



**WORKING GUNDOGS**

**HUNT, POINT & RETRIEVE  
FIELD TRIALS**

**OFFICIAL NATIONAL RULES**

**Revised 2011**

**No. 2**



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These Rules for the conduct of National Championships have been compiled by the Discipline Subcommittee, with amendments by the SSAA National Discipline Chairmans' Conference and approved and ratified for printing by the SSAA Inc National Board.

## **SSAA WORKING GUNDOGS HUNT, POINT & RETRIEVE FIELD TRIALS**

### **NATIONAL RULES**

#### **REVISED 2011**

#### **No. 2**

### **SECTION 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

**1.1.1** The aim of a Hunt, Point & Retrieve (HPR) Field Trial is, under conditions as similar as possible to a normal day's hunting, to test handlers and their dogs in competition against each other in order to determine the dog that best fulfils the role of a HPR gundog on the day of the trial.

**1.2** Competitors must at all times act in a responsible and sportsman like manner and observe the SSAA Working Gundog Association of Australia (WGAA) rules.

### **SECTION 2: SSAA STANDARD RULES**

Note: In this SSAA Working Gundogs Hunt, Point and Retrieve Rule Book the term "Range Officer" shall refer to "Trial Manager" ; "firing range", "firing line" and "range" shall refer to "trial site" ; "Target scorer" shall refer to "Judge" ; and "shooting competitions" shall refer to "trials".

#### **2.1 COMPETITOR'S ELIGIBILITY**

A competitor who competes in a National Championship must be a financial member of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia or an Association affiliated with the SSAA Inc or under special invitation from the SSAA Inc National Board.

A current SSAA membership card or official documentation from the SSAA National Membership Office or a SSAA State or Territory Association showing current membership details shall be accepted as proof of their financial membership, providing they are not under suspension from membership.

Members of Affiliated Associations must provide adequate documentation of their current membership of the Affiliate Association.

Any person who is unfinancial or is unable to provide proof of their financial status may pay their full membership fee for the applicable SSAA State or Territory Association, to the host Branch / Club, providing they are not under a suspension from membership.

## **2.2 JUNIOR COMPETITORS**

A SSAA junior member is any member under the age of 18 years at the commencement of the Championships.

A Junior competitor in a National Championship shall pay no more than one half of the standard adult entry fee.

If the Discipline's National Championship includes Graded and / or Junior categories, a Junior competitor is eligible to compete for Junior, Grade and Open medals and awards. The winning of a Junior medal or award does not preclude a Junior competitor from winning any other category of medal or award.

Junior competitors are divided into two classes

- Under 15 years
- Under 18 years and 15 years and over

## **2.3 STUCK LIVE ROUND: MANDATORY RULE**

In the event of a malfunction which results in a stuck live round which cannot be simply removed from the breech end of the barrel, the firearm is to be made safe and removed from the range to a competent person for repairs. Under no circumstance is an attempt to be made to remove the round by insertion of a cleaning rod or similar object from the muzzle end of the firearm.

## **2.4 COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY**

### **2.4.1 Competitors to be familiar with the Rules**

Competitors should be familiar with the Rules pertaining to National Championships.

### **2.4.2 Sportsmanship**

Competitors shall behave in a sportsmanlike manner as befitting membership of the SSAA.

### **2.4.3 Behaviour**

Competitors should refrain from boisterous conduct on the firing range during the conduct of an event. A competitor failing to observe this fact will be disciplined by the Range Officer. In the event of boisterous or unsportsmanlike behaviour by a competitor the Range Officer shall caution the offender once, and, if there is any repetition of the conduct,

the competitor may be asked to immediately leave the firing line and may also be disqualified.

Any disqualification made under this Rule may be appealable under the procedure set down in Section 2.7 of these Rules.

#### **2.4.4 Range Safety Rules**

All competitors should familiarise themselves with the usual safety precautions observed on SSAA ranges as well as any Rules specific to the range on which a particular championship is being conducted. Unsafe practices by a competitor on a SSAA range can be grounds for disqualification.

