

THE
ARIZONA POINTING
DOG CLUB
Trial Rules Revised: 18 April, 2008
Post Office Box 39285
Phoenix, AZ. 85069
Price \$1.00

AZPDC Field Trial Events are for the hunter who wants to do more than just hunt with his or her dog during the hunting season. These trials promote the training and use of pointing dogs in the sport of upland bird hunting and the opportunity to succeed in other local and national sanctioned venues.

FIELD TRIAL SAFETY

1. These safety rules shall apply to all field events.
2. All participants (judges, handlers, bird planters and gunners shall wear a minimum of a blaze orange hat and vest while in the bird field.
3. Any unsafe shooting or handling of firearms shall be prohibited. No loitering allowed with firearms. All firearms must be secured while on the trial grounds.
4. Running with a firearm anywhere in the gallery or trial grounds shall be prohibited.
5. All actions shall remain open at all times until the handler calls POINT.

6. For safety and insurance reasons, there will be NO alcoholic beverages consumed before or during the actual field event.

7. Firearms are restricted to shotguns no larger than 12 gauge. Shot shells shall be equal to or less than the major manufacturers' current standard field or game loads, 2 3/4" factory ammunition, maximum 1-1/8oz of 7-1/2 shot. NO MAGNUM LOADS. NO MORE THAN TWO (2) SHELLS IN ANY FIREARM AT ONE TIME.

8. ALL dogs must be leashed or staked in and around the camp area.

VIOLATION OF ANY OR ALL OF THE ABOVE SAFETY RULES MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OR EVICTION FROM THE EVENT GROUNDS BY THE FIELD EVENTS COMMITTEE.

AZPDC TRIAL ENTRY FEES

Entry fees are set by the board and reviewed periodically.

The Trial Chairperson will be responsible for processing the entries/memberships and assigning an experienced club member as a mentor to walk with the new member (if desired) during his/her first brace and coach him/her.

In the case of a new member who only entered for the first day of a two day trial: If the new member decides that they would like to run the second day after experiencing the first day, then the member fee will be

charged and the chairperson shall make the necessary changes to the braces. Suggestion would be to add the person to the end of the day, or take the place of any bye dog or scratched dog.

CLASSES

Junior - Any dog which does not meet the requirements for a senior or gun dog class dog. (Generally 6 months to 2 years of age or any dog which has been so designated by its owner.) Training/Tracking devices may be used in this class.

Senior - Any Junior dog which has (3) placements; one being a first (1st) in a junior hunter class event during the club's preceding or current trial season or any dog which has been so designated by its owner. Training/Tracking devices may be used in this class.

Gun Dog - Any dog which has progressed to a point of being trained in which it will stand at point during at least the flush, wing and shot of a game bird. **NO** Training/Tracking devices may be used in this class.

Once you have placed in a gun dog field trial event during the current or past trial season, you will not be qualified for ribbon placement or TOC in the hunter class field trial events.

GENERAL RULES

1. All participants (handlers, gunners, and judges) must be current AZ Pointing Dog Club members. Prospective members sponsored by current APDC members cannot gun.

2. All persons involved with, participating in or observing any event will be treated with RESPECT and SPORTSMANSHIP.

3. There will be a required safety meeting one half hour before the brace. All trial participants are required to attend. Participants are as follows: Handlers, gunners, chairman, judges & any potential gallery members.

Roll Call / Judging Assignments - The field trial chair will be responsible for the list of entrants and the number of dog(s) entered. Entrants with the "most" multiple dogs will be given the privilege of being the first to select the braces in which they wish to perform their required judging duties. In the case of handlers with same number of entries, a random order will be selected.

Handlers that do not have experience judging will be assigned a veteran who will mentor the judging assignment. It is the responsibility of the trial chair to assign the mentor.

The trial will not commence until all participants have signed up for the required duties.

4. Qualified gunner:

- A) MUST BE A CLUB MEMBER
- B) Person(s) who have demonstrated to club members while in the field that they can safely handle a shotgun.
- C) Persons less than 18 years of age must have completed a hunter safety course.

5. The bird field boundary will be the area between the flags (forty {40} acres minimum (approximately 1/4 mile by 1/4 mile), square or rectangular with corner flags having special markings. To increase safety, the chairperson will establish a buffer zone between the gallery/camp area and the bird field. The buffer shall be a minimum of 70 yards from the Gallery to the starting line. If there are two fields, then there shall be a buffer between them.

