



ARIZONA  
POINTING DOG CLUB

**Field Trial Rules**  
**AZPDC**  
[www.azpdc.org](http://www.azpdc.org)

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## AZPDC Trial Rules

### **INTRODUCTION**

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. AZPDC is considered a working club which involves the participation of its membership.

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## **1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **1.1 AZPDC FIELD TRIAL ENTRY FEES**

- 1.1.1 Entry fees are set by the board and reviewed periodically.
- 1.1.2 The Trial Chairperson will be responsible for processing the entries/memberships.
- 1.1.3 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, then the premium fee will be charged and the chairperson shall make the necessary changes to the braces. The person will be added to the end of the day for that Class, or take the place of any bye dog or scratched dog.

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### 1.2 GENERAL RULES

1.2.1 All participants (handlers, gunners, judges) must be current AZPDC members. Prospective members sponsored by members cannot gun, judge, or handle.

1.2.2 Each brace shall have a maximum of 5 participants per dog in the field. This includes; handlers, gunners, judges, and any observers.

1.2.3 All persons **WILL** be treated with RESPECT and SPORTSMANSHIP.

1.2.4 There will be a required safety meeting one half hour before the first brace. All trial participants are required to attend.

1.2.5 Roll Call / Judging Assignments - The field trial chair will be responsible for the list of entrants and the number of dog(s) entered.

1.2.6 Handlers and Judges that do not have experience will be assigned a veteran who will mentor them. It is the responsibility of the trial chair to assign the mentor.

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

1.2.8 Qualified gunner:

- **MUST BE A CLUB MEMBER**
- **DEMONSTRATES THAT THE CAN SAFELY HANDLE A SHOTGUN.**

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1.2.9 Members less than 18 years of age must have completed a hunter safety course.

1.2.10 The bird field boundary will be forty (40) acres minimum for Gundog and Shooter. (20) acres for Hunter.

1.2.11 Entries may be accepted on a first come first serve basis. There will be two (2) dogs per brace limited to the number of braces able to be completed during daylight hours.

1.2.12 Depending on the number of entries braces will be 20 to 30 minutes and will be left to the discretion of the chairperson and marshal.

1.2.13 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 planted.

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

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

1.2.16 There will be Eight (8) birds planted in the field before the first brace of EACH day for Gun Dog and Shooting Dog Class. Six (6) birds will be added to the field each brace thereafter.

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1.2.17 There will be Six (6) birds planted in the field before the first brace of **EACH** day for Hunter Class and one (1) extra bird will be available to each handler after brace ends. Four (4) birds will be added to the field each brace thereafter.

1.2.18 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.

1.2.19 Birds must be shot in the air, unless instructed by the judge to do otherwise. The judge shall encourage the bird to be safely shot on the ground when a reasonable attempt to get it to fly has failed. A bird ordered by the Judge to be shot on the ground will be scored as if steady to flush, wing, shot, and fall as illustrated on the Steadiness Continuum (Figure 2). Scoring for "Bird hits Ground" (4 point score) will not be applicable. Scoring will resume when dog is released by handler.

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1.2.20 If a dog is on point when the official brace time ends and the handler has called point, the handler will be given one (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 completed within the one (1) minute period after the official brace time ended. The dog cannot be relocated during this one (1) minute period.

1.2.21 The handler may move clear from an obstacle for the retrieve, however, they cannot make forward or backward movement for the purpose of "Encouraging the dog to complete the retrieve" (SEE DEFINITION) unless permitted by the judge.

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

1.2.23 Bye Dogs will **NOT** be awarded points.

1.2.24 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.

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1.2.25 All grievances and protests shall be presented by the judge to the trial chairperson within 30 minutes of the end of the brace. Grievances will be reviewed AT THE EVENT by the grievance committee. The findings of this committee will be final.

1.2.26 Any verbal or physical harassment of a dog or unsportsmanlike conduct while on the event grounds shall be reported to the Trial Chairperson. This information will be reviewed by the Grievance Committee and 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.

1.2.27 Horse owners will be compensated for the weekend as follows: Compensation is to be \$80 per day per Field, or equivalent entries (based on \$40 per brace). The person bringing the horse is responsible for planting the birds for all the braces upon agreement. 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. Other horses are welcome.

1.2.28 **ALL** shot birds will be given to the judge at the end of the brace.



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

1.2.30 A pointed bird in a tree shall be scored as such, it is an automatic safety and will be an average of all finds up to max score and the bird will be taken out. If more than one bird each bird must be repointed.