#### **2.4.5 Safety Equipment**

It is strongly recommended that ear and eye protection be worn at all times by persons who are in the vicinity of the firing line whilst shooting is underway.

It is recommended that suitable clothing, including enclosed shoes or boots, be worn at all times by a competitor whilst engaged in the competition and in the vicinity of the firing line.

A competitor may wear medical equipment which may be seen as giving support if a medical certificate confirming the competitor's need to wear such a device for health reasons is submitted to the National Discipline Chairman and or Discipline Subcommittee for approval prior to the commencement of the competition.

### **2.5 RULE INFRINGEMENTS**

A competitor found to be infringing these Rules will be given a warning by the Range Officer. If the infringement continues the competitor may be suspended or disqualified from the competition being contested and their scores will not be recorded.

Safety infringements or breaches may result in immediate suspension or disqualification.

### **2.6 DISCIPLINE CHAIRMAN'S AUTHORITY**

The Discipline's Chairman shall have the power to direct the Host Branch / Club in the manner in which the Championships are to be conducted, and shall have the right to interpret the Rules and requirements to ensure the Championships are conducted in an acceptable and uniform manner.

### **2.7 PROTEST AND APPEALS COMMITTEE**

The Rules for the Protest and Appeals Committee are common to all SSAA Disciplines and form part of each Discipline's Rule Book. The Rules are as follows:

- 2.7.1** At all registered Tournaments (Championships) there shall be a Protest and Appeals Committee (hereinafter called "Appeals Committee") which shall be formed by the National Discipline Chairman or their appointed nominee to hear and decide protests and appeals.
- 2.7.2** The Appeals Committee shall consist of a minimum of three people, including the National Discipline Chairman, any one of whom may be a competitor. The National Discipline Chairman will chair the Appeals Committee. But in no case shall an appellant or protester be included as a member of the Appeals Committee (notwithstanding any rule or rules of law to the contrary). In competitions where more than one State is represented a delegate from any of the States represented may be appointed to be a member of the said Committee and such appointments shall be at the discretion of the National Discipline Chairman or their appointed nominee.
- 2.7.3** A protest may be lodged by any competitor who feels aggrieved by a decision of the Range Officer, the target scorers, or any other organisational matters or methods of conducting the competition. A competitor may protest the conduct of another competitor(s) or that another competitor(s) has not fulfilled their obligations according to these Rules, or has not properly obeyed the Rules.
- 2.7.4** The protest must be lodged in writing and accompanied by a fee set by the National Discipline Chairman. If the protest or appeal is upheld, the applicant is to be refunded the amount of the fee. If the protest is disallowed, then the fee shall be forfeited to the organisers conducting the competition.
- 2.7.5** The protest is to be lodged with the Range Officer or other persons nominated by the National Discipline Chairman of the competition to receive appeals. A protest may be lodged during the conduct of a competition or after the competition has been completed but not later than 30 minutes after the scores for that competition have been announced or posted. When received, the protest or appeal must be given to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee as soon as possible.
- 2.7.6** The Chairman shall convene the Appeals Committee without undue delay and the Appeals Committee shall be empowered to hear evidence from the protester, the appellant and person(s) involved in the protest; to require the Range Officer, Scorers or organisers to produce targets, score sheets or other material relevant to the protest; to call evidence from any other person(s) who may be able to help the Appeals Committee and to do all such other things that the Appeals Committee believes will enable it to reach an unbiased and just decision.



**2.7.7** Any accused person shall:

- 2.7.7.1 have a right to be heard before the Appeals Committee and to remain in attendance during each session of the Appeals Committee.
- 2.7.7.2 be advised of the time and place the Appeals Committee shall hear evidence of the protest or appeal.
- 2.7.7.3 be entitled to remain in attendance before the Appeals Committee until the Appeals Committee adjourns the proceedings to make its decision.
- 2.7.7.4 be informed of the evidence or allegations made.
- 2.7.7.5 be supplied the details of verbal or written statements made against that person or persons.
- 2.7.7.6 be given an opportunity before the Appeals Committee to correct or contradict any accusations or allegations made.