6. Two dogs per brace limited to the number of braces able to be completed during daylight hours.

7. Braces will be 20 to 30 minutes and will be left to the discretion of the chairperson and marshal, as the number of entries will permit.

8. Handlers, dogs and gunners must be in the blind prior to the end of the previous brace and remain in the blind while birds are being released.

9. Judges/ Marshals' are responsible for being at the marshal's table 10 minutes before their judging and marshal duties.

10. If handlers do not fulfill their scheduled duties; such as judging, planting, marshaling, etc. they run the risk of having their dog scratched from the event with no refund given and no points awarded.

11. Eight (8) birds will be released in the field before the first brace of EACH day.

12. Six (6) birds will be added to the field each brace thereafter.

13. Dogs must locate birds in accordance with the characteristic of the breed. All birds that are caught on the ground that have not been scored upon shot at or a safety called on shall not be scored.

14. Birds must be shot in the air, unless instructed by the judge to do otherwise. To promote safety, the judge shall encourage the bird to be safely shot on the ground, when a reasonable attempt to get it to fly has failed.

15. If a dog is on point when the official brace time ends and the handler has called point, the handler will be given (1) minute to complete all bird work, including the

retrieve. If the retrieve is not finished at the end of this one (1) minute period; no retrieve points will be awarded. Points will be awarded for the work that was actually completed within the one (1) minute period after the official brace time ended. The dog cannot be relocated during this one (1) minute period.

16. The handler may move clear from an obstacle for the retrieve, but cannot make forward or backward movement for the purpose of encouraging the dog to complete the retrieve without the permission of the judge.

17. Points for safeties will be the average of other retrieves. If there are no other retrieves, a demonstration will be required.

18. The dog must be inside the boundaries to score points. The bird may be outside the boundaries and it must be alive. The bird may be retrieved from out of bounds to score points for the retrieve.

19. NO Points will be awarded toward Bye Dogs.

20. Bitches in season may not enter any stakes. Bitches that come into season after the draw of braces will be scratched and entry fee will be refunded.

21. All grievances and protests shall be made to the trial chair person within 30 minutes of the end of the brace. Grievances will be reviewed AT THE EVENT by the event committee consisting of the chairperson/s, marshal,

judges and available board members. The findings of this committee will be final.

22. Any verbal or physical harassment of a dog while on the field event grounds may be cause for ejection from the event or its grounds. Any earned points for the dog involved will not be officially recorded if ejection occurs.

23. Horses will be compensated for the weekend as follows: Compensation is to be \$60 per day or 2 entries. The person bringing the horse is responsible for planting the birds for all the braces. The bird planter must find someone else to plant birds for the braces in which he will be handling/gunning a dog. In order to be compensated for the horse the owner of the horse MUST get authorization before the trial from the trial chairman. The chairman will only compensate one horse per day. Other horses are very welcome.

24. The chairman must also have a marshal(s) designated before the first brace.

25. The chairman must also have a volunteer for the novice trial/training before the start of each day.

26. ALL shot birds will be given to judge prior to working the next bird.

27. Points scored will be limited to 1st entry run.

28. If a handler does not complete the brace without the judge's consent, the points scored in that brace will not be recorded.

29. Calling Safety: At any time the judge, gunner or other person in the event field may call "safety". Safety may be called after the first shot.

Junior/Senior Hunter Class

1. A live bird must be POINTED to score points for a find.
2. A bird does not have to be produced in order to receive an honoring/backing score if the brace mate points within the characteristics of the breed.
3. Handler may use verbal or physical commands to establish a point
4. Handler may use verbal or physical commands to establish an honor/back
5. Only one (1) bird in a covey will be scored; all other birds seen by the judge, handler or gunner are "marked birds"

Scoring:

1pt - For completing the brace

2pts - For each bird pointed within the characteristics of the breed

1 pt - For each retrieve to within 15 feet

1 pt - For one back/honor

1 pt - For Stop to Flush

FINDS:

- 1). Handler must indicate to judge when the dog is on point in order to score points for the find.
- 2). Judge can advise the handler that a dog may be on point only if the handler is not in view of the dog. The handler must confirm to the judge that a dog is indeed, on point in order to receive points for that find. (In the case of a "Divided find" the judges will determine which dog will receive credit for the find.)
- 3). The dog must be inside the boundaries but the bird can be outside the boundaries. The bird must be alive.