1.2.31 In a divided find both dogs shall be judged on their work on the find, the retrieve will be worked as a safety.

1.2.32 If either judge witnesses a dog on point first, rather than the handler who declares the point first, the point for the find will be awarded to the dog that pointed first. If there are any discrepancies the witness judge will determine which dog will receive credit for the find.

### **1.3 CLASSES**

#### 1.3.1 Hunter Class

- Any dog which does not meet the requirements for a Shooting or Gun Dog Class dog (Generally 6 mos. To 2 yrs. of age or new handler to the club).
- Any dog so designated by its owner.
- Training/Silent Tracking devices may be used in this class.

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### 1.3.2 Shooting Dog Class

- Any dog which has progressed to a level of training where it should point, be steady to flush, steady to wing, steady to shot, and steady to fall. Dog should retrieve to hand.
- Training/Silent Tracking devices may be used in this class.
- Once you have placed in a Shooting dog field trial event during the current trial season, that dog will not be qualified for any future award placement or TOC in the Hunter Class field trial events.

### 1.3.3 Gun Dog Class

- Any dog which has progressed to a level of training where it should point, be steady to flush, steady to wing, steady to shot, and steady to fall. Dog should retrieve to hand.
- **NO** Training devices, except whistles, may be used in this class.
- Silent Tracking devices may be used in this class. Once you have placed in a gun dog field trial event during the current trial season that dog will not be qualified for any future award placement or TOC in Shooting Dog or Hunter Class field trial events.

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### 1.4 Tie Scores

1.4.1 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 (1) bird per dog will be planted in the field prior to the runoff. The handlers will remain in the blind until they are notified to start the run off.

1.4.2 Handlers and dog will be assigned a judge.

1.4.3 The same handler must handle the dog.

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

1.4.5 First dog witnessed by judges to establish a 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.

1.4.6 Two (2) Minutes will be provided to locate and confirm bird exists. Second dog that was witnessed by judges to establish point will then be provided the opportunity to confirm bird.

1.4.7 Once the bird find has been confirmed, the handler will leash the dog and all will immediately leave the trial field.

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### **1.5 Dead Bird**

1.5.1 Stop to flush (STF) (minimum of 3 seconds)  
– Score STF, the bird may be hunted by either dog.

1.5.2 Handler/Judge/Etc. sees bird, bumps bird, flushes bird, etc. the bird may be hunted by either dog.

1.5.3 Gundog and Shooter: A safety or missed shot equates to a dead bird to the scoring handler. The scoring handler is given the initial opportunity to take that bird out of the field. If he chooses to not pursue or cannot locate the dead bird or points a different bird handler must audibly notify the judge that they are no longer in pursuit of the bird and the Judge must notify other Handler. That bird may not be scored upon again for that handler team. After three (3) minutes the other handler in the field has the opportunity to pursue and score upon that bird. The judge must request the start of a three (3) minute clock.

1.5.4 Any handler team hunting a dead bird area while brace mate is in pursuit of a dead bird, 2 birds must be produced to score a find on one (1) bird.

1.5.5 Coveys – all birds may be hunted and may be scored on with point established on each bird.

1.5.6 Judges will notify the handlers of the general location of all dead birds in the field.

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### **2.0 FIELD TRIAL SAFETY**

- 2.1 These safety rules shall apply to all field events.
- 2.2 Calling Safety - at any time, any persons in the event field may call "safety". Safety may be called after the first shot. Safety means **DON'T SHOOT**.
- 2.3 All participants (judges, handlers, bird planters, observers, gunners, etc.) shall wear a minimum of a Hi Viz colored (orange, pink, yellow, lime, etc.) hat and vest while in the event field.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 Running with a firearm anywhere in the gallery or trial grounds shall be prohibited.
- 2.6 All actions shall remain open at all times until the handler calls **POINT**.
- 2.7 Gunner must always keep safety mechanism on and finger outside of the trigger guard until ready to shoot.
- 2.8 For safety and insurance reasons, there will be **NO** alcoholic beverages consumed before or during the actual field event.

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2.9 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 ¾" 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.

2.10 Dogs are required to be staked prior to their brace or when unattended in the camp area. Chain, cables, or other types of restraints should be able to withstand being chewed through by the dog. Crating of the dog will satisfy the staked requirement. Attachment to motor vehicles is not recommended.

2.11 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.

