dog is in such a position that the flight, fall or placement of the game cannot be seen. The Judge may direct the dog to be placed behind a Hide in close proximity to the Firing Point. Where possible it is recommended that the Hide be part of the natural terrain or be constructed of natural materials.

13. **A Double Mark Retrieve** shall consist of two (2) Mark Retrieves and may include land and water. Except where two items of game are cast to fall within 20 metres of each other the items of game shall not be cast simultaneously and there shall be a reasonable delay between the casts.

14. **A Double Blind Retrieve.** Two items of game will be separately located and the Retrieve conducted as for a Blind Find Retrieve.

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15. **A Double Rise Retrieve.** A Double Rise Retrieve shall consist of a retrieve where one item of game is cast as for a Mark Retrieve at which two shots are fired in succession and before the dog is sent to retrieve. While the dog is returning with the first item of game, a second item of game is cast or placed no further than ten (10) metres from the fall of the first item of game, but at a greater distance from the Firing Point. The second item of game shall be retrieved immediately after the first item of game is delivered to hand. On the second leg, a handler may cue the dog using hand and voice to return to the area of fall of the first item of game. Having sent the dog for the second item of game, the retrieve should not be treated as a Blind Find Retrieve.
16. **A Two-Bird Retrieve.** The first item of game shall be cast as for a Mark Retrieve, or alternatively, it may be cast or placed as for a Blind Find Retrieve. In accordance with instructions from the Judge, the dog shall be sent to recover this item of game. While dog is returning to the handler with the first item of game, a second item of game shall be cast so that the dog may mark or hear its fall. The second item of game should be at least twenty metres from first item of game.
17. **Double Fall Retrieve.** The first item of game is cast as a Mark Retrieve and at which one shot is fired. While the dog is on the way out to retrieve the first item of game, a second game is cast and a shot fired so the dog may mark or hear the fall of this item of game. The first item of game must be retrieved before the second item of game. The second item of game must be cast to land not less than twenty metres from the line to the first item of game and not less than forty metres from the Firing Point. This retrieve is limited to All Age.
18. **A Mark and Blind Retrieve** shall consist of one Mark Retrieve and one Blind Find Retrieve.
19. **A Triple Mark Retrieve** shall consist of three separate Mark retrieves. The items of game may be cast at different angles and, may include land and water and must be separated in accordance with the specification in Rule 8 (r). One retrieve must be at a short distance. There must be a reasonable delay between casts.
20. **A Triple Retrieve with two Blinds and one Mark** shall consist of a Double Blind Find Retrieve and a Single Mark Retrieve.
21. **A Triple Retrieve with two Marks and one Blind** shall consist of a Double Mark Retrieve and a Blind Find Retrieve.
22. **Through or Amongst Decoy Retrieves.** No less than six decoys, constructed of plastic or wood, shall be used. The decoys must be pegged individually and must be 'non-motion' decoys. Any dog that picks up a decoy and does not immediately release it without command shall be marked with No Score. All decoys shall be silhouettes
23. In multiple Retrieves the Judge may stipulate the order in which items of game shall be retrieved. Any reasonable combination of the listed Retrieves shall be permissible, provided that a dog shall not be required to pick up more than three (3) items of game in any Run.
24. The Judge shall not specify the order of pick-up if items of game are deemed to be "In Line" and that decision shall be left to the handler's discretion.
25. (a) In All Age and, a Judge may order that one (1) additional item of game be placed or cast as a diversion and this item of game shall not be retrieved by the competing dog. An item of game used as a diversion shall not be located either "in line" with or less than 20m from an item of game that is to be retrieved. See Rule 8 (r) for the definition of "in line".

(b) While in competition, if a dog picks up an item of game used in connection with the Run, other than the nominated item of game, it shall be eliminated from further competition.
26. Mark Retrieves are retrieves where a dog is in such a position at the Firing Point to be able to see a bird in the air and as it falls and where possible the cast bird should break open skyline when viewed by the dog. A dog on a Mark Retrieve should not need direction from the handler once the dog has been sent for the Retrieve. On Mark Retrieves, where more than one bird is to be

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retrieved, the order may be specified by the Judge. The handler is permitted to indicate clearly to the dog by hand and/or by voice which bird it is being sent for. Further handling once the dog has left the handler's side will be penalised accordingly.

