



**RULES, GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS
OF THE
National German Shorthaired Pointer Association, Inc.**

- **Constitution**
- **By-Laws**
- **Running Rules**
- **Standards for: NGSPA National Futurity, and All-Age Dogs**
- **Duties of Field Trial Chairman, Stake Managers, Field Trial Committee**
- **McGinnis Award Standards**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book contains the Constitution, and the revised By Laws and Running Rules of the National German Shorthaired Pointer Association, Inc. As President, Keith Richardson established an ad hoc committee to consider revisions to the Rules and By Laws in late 2013. Proposed changes have been discussed frequently at the meetings of the Board of Trustees since then. The Board proposed revisions to the By Laws, and those revisions were adopted by a vote of the membership of the NGSPA and signed into effect on Feb. 23, 2015.

The Board also considered changes to the Running Rules and related materials. When the Trustees felt that the revisions were in sufficiently good form, they were distributed to the members of the NGSPA for comment, and many excellent comments were received. The final changes were adopted at the Board's meeting of June 3, 2016. Thereafter, The American Field published new guidelines on collars and recovery units, and a policy on cell phone use. These were adopted by the Board into the NGSPA Rules on October 11, 2016, prior to publication of this book. Further changes to the Rules were subsequently considered and resulted in this Revision 2.

The Board and the revision committee felt strongly that the philosophy and field trialing traditions of the NGSPA and American Field needed to be continued in the revised rules. While rules are necessary, field trialing is best served when it is conducted by those who truly know and understand the sport, its traditions, and its history. With that in mind, we sought to keep as much as possible of the existing text, as well as the spirit of the rules that have guided our sport since the NGSPA was formed in 1954.

The committee would like to acknowledge the comments, support, discussions (often animated), viewpoints, and contributions of the following:

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With gratitude for their contributions,

John B. Lunseth II
Committee Chair

PREFACE

Revision 1 – October 11, 2016

In the 2016 revision the Rules were organized into separate subjects set out in a logical sequence.

Chapter 1 of the Running Rules honors the American Field tradition of governing field trials by means of a succinct set of Minimum Requirements. The Minimum Requirements of the NGSPA are modeled after those of the American Field, with changes to adapt the American Field Minimum Requirements to traditional German Shorthaired Pointer field trialing. The NGSPA Minimum Requirements apply to all field trials sanctioned by the NGSPA.

Chapter 2 comprises the main body of the Running Rules, and is organized into ten Articles, each of which covers a separate subject. Article I includes the General Running Rules. These rules are applicable to all field trials sanctioned by the NGSPA regardless of the nature of the event, whether the event is a weekend trial, classic, or championship. Article II contains additional general rules that are applicable to all NGSPA Championships, including the Invitationals, Regionals, Species, the National Championships, and the new category of Other Championships established in the revised Rules. Article III provides the special rules that govern the National Championship events. Article IV applies to the Regional Championships, Article V to One Course Championships, Article VI to Species Championships, and Article VII to Other Championships. Article VIII defines Professional and Amateur Handlers. Article IX provides for future amendments to the Running Rules and allows the NGSPA to make new Rules effective by posting them on the NGSPA website or otherwise publishing the changes. Lastly, Article X is the formal certification of the Rules by the NGSPA Secretary and President.

It is intended that where there may appear to be a conflict between the rules governing a more general subject matter, and the rules governing a more specific subject matter, the rules governing the more specific subject matter take precedence. For example, Article II states the qualifications of a dog to run in Championships generally. Article III states the qualifications of a dog to run in the National Championships. For the National Championship events, the qualifications of Article III take precedence over those stated in Article II.

There were five general areas where revisions were made to the rules. First, some Articles were added and some existing rules were moved to a different Article than they originally appeared in, to make the rules easier to understand and follow. As an example, our rule concerning the number of dogs needed for a championship was previously in old Article IV, which governed One Course Championships. A new Article was added, which is Article II of the revised rules. Article II sets forth the rules applicable to all Championships. The “number of dogs required” rule was moved to the new Article II, to make clear that it applies to all Championships and not just to One Course Championships. A new Article VII was added to govern “Other Championships” now permitted under the revised By Laws. There were several

instances of this kind, where an Article was added, or rules were moved to a new Article to make the applicability of the rule clearer.

