

DRAWINGS FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

In order to avoid future issues with the manner in which drawings are conducted for hour Championships, the NGSPA requires that its affiliated Championship Organizations adhere to the following Guidelines. These Guidelines are based on the Minimum Requirements of the American Field, the Guidelines published by the Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America, Inc., and on accepted custom and practice in NGSPA field trials.

The Minimum Requirements state:

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FIELD TRIALS FOR ALL POINTING BREEDS

As adopted by Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America, The American Field Publishing Company and the Field Dog Stud Book.

Wins will not be recognized and recorded unless the trial and/or each stake in which such win is made conforms to the following conditions:

4. A stake must be drawn no later than the night before the day the stake is advertised to be run.
5. Dogs shall not be substituted after the draw.
6. Braces shall be run, and handled, as drawn, unless given prior consent of the judges, which consent must not be given for the purpose of accommodating owners, handlers or dogs that are not available when reached in the regular order of the draw. In the case of withdrawals, the braced mates of such withdrawn dogs may be run together at the discretion of the judges. Bitches which come in season, braced with a male, are scratched.
7. No entry shall be accepted after a stake is drawn.

NGSPA Guidelines

1. Postponement and Completion of the Drawing.

The drawing must be *conducted and completed no later than the night before the stake is run*. The Minimum Requirements are clear on when the drawing for a stake must be held and completed. The AFTCA Guidelines say that a drawing may be postponed with the consent of all present, *so long as the drawing is conducted no later than the night before the stake is run*. Failure to hold and complete the drawing the night before the stake is to run risks the cancellation of all placements in the stake, as stated in the Minimum Requirements.

2. Overlapping of Important Events; Accomodations for Handlers or Dogs.

If it appears that one or more dogs that have been entered may not be present to run if regularly drawn, due to the fact that they are actually competing in another important event, amateur or open, the drawing of the dogs whose arrival is so delayed may be handled as follows: viz. the drawing slips bearing the names of such dogs shall be set aside until such time as a sufficient number of dogs have been drawn in the regular course to absorb the time reasonably necessary, in the opinion of the officials conducting the drawing, to enable delayed dogs to arrive on the grounds. At that point in the drawing, the entry slips of the dogs in question shall be placed in the drawing receptacle and commingled with the remaining slips and the drawing continued. Under no circumstances shall the start of the running of such a stake be delayed pending the arrival of late dogs. For the purposes of this Guideline, "important events" shall include the following: (1) another Championship with heats of an hour or more sanctioned by the NGSPA or any other American Field organization, (1) any of the GSPCA sanctioned National Championships, (3) or any of the AKC Pointing Breed National Championships.

This Guideline is intended to apply where unexpectedly large entries, bad weather delaying completion, or similar unexpected events have occurred in the running of the prior event, and does not apply where the stakes, as advertised, would be expected to conflict.

4. Drawing Dogs to Run Twice in the Same Day.

A dog entered in two or more stakes in Championship with stakes of an hour or more in length, should not be drawn to run twice in the same day unless drawing the dog to run the following day in the second (or successive) stake would cause the completion of such stake to be delayed. The drawings should be handled by drawing the first stake normally, and then during the drawing of the second or successive stake, the dog should be withheld from the drawing until sufficient braces have been drawn to allow the particular dog to run the following day, then the dog's name should be placed back in the drawing receptacle and drawn normally by lot.

5. Drawing Handlers to Run in Successive Braces.

On some occasions, a particular handler may have sufficient dogs in a stake that the handler may be required to handle dogs in numerous successive braces. In these instances, stake management is allowed to alter the drawing so that, to the extent practical, a handler is not required to handle a dog in more than two successive braces. However, stake management is allowed to require a handler to handle dogs in multiple successive braces if, in the ordinary course, to do otherwise would delay completion of the stake.

6. Drawing Bitches in Season.

The Minimum Requirements are unequivocal. Section 11 states:

Bitches in season *shall not be permitted to run in one-course trials*. In multiple course trials, they may start only if, in the opinion of the judges, it can be accomplished under conditions which will ensure absolute fairness to the other entries.

The AFTCA Guidelines state: “In a multiple course trial, a bitch in season should be declared at the drawing in order that she can be paired with another bitch. If the fact is discovered after the drawing is completed and if the brace mate drawn with her is a male, she must be withdrawn from the stake. If the discovery is made by the judges after she has been put down and if her brace mate is a male, she must be ordered up, whereupon the brace mate will continue until the end of the heat.”

7. Making Accommodations for Particular Dogs or Handlers.

The purpose of the drawing established by the Minimum Requirements and by custom and practice in field trialing, is to place all competitors on an even footing at the beginning of the drawing. It is well recognized that such things as choice of course in multiple course and wild bird trials, time of day, or the particular day a dog may run in the case of stakes running over a period of several days, can affect performances. It is the purpose of the Minimum Requirements and these Guidelines to make clear that to the extent these factors may have an influence, they are to be determined by the “luck of the draw” and the normal running of the stake, and not by sharp practice, favoritism, or even well-intentioned but misguided efforts. It is not uncommon that handlers or owners present sympathetic cases for accommodation by the organizing group. Organizing groups are often motivated to maximize entries and to this end may wish to accommodate handlers so they can attend. However, failure to follow the Minimum Requirements and these Guidelines may result in wins for the particular stake being cancelled, or even the entire trial voided. The organizing group has the responsibility to protect the integrity of the event. Knowing this, handlers and owners may choose to enter dogs in a particular stake, or not.