27. Left Blank

28. On Blind Find Retrieves, where possible, the course should be planned in such a way that advantage is taken of natural hazards. It should be possible, at least in theory, for a dog to find a well-planned Blind Find Retrieve on the initial line from its handler. The test should be so planned that the dog should be in sight at least until directed into the area of the fall, as a Blind Find Retrieve is a test of control and a dog that is out of sight for a considerable period of time cannot be said to be under control.

29. Programmes should be so arranged that all dogs are thoroughly tested on land and in or through water of sufficient depth to require the dog to swim.

30. The maximum distance for any retrieve will be 150 metres. In Novice Stakes and Beginners' Tests, Runs shall not exceed 100 metres.

31. No more than two (2) Runs judged by the same Judge may be linked consecutively before each competitor leaves the Control Area. No more than four (4) items of game may be retrieved in total.

32. Retrieves involving a relocation of a dog from an original Firing Point must not involve a relocation of more than twenty (20) metres. The relocated Firing Point should not unduly disadvantage the dog or handler and the area of fall must remain able to be observed by both dog and handler from the new Firing Point. Relocated retrieves are permitted when they enable better sighted retrieves to be included in the Run.

Replica Game Trials and Test Eligibility

33. All events shall be restricted to dogs six months of age and over. The age of a dog shall be computed from its date of birth to the date on which the Trial commences. Should finalisation of the Trial be delayed, then the increase in age shall not affect the eligibility of any qualified contestant.

34. Registered (Main, Limited) desexed dogs shall be permitted to compete in Replica Game Trials in all States and/or Territories of Australia.

35. A Stake is a competition held at a Replica Game Trial and shall consist of not less than three (3) Runs, except for a Beginners' Test, which shall consist of two (2) Runs. There shall not be more than 4 Runs in a Novice Stake.

36. Beginners' Test is a Stake confined to Dogs that have not won a Beginners Test nor have placed in any other Stake. Beginners' Tests shall consist of two (2) Runs each of which is a Single Mark Retrieve, one (1) on land and one (1) in or through water. A Walk-up Retrieve is not permitted in a Beginners Test.

37. Novice Stake is a Stake confined to Dogs that have not won five (5) Novice Stakes or any other Stake (Beginners' Tests are excluded) or have been awarded an AARD title. The only form of retrieve in a Novice Stake is a Single Mark Retrieve. A "Walk-Up" is not permitted in a Novice Stake.

38. Restricted Stake is a Stake confined to Dogs that have not won five (5) Restricted Stakes or been awarded an AARD title. At least one Blind Find Retrieve shall be included in a Restricted Stake. A Blind Find Retrieve should preferably be picked up after, rather than before, a Mark Retrieve, Double Rise Retrieve or a Two-Bird Retrieve.

Where a Blind Find Retrieve is to be retrieved first, the angle of separation between the Blind and other items of game shall be at least 60 degrees.

39. All Age Stake is a Stake confined to Dogs that have won a Novice or have been placed first, second or third in a Restricted Stake. A Blind Find Retrieve must be included, with the dog tested for steadiness in a Hide at least once.

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44. A dog that becomes ineligible for a Stake by virtue of a win after the close of entries may be elevated into the next highest Stake at the Trial at which it is entered providing the entry fee is adjusted accordingly and /or necessary. Alternatively (Subject to complying with Member Body Rules) the dog may compete in the Stake for which it was entered at the time of the close of entries.

45. All wins, placings and certificate awards, made by State, Territory or Overseas Governing Bodies recognised by the A.N.K.C. shall count in relation to the eligibility of dogs for any Stake and it shall be incumbent on the Club conducting the Trial to forward within ten (10) days to the Member Body, a marked catalogue with the placings and certificates awarded.

47. Trials conducted by affiliates of a Member Body may, with the special permission of the Member Body, be limited to a specific breed or breeds of Dogs

Required Number of Entries

48. No event at any Replica Game Trial up to and including a Restricted Stake shall be conducted unless there are at least four (4) bona fide exhibits and at least two (2) different owners. For an All Age Stake at least four (4) bona fide exhibits and at least four (4) different owners are required.

