

## **Boykin Spaniel Society Upland Hunt Test General Rules and Regulations**

### **I. Purpose**

The purpose of a Boykin Spaniel in an Upland Hunt (UH) is to find game, flush, and retrieve birds in a pleasant manner. The objective of the UH is to help the handler develop a useful hunting companion by providing a means to gauge a Boykin Spaniel's ability in the Novice, Intermediate and Open stakes. Dogs in all stakes must hunt enthusiastically and retrieve. Dogs should show no fear in questing or entering cover and must be under reasonable control. They must work at a reasonable distance from their handlers, neither too close (which is dangerous and inefficient) nor too far (which presents a difficulty for gunners in bringing down birds). Dogs are rated highest for a bold flush; however a soft flush or momentary stopping is acceptable if the dog, within a very brief period, forces the bird into flight. The BSS Upland Hunt Test shall be held to primarily judge the ability and style of the Boykin spaniel to find and flush upland game. The Boykin Spaniel is prized due to its versatility so the incorporated water work is also important and should be judged accordingly.

### **II. Eligibility**

- (A.) Any Boykin Spaniel Society (BSS) registered dog may compete.
- (B.) All handlers must be a member in good standing with the Boykin Spaniel Society.
- (C.) New Clubs must apply for admission to the BSS Upland Hunt Test program. Forms are available online or from the BSS.
- (D.) Dogs may be entered in only one (1) stake.
- (E.) Minors (under 18) handling dogs in the Intermediate or Open stake are required to submit a copy of their Hunter Safety Certificate with their entry form.
- (F.) The BSS will maintain records of each dog's achievements passes, titles and points earned.

#### **Novice:**

Five (5) achievement points per hunt shall be earned for those dogs that pass a Novice Hunt. A pass in the Novice class shall be referred to as a Novice Pass.

Four (4) Novice passes (20 points) are required to earn the Upland Novice (UN) title. Once a dog has achieved his UN title it may continue to run in the Novice Class, but additional points will not be awarded.

#### **Intermediate:**

Ten (10) achievement points per hunt may be earned for those dogs that pass an Intermediate Hunt. A pass in the Intermediate class shall be referred to as a Intermediate Pass.

Four (4) Intermediate passes (40 points) are required to earn an Upland Intermediate (UI) title. Once a dog has achieved its UI title it may continue to run in the Intermediate Class but additional points will not be awarded

#### **Open:**

Twenty (20) achievement points per hunt may be earned for those dogs that pass an Open Hunt. A pass in the Open class shall be referred to as an Open Pass.

Four (4) Open passes (80 points) are required for the Upland Open (UO) title. Once a dog has achieved its UO title it may continue to run in the Open class and accrue additional points.

#### **BSS National Upland Field Trial:**

Dogs that have earned an Upland Open (UO) title will be eligible to obtain additional achievement points at the BSS Upland National Field Trial. Upland Open (UO) titled dogs that earn a placement in the open stake at the BSS Upland National Field Trial shall be awarded points as follows: First Place 40 points, Second Place 30 points, Third Place 20 points and Fourth Place 10 points.

#### **BSS Upland Grand Champion:**

The title of BSS Upland Grand Champion (UGCH) shall be awarded to any Boykin earning 500 or more points.

