



Australian National Kennel Council Ltd ABN 77 151 544 679 trading as Dogs Australia

# **Rules for the conduct of Field Trials for Pointers and Setters**

**(Effective from 1st January 2024)**

**Approved by the Australian  
National Kennel Council 27/9/1968**

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## **RULES FOR FIELD TRIALS FOR POINTERS AND SETTERS**

**Pointers, English Setters, Gordon Setters, Irish Setters and Irish Red and White Setters.**  
Other applicable Gundog breeds will be added as imported.

Registered (Main and Limited) de-sexed dogs as listed above shall be permitted to compete in Pointer and Setter Trials in all States and/or Territories in Australia.

### **1. General**

- 1.1 The Shooting and Game Laws 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 Canine Control.
- 1.2 The Rules of the Canine Control, as adopted for affiliated bodies, shall apply in all cases, where applicable in addition to these Rules. In these Rules the word "dog" shall include both sexes.
- 1.3 A "Field Trial" is a competition to assess the working ability of dogs in the field. A Field Trial may be limited to a specified breed or breeds of Gundog. However, no points will be allotted towards championship status unless the Trial is open to all eligible breeds.
- 1.4 Subject to approval by the Committee of the Canine Control preliminary Field Trials may be conducted in the closed season for quail, such trials to be conducted under the following conditions and so that there is no infringement of the law:-
  - (a) They may not be taken beyond the stage at which there are four or fewer dogs eligible.
  - (b) If not finalised in an open season for quail then ensuing, or failing that, an open season for quail then following, they must be abandoned.
  - (c) No affiliated body shall conduct a trial in the open season for quail until such time as it has finalised its own novice or otherwise restricted preliminary trials commenced in a closed season for quail.

**NOTE:** The age of all dogs is computed from the date of their birth to the date on which the preliminary trial commences. The increase in age at the later finalisation of the trial, therefore, shall not affect the eligibility of the qualified contestants.

- 1.5 A "Stake" is a competition held at a Field Trial.
- 1.6 A "Restricted Stake" - Subject to approval of the Committee of the Canine Control, an affiliated body may conduct stakes limited to persons and/or dogs of certain specified qualifications. No points will be allotted towards championship status unless the trial is open to all eligible breeds.
- 1.7 A "Novice Stake" is a stake for dogs which have not won a first place in any unrestricted stake other than one novice or been placed second in a Championship Stake.
- 1.8 An "Open Stake" is a stake open to all registered dogs of named breed or breeds, without restriction as to variety, age or previous performance or to any membership qualification of the owner. The word "variety" in these Rules shall be taken as referring to the purebred Gundog varieties stipulated above for which separate registers are kept by the Canine Control at the date of the trial at which stakes are offered.

- 1.9 A "Championship Stake" is a Stake confined to dogs which in any Open Stake have won a Certificate of Merit, been placed first or second in a Novice Stake or an Open Stake, provided however all dogs entered in a Championship Stake must have been awarded a Qualifying Certificate.

**NOTE:** In each year there shall be held not more than one Championship Field Trial Stake for Pointers and Setters within each State or Territory, excepting that with the approval of the ANKC a National Championship Stake for Pointers and Setters may be conducted. Such National Championship Stake may be in addition to, or instead of, the State/Territory Championship. Entry qualifications and points awarded for a National Stake are as for a Championship Stake.

- 1.10 The rules for field trials for pointers and setters apply to stakes in which game is shot. A "Closed Season Stake" is a stake in which no game is shot. Points won in any closed season stake are unique to that form of stake and must not be aggregated with points won in stakes where game is shot.
- 1.11 Wins and other qualifications shall count as from and including the date they are gained.
- 1.12 No Stake at any Field Trial can be conducted unless there are at least four bona fide runners and at least four different owners. No Championship points shall be awarded unless there are six bona fide runners.
- 1.13 No Stake at any Field Trial can be conducted unless there are at least four bona fide runners and at least four different owners. No Championship points shall be awarded unless there are six bona fide runners **in Open, Championship and National Stakes and four in Novice Stakes.**
- 1.14 No trial shall be held on incapacitated game.
- 1.15 When a Trial has not commenced on the date for which the fixture has been advertised, it will be abandoned and the Club shall apply to the Canine Control for another date. All entry fees to be refunded and new schedules distributed.