Second, some rules of long standing had been followed, but were not written. We had, for example, followed a “two collar” rule (now in Art. I, Sec. 19) – a dog may wear a maximum of two collars – but this was done by tradition and was not contained in the NGSPA Rules. It is now in the Running Rules.

Third, rules were written to address some of the new issues of our era, such as rules concerning DNA requirements (Art. II, Sec. 6), electronic devices, and tracking collars (Art. I, Sec. 19).

Fourth, the qualifications for entry in the National Championship events were broadened and simplified, to encourage greater participation.

Fifth, the Board added some rules that specifically addressed complaints about episodes of conduct at field trials, where we had sometimes heard the response that there was no rule and the conduct complained of was therefore not prohibited. In fact, we do have a rule that governs the conduct of field trials, it is the “conduct unbecoming” rule. We hope and expect that field trialers who run in our Championships, which are considered by many to be the premier events for our breed, understand what conduct is expected and what is unacceptable. Nevertheless, we have added some rules that address specific situations that have arisen in the past, to prevent recurrences.

It is important to point out that there were many things in our rules that we did not change. It was not the intent of the Board or the rules committee to “revise” field trialing as we know and understand it, nor to fundamentally change the way our trials are conducted. These rules are intended to be applied in the exercise of common sense, good field trialing judgment, and good sportsmanship, with the ultimate point of the game being the improvement of pointing dogs generally and our breed, the German Shorthaired Pointer, in particular.

Finally, although it seems trite to say it, we live in an electronic age and issues sometimes arise before the Board that require immediate changes to the rules. Please see Article IX, which provides that when the Rules and Regulations are changed, the change will apply as soon as it is posted to the NGSPA website at www.ngspa.org, or when it is published by other means.

Revision 2 – March 27, 2021.

This book is the first full publication of the Rules since the October 2016 revision. It includes rules, standards, and guidelines that have been adopted by the Board since October 2016 and up through June 8, 2020.

There are three revisions to the rules, one new set of Standards, and one revised set of Standards. The Board also continues to revise and publish on the NGSPA website, its Guidelines for Drawings and Bracing.

The revised rules in Revision 2 include the following:

1. Scouting Rule – at its February 2018 meeting the Board of Trustees approved the deletion of the existing rule regarding scouting, and the adoption of a new rule in its place. The new rule is Chapter 2, Article I (General Running Rules), Section 10.
2. The Board amended Chapter 2, Article III (National Championships), Section 2(c), which are the Qualifications for the National Championship, National Amateur Championship, and National Open Shooting Dog Championship, to require that dogs entered in the National Amateur Championship must be amateur owned and handled. At its meeting on June 6, 2020, the Board adopted new rules requiring that dogs must be amateur owned and handled in any amateur Championship event. Chapter 2, Article III, Section 2(c) was deleted because it applied only to Nationals events, and the new rule, which applies to all Championship events including Nationals events, was added as Section 7 to Chapter 2, Article II.
3. The Board passed amendments to the Rules to enable the running of a National Amateur All-Age Championship at its meeting on June 6, 2020. Changes were made for this purpose to Chapter 2, Article III (National Championships), Sections 2 & 3. In addition, a “no crossover” rule was added as Section 2(C).
4. After the Revision 2 changes were adopted, Article V, Section 9 was amended by vote of the Delegates at the Annual Meeting in March, 2021 to permit the Board of Trustees to determine the events to be held during the National Championships.

Two new or amended Standards have also been added. They are an amended set of Standards for the NGSPA National Futurity and a new set of Standards and Guidelines for NGSPA All-Age Champions. It has been the practice of the NGSPA to borrow judges liberally from other areas of field trialing, i.e. pointer/setter trials, Brittany trials, etc. However, our culture, and our standards and practices for judging different types or classes of dogs is sometimes different from those that apply in other types of trialing. The purpose of these Standards is so that judges and competitors alike will know before entries are made and stakes are run, what our basic standards are for particular classes of dogs.

Although not included in this book, the Board of Trustees will continue to publish (and amend as required) its Guidelines on Drawing and Bracing, on its website.