### III. Hunt Test Committee

The Upland Hunt Test Committee (UHTC) is a sub committee of the BSS Field Trail Committee. The UHTC is charged with recommending a Boykin Spaniel Club to the Boykin Spaniel Society Board of Directors for approval to hold an Upland Hunt Test. The UH shall be planned and conducted by an approved Boykin Spaniel club with initial guidance from the UHTC. The UHTC shall be comprised of no fewer than five members of the Boykin Spaniel Society and may include the Hunt Test Secretary from the approved club, but said secretary shall not be designated as the LHTC (Local Hunt Test Committee) Chairman. At least one member of the UHTC must be present during a club's initial Upland hunt test, however in the event a member is unavailable, the Chairman of the UHTC shall appoint a BSS member in order to comply with this section. The UHTC and LHTC Chairman shall be responsible for ensuring compliance by the approved club with all applicable rules, regulations and guidelines for the Upland Hunt test except for those under the sole jurisdiction of the judges. The UHTC shall rely upon the approved club to hold an Upland hunt test in accordance with all rules and regulations as approved by the Boykin Spaniel Society. The approved club's initial Upland Hunt Test shall be run under the guidance and supervision of the UHTC and such committee shall have the authority to decide upon any matter arising during the initial Upland hunt test except for those matters under the jurisdiction of the judges. After the approved club's initial Upland hunt test is completed the UHTC shall report its conclusion and recommendation to fully sanction the host club with the BSS. Once a club is fully sanctioned by the BSS, such sanctioned club shall be able to hold Upland Hunt Tests without the representation and involvement of the BSS UHTC, except in an advisory capacity, which representation shall be at least one member of the BSS UHTC.

### IV. Judges

(A.) Each stake shall be judged by two (2) judges.

(B) The BSS UHTC must approve all judges at least 30 days prior to the scheduled event. The UHTC will give consideration to any experienced upland judges to score an event. Priority will be given to judges with upland and or spaniel flushing experience, such as the HRC Upland program, or other Spaniel judging experience. Beginning in 2011 a list of approved judges will be maintained on the BSS Upland hunt test web site.

(C.) One (1) apprentice judge per stake may be approved by the BSS Hunt Test Committee. The primary function of the apprentice judge is to learn and gain experience from the experienced judges. Apprentice judges must have trained and handled a dog to a passing score in a BSS Upland Hunt Test class at least equal to the class they are requesting to apprentice in. Earning a ribbon at a BSS Upland national field trial would also qualify an individual for apprentice judging in a class equal to or below the class they would be judging at a BSS Upland Hunt Test. In other words, a Novice class ribbon or pass qualifies the individual for apprentice work in Novice class only; an Intermediate ribbon or pass would qualify them for Novice or Intermediate; an Open ribbon or pass qualifies the individual to apprentice at any level. An apprentice judge will be considered fully trained after judging 4 events with at least two different judges. All individuals applying to apprentice must have passed and possess a state certified Hunters Safety Course and must be a member in good standing of the Boykin Spaniel Society.

(D.) Judges are representatives of the BSS and shall abide by the rules, regulations and guidelines as set forth herein.

(E.) Prior to the start of each stake, judges shall be required to go over all safety measures with handlers, marshals, gunners, bird planters, Etc.

(F.) Judges decisions are final.

### V. Courses

All courses shall consist of sufficient cover to hold birds and be of adequate size to permit a dog to hunt naturally. Courses should be fairly level or moderately undulating. Cover should be natural and the judges should be able to see the dogs the majority of the time. Courses may be staked/flagged only to indicate the perimeter of the field and must be utilized just as they would be in hunting. At no time should the handlers be aware of where birds are planted. Only one dog shall be permitted to run at a time, but stakes may be run simultaneously provided that there is no interference. Mechanical vehicles, not to include ATVs that may be used by bird planters, should be kept off of marked courses.

## VI. Safety

Safety is to always be at the forefront of any and all Boykin Spaniel Society Field events. An item of blaze orange must be worn by judges, marshals, handlers, gunners, bird planters and gallery. Bird planters and gunners should use protective eye wear. The use of hearing protection is suggested.

## VII. Guns/Gunners

(A.) Dogs shall be shot over by official gunners appointed by the LHTC. The official gunners should shoot their game in a sportsman like manner, as they would in a days shoot. The official gunners represent the handler up to the time the game is shot, and may not interfere in any manner with his work (handler) or the working of the dog. The gunners, if possible or unless otherwise directed by the judges, are to down cleanly, efficiently and consistently the game flushed by the dog, at a point most advantageously to a fair and natural test of the dogs abilities, with due regard to the judges, handlers, marshals, bird planters, gallery and other contingencies.