### **3.0 SHOOTING and GUN DOG CLASS**

#### **3.1** Rules for a Find

**Exception:** For Gun Dog, only: No training devices (SEE DEFINITION and 1.3.3) are allowed.

**3.1.1** A **LIVE** bird must be **POINTED** and **PRODUCED** to score points for a find.

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**3.1.2** When the dog is on point, the handler must indicate to the judge verbally or by raising their hand prior to passing the dog on point. The dog must remain on point for a minimum of three (3) seconds in order to score points for the find. Once point has been indicated all rules for steadiness will apply.

**3.1.3** 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 on point to be scored for that find.

**3.1.4** In the case of a divided find, the judges will determine which dog will receive credit for the find. Both dogs shall be judged on the find and the retrieve will be worked as a safety.

**3.1.5** If either judge witnesses a dog on point first, rather than the handler who declares the point first, the point for the find will be awarded to the dog that pointed first. If there are any discrepancies the witness judge will determine which dog will receive credit for the find.

**3.1.6** The dog must be inside the boundaries to score points. The live bird may be outside the boundaries. The bird may be retrieved from out of bounds to score points for the retrieve.

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**3.1.7** A Handler must request permission from the judge before a dog can be relocated and must call point again to re-establish the find. Relocation will not be allowed for the purpose of upgrading a steadiness score.

**3.1.8** Tapping of dog for release purpose is permissible.

**3.1.9** Once point has been established, audible commands may be used moderately and quietly. The command should not affect brace mate

**3.1.10** Only one (1) bird in a covey will be scored; per established point.

**3.1.11** Safety is the average of the other finds, maximum four (4) points if all finds are safeties.

**3.1.12** Safety or missed shot equates to a dead bird to the scoring handler. The scoring handler is given the initial opportunity to take that bird out of the field. If he/she chooses to not pursue or cannot locate the dead bird the handler must audibly notify the judge that they are no longer in pursuit of the dead bird. That bird may not be scored upon again by that handler team. After 3 minutes the other handler team has the opportunity to pursue and score upon that bird. The judge must request the start of a 3 minute clock.

**3.1.13** Stolen Point 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) to the first pointing dog.



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**3.1.14** A bye-dog will be selected if an entrant is not present ten (10) minutes before brace time or if a dog is out of the bird field for more than 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 same class as they are needed in. A paid in bye-dog as priority over a free bye-dog .

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

### 3.2 Scoring for a Find (Figure 2)

**3.2.1 0 pts** – Dog on point that is touched, blocked, or verbally/physically harassed.

**3.2.21 pts** – Dog Points for more than 3 seconds

**3.2.32 pts** – Dog is Steady to Flush (Bird has left its resting point by handler).

**3.2.4 3pts** – Dog is Steady to Shot and Release by Handler.

### 3.3 Rules for a Retrieve

**3.3.1** The handler must attempt to shoot the bird to score on the retrieve (except in the case of a safety) **After second attempt the bird may be shot on the ground in a safe manner. If it can not be done safely you may call a safety.**

**3.3.2** The handler may move clear from an obstacle for the retrieve, but cannot make forward or backward movement for the purpose

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of “Encouraging the dog to complete the retrieve” (SEE DEFINITION) without the permission of the judge.

**3.3.3** After the shot is fired the handler has the option to release dog for a retrieve regardless if the bird is hit or not.

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

**3.3.5** The bird may be retrieved from outside the bird field to score points for the retrieve.

**3.3.6** Should a safety be called the dog will be scored the average of all other retrieves during the brace. If no other bird is produced for scoring a retrieve, the dog must demonstrate a retrieve immediately following its brace on a freshly killed bird. The retrieve shall be scored on that bird.

**3.3.7** Stolen retrieve will be the average of other retrieves during the brace. If no other bird is produced for scoring a retrieve, the dog must demonstrate a retrieve immediately following its brace on a freshly killed bird. The retrieve shall be scored on that bird.

### **3.4** Scoring for a Retrieve (Figure 1)

(Bird may be set to the ground and repositioned as long as dog does not leave the bird by more than 2 feet.without penalty.)

**3.4.1 0 pts** – Dog will not retrieve. Handler calls off the retrieve.

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**3.4.2 1 pts** – Dog releases bird from mouth during the retrieve (beyond 3 feet). And abandons the bird.

**3.4.3 2 pts**–Bird is retrieved within 3 feet and abandons it.

**3.4.4 3 pts** – Bird is retrieved to hand and not released from mouth until properly secured by handler with or without the use of commands.

### **3.5** Rules for Honoring

The handler must declare that the dog is honoring its brace mate to the judge by raising their hand or verbally advising the judge prior to scoring the dog. The judge is responsible for starting a 2 minute clock and informing the handler of the clocks start and end.