**2.7.8** Immediately the Appeals Committee has made a decision, the Appeals Committee Chairman shall verbally announce it to a gathering of competitors summoned to hear the decision or post the decision on a notice board. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on the matter of the protest and on all persons concerned therein.

Note: Desirably the Appeals Committee proceedings and deliberations should be conducted out of the public gaze and free from distractions of the ongoing competition.

**2.8 SUPPLEMENTARY EVENTS**

State and Territory Associations or Bodies may devise their own type of shooting competitions and formulate their own Rules for the conduct of supplementary competitions, but in National Championships they will be obliged to abide by the Rules laid down from time to time by the SSAA Inc for the conduct of National Championships.

The conduct of supplementary events shall not in any way infringe on the conduct and completion of the core National events.

## **SECTION 3: ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **3.1 AUTHORITY**

The WGAA HPR Sub-discipline committee in each State or Territory shall sanction Field Trials in accordance with these rules. The HPR Sub-discipline shall appoint a Trial Management committee and a Protest and Appeals committee for each trial.

### **3.2 ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE**

**3.2.1** The following breeds are eligible to compete:

- Epagneul Breton (Brittany / Brittany Spaniel)
- German Shorthaired Pointer
- German Wirehaired Pointer (Deutsche Drahthaar)
- Italian Spinone
- Large Munsterlander
- Vizsla
- Weimaraner
- And other HPR breeds as defined by the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI)

**3.2.2** Only dogs that are registered with the SSAA Working Gundog Association of Australia (WGAA) are eligible to compete.

**3.2.3** Where specifically scheduled any other pointing dog with the ability to fulfil the requirements, as stated in these rules, will also be eligible, but will not be eligible for any HPR titles or Championship points.

### **3.3 GAME LAWS**

The Shooting and Game Laws of the State / Territory in which the field trial is being held must be observed and will govern the conduct of all trials. The Judge's Steward can ask any handler of a firearm to produce an applicable game or shooter's licence before commencement of a trial. Failure to provide such documentation upon request will deem the handler ineligible to enter.

### **3.4 RECOGNISED GAME**

Recognised game are stubble quail, rabbit, hare, and any exotic game that complies with the Game Laws of the State / Territory in which the Field Trial is being conducted.

For the water work aspect of these trials, pigeons or any artificial item approved by the Trial Committee may be used for retrieving.

### **3.5 SCHEDULES**

Details of each event conducted under these rules will be published in a schedule that will include information relating to date, time, Judge, Judge's Steward, entry fees, closing date, approximate trial location, and any other relevant information. The Field Trial Committee shall endeavour to ensure that all interested members are given the opportunity to enter.

### **3.6 COMPETITOR NUMBERS**

No field trial can be conducted unless there are at least six (6) competing dogs and at least four (4) different handlers. Wins & other qualifications shall count as from the time the Judge informs the Trial Committee of the respective placings.

### **3.7 SCORE SHEETS (JUDGE'S CARD)**

The Judge shall maintain a score sheet of each dog's performance in each round.

It is at the Judge's discretion to decide whether to show judging sheets to competitors, although the practice of informing competitors of their performance is to be encouraged. The Judge must mark the trial catalogue with their signature, including date, prior to award presentation.

Once the Judge signs the catalogue, all placings are final pending any appeals or protests. The authorised catalogue must be forwarded to and retained by the Trial Manager.

### **3.8 RULE BOOK REVIEW**

- 3.8.1** Rule Book reviews shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements set out in the SSAA National Discipline Chairmans' Handbook. Participation in the Rule Book review shall be open to WGAA HPR participants who have been actively involved in SSAA WGAA HPR trials.

## **SECTION 4: PROCEDURE**

### **4.1 FIELD TRIAL**

A field trial is a meeting for the purpose of holding competition between dogs in the hunting field and will contain a water retrieve.