A word about Rules, Standards, and Guidelines. Rules are rules; they are meant not to be broken. Where they are, stake or field trial management must enforce against infractions and the Board of Trustees has the authority to review actions, or to intervene, to enforce its own rules. Standards are, generally speaking, a set of ideal characteristics or goals to attain. Guidelines, generally speaking, are explanations of how things should be done in order to ensure compliance with the basic rules of the organization. Since standards are a set of ideal characteristics or goals, they are aspirational. It is for the judges to determine how well a particular dog comports with a standard on a given day. We publish standards so that competitors, stake management, and judges alike, understand the expectations for a given event or stake. We publish Guidelines so that field trial committees and stake management understand how things, such as drawing and

bracing, should be done in order to comport with our rules. Both Standards and Guidelines may be somewhat flexible in application, and may be amended more often than Rules in order to deal with ongoing developments in our dynamic sport. This does not mean, however, that they are simply optional or can be ignored at will. Stake management and the Board of Trustees will look at whether Standards or Guidelines were adhered to, in deciding on complaints, infractions, or taking other actions.

The NGSPA hour championship circuit and its Nationals events are graduate-level field trialing. We welcome newcomers, but we expect competitors, new and old, to have a high level of understanding of how field trialing works and what is and is not good sportsmanship. It is our intent to state a basic set of rules, but not to be a “rulesy” organization full of “field trial lawyers.” Competitors should not expect that, because there is no rule stating what should happen in every situation in minute detail, that they can conduct themselves as they wish. Local field trial management and the Board of Trustees will continue to enforce against episodes of unsportsmanlike conduct.

As the Board stated when the Rules were revised in 2016:

It [i]s not the intent of the Board or the rules committee to “revise” field trialing as we know and understand it, nor to fundamentally change the way our trials are conducted. These rules are intended to be applied in the exercise of common sense, good field trialing judgment, and good sportsmanship, with the ultimate point of the game being the improvement of pointing dogs generally and our breed, the German Shorthaired Pointer, in particular.

For convenience the gender of people and dogs herein is expressed in the masculine form. The NGSPA recognizes the outstanding contribution of our female judges, handlers, and scouts, and of course our phenomenal female dogs.

PLEASE NOTE: The NGSPA Running Rules, as well as any Standards, Guidelines, or other statements, are subject to change from time to time. Please check the website at www.ngspa.org for the most up to date materials.

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**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
NATIONAL GERMAN SHORTHAIRED
POINTER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Article I

Section 1.

The name of this organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Arkansas, will be the **National German Shorthaired Pointer Association, Incorporated.**

Section 2.

The objectives of the Association will be:

- (a) to encourage and promote the breeding of purebred German Shorthaired Pointers and to do all that is possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- (b) to foster and encourage all German Shorthaired Pointer Clubs to become members of the Association;
- (c) to promote and conduct pointing dog field trials;
- (d) to adopt rules and regulations for the control and supervision of these trials;
- (e) to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at field trials; and
- (f) to foster an increased interest and knowledge of upland game birds.

Section 3.

The Association will not be conducted or operated for profit, and no part of any profits, remainder, or residue from dues or donations to the Association should financially benefit any member or individual.

Section 4.

The members of the Association will adopt, and may from time to time revise, the By-laws required to carry out these objectives.

**BY-LAWS
OF THE
NATIONAL GERMAN SHORTHAIRED
POINTER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**Article I
Name**

The name of this organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Arkansas, will be the **National German Shorthaired Pointer Association, Inc.**

**Article II
Membership**

Section 1.

The membership in this organization will be unlimited in number. Any organization or club sponsoring at least one licensed field trial per year devoted to German Shorthaired Pointers is eligible for membership if it complies with the requirements set forth by the Board of Trustees of this corporation and agrees to be bound by the Regulations and By-Laws of this corporation when, and not until, its application for membership is approved by the Board of Trustees. Members of the Association will be classified as follows:

(A) Active Members

Active members are those organizations or clubs that contribute \$50.00 or more per year in dues to the Association and engage in fostering and increasing interest in and knowledge of upland game birds by promoting, regulating, controlling, supervising, and conducting field trials for German Shorthaired Pointers.

These organizations or clubs should have on file with the Secretary of the National German Shorthaired Pointer Association the names, addresses, and phone numbers of each club's president and secretary and a copy of the By-laws by which it is governed.

Active members include (1) individual clubs, (2) regional organizations, (3) specie organizations, and (4) other championship organizations.

(B) Honorary Members

Honorary members are those persons deemed by the membership of the Association to be of great national or international renown in the field of ornithology or those persons who are actively involved or particularly interested in the restoration and perpetuation of wild upland game birds on the North American continent. Also to be included are those persons who have made a lasting and positive contribution toward the betterment of the German Shorthaired Pointer breed. All honorary members of the Association must be elected by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Trustees and will not be entitled to a vote as an honorary member. Honorary members may be elected posthumously.