Eligibility/Responsibility of Judges

51. (a) No person shall be entitled to judge a Replica Game Trial Stake until he/she has supplied acceptable credentials to the Member Body and has been placed on a list of approved Judges by the Member Body.

(b) Applications for listing as an approved Judge must be lodged each year with the Member Body in the State or Territory in which the applicant resides and in accordance with the Rules of such Body.

The Member Body will consider, and where applicable, approve the listing of approved Judges for the ensuing year.

(c) Before being eligible to judge at a Restricted Stake, the person must have completed, to the satisfaction of the Member Body, at least two (2) Novice Stake judging appointments.

(d) Before being eligible to judge an All Age Stake the person must have completed, to the satisfaction of the Member Body, at least three (3) Restricted Stake judging appointments.

(f) Its a judges responsibility to remain conversant with the current rules and regulations and any changes that have occurred in Replica Game trials.

52. While a dog is in competition, the Judge is not permitted to advise the competing handler where the dog is nor where the item of game is in relation to the dog.

53. Where two (2) or more Judges are co-judging a retrieve, no competing dog shall be put out of a Run until all Judges have conferred and reached agreement.

54. When inviting a Judge to co-Judge at a Trial the Judge must be advised by the affiliate, in writing, the name of the other Judge(s) and the Judging arrangements.

55. Judges are empowered and instructed to withhold any prize or award if, in their opinion, the dogs competing do not show sufficient merit. Before a dog can gain a prize or award, it must complete the Stake in which the prize or award is made.

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56. The Judge is empowered to turn out of a Stake any dog whose handler does not obey the Judge or who wilfully interferes with another competitor or his dog.

Duties of Trial Manager and Stake Managers

57. (a) Shall be required to assist the Judge in all duties in connection with the Trial.

(b) At the Judge's request shall inspect any dog for sexual causes or any other cause which interferes with the safety or performance of its opponents.

(c) Shall assemble and control all dogs and also be responsible to see that all dogs participate without delay in their proper order.

(d) May acquaint all competitors with the procedure required by the Judge.

(e) In some tests the Judge may consider it necessary to request an additional Steward or Stewards to observe and report as required.

Duties of a Gun Steward

58. Where a Gun Steward has been elected to fire on behalf of a handler, the gun will be fired when the bird is as near as possible to the apex of its flight. Only in the case of a handler being under-age or incapacitated or prevented at law will a Gun Steward be permitted to fire for the handler. When because of a legal or physical disability a person is restricted from carrying a mock gun, that person will not be required to carry anything.

Duties of Game Stewards

(a) In any Replica Game trial the condition of the game for that retrieve shall be substantially the same for each dog.

(b) Shall, in the event of game being cast in a position where a retrieve is impossible or cast in a place substantially different to that directed by the Judge, inform the Judge of such fact.

(c) Shall, unless otherwise provided for in these Rules, cast the game only when directed to do so by the Judge.

(d) Shall take every possible precaution to ensure that unused game cannot be sighted or scented by a competing dog.

(e) The Game Stewards will at all times, endeavour to be hidden from sight of both the handler and dog. The Game and Gun Stewards will refrain from unnecessary movement and the Gun Steward will ensure that the gun is broken at all times when not actually in use. Game to be retrieved must be at least ten (10) metres from the Game Steward.

(f) Where possible, no competitor may act as Game Steward in any Run in which they are competing before they have run their dog(s) in that Run.

(g) The direction to the Game Steward to cast the game shall be given by the Judge. Where applicable, such direction shall be given from a position out of sight of the handler and in a way that does not distract the dog.

General Regulations for Conduct of a Trial

60. The management of a Trial shall be entrusted to the Trial Committee of the Affiliate concerned.

61. Any handler who is unacceptable to the Committee and/or Stewards of the Trial for any reasonable cause shall be excluded from the Trial.

62. All dogs shall be examined by a competent examiner before the commencement of every Trial. Bitches in oestrus shall not be permitted to compete and must not enter the vicinity of the Runs. No preparation for concealing oestrus shall be used.