## **4.2 NOVICE TRIAL**

A WGAA Novice Trial is open to all HPR dogs, with the following exclusions:

- Any dog that has previously won a WGAA Novice Field Trial.
- Any dog that has previously won a WGAA Open Field Trial.
- Any dog that has placed in a WGAA Championship Field Trial.

## **4.3 OPEN TRIAL**

An Open Trial is a trial open to all WGAA registered HPR gundogs, without restriction to age or previous performance.

## **4.4 CHAMPIONSHIP TRIAL: STATE / NATIONAL**

**4.4.1** A Championship Trial is a trial confined to gundogs that have been placed first or second in any Novice or first, second or third in an Open HPR Field Trial as outlined in this Rule Book. All dogs entered in a Championship Trial must have previously won at least one WGAA HPR Championship point.

**4.4.2** In each year there will not be more than one Championship trial for HPR gundogs within each state or Territory or two if one of those trials is a National Trial.

**4.4.3** On the day of a HPR Championship Trial, no other HPR field trial carrying championship points may be held within the same state.

## **4.5 HUNT, POINT & RETRIEVE CLOSED SEASON (CS) FIELD TRIALS**

**4.5.1** Hunt, Point & Retrieve Closed Season (CS) Field Trials may be conducted under these Rules. All points and awards awarded in both Hunt, Point & Retrieve Field Trials and Hunt, Point & Retrieve Closed Season Field Trials are specific to each type of trial.

**4.5.2** The letters (CS) be added as a suffix to each of the titles and awards mentioned in 4.8.1, 4.8.2, 4.8.3, 4.8.4 & 4.8.5 under the Awards and Titles section of these rules when a dog has qualified after competing in closed season trials.

**4.5.3** Retrieving Land: In a closed season trial a suitable dead bird or dummy will be cast at normal game shooting range. The handler will fire a blank from a shotgun when the bird / dummy is at its apex with the dog off lead at the handler's side. After the bird has hit the ground the dog will be sent to retrieve the bird.

**4.5.4** Retrieving Water: See Section 6

## **4.6 OTHER TRIALS**

The State HPR Sub-discipline Committee may schedule other trials of varying formats from time to time. These trials shall not carry championship points.

## **4.7 CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS**

Points awarded for placings at WGAA HPR Field Trials shall be:

Novice Trial 1<sup>st</sup> – 2 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 1 point

Open Trial 1<sup>st</sup> – 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1 point

Championship Trial 1<sup>st</sup> – 10 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 3 points

## **4.8 AWARDS AND TITLES**

**4.8.1** A dog that obtains 15 points in WGAA field trials including a minimum of two first place awards shall be awarded the title “WGAA Field Champion (National)”. Such title shall be added as a prefix to the dog’s registered name.

**4.8.2** A dog that wins ten WGAA field trials shall be awarded the title “WGAA Grand Field Champion (National)”. Such title shall be added as a prefix to the dog’s registered name.

**4.8.3** A dog that wins a National trial shall be entitled to have the initials NFTW (National Field Trial Winner) added as a suffix to its registered name.

**4.8.4** A dog competing in its first two seasons shall be known as a Novice dog. An award for Best Novice Dog shall be made at each trial to a Novice dog that fills its card to the Judge’s satisfaction. If a Novice dog wins a trial, it shall cease to be a Novice dog for future trials.

**4.8.5** A dog that has filled its card by finding game, demonstrated correct ground coverage, backed, retrieved from both land and water with a “soft mouth” and is not gunshy may, at the Judge’s discretion, be awarded a Working Gundog (WG) certificate. The initials WG shall be appended as a suffix to the dog’s registered name

## **4.9 JUDGE**

The trial committee will appoint a person to judge a trial who has trained a dog to a winning standard, has acted as a Steward, and is fully conversant with all aspects of HPR work as outlined in this Rule Book.

#### **4.10 JUDGE'S STEWARD**

**4.10.1** The Trial Committee will appoint as Steward a person who is conversant in matters relating to HPR field trials, as outlined in this Rule Book.