(B.) Flushed birds shall not be shot until the dog is steady. Care must be taken to shoot so that game will not fall too close to the dog: this is done so as to afford a chance for the dog to show steadiness and good retrieving ability, and otherwise could also result in a bird being destroyed. The gunners should stand perfectly quiet after the shot or otherwise they may interfere with the dog and/or handler. When a dog makes a retrieve, no other birds or game should be shot unless ordered by the judges for special reasons. The gunners must also keep themselves in the correct position relative to the handlers and/or others.

(C.) Official gunners MUST utilize double guns (over/under or side by side) no smaller than 20 gauge in the upland portion of the test. Whenever handlers are required to wield and shoot a gun, 12 gauge pump action or single-shot shotguns and primer loads may be used instead of double guns.

(D.) Judges shall have complete authority over the official gunners.

(E.) Every effort should be made to find gunners with valid Hunters Safety Certificates.

## VIII. Birds

(A.) Pigeons, chukar, quail, or pheasants may be used in the land series of the Novice upland stake.

(B.) Only pheasant, quail or chukar may be used in the land series of the Intermediate and Open upland stakes.

(C.) Mallard ducks or upland game birds shall be used in the water series of all stakes. Pigeons may be used in the water for the Novice class only if fresh mallards or upland game birds are not available. If pigeons or game birds are used, a fresh bird will be used for each mark for each individual dog.

(D.) No live bird shall be used in any stake while under any form of restraint or physical impairment during the test. Live flushes must be used for all stakes. Boxes and other means of simulating an artificial flush and/or containment baskets may not be utilized in these Upland tests.

(E.) The LHTC shall appoint one or more Game Stewards to care for all live birds and to arrange for the proper disposal of all harvested game. Game birds should be cleaned and packaged during the UH, so that no bird is wasted. Each club shall be required to provide a game cleaning station that will include the following as a minimum: cleaning table, game shears, access to clean water, trash receptacle and a cooler with ice for the clean birds. Handlers should be encouraged to clean their own birds, and the host club must clean all remaining game birds. The proper handling, processing and disposal of harvested game birds will be a major determinant in the BSS UH club approval process.

## IX. Marshals

The LHTC shall appoint a marshal for each stake whose duty it shall be to assist the judges and to carry out their instructions, including regulating and controlling the gallery, and seeing that the gallery is kept separate from and behind the judges and that no one converses or interferes with the judges, handler, dog or gunners while a dog is working. The marshal shall also advise the handlers and judges as to the boundaries of the course. The marshal has the authority to control the gallery and may excuse anyone who does not comply with his/her instructions.

## X. Additional Guidelines

(A.) Bitches in season shall not be eligible for entry and shall not be allowed on the grounds. Entry fees paid for a bitch withdrawn because of coming into season, or for a dog withdrawn because of illness or injury, or for a dog that dies, shall be refunded in full provided such a request is received by the LHTC Secretary within five (5) days of the completion of the test. All refund requests must be accompanied by a written veterinarian certification.

(B.) The LHTC will designate an exercise/airing area. Tossing of "happy bumpers" is permitted in this designated area only. No training, severe correction or disciplining of dogs is permitted on any part of the test grounds. If such serious training is observed by another competitor or attendee at the event then a complaint must be filed immediately with the LHTC for review and dissemination for appropriate action. Such action could be expulsion of the offending party from the Upland hunt test.

(C.) Handlers are responsible for controlling their dogs at all times. Any dog or handler interfering with the testing of another dog may be subject to disqualification at the judges' discretion.

(D.) Dogs will be disqualified for unprovoked fighting or attacking handlers, spectators, judges, etc. Dogs that are disqualified under this section must immediately be confined. It shall be the duty of the marshal and/or judges to immediately report to the LHTC the expulsion of a dog under this section. The LHTC Secretary shall submit to the Board of Directors of the BSS a complete report of any action taken under this section.