3.5.1 The handler must inform the judge of the intent **To Collar** or **Not to Collar** the dog.

3.5.2 To receive a maximum score for the honor, the honoring dog must be steady to the flush, wing, shot, fall and completion of the retrieve, **WITHOUT** the use of commands.

3.5.3 A dog can receive only one (1) score for honoring but the score can be upgraded to a higher score later in the brace.

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3.5.4 There shall be no callbacks to demonstrate an honor.

3.5.5 In the event that the brace ends while a dog is honoring it will be given a one (1) minute clock.

### 3.6 Scoring for an Honor/Backing

When a dog is backing the pointing dog, the pointing dog/handler will have 2 minutes to locate the bird Starting when the handler reaches the pointing dog and may relocate without interference

from backing dog. After 2 minutes' bird is open to both dogs.

3.6.1 **1 pt.** Dog honors pointing dog **WITH** use of commands and:

- **May be collared** during the find and retrieve. With or without Bird produced
- 2-minute clock completed as timed by Judge

3.6.2 **3 pts** – Dog honors pointing dog **WITHOUT** use of commands and:

- **NOT COLLARED** during bird work and bird work is completed with or without a bird produced. Or 2 min clock expires

### 3.7 Rules for Stop to Flush

3.7.1 Only one stop to flush per dog per brace shall be scored.

3.7.2 There will be no callbacks to demonstrate a stop to flush.

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### **3.8** Scoring for a Stop to Flush

3.8.1 **0 pts** – Dog does not stop to flush.

3.8.2 **1 pt.** – The dog is commanded to stop to flush or dog delay chases. The 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.

3.8.3 **2 pts** – The dog stops to flush without the use of commands. Dog is not collared to prevent a delay chase.

### **3.9** Additional Scoring for Brace

3.9.1 **1 pt.** – Given to each dog for completing its brace.

3.9.2 **1 pt.** – Given to the winner of each brace. No point will be awarded in the case of a tie

## **4.0 HUNTER CLASS**

### **4.1** Structure for Hunter Class Braces

4.1.1 Braces will be 30 minutes in length split into two (2) time periods. The first 25 minutes will be a regular brace with four (4) birds planted and scored per the rules that govern the Hunter class. At the end of the 25 minutes each handler will have one (1) planted bird each and have the opportunity to work that bird for training purposes. During the (5) minutes the handler team will not be scored. First brace there shall be 6 birds planted 4 birds every brace after. The field will be half the size of Gundog and Shooter.

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### 4.2 Rules for a Find

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

4.2.2 When the dog is on point, the handler must indicate to the judge verbally or by raising their hand prior to passing the dog on point. The dog must remain on point for a minimum of three (3) seconds in order to score points for the find. Once point has been indicated all rules for steadiness will apply.

4.2.3 A **LIVE** bird must be **POINTED** and **PRODUCED** to score points for a find.

4.2.4 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 on point in order to receive points for that find.

4.2.5 In the case of a divided find, both dogs shall be judged on their work for the find. The retrieve will be worked as a safety.

4.2.6 If either judge witnesses a dog on point first, rather than the handler who declares the point first, the point for the find will be awarded to the dog that pointed first. If there are any discrepancies the witness judge will determine which dog will receive credit for the find.

4.2.7 The handler may use commands to establish a point or reinforce steadiness.

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4.2.8 A handler must request permission from the judge before a dog can be relocated and must call point again to re-establish the find. Relocation will not be allowed for the purpose of upgrading a steadiness score.

4.2.9 Only one (1) bird in a covey will be scored; per established point.

4.2.10 Safety or missed shot equates to a dead bird to the scoring handler. The scoring handler is given the opportunity to take that bird out of the field. If he/she chooses to not pursue or cannot locate the bird the handler must audibly notify the judge that they are no longer in pursuit of the bird. That bird may not be scored upon again by that handler team. After three (3) minutes the other handler in the field has the opportunity to pursue and score upon that bird. Judge must request start of three (3) minute clock.

4.2.11 The dog must be inside the bird field but the bird can be outside the bird field for a find. The bird must be alive.

4.2.12 A stolen point will be awarded two (2) pts. To the first pointing Dog.

### **4.3 Rules for a Retrieve**

4.3.1 The handler must attempt to shoot the bird in the air. [After second attempt the bird may be shot on the ground in a safe manner and judges approval. If it cannot be done safely you may call a safety.](#)

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4.3.2 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" (SEE DEFINITION) without the permission of the judge.