## **2 Awards**

- 2.1 On application and payment of the fee set out in the Scale of Charges the Committee of the Canine Control may at its discretion grant the title "Field Trial Champion" (F.T.Ch.) to a dog that wins a Championship Stake and to any dog winning a total of ten points in Field Trials. A full five points must be won in an Open or Championship Stake. All eligible dogs must have a qualifying certificate also Definition of Terms, Clause 7.13

Championship Stake:	1st - 10 points	2nd - 5 points
Open Stake:	1st – 5 points	2nd – 3 points
Novice Stake:	1st – 2 points	2nd – 1 points
Novice Stake less than 6 dogs	1st - 1 point	no 2nd place points awarded

- 2.2 On application and payment of the fee set out in the Scale of Charges the Committee of the Canine Control may at its discretion grant the title "Grand Trial Champion" (Gr.F.T.Ch.) to a dog that is awarded a total of 50 points aggregated from 1<sup>st</sup> Place awards in National, Championship and Open Stakes and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> Place awards in National or Championship Stakes. See also Definition of Terms, Clause 7.13
- 2.3 Completing the trial will not necessarily mean automatic Championship points, as they will be allotted at the discretion of the Judge, based on the merit of the dog's performance.
- 2.4 (a) On application the Committee of the Canine Control may at its discretion grant the title of "Dual Champion" to a dog which has been awarded the title of Champion in breed judging and one of the following titles: Field Trial Champion, Retrieving Trial Champion, Obedience Trial Champion.  
Such titles must be indexed as: for Ch. and F.T Champ. (F), for Ch. and R.T Champ. (R), for Ch and Ob.T. Champ. (O).  
A dog which has won a National Championship Field Trial may be awarded the title of National Field Trial Champion.
- (b) On application the Committee of the Canine Control may at its discretion grant the title "Tri Champion" to any dog which is awarded the title Champion in breed judging and Champion for any two of the canine activities as referred to above.
- 2.5 Certificate shall be issued in respect of each application for the titles "Champion", "Field Trial Champion", "Dual Champion" and "Grand Field Trial Champion" granted by the Committee of the Canine Control.
- 2.6 A "Diploma of Merit" is not a prize and does not carry points, but may be awarded at the discretion of the Judge to any dogs, including prize winners, for outstanding work in a Championship Stake and the letters "D.M" will be added after the registered name of the dog.
- 2.7 A "Certificate of Merit" is not a prize and does not carry points, but may be awarded at the discretion of the Judge to any dogs including prize winners, in an Open Stake for outstanding work during the Trial and the letters "C.M." will be added after the registered name of the dog.
- 2.8 A "Qualifying Certificate" - A dog may be awarded a Qualifying Certificate in a Field Trial at the discretion of the Judge of the trial if it has shown that it is not gun-shy, and that it will hunt and point game and back naturally. These Certificates are awarded to work during and not after the Trial.
- 2.9 Every competing dog must be shot over before it can gain a prize or Certificate of Merit, Diploma of Merit or Qualifying Certificate, and must satisfy the judge that it is not gun-shy and will back naturally **providing the dog has a clear opportunity to do so**. These certificates may only be awarded to dogs in actual competition.
- 2.10 Not more than one of the following titles may be used as part of the registered name of a dog: NFD, Field Trial Champion and/or Dual Champion and/or Tri Champion and/or Grand Field Trial Champion
- 2.11 No Diploma of Merit, Certificate of Merit, or Qualifying Certificates, other than those of the Canine Control, shall be awarded at Field Trials held under the Rules of the Canine Control.
- 2.12 CM and DM will be added after registered names of dogs receiving such awards regardless of whether they are Field Trial, Dual, Grand Field Trial or Tri Champions.

- 2.13 The title of Novice Field Dog (NFD) may be awarded to those dogs which are no longer eligible to compete in Novice Stakes because of wins in Novice or wins or placings in higher classes. (This Rule will be effective for dogs entering Trials as from 1/1/1993 and those completing qualification after that date).
- 2.14 All Awards and titles listed in Section 2 may be granted to a qualified dog that has competed in Closed Season stakes. The letters (CS) must be added as a suffix to these awards and titles.