(E.) Dogs shall be worked singly in all field stakes, with the order of running decided by lot at the draw for all stakes as determined by the LHTC in advance of the event. Dogs worked by the same handler shall be separated in the running order when possible. Dogs may be run in an order different from the order in which they are drawn when, in the opinion of the judges and the LHTC, such running order change will result in a reasonable and desirable saving of time in the conduct of the event.

(F.) All persons participating in or observing any event are expected to maintain reasonable silence and display good manners. Persons who interfere with the orderly process of any stake may be instructed by the judges, marshal or LHTC to leave the Upland hunt test grounds.

(G.) At the handler's option, in any stake, a dog may run with a flat collar only. Choke, pinch, prong, spike collars and electric or dummy collars shall not be worn by a dog on the Upland hunt test grounds.

(H.) Unless otherwise instructed by the judges, dogs are being tested from the time that they are called to the line until they are excused by the judges and are on leash/lead.

(I.) Unless otherwise instructed, a dog is to be released by the handler on the judge's signal.

(J.) In all stakes on land, if flushed birds are missed or cannot be shot safely, dead birds will be thrown and a shotgun fired for the dog to make its retrieve(s) in order that retrieving ability may be judged.

(K.) Handlers must not allow their dog to view the water series test of the class in which they are entered. Violation of this section is grounds for disqualification.

(L.) All water series in all stakes should allow the dog to be cast from as close to the waters edge as feasible.

(M.) Dogs that require help from bird boys/bird throwers will be failed. Stone or object throwing is not permissible.

(N.) A re-run may be granted if, in the opinion of the judges, an unfair or unforeseen circumstance occurs during the test. It shall be the option of the handler to immediately re-run the dog or to wait three (3) dogs, if that number remains, down the line.

(O.) Additional re-casts may be awarded by the judges without penalty if, in the opinion of the judges, the dog was been distracted by outside interference.

(P.) Trapped birds shall not count as flushed birds. Birds are considered flushed when they take wing and are no longer within reach of the dog. Trapping birds shall not be considered a fault.

(Q.) All birds retrieved shall be examined by one of the judges. A dog that renders a bird unfit for consumption shall be failed, but the judges must agree that the dog alone was responsible for the damage.

(R.) Open, Intermediate and Novice dogs should be sent on all reasonable retrieves as long as they are safe (no fences, roads, etc.). On long falls the handler may, after sending the dog, move up to within reasonable proximity of the fall in order to handle the dog. The judges shall determine what is reasonable based on site conditions such as cover, terrain, and weather during the Hunt.

(S.) Failing scores shall only be assigned for the following:

- (1.) Refusal to hunt
- (2.) Blinking birds
- (3.) Consistent failure to find birds
- (4.) Viciousness, gun shyness, out of control
- (5.) Hard mouth
- (6.) Refusal to retrieve
- (7.) A dog discarding game for other interests (does not apply to Intermediate diversionary bird)
- (8.) No steadiness to wing, shot and fall in the Open class (a controlled break shall not fail a dog)

All dogs should be allowed to run all series regardless of their performance, unless there are time or weather concerns.

(T.) Mechanical wingers may be used in the series involving only retrieving.