4.3.3 A shot bird may be retrieved from outside the bird field to score points for the retrieve.

4.3.4 Should a safety be called the dog will be scored the average of all other retrieves during the brace. If no other bird is produced for scoring a retrieve, the dog must demonstrate a retrieve immediately following its brace on a freshly killed bird. The retrieve shall be scored on that bird.

4.3.5 Commands may be used during the Retrieve.

### 4.4 Rules for Honoring

4.4.1 Handler may use commands to establish an honor.

4.4.2 A bird does not have to be produced in order to receive an honor score if the brace mate points within the characteristics of the breed.

4.4.3 Only one (1) honor will be scored per brace.

4.4.4 Honoring dogs **WILL BE COLLARED** during bird work or until released by the Judge.



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### **4.5** Rules for a Stop to Flush

4.5.1 Only one (1) stop to flush will be scored per dog per brace.

4.5.2 One (1) point will be awarded to dogs that stop to flush on a bird **WITHOUT** any Delayed Chase. The bird may now be hunted.

### **4.6** HUNTER SCORING

2 pts. For each individual bird pointed.

1 pt. For each bird delivered within 15 ft. of the Handler.

1 pt. For one honor.

1 pt. For one stop to flush.

1 pt. For completing the brace.

1 pt. For winning its brace.

## **5.0 AWARDS**

5.1 Awards will be given any time a dog places. Placements will be for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

## **6.0 Tournament of Champions**

The Tournament of Champions is a two day event in which rounds 1 and 2 are held day 1 and rounds 3 and 4 are held on day 2. Hunter, Shooting Dog and Gun Dog classes have their own respective TOC.

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### 6.1 Qualifications

The number of invitees in each class shall be limited to **16 dogs based on each class's HIGH POINT STANDING at end of the trial season.**

6.1.1 Braces will be seeded for each class based on HIGH POINT STANDING for each dog.

6.1.2.1 Example: seed 1 against seed 16 and seed 2 against seed 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.

6.1.2 If the handler ends up being braced against him/herself the handler has the choice of handling both dogs or appointing a handler for one of the dogs. Both dogs must run. Dogs with the following qualifications CANNOT qualify for any future Hunter or Shooting Dog Class High Point or T.O.C. event:

- Any Gundog high point placement
- Any Gundog T.O.C. champion
- AKC Master Hunter title
- American Field Champion
- NSTRA Champion
- AKC Field Champion (FC or AFC)
- NAVHDA Versatile Champion

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### 6.2 Entry Fee

6.2.1 The price of the TOC entry shall be determined by the chairman of the event and the board of directors prior to the event

## **AZPDC TRIAL POSITIONS**

### TRIAL EVENT COORDINATOR:

- Heads up the Trial Event Committee.
  - Determines the number and type of field events including the Quail Invitational, Chukar Challenge etc.
  - Determines the date and location of the annual field trials.
  - Confirms permits for the events are secured and available on-site.
  - Responsible for the procurement of trophies, awards and ribbons for the trial season.
- 
- Provides upcoming event information to the membership through the Club Newsletter, E-Mail, and Website.
  - Arranges for the necessary amount of birds to be used for the trial season.

### TRIAL CHAIRPERSON(S):

- Provides the Treasurer with financial statement after the event.

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- Has full responsibility for the event activities.
  - Responsible for the list of entrants and the number of dogs entered and Brace sheets. Braces may be between 20 or 30 min. and will be left to the discretion of the Chairperson as the number of entries will permit. Chairperson shall make the necessary changes to the braces.
  - Responsible for setting up of the Bird Field Boundaries and flag placement.
  - Responsible for Roll Call, Safety Meeting, and Judging assignments or any other logistics. The chairperson must also have a marshal(s) designated before the first brace. Trial will not begin until assignments are completed.
  - Determines who will deliver birds and Club trailer to the event.
  - Ensures that drinking water, batteries, snacks, gas for generator, coffee is provided.
- 
- Ensures approved event location permit is onsite.
  - Assigns an experienced club member as a mentor to walk with a new member during his/her first brace and coach him/her. Chairperson shall assign a mentor for handlers that do not have experience judging. The Chairperson must also have a volunteer for the novice training before the start of each day.

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- Provides handlers with placement awards and arranges for photos. Attends Grievance meetings.
- Responsible for instructing bird planter(s) responsibilities.

