

NGSPA and AKC Dual Sanctioned Championships Procedures and Guidelines

REVISED June 12, 2015

INTRODUCTION

This new field trial format was introduced in July, 2010, and has grown dramatically because it offers a number of benefits for dogs and participants, and for the AKC and NGSPA organizations:

-Increased participation. Some "NGSPA-only" trialers having a dog earn AKC points at a dual sanctioned trial might decide to go for a FC or AFC title and attend some AKC trials. Some "AKC-only" trialers might enter dogs in a NGSPA trial to try and finish them.

-Increased participation for AKC field trialers who are seeking the Grand Champion title. It requires hour long stakes and is perfect for this format, simply by naming some the stakes: "Grand Limited stakes". See details below.

-Some professionals have a bias towards one or the other venues. The pro's bias often is projected upon his customers. This venue allows a pro and his customers to attend a new venue and earn wins meaningful to his/her particular bias. It should result in more trial options for the pros and greater participation of dogs and clients.

-It gives another option for serious AKC trialers who plan to enter their dogs in the Nationals. The hour-long venue will help them evaluate whether their dog is ready to compete.

-It will provide another venue to qualify dogs for the AKC Nationals.

-It takes advantage of the AKC rule allowing licensed clubs to hold three field trials per year. This might enhance cooperation and provide more "helping hands" for the new venue.

Our sport stands to benefit from this new venue, those Clubs offering it have found it is easy to overcome the few procedural differences that exist. This document identifies the main differences and outlines workable solutions.

Dual Sanctioned NGSPA/AKC Field Trials are NGSPA trials in fact, spirit, and philosophy. Nothing contained herein can be allowed to alter or undermine this principle.

1. GUIDELINES FOR DERBY DOG STAKES

There are irreconcilable differences in the allowable ages for derby dogs between the two organizations. To avoid any possibility of a dog being disqualified, you may choose to run a Derby stake either under AKC rules or NGSPA rules. Dogs placing will win one way only. Alternatively, you may choose to run under both rules, so that 90% of the time or more the dog wins two ways earning AKC points and Championship qualifications. In rare cases one of the two wins may be disallowed due to being too old. Therefore there is no down-side, as long as the participants are made aware of this possibility.

If run under AKC rules, the Derby Stake will not be advertised in the American Field, and it will not be reported on the Essential Data Form, nor in the American Field write-up. If run under NGSPA rules, follow existing NGSPA guidelines, and do not include the Derby stake in the AKC Event Application, Premium or results reports.

If you elect to run both ways, simply follow the rules for both. Report wins identically. Let the AKC or FDSB deal with any age issues after the fact. In the event of a disqualification from one side or the other, the placements will not be changed to move up a non-disqualified dog(s).

2. DRAWING PROCEDURES

Drawings at Dual Sanctioned Field Trials will be conducted under NGSPA rules and practices.

For NGSPA purposes, the American Field ad may specify drawing dates and times as they are normally stated. There is no need to state closing times in the ad as it is assumed that the entries will close in such a manner that an orderly and fair drawing may be held.

It is traditional for AKC trials to close early, but it is not required. If multiple drawings are desired, simply note that on the AKC Event Application. For Example: under "Entries will close" you can state "30 minutes before the drawings". Under "Drawings will take place" you can state it this way: (your location), 7:00 pm: OAA-9/22, AGD-9/23, OGD-9/26. Your Premium will mirror your Application. The times, dates and running order will conform to your American Field ad.

Be aware that the email approval notice from the AKC and the AKC web-site will only list the first drawing date due to system limitations. Upon receiving the email approval notice and Event #, you may assume your Application has been accepted as written.

3. BITCHES IN SEASON

NGSPA rules will apply. The AKC Premium should state: "bitches in season will be allowed to run".

4. QUALIFICATION DIFFERENCES

NGSPA qualifications will apply for all broke dog stakes.

In the event that the AKC stakes are set up as Limited Stakes including Grand Limited Stakes, there is the possibility that an AKC qualified dog may not meet NGSPA qualifications or vice versa. As with the Derby discussion, the dog still wins one way, so there is no real down-side. It would win only one way if the trial was not Dual Sanctioned.

In the event of a disqualification from one side or the other, the placements will not be changed to move up a non-disqualified dog(s).

5. HARMONY OF TERMS and WORDING

Both the AKC and the NGSPA will refer to these field trials as: **Dual Sanctioned Field Trials**

This term will be used in the NGSPA American Field ads and NGSPA website, and it will be used in the AKC Premiums.

The American Field does not want to call attention to the "Dual Sanctioned" feature. If they feel your ad copy is too blatant they may rework it. It is a good idea to ask them to email you a copy of your "press-ready" ad before it is printed. This is the only way you will be aware of their changes.

Here is a headline from an approved ad:

2010 REGION 8 (NGSPA) CHAMPIONSHIP

—Dual Sanctioned • A Purina Handler of the Year Points Trial—

Note the Championship title is 22 pt. type, and the "Dual Sanctioned" by-line is 14 pt. type.