(U.) Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- (1.) It shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct if a participant or guest, during the running of or in conjunction with an event, abuses or harasses a judge, official, or any other person present in any capacity at the UH test.
- (2.) Any person who displays unsportsmanlike conduct or is seen to kick, strike, or otherwise roughly treat a dog while on the grounds of the Hunt Test at any time during the running of such event shall be expelled from the hunt by the LHTC.
- (3.) The judges shall also have the authority to expel a person if they observe unsportsmanlike conduct, or see a person kicking, striking, or otherwise roughly treating a dog while the event is in progress. It will be the duty of the judges to promptly report such expulsion to the LHTC.
- (4.) The LHTC shall investigate at once any instance of alleged unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of any person or handler, or any report that a person or handler has been observed kicking, striking or otherwise roughly treating a dog. Improper behavior such as excessive alcohol consumption which leads to belligerence with others in attendance or to physical confrontations with others will not be tolerated and will lead to immediate dismissal from the event and immediate expulsion from the hunt test and disqualification of all dogs receiving a pass run by that handler, trainer or owner involved. If the LHTC, after investigation, determines that a person or handler is in violation of this section and that the incident, if proven, would constitute conduct prejudicial to the sport or the Boykin Spaniel Society, then said LHTC shall within thirty (30) days file a report with the Board of Directors of the Boykin Spaniel Society for review with further possible disciplinary action from the BSS.

## Regulations and Field Procedures for the Novice Class

### Section 1.

The Novice Dog Upland stake shall consist of a minimum of two (2) series, which shall include the following:

- A. one upland series to give each dog the opportunity to flush and retrieve three (3) birds.
- B. a single marked water retrieve of not less than 20 yards and not to exceed 30 yards.

### Section 2.

Novice dogs must find, flush and retrieve three (3) birds in each of the land series. Time, weather or other constraints may affect this section. The judges will make the final determination on the number of bird contacts and retrieves.

### Section 3.

A Novice dog must demonstrate a desire to hunt in an enthusiastic manner and demonstrate the ability to retrieve. The Novice dog should show no fear of cover, exhibit a reasonable response to commands (whistle, hand or verbal), and maintain a reasonable working distance from its handler.

### Section 4.

The Novice dog should be a pleasurable hunting companion. Running out of control and clearing a field of birds is not a preferred ability. The Novice dog is not required to be steady to wing and /or shot. However, the Novice dog should show a degree of control that allows the handler to call the dog off of a flyaway, so as not to clear the field of other birds.

### Section 5.

If the dog has been unable to demonstrate its ability to retrieve on land by the third bird contact, the judges will set up a single marked retrieve test from a distance of not less than 25 yards and no more than 40 yards. The dog is required to be steady at the point of origin; however, it may be restrained by fingers slipped under the collar, have a leash line or slip lead around its neck, and/or may be held by gently placing a hand on the chest of the dog to achieve steadiness. A designated gunner shall fire a shot when the bird is thrown, but only after receiving full instruction from a judge. Completion of this test will satisfy the requirement that the dog completes at least one marked land retrieve.

### Section 6.

If the Novice dog finds and flushes three birds and the gunners miss all birds then that will be considered a No-bird series and the judges will set up a single marked retrieve test. See Section 5.

### Section 7.

A Novice dog may be restrained gently on line at the water series by means of a slip lead or a finger under the collar as long as the dog is not leaping into the air and/or pulling strenuously against the handler.

### Section 8.

Bird boys can be in clear view of the dog in the Novice class water series. Bird boys shall use an attention-getting device (duck or game bird call) prior to the bird being thrown. In addition, when the bird reaches the top of its arc a designated gunner will fire a shot from the casting/retrieving line.

- A. Should the handler opt not to restrain the dog, a controlled break shall not fail a dog but shall result in a lower appraisal. If a dog is immediately steadied by non-excessive voice or whistle, a controlled break is a minor infraction.
- B. Bank running, while not preferred, is permitted. Tests should be set up so as to make bank running as uninviting as possible.
- C. A novice dog may be cast two (2) times from the line.

### Section 9.

Novice dogs are not required to deliver to hand in any series. However, retrieves must be completed to close proximity (generally within two steps) of the handler. Excessive shouting, whistling or signaling by the handler shall be considered a moderate fault and will be evaluated accordingly.