Section 2. Regional Boundaries

(A) The Board of Trustees will divide the country geographically into designated regions. The boundaries of these regions may be changed from time to time at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. The present regions are as follows:

Region 1: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont

Region 2: Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania

Region 3: District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia

Region 4: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia

Region 5: Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin

Region 6: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee

Region 7: Texas, east of the Pecos River

Region 8: Colorado and Oklahoma

Region 9: Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming

Region 10: British Columbia, Oregon, and Washington

Region 11: California and Nevada

Region 12: Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, west of the Pecos River

Region 13: Ontario and Quebec

Region 14: Alberta and Saskatchewan

Region 15: Japan

Region 16: Alabama, Florida, and Georgia

Region 17: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota

(B) Regional Organizations

The regions, as constituted by the Board of Trustees, will be organized by the active members within that region. It is the intent of this Association that after a region has been organized, the members will, so far as possible and consistent with the regulations of this Association, assume all direction and responsibility in the management and holding of stakes and other business affairs within that region.

- (a) The securing of sanction, supervision, and general oversight of these regional events will be under the direction of a president or chairman, to be selected annually in each region at a regional meeting held for this purpose.
- (b) At the annual meeting of the members of each region, the date and location of all regional championships should be chosen. All regional championships will be sanctioned by this Association.
- (c) The regional president or chairman will be responsible for seeing that the annual meeting of the members for their region is properly called and held, and the operation of the region is consistent with the By-Laws and Running Rules of the Association.
- (d) The president or secretary of the region will ensure that a list of officers, dates for trials, and any other pertinent information about the regions is sent to the office of the Secretary of the Association.

Section 3. Species Organizations.

Species organizations will function under the same regulations as regional organizations except there will be no definitive geographical boundaries.

Section 4. Other Championship Organizations.

The Board of Trustees may authorize the establishment of Championship organizations, other than Regional and Species Organizations. Such Other Championship Organizations will function under the same regulations as regional organizations except the boundaries will be as authorized by the Board of Trustees.

Section 5. Dues.

(A) Membership dues will be \$50.00 per year per active member, payable to the Treasurer of the Association on or before the first day of January. The phone numbers and addresses for the officers of the member club should be submitted when dues are paid.

(B) During the month of November, the Secretary of the Association will send a statement of dues for the ensuing year to each member.

(C) Members who have failed to pay dues for the current year will not be allowed to vote and will not be licensed to conduct a trial.

**Article III
Expelling or Suspending Members**

Section 1.

Any individual or member club of this Association may be expelled or penalized by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees for any cause deemed sufficient by them, provided:

- (a) The individual or member club is furnished, in writing, a specification of the charges against them at least ten (10) days before a hearing. (The accused may waive this ten-day notification right in order to expedite a hearing.)
- (b) When a hearing upon these charges is scheduled, the member charged is to be notified of the time and place of the hearing and given an opportunity to attend and present evidence.

**Article IV
Meeting**

Section 1.

The Annual Delegates Meeting of the members of this Association will be held at the Association's headquarters at the time and place of the holding of the Annual Championship Stakes. The Board of Trustees Meeting will be held at this time as well, following the Annual Delegates Meeting.

Section 2.

Notification of the Annual Delegates Meeting will be sent out by the Secretary of the Association sixty (60) days prior to the meeting. Notification to the member club secretary will request each member's attendance, by officer or proxy, and any questions to be placed on the agenda.

Section 3. Special Meetings of the Membership.

Special meetings of the members of this Association may be held upon the call of the President or by a majority of the members of the Board of Trustees. Such a call must be in writing and should state the time, place, and purpose of the special meeting. This information must be filed with the Secretary of the Association at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting. The Secretary will immediately mail a notice to each member club at its last known address, giving the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

Section 4. Quorum.

At all meetings of the members of this Association, 25% of active members in good standing will constitute a quorum, to be increased as deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees. If less than 25% of the members in good standing are present at the meeting, proposals may be discussed and voted upon, but any proposal approved by vote at the meeting must be submitted to the entire membership for vote by mail. The proposal will not be considered for adoption unless it is approved by a majority of the members whose mail ballots are returned to the Secretary by a specified date, which will not be less than thirty (30) days after the date of mailing.