Do not mention the title: "AKC" in your American Field ad. The ad may state something like: "Premium List available on request", and it might subtly

reinforce the dual sanctioned aspect. Here is an example of wording the American Field approved from the same ad:

Alfalfa and grass hay available • All “Broke Dog” stakes are retrieving and dual sanctioned • Premiums available on request • Tracking Collars permitted • All participants and spectators do so at their own risk •

Note that this wording did not emphasize the AKC involvement, but was very subtle. Anything more direct might have been rejected.

The AKC Premium heading will mirror the above format with a 2 pt. type-face difference. For example:

Frontier German Shorthaired Club of Cheyenne (16pt)
Dual Sanctioned Field Trial (14 pt)
 A.K.C. Licensed Event #xxxxxxxx (12 pt)

Be certain not to mention the title “AKC” in your American Field write-up.

The term: “dual sanctioned” is also used to describe certain regular AKC field trial stakes held by GSPCA Clubs which are also members in good standing of the NGSPA. In such cases neither the American Field ad, nor the AKC Premium will describe the trial as “Dual Sanctioned”, because they are not conducted under the format herein described.

6. BLAZE ORANGE

Not all NGSPA events are Retrieving, but where they are there is an inconsistency of practice in that the AKC requires participants to wear Blaze Orange and the NGSPA does not.

The best practice for safety is for participants to wear orange, but do not make it mandatory or call attention to this matter if some choose not to wear blaze orange.

7. JUDGES

Not all qualified NGSPA judges are licensed AKC judges, but they must be AKC licensed in order to judge a **Dual Sanctioned Field Trial**.

There is a “fast-track” procedure; whereby the prospective judge can take a standard open book test based upon the AKC booklet: [Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds](#). Contact the Senior Performance Event Operations Rep. At this writing it is Connie Thomas, clt@akc.org, or

call her at 919-816-3907. Bonnie Hidalgo has been very helpful in “fast tracking” experienced AF judges.

8. SCRATCHES

After dogs have been drawn and the running order printed up, there are typically scratches for one reason or another. The methods used for moving dogs around is different between both organizations. The NGSPA moves by dogs up. The AKC moves them down.

In general the NGSPA trials are more pro-oriented with fewer amateurs, and it is generally easier to communicate with all participants. For this reason and the sake of consistency between Championships, the NGSPA rules will apply.

9. GUN CAPTAIN

AKC procedures provide for a Gun Captain, and the NGSPA does not. A Gun Captain does not have to be named on the AKC Application or Premium.

Both organizations agree on the most important criteria: safe, experienced gunners must be selected. It is this guideline that will be followed in Dual Sanctioned Field Trials.

10. MISCONDUCT, UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT, PROTESTS AGAINST DOGS, ETC.

If an issue arises between individuals at an event, it is always best to resolve it at the personal level before it escalates into a formal misconduct complaint. Friends and club officials should be prepared to intervene for the benefit of all involved. The invocation of a formal process should be a last resort, and a very unusual occurrence at a well run trial.

If a misconduct complaint is filed, the club’s initial approach is to handle it under the NGSPA process, which will be the default process. The AKC paperwork would only be completed if the plaintiff specifically states that he/she wishes to involve the AKC. If the person wants AKC’s involvement, their right cannot be denied.

It is of the utmost importance that misconduct complaints are taken seriously, addressed immediately in a professional and unbiased manner, and resolved fairly.

Communication between the NGSPA and AKC is desirable. A misconduct decision by the NGSPA should be mailed or e-mailed to the AVP of Performance Events, AKC, at the time of this writing: Doug Ljungren.

11. TIME OUT OF JUDGMENT

The allowable time a dog is out of judgment at any one time during a heat differs between both organizations. The AKC allows 1/6 of the time of the heat (10 minutes in a 60 minute heat), and the NGSPA allows 1/3 of the time of the heat (20 minutes in a 60 minute heat).

Both the NGSPA and AKC guidelines recognize the difficulty in applying a fixed time-out rule to all situations. A prolonged absence will hurt a dog's chance of placing regardless of the allowable time, plus it is never perfectly clear when the judge should start the clock.

Experienced judges often make a statement like: "keep your dog down, but you dug yourself a pretty deep hole". It is doubtful that the variation between these rules will result in different dogs being placed in most situations. For that reason the most lenient of the guidelines (NGSPA) will be followed.

12. ROADING OF DOGS

The NGSPA allows the roading of dogs under strict conditions during a field trial, while the AKC prohibits the practice.

Given the nature of the participants at NGSPA trials, this should not be an issue. Just allow it, and do not make a big deal about it.

13. APPRENTICE JUDGES

Under AKC provisions, the field trial committee always has to approve any apprentice judge. In Dual Sanctioned Championships, no apprentice judges are to be allowed by the Field Trial Committee.

14. GRAND LIMITED STAKES

This newly established AKC title is simple to incorporate into a Dual Sanctioned Format because all Championships offer one hour formats. This is very difficult to do for the typical AKC Club. This is a new and untapped "market" as NGSPA Clubs seek increased entries. Reach out to local AKC Clubs and try to build interest in the Grand Champion title by offering amateurs a venue to compete for it.

15. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

NGSPA National Championships shall not be dual sanctioned.

QUESTIONS

Contact Keith Richardson, 307-630-9907 (cell), or email: gspkeith@gmail.com