## Regulations and Field Procedures for the Intermediate Class

### Section 1.

The Intermediate Dog Upland stake shall consist of four (4) parts, which shall include the following:

- A. one land series to give each dog the opportunity to flush and retrieve three (3) birds
- B. one walk up (jump shoot)
- C. a blind retrieve on land with distance of at least 20 yards, but not to exceed 30 yards
- D. two single marked water retrieves at a distance no more than 40 yards and no less than 25 yards in open water. A diversionary mark may be thrown during the dog's return of the final water retrieve.

### Section 2.

Intermediate dogs must find, flush and retrieve to hand at least three (3) birds in the land series. Time, weather or other constraints may affect this section. The judges will have the final say on number of bird contacts and retrieves.

### Section 3.

The Intermediate dog must show true boldness to cover, a pattern addressing the course objectives and an intense desire to hunt. A proper working distance and independent hunting sense should be maintained. An Intermediate dog should not constantly look to the handler for directions and should not give the appearance of being led to the birds.

### Section 4.

Intermediate dogs are required to be steady to wing, shot and fall. Controlled breaks will not be penalized. The Intermediate dog is not expected to be a polished performer and moderate voice and whistle commands are acceptable to gain compliance.

### Section 5.

If the dog is unable to demonstrate its ability to mark and retrieve on land following the third bird contact, the judges will set up a single marked retrieve test from a distance of not less than 25 yards and no more than 40 yards. The dog is required to be line steady. A designated gunner shall fire a shot when the dead bird is thrown, but only after receiving full instruction from a judge. Completion of this test will satisfy the requirement that the dog completes at least one marked land retrieve.

### Section 6.

The walk up series is to simulate a jump shooting opportunity. The dog should walk quietly at heel with minimal reminders to heel. Loud and repetitive commands from the handler which would disturb the hunt are grounds for penalty. Intermediate dogs are required to be steady on the walk up series. A controlled break would not disqualify the dog, but should be marked down. The walk up bird may be hand thrown or mechanically launched by the bird boy. Handlers must shoulder their gun and fire a popper at the walk up mark. A pump or single shot shotgun may be used for this series.

### Section 7.

The blind should be run as a true blind, not as a hunt it up unseen fall. The judges shall clearly mark the birds location for the blind: orange flagging tape or an orange blind pole is the preferred method. Dogs are expected to show the ability to either take a direct line to the blind, or stop on a whistle and take a cast. The distance to the blind is set by the judges (not to exceed 30 yards) and handlers may not move up beyond the casting line. Lateral movements will be allowed to better view the dogs progress, but at no time should these lateral movements shorten the distance of the line to the bird. Handlers must shoulder their gun and fire a popper in the direction of the blind. A pump or single shot shotgun may be used for this series.

### Section 8.

An Intermediate dog must be steady at the line for the water series and must deliver all birds to hand.

- A. The judges are responsible for determining when the handler is to send the dog.
- B. Bank running, while permitted, should be kept to a minimum.
- C. Intermediate dog should show eagerness to enter the water. The dog may be cast two (2) times but after a second refusal to enter the water the test shall be failed.
- D. Controlled breaks shall not fail a dog but should be marked down.

### Section 9.

The water marks must be widely separated with an angle of at least forty-five (45) degrees between the two falls.

### Section 10.

Bird boys must be hidden. Prior to throwing each mark, bird boys must use an attention getting device (duck or game bird call).

Section 11.

Handlers are required to shoulder and fire a shotgun (loaded with poppers/blanks) at each mark during the water series. A pump shotgun may be used for this series. Handlers are expected to shoulder, aim, track and fire just as they would when hunting. GUN SAFETY IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE. Mishandling of a firearm will result in immediate disqualification.

Section 12.

If a diversionary mark is included, the diversion bird may only be thrown as the dog is returning with the final bird of the water marks. The diversion bird should land in the water where the dog can see it, but not in the return path of the dog. The dog should not drop his retrieve and switch to the diversion: switching will not fail a dog but will be marked down as lack of control.

## **Regulations and Field Procedures for the Open Class**

Section 1.