Section 5. Order of Business.

Unless this regulation is suspended by a majority of the members present at any meeting, the order of business of all meetings will be as follows:

1. Roll call
2. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting
3. Report of President
4. Report of Secretary
5. Report of Treasurer
6. Report of Committees
7. Unfinished business
8. New business
9. Election of Trustees
10. Adjournment

Section 6. Voting.

At the Annual Delegates Meeting and special meetings of the membership of this Association, each active member in good standing is entitled to one vote and may be represented by his/her president or secretary or by proxy in writing executed by the president or secretary of any active member club. If they shall each execute a proxy, to different persons, the person holding the proxy executed by the president of said active member club shall be entitled to represent such member club at any annual or special meeting of the membership. No one person can have more than three (3) votes.

Section 7. Association Year.

The Association's fiscal year begins on the **first (1)** day of July and ends on the **thirtieth (30)** day of **June**.

**Article V
Trustees**

Section 1. Trustees.

The Board of Trustees will be constituted of fifteen (15) individuals elected by the representatives of the active member clubs of this Association. They will draw no salary.

Section 2. Election or Appointment.

The election of the Trustees will be held at each Annual Delegates Meeting of the certified representatives of member clubs by a majority vote of the active members present, voting in person or by proxy. Five (5) Trustees shall be elected annually for a period of three (3) years or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Vacancies occurring by death, resignation, or otherwise should be fulfilled by the remaining Trustees by a majority vote until the following membership meeting of the Association.

Section 3. Honorary Trustee.

Should the President not be re-elected as a Trustee, the Board may, upon a majority vote, elect him or her an honorary trustee for a period of one year. An honorary trustee has full trustee rights and responsibilities.

Section 4. Annual Meeting.

Regular annual meetings of the Board of Trustees will be held each year following the Annual Delegates Meeting of the certified representatives of the active member clubs. At each meeting, the Board of Trustees will elect from their number a President and three (3) Vice-Presidents. The President and Vice-Presidents will draw no salary. Each officer will hold office for the term of one (1) year or until his/her respective successors are duly elected and qualified. The Board should also elect a suitable and proper Secretary and Treasurer to hold office at the will of the Board.

Section 5. Quorum and Proxies.

Five (5) members of the Board of Trustees constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. No member of the Board of Trustees should ever vote at a regular or special meeting by proxy.

Section 6. Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called at any time by the President or by a majority of the Trustees. This call must be in writing and filed with the Secretary, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

The Secretary will give notice of such meetings and the substance of the call to each member of the Board by mail, telegram, or telephone, dispatched at least twenty (20) days before the meeting is to be held.

Section 7. Questions by Mail.

All matters that must be determined by the Board of Trustees and any question, motion, or resolution upon which the President or Secretary may desire the decision of the Board when not in session may be submitted to each member of the Board (in writing) by regular or electronic mail. The Secretary or President will submit to each member of the Board all arguments or evidence advanced for and against the questions submitted. Each member of the Board must file (in writing) his decision or vote with the Secretary within ten (10) days. A majority vote of the members of the Board will determine all matters and questions submitted in this manner, with the same force and effect as if determined at a meeting attended by the members of the Board in person. The Secretary will keep a permanent record of all questions submitted by mail and of the vote of the Board members thereon.

Section 8. General Powers.

The management of all the business and affairs of this corporation, subject to its By-Laws, is vested in the Board of Trustees.

Section 9. National Championships.

The Board of Trustees will promote and conduct National German Shorthaired Pointer Association Championships. The National Championships may include such events as the Board shall, from time to time, determine. The Board of Trustees may adopt rules and regulations for the control and supervision of these events.

Section 10. Appeals.

Any decision of the Board of Trustees may be appealed by the organization or individual affected by the decision to the annual membership meeting of the certified representatives of the active member clubs. This appeal must be made in writing and filed with the Secretary of the Association at least thirty (30) days in advance of the annual membership meeting. The Secretary will then prepare all information, as is available, on events leading up to the decision of the Board of Trustees. This appeal and information will then be reviewed by the certified representatives of the active member clubs. If a decision cannot immediately be reached on this appeal, it will then be sent to a committee to be appointed by the President with the approval of the representatives assembled. This committee will consist of five (5) members.

At least four are to be representatives of the active member clubs. This committee will review all available information on the action in question and recommend that the decision be sustained or reversed and such other action as the committee deems advisable. The decision given, either by the assembled delegates or by the appointed committee, will be final.