**4.10.2** The Steward will assist the Judge in the running of the trial, and may be instructed to take the place of the Judge and report to him results when, for example, two dogs come on point at the same time

#### **4.11 PLACINGS**

The Judge shall inform the Field Trial Committee of all the dogs that have completed all field trial criteria (filled their card without elimination). The three highest scoring of the dogs shall be awarded first, second, & third place respectively. In the event of a tie, the dogs with equal points shall be given another run.

#### **4.12 THE DRAW**

The draw is the selection by ballot of the order in which the dogs entered in a trial are required to compete. A Trial Steward or a neutral party must make the draw, in public, at the trial site or meeting place on the morning of the trial. Dogs that are to be run by the same handler may not be drawn together.

#### **4.13 BYE DOG**

If there is an uneven number of dogs in any round, the Judge shall nominate a dog to run with the 'bye dog' at the end of the round. The dog to run with the bye dog shall be chosen on its ability to give the bye dog its best chance of filling its card. The Judge may run the 'bye dog' in place of a dog that has eliminated itself in the early part of the round.

#### **4.14 VETTING**

A suitably experienced person appointed by the Field Trial Committee shall inspect any dog for causes which may interfere with the performance of its opponents. Such dogs shall not be eligible to compete during that trial and must be removed from the trial site.

Bitches in oestrus shall not be allowed to compete, nor are they allowed on the trial site.

#### **4.15 COLLARS**

All dogs when called upon to compete, shall wear collars to distinguish them in the field. Red for the first dog drawn and either white or blue for the second dog in each brace. No other collar or device may be worn.

#### **4.16 COMPLETION OF A TRIAL**

Both field and water testing should conclude on the same day if possible. If not finalised on that day, then the trial shall be concluded on the first available day as determined by the Field Trial Committee.

### **SECTION 5: FIELD ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

#### **5.1 ROUNDS**

The procedure for judging is divided across two separate rounds, and the performance of each dog is judged in all categories of the work required. In order for a dog to compete in the second round it must not be eliminated during its first round. At the end of each run, the Judge's assessment of a dog's performance is totalled in points. The respective score sheets for each round are then combined to give a total score of the dog's performance in the field.

#### **5.2 FIELD ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES**

- Ground Treatment      max 10 points for each of the two rounds.
- Pointing                      max 10 points for each of the two rounds.
- Steadiness                    max 10 points for each of the two rounds.
- Retrieve (Land)            max 15 points for each of the two rounds.
- Backing                        max 10 points for both rounds.
- Game Finding Ability      max 15 points for each of the two rounds.
- Style & Eagerness        max 15 points for each of the two rounds.
- Handling & Control        max 10 points for each of the two rounds.
- Facing Cover                max 5 points for each of the two rounds

Maximum points accruable for each round shall be 100 points.

To receive championship points a dog must demonstrate hunting ability, point, be shot over, not be gun-shy, retrieve game in the field, back of its own accord and complete a water retrieve.

### 5.3 SAMPLE SCORE SHEET

<b>Field Work</b>			
<b>Competitor Number _____</b>	<b>Round 1</b>	<b>Round 2</b>	<b>Deciding Round</b>
Ground Treatment Max 10 points for each of the two rounds.			
Pointing Max 10 points for each of the two rounds			
Steadiness Max 10 points for each of the two rounds			
Retrieve (Land) Max 15 points for each of the two rounds			
Backing Max 10 points for both rounds			
Game Finding Ability Max 15 points for each of the two rounds			
Style & Eagerness Max 15 points for each of the two rounds			
Handling & Control Max 10 points for each of the two rounds			
<b>FACING COVER</b> Max 5 points for each of the two rounds			
<b>TOTALS</b>			



## **5.4 MAJOR CREDITS**

### **5.4.1 Pointing**

Staunch, stylish and upstanding point

### **5.4.2 Game Handling**

Intelligent, non-sticky and economical work-out of game to flush  
High headed roading on body scent