The Open Dog Upland stake shall consist of three (3) series which shall include at least the following:

- A. one Upland series to give each dog the opportunity to flush and retrieve at least three (3) birds.
- B. one water series consisting of a double mark, with an honor, at distances no more than 50 yards and no less than 40 yards.
- C. one blind water retrieve whose distance shall not to exceed 40 yards but may be any distance less than 40 yards. The blind retrieve may be incorporated with marked retrieves.

Section 2.

Open dogs must find, flush and retrieve to hand at least three (3) birds during the land series. Under reasonable conditions, not more than ten (10) minutes per series should be required to find birds. Time, weather or other constraints may affect this section. The judges will have the final say on number of bird contacts and retrieves.

Section 3.

An Open dog must show all of the attributes of the Intermediate dog, but must also give a finished performance clearly defining it as such. It must be under the control of the handler at all times and must handle kindly with an absolute minimum of noise and hacking by the handler. An Open dog must show a keen desire to hunt, must have a bold and attractive manner of running, and must demonstrate not only intelligence in seeking objectives, but also excellent ability to find game. The open dog must hunt for its handler at all times at a suitable gun range, showing a fine Spaniel pattern and experienced hunting independence. The dog must locate game, flush with intent and must be absolutely steady to wing and shot without excessive handling in both land and water portions of the test. Intelligent use of the wind and terrain in locating game, an accurate nose, and intensity are essential.

Section 4.

An Open dog must be steady to wing, shot and fall, and will be failed for an inability to demonstrate this trained aptitude. A controlled break shall not necessarily fail the dog, but must be considered a serious fault. Repeated evidence of unsteadiness shall be cause for failure.

Section 5.

If the dog is unable to demonstrate its ability to mark and retrieve on land following the third bird contact, the judges will set up a single marked retrieve test from a distance of not less than 35 yards and no more than 60 yards. The dog is required to be steady. A designated gunner shall fire a shot when the bird is thrown, but only after receiving full instruction from a judge. Completion of this test will satisfy the requirement that the dog completes at least one marked land retrieve. This retrieve should be set up to most accurately reproduce similar retrieves observed for other dogs during the days' hunt.

Section 6.

An Open dog must be steady at the line for the water series and must deliver all birds to hand.

- A. The judges are responsible for determining when the handler is to send the dog.
- B. Bank running, while permitted, should be kept to a minimum.
- C. The Open dog should show eagerness to enter the water.
- D. Controlled breaks shall not fail a dog but should be marked down.
- E. Excessive handling on water marks, including whistle and/or cast refusals, shall be judged a moderate fault.

Section 7.

Handlers will be required to fire a shotgun (loaded with blanks) at each mark during the water series. A pump shotgun may be used for this series. Handlers are expected to shoulder, aim, track and fire just as they would if hunting. GUN SAFETY IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE. Mishandling of a firearm will result in immediate disqualification.

Section 8.

Bird boys must be hidden from view of the dog. Prior to throwing each mark, the bird boys must use an attention-getting device (duck or game bird call).

Section 9.

Upon successful completion of the water marks, each dog shall be required to honor the work of another dog. Once the working dog is well on its way to the first retrieve, the judges shall excuse the honor dog. Neither the honor dog nor its handler shall interfere with the working dog.

Section 10.

The blind is to be run as a true blind, not a hunt it up unseen fall. Dogs must show the ability to either take a direct line to the blind, or stop on a whistle and take a cast. The distance to the blind is set by the judges and handlers may not move up during the running. Lateral movements will be allowed to better view the dogs progress. At no time should these lateral movements shorten the distance of the line to the bird.

Section 11.

The judges shall clearly mark the bird location for the blind. Orange flagging tape or an orange blind pole is the preferred method. The water blind must be placed so that it is not in line with any of the marks. At some time during the water series handlers must shoot the blind. This may be during the marking section or separately as the judges determine.