### TRIAL MARSHAL(S):

- Have full responsibility for the activities related to the running of each brace and the communication with the Judges.
- Provides Judges with scorecards and radios.
- Ensures that Handlers and dogs are in the Blind 10 min. prior to their Brace.
- Coordinate the activities of the Bird Planters and ensure that the Bird Field is planted in a timely manner.
- Monitor the runtime of each Brace and time limits for Honors, and Dead Birds.
- Marshals must be at the Marshal's Table 10 Min. prior to the Brace.

### JUDGE(S):

- Must be present at least 10 min. prior to the Brace.
- Communicates by radio to the Marshal regarding time. Notifies Marshal to start the clock to begin each brace. Notifies Marshal and handler to start the clock regarding honoring and/or Dead Bird. A Judge may be required to monitor time for honors, and/or dead birds in the event of communication issues with the

## AZPDC Trial Rules

Marshal's table.

- Informs the handler on time remaining in the brace and when time is up in the brace.
- The Judge observes all activity of the dog, handler and gunner during the brace.
- Utilizing the current Trial Rule Book the Judge records the scoring of the performance of the dog. Monitors the activity of the handler, gunner, and other participants and notifies them of any hazards which may jeopardize safety.
- When the Judge is notified by the handler that the dog is on point the judge will communicate with the gunner and handler as to their safest position. The judge will then notify the handler of the dog on point if an honor has been requested. The judge for the honoring dog will notify the marshal to start the clock after the handler has declared the honor. The judge will then begin scoring for the honor. In the event of a divided find the judge(s) will determine which dog will be awarded the find or honor and each dog will be scored accordingly based on specific class rules. The judges will notify handlers of the general location of a dead bird. The judge will use discretion in order to determine

## AZPDC Trial Rules

when to remove dead birds (scored upon), bird in tree, bird in obstacle and all poorly flying birds in the field. Judges will notify handler of opportunity to pursue a safety bird or missed shot bird. Scores shall be immediately recorded after the dog's performance on the scorecard. Notations regarding questionable events, which occur during the brace, are recommended. Judges will notify handlers to leash dogs at the end of the brace. Judges will secure all dead birds and deliver scored cards to the marshal's table.

- Judge will attend meeting for grievances, which may have arisen during the brace.

### GUNNER(S):

- Must be an AZPDC CLUB MEMBER in good standing.
- Gunners are person(s) who have demonstrated to club members that they can safely handle a shotgun.
- Gunners less than 18 years of age must have completed a hunter safety course.
- Gunners are responsible for flushing the bird located by the dog on point as well as shooting said bird for the dog to retrieve.
- Gunners, Handlers and Mentors are considered a team and may openly communicate. Observers must remain out of communication.

## AZPDC Trial Rules

### BIRD PLANTER(S):

- Bird planters are responsible for planting birds before each brace.
- Bird planting technique can vary depending on terrain, weather, individual birds, and the planter's personal discretion.
- Planters can dizzy the bird and tuck its head under a wing (often stroking the bird's chest to relax the bird) for a tight plant. The bird can also be tossed/placed without dizzying into a bush for a much looser plant. Note that most birds tend to move towards trees, so planting near the edge of a bird field with trees nearby and outside the boundary of the bird field will often result in birds migrating out of bounds.

### HANDLER(S):

- The handlers are responsible for handling, guiding, and/or controlling a dog during a brace. This is often the owner of the dog performing this task, but is not required to be.
- The handler must sit with the dog in a blind before his/her brace as well as collar the dog when required.
- The handler is responsible for indicating to judge when their dog is on point.
- A handler can also perform gunner duties for themselves if so desired.



## AZPDC Trial Rules

### **GLOSSARY**

**Audible** – Verbal or whistle.

**Bird Field Boundaries**-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.

**Bird Planter** – person(s) designated by Field Marshal to randomly disperse birds within the boundaries of the bird field. He/she must wear blaze orange hat and vest. The planter will avoid placing birds in large obstacles.

**Blind** – A barrier that prevents the handlers and dog's visibility of the bird field during the time it is being planted. This barrier is normally the Club trailer.

**Blocking** - When handler/assistant is positioned such as to restrict or interfere with the dog's natural tendencies. This occurs during honoring or pointing.

## AZPDC Trial Rules

**Board of Directors** – Group of elected officials comprised of the President, Vice - President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Board Members as defined under Article III, Sect. 1 of the AZPDC Constitution.

**Board Member** –Nominated and elected persons, which serve on the board of directors per Article III, Sect. 1 of the AZPDC Constitution.

**Brace** – Is comprised of two dogs which run together and compete against each other during a field trial event.

**Bye Dog** – Replacement dog of the same class, which is used to complete a brace.

**Collared** – Handlers physical restraint of the honoring dog during the completion of the find and retrieve by the pointing dog.