### **5.4.3 Treatment of Ground**

Good quartering (a reasonable beat is 70 – 120 metres either side depending on type of ground and cover)  
Acknowledgement of bumped game

### **5.4.4 Retrieving**

Marking ability and speed in gathering game  
Polished delivery  
Trailing of runners  
Finding unmarked game

### **5.4.5 Water Work**

Keeness for water  
Strong swimming

### **5.4.6 General**

Game finding and game handling ability  
Style and eagerness  
Good control  
Quiet handling  
Backing

## **5.5 MAJOR FAULTS**

### **5.5.1 Pointing**

False pointing  
Inconclusive point  
Lack of staunchness

### **5.5.2 Game Handling**

Stickiness  
Raking - Ground scenting

### **5.5.2 Treatment of Ground**

Poor ground treatment  
Working excessively beyond allotted beat  
Missing game

### **5.5.3 Retrieving**

- Failure to find game
- Slow and unbusinesslike work
- Poor delivery
- Changing game on return

### **5.5.4 Water Work**

- Indecisive entry to water

### **5.5.5 General**

- Poor control
- Noisy handling
- Unsteadiness to flush or fall of game
- Breaking to shot
- Failure to back
- Failure to face cover
- Deliberate flushing
- Disobedience

## **5.6 ELIMINATING FAULTS**

The following shall constitute grounds for elimination (in land or water where applicable):

- Whining or barking (excessive)
- Repeated flushing of game upwind
- Chasing fur or feather
- Out of control
- Failure to go out to retrieve or pick-up game
- Hard mouth
- Failure to enter water and swim
- Blinking
- Deliberate stealing
- Lack of working ability

## **SECTION 6: WATER ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

- 6.1** The water retrieve in a HPR Field Trial shall be conducted in accordance with these Rules.
- 6.2** Each dog that has completed all aspects of the field trial testing criteria (filled its card without elimination) shall be tested with at least one retrieve in or across water.
- 6.3** The water retrieves that the competing dogs shall be required to undergo are as listed below:

- Novice Trial - Single Marked Retrieve in or across water.
- Open Trial - Double Marked Retrieve or Single Blind Retrieve in or across water. At least one leg of the Doubled Marked Retrieve must be either in or across water.
- Championship Trial - Any combination of the above retrieves, in or across water, may be employed. At least one Blind Retrieve must be included in a Championship Stake.

## **SECTION 7: DEFINITION OF TERMS**

### **7.1 BACKING (HONOURING THE POINT)**

When a dog comes on point, the other dog should 'Honour' the pointing dog, at the earliest possible opportunity, by stationary acknowledgement of the first dog's point.

### **7.2 BLINKING**

Any dog that finds and deliberately passes the point, either through nervousness or lack of training, shall be said to have 'blinked' that game. A dog that finds, stands for a few moments, and then leaves the point is also said to have 'blinked' the game. Finding and then moving on - backwards or forwards searching for the bird that has moved on should not be confused with blinking.

Dogs can also be said to 'blink' the retrieve.

### **7.3 BREAKING FENCE**

Is the act on the part of the dog of going through, over, or under a fence without command. A dog must remain steady at both sides of the fence through or over which its handler is crossing.

### **7.4 BREAKING TO SHOT**

If, when the handler takes his shot at game, a dog makes a forward movement, which in the opinion of the Judge indicates a deliberate attempt to retrieve without being commanded to do so, that dog shall be deemed to have broken to shot.

If a dog makes a slight break and is brought immediately under control, it shall be deemed to be unsteady to shot.

### **7.5 BUMPING GAME**

A dog that finds, and gets too close to game, so forcing it to fly or run before being ordered to flush, is said to have 'bumped game'. A dog that is working up wind has little excuse for bumping game, but a dog

working downwind should not be penalised for the sudden flushing of game that it (the dog) has had no opportunity to scent. A dog should remain steady to any bumped game.