Marked Birds:

1. Marked birds will be timed for (3) minutes; handlers are encouraged to hunt away from the direction of any marked bird(s) before returning to score upon the marked bird(s).
2. A Stop to Flush Bird that has been scored upon is a marked bird.
3. A bird that has been flushed by the handler, judge or other participant is a marked bird.
4. Birds that have flushed in or back into the event field and are so noted by the judge(s), handler or gunner are marked birds.
5. Birds that have been scored upon.

6. Handlers will be notified by the judges to the general location of all marked birds in the field.

The handler may move clear from an obstacle for the retrieve, but cannot make forward or backward movement for the purpose of encouraging the dog to complete the retrieve without the permission of the judge.

Points for safeties will be the average of other retrieves. If there are no other retrieves, a demonstration will be required.

Stolen birds will be awarded as 2 points for the point and 1 point for the retrieve.

Backing dogs will be collared during bird work or until released by the judge. Only one back will be scored per brace.

One point will be awarded to dogs that stop to flush on a bird without any delayed chase. This bird is now considered a marked bird and may be hunted again after 3 minutes. Only one stop to flush will be scored per brace.

The dog must be inside the boundaries to score points. The bird may be outside the boundaries and it must be alive. The bird may be retrieved from out of bounds to score points for the retrieve.

Training devices/aids may be used. Silent tracking collars are allowed.

Tie Scores:

Tie scores will result in a sudden death run-off at the end of that day's trial; unless conditions warrant a change as determined by the trial chairman. One bird per dog will be released in the bird field prior to the runoff. The dogs with the tie scores must be present for the run-off brace and the same handler must handle the dog. Handlers will remain in the blind until they are notified to start the run off.

1. Handlers and dog will be assigned a judge.
2. Handlers will carry blank gun. No birds will be shot.
3. Once a point has been established and indicated to the judge and a bird has been confirmed by the judge, the handler will fire a shot into the air to signify the find. No retrieve is required. First established point with confirmed bird will be given the 1st run off position. Next established point with confirmed bird will receive 2nd run off position etc.
4. Once the bird find has been confirm; the handler will leash the dog and handler, dog, and judge will immediately leave the trial field.
5. Handlers not present at time of run off will forfeit to their placement to the last run off position.

Gun Dog Class

1. One (1) point will be given to each dog completing its brace in the trial.
2. No training devices or bird calls may be used except for whistles. No tracking collars allowed.
3. A bye-dog will be selected if an entrant is not present (10) minutes before brace time or if a dog is out of the bird field for more then ten (10) consecutive minutes. A bye dog will be a dog that has already run its brace or a dog that is not in contention for points. Bye-dog must be of Gun Dog quality.
4. If a handler does not complete the brace without the judge's consent, the points scored in that brace will not be recorded.

FINDS:

1. Dog "MUST" find bird without "ANY" physical or verbal reinforcement.
2. Handler must indicate to judge when the dog is on point in order to score points for the find.
3. Judge can advise the handler that a dog may be on point only if the handler is not in view of the dog. The handler must confirm to the judge that a dog is indeed, on point in order to receive points for that find. (In the case of a "Divided find" the judges will determine which dog will receive credit for the find.)
4. The dog must be inside the boundaries but the bird can be outside the boundaries. The bird must be alive.

5. Safety is the average of the other finds, maximum 4 points if all finds are safeties. (Quiet cautioning and whoaing of the dog is not considered harassment.)
6. Stolen birds will be the average of the other birds found in the brace scored on a 0-5 scale. If no other birds were found, stolen bird is given a three (3) or handler has option of a demonstration to upgrade.
7. A Handler must request the permission of the judge before a dog can be relocated and must call point again to re-establish the find.
8. A live bird must be pointed to score points.
9. Tapping of dog for release purposes is permissible.

POINTS:

5 pts - Dog Points; Is steady to Flush, Wing, Shot, and Fall of the Game Bird with no significant progress or verbal commands from the handler until released for retrieve. Maximum score for Safety is 4.

4 pts - Dog Points; Is steady to Flush and Wing, but makes significant progress at shot or fall. Dog can be commanded verbally until released for retrieve. Maximum score for Safety is 4 points.

3 pts - Dog Points; Is steady to Flush and Wing, but makes significant progress before the shot and can not be whoaed for release and retrieve.