**Command** – Verbal order or visual signal given to dog by handler.

**Covey** – Multiple birds, which are located in the same immediate vicinity within the bird field.

**Dead Bird** – Any bird, which has been scored upon except for a stop to flush.

## AZPDC Trial Rules

**Delayed Chase** – A dog running in the direction of a moving (flying/running) game bird. This occurs without a handler's command after a point, honor, or stop to flush.

**Divided Find** – Occurs during the brace when both dogs are discovered on point at the same time.

**Encouraging the retrieve** - Any action which assists the dog with completing the retrieve. For example; shortening the distance the dog must return the bird, reducing the complexity of the retrieve and physically assisting with the retrieve.

*\*Check Cords are permitted in Hunter Class. The handler may only advance as close to the bird as the length of their check cord.*

**Entrant** – Participant of field trial event.

**Field Marshal** – Individual(s) who monitor the activities, which occur during the running of each brace. (AZPDC TRIAL POSITIONS).

**Find** – Dog points and bird is produced. When the dog is on point, the handler must indicate to the judge verbally or by raising their hand prior to passing the dog on point. The dog must remain on point for minimum of 3 seconds in order to score points for the find. Once point has been indicated all rules for steadiness will apply.

## AZPDC Trial Rules

**Firearm** - 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 ¾" 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.

**Flush** - Birds that have moved from their point of rest due to the actions of a dog, handler, participant, or judge and so noted by the judge.

**Forward Progress** – The movement of all four feet in the direction of the bird.

**Gallery** – Anyone who is not participating within the boundaries of the event field.

**Grievance** –A rule related disagreement registered by a handler to the judge regarding an issue which occurs during a brace. Issue which arises during a Field Trial event and presented to the Trial Chairperson.

**Grievance Committee** - Consists of the Chairperson/s, Marshals, Judges and available Board Members. Convenes within 30 min. after the brace in order to resolve a grievance. Individual(s) involved with the grievance may be requested to attend after the initial meeting of the Committee.

## AZPDC Trial Rules

**Gunner** – Individuals assigned to perform shooting/flushing duties for the handler during a brace. (AZPDC TRIAL POSITIONS)

**Handler** – Person assigned to manage the activity of a dog during the brace.

**Harassment** - To strike, to trouble, or to worry the dog either audibly or physically.

**Honor**– Occurs when a dog recognizes the point of its brace mate and stops.

**Judge** – Individual(s) assigned to the administration of the current AZPDC Field Trial Rules during a brace. (AZPDC TRIAL POSITIONS).

**Leashed** - All dogs are required to be leashed if not staked in or around the trial grounds. Dogs shall be leashed prior to their brace and immediately after the brace.

**Marking a Bird** – The act of a dog repositioning itself without forward progress in order to follow the flight of a bird. This may occur after the flush, wing, shot, and fall or a stop to flush.

**No Opportunity** - A missed bird, a bird falling in, or ending up in an irretrievable location. Situation where the handler of the pointing dog does not release dog for the retrieve.

## AZPDC Trial Rules

**Obstacle** – Object located within the boundaries of the bird field, which may impair access to a planted bird(s). May include, rock formations, trees, bushes, etc.

**Officers** – President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer as defined under Article III, Sect. 1 of the AZPDC Constitution.

**Participants** – Handlers, gunners, chairman, judges & any potential observers.

**Placement** – The ranking based upon the points scored in the Gun Dog, Shooting Dog and Hunter Class events. Dogs, which finish 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th, are qualified for placement.

**Point** – Situation occurs when a dog stops and indicates the presence and position of game bird(s) with its muzzle facing the general direction of the bird while remaining in pointing position for no less than 3 seconds, no forward progress can be made by dog.

**Point of Rest** – The location in which the bird was initially located and was stationary. Any lateral movement will end point of rest.

**Relocate** –The act of a dog vacating a point to pinpoint or confirm the presence of a bird. If directed by the handler, permission must be granted by a judge. Relocation will not be allowed for the purpose of upgrading a steadiness score.

## AZPDC Trial Rules

**Retrieve** – A retrieve begins when the dog is given a command or leaves Point without a command after the point, flush, wing, shot and fall. A retrieve ends when a dog delivers a bird to hand (Gundog and Shooting Dog) or within 15 ft. of handler (Hunter).