### **3 Eligibility of Judges**

- 3.1 No person shall be entitled to Judge a Pointer and Setter Field Trial Stake until he/she has supplied acceptable credentials to the Canine Control and has been placed on a list of approved Judges by the Canine Control.
- 3.2 Applications for listing as an approved Judge must be lodged each year with the controlling body in the State or Territory in which the applicant resides and in accordance with the Rules of such body.
- The controlling body will consider, and where applicable, approve the listing of approved Judges for the ensuing year.
- 3.3 Before being eligible to judge an Open Stake the person must have completed to the satisfaction of the Canine Control at least two (2) Novice Stake judging appointments.
- 3.4 Before being eligible to Judge Championship Stakes the person must have completed to the satisfaction of the Canine Control at least four (4) Open Stake judging appointments.
- 3.5 All Judges accepting appointments to judge Pointer and Setter Filed Trials shall familiarize themselves with and observe the current ANKC National Judges Code of Practise for Field and Retrieving Trials.

### **4 Duties of Field Trial Stewards**

(Includes Judge's Steward, Gallery Steward and Gun Steward)

- 4.1 Stewards shall be knowledgeable and experienced people, appointed to assist the Judge in all duties in connection with the Trial.
- 4.2 The "Draw" is the selection by ballot of the order in which dogs in a Stake are required to compete. Dogs the bona fide property of the same owner must be separated wherever possible. The draw must be made in public, at the trial site or meeting place on the morning of the trial.
- 4.3 Stewards officiating at the trial shall control and make all draws in public of the eligible dogs in attendance.
- 4.4 If any round there is an uneven number of dogs in the draw, at the end of that round the Judge shall nominate a dog to run against the "bye" dog, provided that the Judge may at his discretion bring in the "bye" dog in place of a dog which eliminates itself during the early part of a heat.
- 4.5 Subject to Rule 4.6, the position of the card shall be drawn for in each round immediately prior to such round and every dog shall be required to be tried in the consecutive order of each draw unless the Stewards otherwise decide. Only dogs actually present and/or left in competition shall be included in the draw.

- 4.6 After completion of the first round, the Judge shall have the discretion to order a further draw or draws or may choose the pairing of braces and the order in which those braces shall compete.
- 4.7 The Stewards shall, at the Judge's request, inspect any dog for sexual causes or for other cause which interferes with the safety or performance of its opponents.
- 4.8 When instructed by the Judge, a Steward shall take the place of the Judge and report to him results; for example, when two dogs come on point at the same time.
- 4.9 The Stewards shall, at the Judge's request, shoot for any handler. He must walk between the two handlers and operate under the instructions of the handler for whom he is shooting so that no interference occurs to the pointing dog.

Where a Steward has been instructed by the Judge to shoot for a handler safety to dogs and personnel must be of paramount importance.

- 4.10 A Judge or Steward may debar a gun if he considers it to be faulty.
- 4.11 No person shall have more than two cartridges in his gun at any time and at no time must any person carry a loaded gun at a Trial unless he is in line with the handlers.
- 4.12 A Steward shall not be required to carry game shot by the handler.
- 4.13 All dogs must be under the control of the Stewards, and must be brought on leads to participate without delay in their proper turn and if absent when called; a dog may be debarred by the Stewards from participation in the Stake.
- 4.14 In 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 may not interfere with his dog if another person has been deputed to handle it.
- 4.15 Any handler who is unacceptable to the Committee of the Trial for any cause whatever shall be excluded.
- 4.16 No owner or handler shall be permitted to withdraw a dog from a Stake on the field or at any time during the progress of the Stake, without the consent of the Judge. Any owner or handler withdrawing his dog or dogs without such consent may be debarred from any further trials.
- 4.17 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 Steward has been previously obtained. Spectators shall not be allowed to encroach on the Trial ground.
- 4.18 All dogs, when required shall wear collars - red for the dog with the higher position on the card white for the dog with the lower position on the card. No other type of collar shall be worn. Generally whilst handlers are together in competition the handler of the red dog will walk on the left and the handler of the white dog will walk on the right.
- 4.19 Any person who openly impugns the actions or decisions of the Judge may be debarred from further participation in the trial and may be ordered from the ground and further dealt with at the discretion of the Committee.
- 4.20 Nothing whatsoever may be administered to a dog whilst it is in the hands of the Judge or Stewards except water, which the Judge allows the dog to take naturally.