2 pts - Dog Points; steady to Flush. Dog may be verbally commanded after point has been established.

1 pts - Dog Points; dog may be verbally commanded to a point. Dog may make significant forward progress during the Flush or if blocked.

0 pts - Any Dog on Point that is touched, blocked or Verbally/physically harassed.

RETRIEVES:

- 1). The handler must attempt to shoot the bird to score on the retrieve (except in the case of a safety)
- 2). The handler may move clear from an obstacle for the retrieve.
- 3). The handler may not make forward or backward movement during the retrieve without permission from judge.
- 4). The bird may be retrieved from outside the boundaries to score points for the retrieve. A no opportunity is a no score, not a zero.
- 5). A safety or a stolen retrieve will be the average of other retrieves during the brace. If no other bird is produced for scoring the dog must demonstrate a retrieve immediately following its brace on a freshly killed bird or live bird and the retrieve shall be scored on that bird.
- 6). If a safety is called, the retrieve shall not be judged.

7). A "no opportunity to retrieve" shall be an N/O and not a zero (0) and will not be counted in the averaging for a safety or stolen bird.

POINTS:

4 pts - Dog retrieves directly to handler. Bird does not touch ground after initial pickup or until properly secured by handler. Dog requires only minimal handling.

3 pts - Dog retrieves to handler with moderate handling. Dog or handler may drop bird repeatedly.

2 pts - Dog retrieves to within 5 feet of handler. Handler may pick up bird from the ground.

1 pts - Dog retrieves bird to within 15 feet of handler. Handler may pick up bird from the ground.

0 pts - Dog will not retrieve bird to handler, dog retrieves bird more than 15 feet from handler or handler calls off the retrieve.

Marked Birds:

1). Marked birds will be timed for (4) minutes; handlers are encouraged to hunt away from the direction of any marked bird(s) before returning to score upon the marked bird(s).

2). A Stop to Flush Bird that has been scored upon is a marked bird.

3). A bird that has been flushed by the handler, judge or other participant and has not been scored upon is a marked bird.

4). Birds that have flushed in or back into the event field and are so noted by the judge(s), handler or gunner are marked birds.

5). Handlers will be notified by the judges to the general location of all marked birds in the field.

DEAD BIRD:

Any bird that has been scored on from an established point - killed or not killed. Dead birds may be taken out of the field at judge's discretion.

BACKING/HONORING:

1). Handler must declare "back" to judge, prior to scoring dog.

2). Handler must inform judge of intent to "**NOT TO COLLAR" the dog.**

3). Backing dog must demonstrate steadiness to wing, shot, fall and retrieve, without physical or verbal reinforcement. If in the event the brace ends while a dog is backing the dog will be given a one (1) minute clock.

4). A live bird **MUST** be pointed in order for an honoring dog to receive a score.

5). A dog can receive only one (1) score for a back/honor but the score can be upgraded to a higher score later in the brace.

6). A backing/honoring dog must stand in position until the bird work is complete, the judge gives permission to release it or for a maximum of two (2) minutes as timed by the judge.

7). There shall be no callbacks to demonstrate an honor.

POINTS:

5 pts

Dog stops to honor a pointing dog "without " Verbal or physical command and holds honor through the retrieve. (may be quietly cautioned once). If a safety is called or a bird is missed, a maximum of 4 points will be awarded, with an opportunity to upgrade.

4 pts

Dog stops to honor a pointing dog "without" verbal, physical command. Dog may be commanded verbally, physically through completion of the retrieve.

3 pts

- A). Dog honors pointing dog without verbal or physical command.
- B). Handler declares "back" to judge, prior to collaring dog.
- C). Handler must inform judge of desire to "collar dog".
- D). Dog makes no forward progress after "back" has been indicated by handler prior to "collaring".
- E). Handler gives no verbal or physical commands to dog prior to collaring dog.
- F). If a "Non-collared" Dog is continually commanded to honor/back.

2 pts

- A). Dog honors other dog without being verbally or physically commanded.
- B). Handler must declare, "back" to judge, prior to scoring dog.
- C). Handler must inform judge of desire to "collar" dog.
- D). Dog makes forward progress after "back" declared prior to "collaring".
- E). If a "Non-collared" dog is physically touched or severely harassed (blocked).