## **7.6 BEAT**

Is the direction the Judge has indicated he requires the dogs to work and encompasses an area of approx 70 – 150 metres to each side and to the front of the handler.

## **7.7 CHASING**

This is the deliberate attempt to catch game that is on the move, whether or not it has been shot at. A dog may retrieve only on command from its handler.

## **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 at the command of, or sign from the handler and is generally a series of quick, stealthy steps. A dog should not be penalised for drawing on of its own accord providing that it will remain firm on point and that it does not bump the game.

## **7.9 FALSE POINT**

When a dog points and there is no game at the location of its point, the dog is said to have false pointed. However, care must be taken to ensure that no game is present or that the game has not just moved on before deciding that the point is false.

## **7.10 FLUSHING ON COMMAND**

Flushing on Command is the deliberate action of the dog, on command from the handler, to put the game to flight, so enabling the handler to take his shot. No attempt must be made by the handler to flush the game by any other method. The dog should remain steady to the flush of game.

## **7.11 GROUND TREATMENT (QUARTERING)**

The dog should cover the beat over which he is hunting, in a methodical and orderly manner according to the wind and the terrain over which it is working. Whilst quartering, dogs should be thoroughly under control. The dog should make intelligent use of the wind.

## **7.12 HARD MOUTH**

When there is unmistakable evidence of any marking of retrieved game, caused by biting, crunching or squeezing, the dog may be said to have committed 'hard mouth'.

The Judge or Steward be bound to inspect all game retrieved and if evidence of hard mouth is found, the handler shall be informed at that time.

## **7.13 HUNT, POINT & RETRIEVE FIELD TRIAL**

A Hunt, Point & Retrieve Field Trial is a field trial as outlined in these Rules in which game is shot.

## **7.14 HUNT, POINT & RETRIEVE CLOSED SEASON (CS) FIELD TRIAL**

A Hunt, Point & Retrieve Field Trial is a field trial as outlined in these Rules in which no game is shot.

## **7.15 OBEDIENCE**

The spontaneous action of obeying all commands from the handler.

## **7.16 POTTERING**

A dog that hunts in a confined area, covering ground that has already been worked, or one that lingers on old scent, leaves it and then comes back to it is said to be 'pottering'.

## **7.17 POINTING**

Upon finding game, a dog should indicate the presence of that game to the handler and should remain staunchly in a rigid position.

## **7.18 RAKING**

Dogs that hunt with their noses to the ground are deemed to be raking. Hunt, point and retrieve dogs should hunt with their heads up.

## **7.19 RETRIEVE (LAND)**

The 'Retrieve' covers the performance of the dog from when it is commanded to retrieve until it delivers the game to its handler.

## **7.20 ROADING**

'Roading' is affected in much the same manner as 'drawing on', although it is usually done at a much faster pace, i.e. the dog points, whilst the handler, some distance away, takes time to reach the dog. In the meantime, the game may have run rapidly (perhaps to the right or left across the wind). The dog will then, keeping to windward of the scent, search at speed across the wind and pick up the point some distance from the original location.

## **7.21 STEADINESS**

The dog should remain steady to command, to shot, wing or running fur. A dog may sit, stand, or drop in position but must not move until commanded to do so.

## **7.22 STEALING**

When the finding dog is drawing on after scenting game, roading or working game after indicating a find by pointing, any dog that moves in front of that dog shall be regarded as 'stealing'.

## **7.23 STICKINESS**

A dog that goes on point and then is reluctant to flush game is sticky. Dogs that are excessively slow roaders are also sticky.

## **7.24 STYLE AND EAGERNESS**

A well trained HPR gundog that covers its ground with good, free movement, a businesslike manner, and demonstrates enjoyment in its work, whilst also being decisive in its actions, shall be said to be showing good style. A dog that exhibits good 'bird sense' and shows a high level of bidability to its handler shall be deemed to show exemplary style.

## **7.25 WORKING FUR AND FEATHER**

A dog shall be expected to work fur as well as feather within the definition of game, and shall be awarded the same number of points for that work.