## **5 Procedure for Testing Dogs**

- 5.1 All matters in connection with dogs actually under trial shall be in the hands of the Judge, but he may call the Stewards to his assistance if he thinks fit.
- 5.2 The Judge is empowered to turn out of the Stake any dog whose handler does not obey him or who wilfully interferes with another competitor or his dog.
- 5.3 The Judge shall report to the Stewards if he considers a dog unfit to compete by reason of sexual causes or any other cause which interferes with the safety or chance of winning of its opponents, and he may call the Steward's attention to this and if necessary debar the dog from further participation in the Stake.
- 5.4 Trial shall not be knock-out competitions. Each stake shall consist of at least two rounds, subject to eliminations not reducing the number of dogs available to compete in such rounds, the Judge shall have discretion to decide to run a third round when circumstances dictate.
- 5.5 Dogs shall be tested in pairs with a judging sheet being completed during each run for each dog in competition.
- 5.6 The Judge shall give the direction in which dogs shall work, and each direction must be obeyed.
- 5.7 A Judge shall be empowered to call up a dog at any stage in order to give a competing dog the opportunity to perform any aspect of its work.
- 5.8 To prevent any unfair advantage, the Judge and Stewards shall keep the competitors at an even pace and as near a line as possible. The handlers of the dogs shall go together as if it were a brace of dogs and hunt said brace in the stake as in ordinary shooting, so that the dogs shall be on an equality as to ground opportunities for finding, etc. and each handler must keep to his own ground and not cross to his opponent's ground unless directed to do so by the Judge.
- 5.9 As firearm safety is of paramount importance handlers should proceed at all times at a normal walking pace and at no time be deemed to be running.
- 5.10 The handler of a dog in competition shall proceed to his dog as directed by the Judge when it finds, and shall proceed to shoot only under instructions from the Judge, who may require him to shoot over the dog or may direct a Steward to shoot for him. The Judge may require handlers of dogs to go through minutely the motion of aiming with a gun and of shooting a cartridge over any or every established point, upon being ordered to flush a bird. A handler or Steward appointed to shoot for a handler must not shoot game in such manner as to deliberately disadvantage an opponent's dog. The use of blank, approved cartridges shall be at the discretion of the Judge.
- 5.11 The person handling and hunting a dog may speak, whistle and work it by hand as he may deem proper, but he may be called to order by the Judge for making any unnecessary noise or for any disorderly conduct, and if after being cautioned he persists in such noise or disorderly conduct, the Judge may order the dog to be taken up and it then shall be regarded as disqualified from the Stake. An opponent's dog must not be interfered with or excited. No correction, intimidation or punishment by instrument or physical means shall be permitted while the dog is in competition or on the Trial ground.
- 5.12 Dogs are expected to back naturally each time their opponent points game, terrain and cover permitting, providing the dog has a clear opportunity to do so. A dog that deliberately steals shall be disqualified.

- 5.13 Dogs are expected to flush game for the gun on command. A handler shall not touch or walk in front of a pointing dog, stamp on the ground or kick the cover to flush game.
- 5.14 At the discretion of the Judge, a handler may go to his dog after it has shown its ability to back if a handler is handling two dogs, when one dog finds he may ask the Steward to hold the second dog after it has shown its ability to back while he works out the find with the first dog. Handlers should not touch their dog unless instructed to do so by the Judge or Steward.
- 5.15 The handler shall nominate to the Judge and Steward at the start of the first heat whether the dog will seek dead or retrieve the shot game during the trial. A dog shall seek dead or retrieve only when sent by its handler.
- 5.16 The privilege is granted handlers of asking the Judge for information or explanation that has a direct bearing upon any point at issue, but it shall be at the discretion of the Judge as to when and to whether or not the information or explanation is given.
- 5.16 If insufficient game is available on the Trial Ground then the Trial must be abandoned.
- 5.17 The Judge shall stop the trial when wounded game is obviously escaping from a dog which is attempting to seek dead. The Judge shall immediately send any available retrieving dog to retrieve such wounded game.