63. Should two (2) members of the Trial Committee entrusted with the management of the Trial, after consultation with the Judge, consider any dog is unfit to compete by reason of sexual

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- causes or any other causes which interfere with the safety or chance of winning of its opponents, such a dog shall be removed immediately from all competing areas.
64. Dogs are expected to retrieve under all natural working conditions. The Judges and Trial Committee have complete control over the mechanics and requirements of each Trial. This latitude is permitted in order to allow for the difference of conditions in various places.
65. All dogs shall be under the control of the Stewards and must be brought on leads to participate without delay in their proper turn. If absent, when called three (3) times, a dog will be debarred by the Stewards from participating in the Stake.
66. No person, other than the Judge and the Stewards, shall be permitted to accompany the handlers of the dogs competing in any Trial unless the permission of the Judge has been previously obtained. Spectators shall not be allowed to encroach on any area designated by the Trial Manager or Judge.
67. The area over which a Stake shall be conducted will be decided by the Trial Committee conducting the Trial and indicated to the Judge by the appointed Trial Manager. Where possible, two (2) members of the Trial Committee will be made available to assist the Judge. The Judge shall select his/her own Runs. The Committee has the right to intervene only if the selected Runs contravene the ANKC Ltd Rules, are logistically unsound or the dogs' safety is in serious question
68. All matters in connection with dogs actually under trial shall be in the hands of the Judge; he may call the Stewards to his assistance if he considers it necessary. The Judge is empowered to turn out of a Stake any dog that fails to retrieve or that does not work to his satisfaction. Where a dog has received a No Score, the Judge will immediately inform the handler of the situation.
69. In each Run of a Stake a dog may be handled by either its owner or a handler approved by the Stewards, but it must be one or the other. When dogs are working, an owner must not interfere with the dog if another person has been deputised to handle it.
70. No owner or handler shall be permitted to withdraw a dog from a Stake at any time during the progress of the Stake, without the consent of the Judge (which will not be unreasonably withheld) and without advising a Steward. Any owner or handler withdrawing a dog or dogs without consent may be debarred from any further Trials or penalised according to the circumstances by the Committee of the Member Body.
71. Anyone taking part in a Trial who openly impugns the actions or decision of the Judge or who is, in the opinion of the Trial Committee, guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct must be cautioned by the Trial Manager or other Trial official and if thereafter he further offends he shall render himself liable to be debarred from further participation in the Trial and may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with at the discretion of the Member Body.
72. No thermal vest shall be worn and nothing whatever may be administered to a dog while it is in the hands of the Judge.
73. The person handling a dog may speak, whistle, and work it by hand as they deem proper, including using a hand to indicate to the dog which item of game it is to retrieve, but may be called to order by the Judge for making any unnecessary noise or for any disorderly conduct, and if after being cautioned they persist with such noise or disorderly conduct, the Judge may order the dog to be taken up and it then shall be regarded as being disqualified from the Stake.
74. A handler who touches or physically interferes with his dog will be penalised according to the seriousness of the offence.
75. Physical punishment of a dog during a Trial or on the Trial grounds will not be permitted. Any person who physically punishes a dog on the Trial grounds may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with at the discretion of the Member Body.
76. No handler may proceed beyond the Firing Point into the area of a retrieve without the direction of the Judge; refer also to Rule 8(j).13

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77. (a) The judge shall give instructions on the conduct of each Run, and these instructions must be obeyed.

These instructions must comply with the Rules for the Conduct of Replica Game Trials for Dogs, including the application of points allocated and deducted therein. The ruling of 'No score' or "elimination" must only be invoked in response to situations where this penalty is specifically stated in the Rules.

(b) Competing dogs shall be kept in a marshalling area from which they cannot see retrieves in progress.

78. In the event of a tie, a separate run-off shall be arranged by the Trial Committee entrusted with the management of the Trial in co-operation with the Judge. The Judge will select the test. The order in which the contestants will run is to be decided by the toss of a coin.

79. Decisions of the Committee of the affiliate conducting a Trial shall be subject to appeal to the Member Body.

PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING TRIALS

80. The Draw is the selection by ballot of the order in which dogs in a Stake are required to compete in the first Run Draw will be made by the Trial Committee entrusted with the management of the Trial. The Draw must be made in public either before or on the day of the trial. The subsequent running order, if convenient and practical, after the first run has taken place maybe rotated to ensure fairness to competitors.

81. The handler, with dog on lead, shall advance to the Control Point for the purpose of commencing a retrieve. It is important for handlers to know that they are under the control of the Judge from the time they remove the lead and collar from the dog, and any lack of control will be penalised accordingly by the Judge.

