Suggested changes to Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs Training Scheme

**COMPETITORS**

1. They have competed with and taken a dog to the title of Open Retrieving Ability.
2. Completed a Judges Theory Examination and attained a score of at least 75%.
3. Passed a Practical Test to the satisfaction of their local RAFT Committee

Review: Encourage more competitors to become judges.

Rationale: To encourage more competitors to become judges remove the requirement that they must have taken a dog to the title of Open Retrieving Ability. Make the require requirements similar to that of an Obedience Judge wishing to become a RATG judge

**NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITORS**

1. *They must have competed and assisted by stewarding in at least 3 (three) Novice Retrieving Ability tests AND stewarding in 3 (three) Open Retrieving Ability Tests* .
2. Completed a Judges Theory Examination and attained a score of at least 75%.
3. *Marked sheets at 3 (three) tests with a RAFT appointed Mentor.*
4. Passed a Practical Test to the satisfaction of their local RAFT Committee

**OBEDIENCE JUDGES**

Any person who is qualified to judge an Open Obedience Trial is eligible to judge a Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs provided that:

1. They have completed three Retrieving Trials at Restricted level or attended Retrieving Trials to observe at least two Novice Stakes and one Restricted Stake while in the company of a designated “mentor”.
2. Completed a Judges Theory Examination on the Rules for Retrieving Ability Tests for Gundogs and attained a score of at least 75%.

Review: Encourage more Obedience judges to become RATG judges

Rationale: Consultation with Obedience judges indicate that whilst they more than comfortable with judging and scoring the obedience component of a retrieving ability test marking the retrieving component is more problematic. In addition to attending retrieving trials with a mentor as has been suggested for competitors wishing to become judges the obedience judges should also mark sheets at trials

**OBEDIENCE JUDGES**

Any person who is qualified to judge an Open Obedience Trial is eligible to judge a Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs provided that:

1. They have completed three Retrieving Trials at Restricted level or attended Retrieving Trials to observe at least two Novice Stakes and one Restricted Stake while in the company of a *RAFT appointed mentor* .
2. *Marked sheets at 3 (three) retrieving trials (1 Novice 2 Restricted) with a RAFT appointed Mentor.*
3. Completed a Judges Theory Examination on the Rules for Retrieving Ability Tests for Gundogs and attained a score of at least 75%.