## **6 Scoring**

This section should be read in conjunction with Section 7 - Definition of Terms.

- 6.1 The Judge shall give credit for a dog's nose as merited for instance, a dog running up wind, carrying its head high (and not pottering on a ground scent), pointing its bird some distance off and remaining staunch on point, shall be deemed to have a better nose than the dog that works out a "foot" scent and eventually stands. Also a galloping dog that suddenly comes to and remains staunch on point will merit full points. A dog shall not be penalised for gradually and carefully drawing up on its game after locating it, providing it approaches slowly and without danger of flushing the birds.
- 6.2 If a dog mouths game it shall be debarred from further participation in the Stake. If a dog chases game it will be debarred from further participation in the Stake.
- 6.3 No dog shall be entitled to Championship points unless it hunts, points, seeks dead or retrieves and has shown ability to back of its own accord providing the dog has a clear opportunity to do so. In States and Territories where there is no open game bird season, Trials shall be conducted in accordance with these Rules, except that the seek dead or retrieve shall be conducted on a dead bird cast from a mechanical thrower located within gun range. (The detailed procedure is covered under Definition of Terms, Clause 7.22)  
*Note:* Under these Rules, fur may be shot during field rounds, and a seek dead or retrieve performed at that time. The Judge shall add and deduct points under the following scales:-



<b>Additions</b>	<b>Max Points</b>
Ranging and Quartering	up to 4
Drawing and Roding	up to 4
Staunchness	up to 4
Obedience	up to 4
Action and Style	up to 8
Backing	up to 4
Finding (each)	up to 5
Seeking Dead or Retrieving (up to max. of 4 each)	up to 8
Acknowledgement of flushed game	up to 4

**N.B.:-** It will be seen that at the conclusion of a heat the points awarded under each of the foregoing titles except "Finding" must not exceed the maximum, whereas, in the case of that qualification, up to full points may be awarded each time the dog Finds.

<b>Deductions</b>	<b>Max Points</b>
Breaking (each offence)	up to 4
Disobedience (each offence)	up to 4
Lack of Staunchness (each offence)	up to 4
Flushing (each offence)	up to 3
Pottering (each offence)	up to 4
Stickiness on point (each offence)	up to 4
Continually lying down on point	up to 4
Continually working in creeping or crawling fashion	up to 4
Poor ground coverage, missing game	up to 4
Failure to back (each offence)	up to 4
Foot scenting	up to 4

6.4 The following shall debar a dog from further participation in the stake in which the offence occurs:

Blinking  
Deliberate stealing  
Repeated false pointing  
Mouthing game  
Chasing fur or feather  
Out of control  
Lack of working ability  
Severe hard mouth

6.5 At the end of the stake the Judge's top three dogs shall be placed in order of merit. Only dogs which have filled their cards will be eligible for placings. These results shall then be handed to the Club by the Judge.

6.6 In the event of a tie both dogs must be given another run. Equal placings cannot be awarded. If a first place is not awarded there shall be no other awards.