**Runoff** – Method used to determine trial placement in the event of a tie. (Sect. 1.4)

**Safety** – Occurs at a 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. The judge, gunner or any other person in the field may call **SAFETY**. Once a safety is called **DO NOT SHOOT**. Safety may also be called after the first shot. (Sect. 2.0)

**Staked** – The act of restraining a dog to prevent free roaming or unwanted entry into the bird field.

**Steadiness Continuum (Figure 2)** - No forward progress can be made by the dog during the point, flush, wing, shot and fall stages of the continuum. Any further scoring will cease once forward progress is identified by judge.

**Steady** – The act of a dog remaining in pointing position without forward progress.

## AZPDC Trial Rules

**Point** - Situation occurs when a dog stops and indicates the presence and position of game bird(s) with its muzzle facing the general direction of the bird while remaining in pointing position for no less than 3 seconds.

**Steady to Flush** – Begins when the handler indicates that the dog is on Point and ends when the bird leaves its point of rest. Scoring point awarded after bird leaves point of rest and no forward progress is made.

**Steady to Wing** – Begins when the bird leaves its point of rest and ends when the gun is fired. The scoring point is awarded after gun is fired and no forward progress is made.

**Steady to Shot** – Begins when the gun is fired and ends when the bird hits the ground. The scoring point is awarded after bird contacts ground and no forward progress is made.

**Steady to Fall** – Begins when the bird hits the ground and ends when the dog is commanded to retrieve. The scoring point is awarded after dog is released for the retrieve.

**Retrieve** – A retrieve begins when the dog is given a command or leaves Point without a command after the point, flush, wing, shot and fall. A retrieve ends when a dog delivers a bird to hand for Gundog and Shooting Dog, or within 15 ft. of handler for Hunter Class.



## AZPDC Trial Rules

**Stolen Point** – Is committed after a handler has indicated point and brace mate moves in front of or within 5 feet of the dog on point. A bird must be produced in order to be scored as a stolen point. Dog must be collared until completion of the find and retrieve by its brace mate.

**Stolen Retrieve** –Is committed by the dog not on point. The Pointing dogs brace mate attempts to retrieve or does retrieve bird after the shot and fall.

**Stop to Flush** – Occurs when a dog becomes aware of a game bird(s) in flight and stops without a chase. The dog may reposition for marking the bird.

**Tie** – Occurs when a dog and its brace mate receive equal scores at the end of their brace. (Sect. 1.4)

**To Hand** – Bird is delivered to handler **WITHOUT** being released from mouth during the retrieve. The handler may reach no more than 3 ft. to receive bird from dog. The bird may not be dropped during transfer.

**Training Device** – Any Device which physically restrains the dog for providing a correction, i.e. E-Collar, check cord, pinch collar, bird call etc. \***A whistle is exempt.**

## **AZPDC Trial Rules**

**Trial Chairperson** – Coordinates the activities of a field trial event. (AZPDC TRIAL POSITIONS).

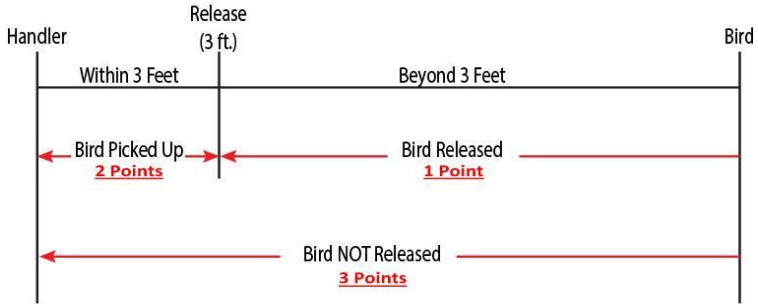
**Trial Event Committee** – Group which determines the upcoming trial event schedule.

**Trial Event Coordinator** – Heads up the Trial Event Committee. (AZPDC TRIAL POSITIONS).

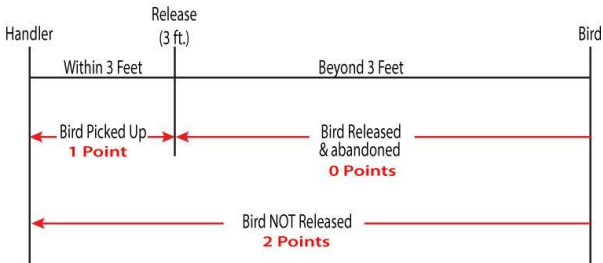
**Verbal Command** – Voice used to provide a command or correction.

# AZPDC Trial Rules

Figure 1  
Retrieve Diagram



(Shooter – Gun Dog)



Hunter Class

Figure 2  
Steadiness Continuum

## AZPDC Trial Rules