1 pt

- A). Dog honors pointing dog WITH being verbally or physically commanded.
- B). Handler must declare, "back" to judge, prior to collaring dog.

0 pt - No points for a stolen retrieve.

STOP TO FLUSH

- 1). Only one stop to flush per dog per brace shall be scored.
- 2). The bird will become a MARKED bird, not a dead bird.
- 3). There will be no callbacks to demonstrate a stop to flush.

POINTS:

2pts

- A). Dog stops to flush without verbal or physical command.

B). Heels or can be directed away from the flush location/new resting position without being collared or delayed chase.

1pt

A). If verbally or physically commanded or dog delays chase. Handler may collar the dog or heel the dog out of the area after a stop to flush in order to minimize the chance of the dog having a delayed chase.

A delayed chase is defined as the following:

returning to the new resting place of the bird and or chasing after the bird in the air or following the bird walking or running on the ground.

One (1) point will be given to each dog completing its brace in the trial

Tie Scores:

Tie scores will result in a sudden death run-off at the end of that days trial; unless conditions warrant a change as determined by the trial chairman. One bird per dog will be released in the bird field prior to the runoff. The dogs with the tie scores must be present for the run-off brace and the same handler must handle the dog. Handlers will remain in the blind until they are notified to start the run off.

A). Handlers and dog will be assigned a judge.

B). Handlers will carry blank gun. No birds will be shot.

C). Once a point has been established and indicated to the judge and a bird has been confirmed by the judge, the handler will fire a shot into the air to signify the find. No retrieve is required. First established point with confirmed bird will be given the 1st run off position. Next established point with confirmed bird will receive 2nd run off position etc.

D). Once the bird find has been confirm; the handler will leash the dog and handler, dog, and judge will immediately leave the trial field.

E). Handlers not present at time of run off will forfeit to their placement to the last run off position.

CALLING SAFETY:

At any time the judge, gunner or other person in the event field may call "safety". Safety may be called after the first shot.

Scoring: A safety or a stolen bird will be the average of other retrieve during the brace. If no other bird is produced for scoring the dog must demonstrate a retrieve immediately following its brace on a freshly killed bird or live bird and the retrieve shall be scored on that bird.

a). If a safety is called, the retrieve shall not be judged.

b). A "no opportunity to retrieve" shall be an N/O and not a zero (0) and will not be counted in the averaging for a safety or stolen bird.

AWARDS:

Hunter: An award will be given any time a dog places. Placements will be for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th finishers regardless of placement of senior dogs.

Senior Hunter: award will be given any time a dog places. Placements will be for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

Gun Dog: Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th placements.

DEFINITIONS:

POINT: When a dog indicates the presence and position of game by standing immobile and generally directing its muzzle toward it.

FLUSH: Pointed birds that have moved from their point of rest because of actions of a dog, handler, participant, or judge and so noted by the judge.

HARASSMENT: to strike, to trouble, to worry the dog either verbally or physically.

BLOCKING: When handler/assistant is positioned such as to restrict or interfere with the dogs natural tendencies.

SAFETY: That point in time when it is determined to be potentially dangerous to humans, other animals, or property, to shoot at a bird in the field event area. Safety may be called by any person.

NO OPPORTUNITY: A missed bird, a bird falling in, or ending up in an irretrievable location.

AZPDC Tournament of Champions **Qualifications**

(This is a two day event in which Round 1 is held Day 1 and Rounds 2, 3 and 4 are held on Day 2)

1. Qualified invitees will have placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th in their class during the current trial season.
2. The number of invitees in each class shall be limited to 16 dogs based on each classes "high point standing" at end of the trial season.
3. Braces will be seeded for each class based on total points for each dog. Must have (16) invitees. (Example 1 against 16 and seed 2 will be against 15 and so on.) In case of non accepted invitations; the seeds will be filled by the next high point qualifying dog until 16 seeds are filled.
4. If handler ends up being braced against him/herself the handler has the choice of running both the dogs or appointing a handler for one dog. But both dogs must run.
5. Price of the TOC entry shall be determined by the chairman of the event and the board of directors prior to the event.

Dogs of the following criteria; WILL NOT be qualified for the Junior or Senior Hunter T.O.C.:

- Any past gundog high point dog
- Any past gundog T.O.C. champion
- A dog with a gundog placement in the current year
- AKC Master Hunter title
- American Field Champion
- NSTRA Champion
- AKC Field Champion (FC or AFC)