## 7 Definition of Terms

- 7.1 **Action and Style:** These are both seen in a fearless, well trained dog that covers its ground with good, free movement, head well held, tail swinging nicely from side to side; in a dog that stands well up and very staunchly on point, with keen expression, and that moves in decidedly on running birds yet with great stealth and caution, head and tail outstretched. Any lethargic movement is contrary to good action and style.
- 7.2 **Backing:** When two dogs are working and, providing they are suitably placed, upon one dog coming on point, the other must honour the point and remain in that position until the pointing dog moves on, providing the dog has a clear opportunity to do so; the backing dog must neither dash nor creep up behind the pointing dog, nor in any way interfere with the work of the dog on game.
- 7.3 **Bird Sense:** Some dogs very apparently use a lot of sense in locating game; in working running game; in standing on point and in finding dead and wounded birds. These dogs have "bird sense".
- 7.4 **Blinking:** Any dog that finds and deliberately passes by the point either through nervousness or bad training, is a "blinker". A dog that finds stands for a few moments and then leaves the point is also a "blinker". But the dog that finds and then moves on or backwards or forwards looking for the bird that has moved on must not be confused with the abovementioned types. Dogs can also be blinkers on the Seek Dead or Retrieve.
- 7.5 **Breaking Fence:** is the act on the part of a dog of going through, over or under a fence without order. All dogs should remain steady at both sides of the fence through or over which their handlers are crossing.
- 7.6 **Breaking to Shot or Flush:** If a dog breaks but is brought under control, it shall be penalised in accordance with the seriousness of the offence.
- 7.7 **Chasing:** This is the deliberate attempt to catch game that is on the move whether or not h has been shot at. A dog that runs in at any speed may be deemed to be chasing. A dog may seek dead or retrieve only on order from the handler. Any dog catching game before it has been shot at shall be penalised according to the seriousness of the offence.
- 7.8 **Drawing On:** When a dog points and the game moves on the dog, to retain contact may at times also move on. This may be to the order or sign of the handler, and is generally a series of quick, careful, stealthy steps. A dog shall not be penalised for drawing on of its own accord, providing that it will remain firm on point and that it does not flush the game
- 7.9 **Drop or Down:** A well-trained dog should drop at command, drop to shot wing or running fur. To drop means to lie down instantly and to remain in position without creeping or crawling in. A dog may sit or stand in position, but must not move from that position until ordered.
- 7.10 **False Point:** When a dog points and there is no game at the place where it points, this is regarded as a false point. However care must be taken to make sure that there is no game or that the game has not just moved on before deciding that the point is false.
- 7.11 **Finding:** A dog is credited with a find when it points and game is located from the point.
- 7.12 **Flushing:** A dog that finds and gets too close to game forcing it to fly may be accused of flushing. A dog working up-wind has little excuse for flushing but a dog working down-wind should not be penalised for the sudden flush of game that it has had no opportunity to wind. A dog should remain steady to flushed game. Dogs that deliberately flush game must be severely penalised.

- 7.13 **Game: Definition for Pointers and Setters: Any Game Bird, Rabbit and Hare:** A dog should be credited with a find on any game, even though the handler must not shoot game for which no open season exists at the time. It is recommended that wherever possible Trials should be conducted on quail. In States and Territories where Game Farms are permitted, during poor seasons for wild native quail, Field Trials may be conducted on exotic game birds. The maximum points gained by a dog at Field Trials conducted on exotic game birds that can subsequently be counted towards the title of Field Trial Champion (or Grand Field Trial Champion) is four (4). The balance of points for the award of such titles must be gained from 1<sup>st</sup> Place awards in National, Championship or Open Stakes and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> Place awards in National or Championship Stakes, all of which were conducted on wild native quail.
- 7.14 **Hard Mouth:** Where there is unmistakable evidence of any markings on game retrieved due to biting or crunching by the dog. All game retrieved must be inspected by the Judge.
- 7.15 **Marking:** Dogs are expected to mark the fall of game.
- 7.16 **Mouthing:** In performing a seek dead, a dog that takes dead or wounded game in its mouth shall be deemed to be mouthing.
- 7.17 **Obedience:** The spontaneous action of obeying all commands. Dogs should act readily and not cower or cringe at their handlers' signs, sounds or commands.
- 7.18 **Pointing:** A Pointer and Setter seeking game should, upon finding immediately become rigid and retain this rigid pose until either the game has moved on or until ordered by the handler to move forward. Dogs may come to a point in practically any natural attitude or position, but an upright stance is preferable to a crouching pose.
- 7.19 **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".
- 7.20 **Quartering:** All well-trained dogs should cover the ground over which they are hunting in front of their handlers in a methodical and orderly manner according to the wind and the country over which they are working. A dog working "up-wind" should cross in front of the handler and turn out into the wind at about 150 metres to the right, and to the left. A dog working down-wind should cast out well ahead of the handler on either the right or left flank. It should then turn, quartering the ground back towards its handler. A "shoulder" wind, half-right or half-left should be worked in the same way as "up-wind", but with the dog covering the ground diagonally. Whilst quartering dogs should be thoroughly under command.
- 7.21 **Ranging:** A dog may seek game close to or wide from the handler, either fast or slow, and will work differently under the varying conditions of wind, cover and abundance or scarcity of game.
- 7.22 **Retrieving:** Retrieving covers the performance of the dog from when it is ordered to retrieve until it delivers the game to the handler. The dog shall retrieve game cleanly to hand. If game is dropped by the dog, it should pick up the game on command. In States and Territories where there is no open game bird season, Trials shall be conducted in accordance with these Rules, except that the Seek Dead or Retrieve shall be tested as follows; At the conclusion of the field rounds, in cover similar to that used in the field work, each dog still in competition shall be walked to the starting point; its lead and collar shall then be removed. The handler's position and distance from the dog shall be at the Judge's discretion and may be next to the dog, to the side or behind the dog. A pen raised bird shall be cast within gun range by thrower to simulate the flight of a quail, and a blank cartridge fired at the bird. The purpose is to test the dog for marking, steadiness to shot and fall of the bird, and for Seeking Dead or Retrieving to hand, as the case may be. Where relevant the game should be checked for evidence of hard mouth. Any game bird or pigeon may be used.