82. At the Control Point, after removing the lead and collar, the handler shall place the dog at the "sit", "drop" or "stand" position - and will be handed the gun and approved inserts by the Gun Steward.

83. The dog shall remain in place (at the "sit", "drop" or "stand" position) until on instructions from the judge, the handler, with dog at heel, shall advance to the Firing Point. The dog shall again be placed at the "sit", "drop" or "stand" position. Except in a "Walk-Up Retrieve", and unless otherwise instructed by the Judge, the handler will not close the gun until he reaches the Firing Point.

84. The Game Steward shall when directed by the Judge, cast game in the area and in such a manner as previously directed by the Judge, and where applicable from a position out of sight of the handler and in such a way that does not distract the dog.

Insofar as possible, where UHF radios are in use to set up a Run, no communication between the Judge and the Stewards shall take place via the radios while the dog is retrieving and outside the Control Area. Exceptions would include notification of incorrectly cast game, an injured dog, or situation which interferes with the Run for that dog.

85. The handler or Gun Steward shall, while the game is in the air and as near as possible to the apex of its flight, aim at the game and fire his gun from the shoulder and in the normal shooting posture. Unless otherwise directed by the Judge, the normal shooting posture will mean the handler or Steward will be standing.

86. After firing at the game, the gun must be broken before or immediately after the dog has been sent to retrieve.

87. The handler must not wave the gun about unnecessarily before or after it has been fired and must carry the gun at all times during a retrieve unless otherwise instructed by the Judge.¹⁴

88. On instruction from the Judge, and only then, shall the handler order his dog to retrieve the game. The instruction should be given by the Judge to all handlers prior to the commencement of a Run, so as to eliminate interference with the dog whilst it is at the Firing Point.

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Note: The dog must not be held or forcibly restrained by the handler whilst the dog is in competition.

89. The dog shall then proceed to retrieve the game with style and freedom as quickly and efficiently as the terrain permits. The handler shall remain at the Firing Point through the period of the retrieve and shall give all directions to the dog from this point unless otherwise directed by the Judge.
90. The dog shall retrieve the game cleanly and without delay shall return direct to the handler and shall deliver straight to hand in front of the handler from standing or sitting position, and as instructed by the Judge. The dog shall be stationary at delivery.
91. The handler, without stepping towards the dog shall take the game with one hand from the mouth of the dog. It is important that the dog shall deliver tenderly i.e. with a "soft mouth". Where more than one (1) object of game is to be retrieved, the handler must carry all game or place game gently on the ground while waiting for second or more game to be delivered by the dog. When all game has been retrieved the handler shall then move back to the Control Point with the dog at heel and hand over to the Steward, the gun and all game from that retrieve. The handler will then receive lead and collar from the Steward and place it back on the dog.
93. The dog should at no time drop the game during a retrieve until ordered to deliver by the handler. Any dog doing so shall be penalised according to the seriousness of the offence. The dog will have completed the retrieve when the game is brought within reach of the handler and an attempt is made to deliver without the handler stepping towards the dog. If the game is dropped during an attempt to deliver within reach of the handler, the penalty is for dropping game.

ALLOCATION OF POINTS

94. The principal points to be considered by the Judge in assessing the merits of performances in competitive work shall be the ability to mark, sagacity, and use of nose, steadiness, dash, perseverance, attention, control, courage, style, retrieving and cleanness of delivery. Retrieving to which supreme importance must always be accorded, should be with tender mouth and right up to hand. The dog must not injure game, retrieve decoys, drop the game, or retrieve without being ordered to do so. Points should be allocated for each retrieve. (See Judging Sheet.)
95. Judges shall not show their Judging Sheets to unauthorised persons. The sheets must be retained by the Judge. Judging Sheets must be checked and signed by the Judge and Chief Steward and at the conclusion of the Trial and the aggregate points shall be announced for all place awards. As a minimum, at the conclusion of the presentation of trophies, the Run-by-Run scores of all dogs completing the Trial shall be made available. Should any competitor failing to complete the Trial request details of how he/she was scored on any Run, the Judge shall make this information available to that competitor. The Judge may, at his/her discretion, show a competitor his/her Judging Sheet.