- 7.23 **Roading:** Roading is effected in much the same manner as "drawing-on", except that it is usually done at a much faster pace, i.e. a dog points, the handler some distance away takes time to reach the dog; in the meantime the bird may have run rapidly perhaps to right or left across wind. A well-trained dog will then, keeping to windward of the scent, dash at high speed across wind and pick up the point again many yards to right or left. Clever roading with head high is one of the most spectacular phases of pointer or setter work. One of the worst faults in either Pointer or Setter is to road game, foot scenting with nose to ground.
- 7.24 **Seeking Dead:** A well-trained dog remains steady to shot if game is shot dead or falls wounded, the handler sends the dog from the steady position to find the dead or wounded game. The dog should move steadily in a direct line close to where the game dropped and indicate that the game has been found by standing on point; meanwhile the handler should remain standing in the position from where he fired the shot. As many dead and wounded birds leave little scent and often good dogs have great difficulty in locating them on instruction from the Judge the handler may slowly approach the spot where it is thought the game has dropped, but never closer in than approximately 10 metres. It must be remembered that under certain weather and cover conditions a shot bird that does not move after it falls, often cannot be located unless a dog makes very close contact. A dog should not touch dead or wounded game. Dogs are normally expected to stand well off the dead game and point stylishly.
- 7.25 **Staunchness:** Any dog that, without moving, holds a point well is regarded as staunch on point. A dog following running birds steadily and firmly over any considerable distance so that the handler will get the shot is a staunch worker.
- 7.26 **Stealing:** When the finding dog is drawing on, drawing up after winding game, roading working game after indicating a find by pointing or standing on point, any dog that moves in on the pointing dog shall be regarded as stealing. Dogs are expected to back immediately they sight the pointing dog.

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## POINTER AND SETTER FIELD TRIAL

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Competitor No. \_\_\_\_\_

	Max. Points	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
<b>Additions</b>				
Ranging and quartering	Up to 4			
Drawing and roading	Up to 4			
Staunchness	Up to 4			
Obedience	Up to 4			
Action and Style	Up to 8			
Backing	Up to 4			
Finding (each)	Up to 5			
Seeking dead or retrieves (up to 4 each)	Up to 8			
Acknowledgment of flushed game	Up to 4			
<b>Totals:</b>				
<b>Deductions</b>				
Breaking (each offence)	Up to 4			
Disobedience (each offence)	Up to 4			
Lack of staunchness (each offence)	Up to 4			
Flushing (each offence)	Up to 4			
Pottering (each offence)	Up to 4			
Stickiness on point (each offence)	Up to 4			
Continually lying down on point	Up to 4			
Continually working in creeping or crawling fashion	Up to 4			
Poor ground coverage, missing game	Up to 4			
Foot Scenting	Up to 4			
<b>Totals</b>				

### Eliminations

- Blinking
- Deliberate stealing
- Repeated false pointing
- Mouthing game
- Chasing fur or feather
- Out of control
- Lack of working ability
- Severe hard mouth

**N.B.** Completing the trial will not necessarily mean automatic championship points, as they will be awarded at the discretion of the Judge, based on the merit of the dog's performance (Rule 2.2). No dog shall be entitled to championship points unless it hunts, points, seeks dead or retrieves and has shown ability to back of its own accord. (Rule 6.3)