Section 11. Associate Trustees.

The President, with the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees by a majority vote, may appoint up to five (5) Associate Trustees. Associate Trustees may attend all Board meetings and deliberations, and shall have an advisory vote on all matters coming before the Board. Associate Trustees shall serve from the date of their appointment until the meeting of the Board of Trustees that immediately follows the next Annual Meeting of Delegates, and may be reappointed annually, subject to the advice and consent of the Board.

Article VI Duties of Officers

Section 1. President.

The President, in addition to the other powers conferred upon him/her in these By-Laws, will preside at all annual and special meetings of the membership and at all annual and special meetings of the Board of Trustees. He/she may have such other powers and duties as designated by the Board of Trustees.

The President may, from time to time, appoint committees as he/she deems necessary. The President will delegate power and authority to such committees as he/she may deem expedient. The President and Secretary shall be ex-officio members of all such committees.

At or prior to each annual meeting of the membership, the President will appoint a committee to audit the Treasurer's records. This committee will report its findings at the annual meeting of the members.

Section 2. Vice-Presidents.

The First Vice-President will perform all the duties of the President in case of his/her absence or disability. If both the President and First Vice-President are absent or disabled, the Second Vice-President will perform all the duties of the President. In case the President and both the First and Second Vice-Presidents are absent or disabled, the Third Vice-President will perform all the duties of the President. The Vice-Presidents may have other duties and powers as designated by the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. Secretary.

The Secretary will attend and keep the minutes of all annual and special meetings of the membership and of all annual and special meetings of the Board of Trustees. He/she may have other duties as designated by the Board of Trustees.

The Secretary must notify members sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting and request they take steps to be represented either by a certified representative or by proxy. The Secretary should also request any questions members wish to have placed on the agenda.

The Secretary must notify officers and members of the Board of Trustees thirty (30) days prior to annual meetings, special meetings, and board meetings.

The Secretary will keep a record of all member clubs, including the names and addresses of their presidents and secretaries.

The Secretary will preserve all letters and other documents of interest, and, upon request, submit them to the President and Vice-Presidents or to the Board of Trustees.

The Secretary will carry on the general correspondence of the Association and keep all the members of the Board of Trustees informed, on a timely basis, of all information received in the mail related to the running of the Association.

The Secretary will notify members of their election, suspension, expulsion, or other penalty, as determined by the Board of Trustees.

The Secretary will send copies of the By-Laws to the newly elected active members and to each newly elected member of the Board of Trustees.

The Secretary will have general charge of the records, certificates of win, certificates of eligibility, and the books of the Association. Upon election of a successor, he/she shall deliver all of the same to the successor.

All of the books and records of the Secretary will, at any and all reasonable times, be open to inspection and examination by any officer or member of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees will pay an allowance to the Secretary for legitimate expenses incurred for the maintenance of office, clerical, and stenographic help.

If the Secretary is an elected Trustee, the Board of Trustees may appoint a Recording Secretary, who shall not be an elected Trustee nor an officer of the organization. The Recording Secretary, if appointed, shall attend and record the minutes of all annual and special meetings of the membership, of all annual and special meetings of the Board of Trustees, and shall provide such minutes to the Secretary and the President for use, keeping and distribution in accordance with these By-Laws. The Recording Secretary shall provide such other assistance to the President and Secretary as they may reasonably require. The Board of Trustees may pay an allowance to the Recording Secretary for legitimate expenses incurred for attending meetings and for the maintenance of office, clerical, and stenographic help.

Section 4. Treasurer.

The Treasurer will have custody of all the funds and securities of the Corporation. He/she will have the power to endorse, on behalf of the Association, all checks, drafts, and other commercial paper to the credit of the Association in a bank approved by a majority of the Board of Trustees.

This bank must be a member of the Federal Reserve and of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

With the consent of a majority of the Board of Trustees, the Treasurer may invest surplus funds of the Association in the United States Government or other safe and satisfactory securities.

The Treasurer should sign all receipts and vouchers on behalf of the Association and should also sign all checks or drafts for the payment of bills or expenses of the Association, or for the disbursements of its funds.

The Treasurer will be responsible for the collection of all monies owed to the Association in the form of dues, enrollments, entries, assessments, contributions, etc. He/she should receive assistance in this function as is designated by the Board of Trustees.

The Treasurer will keep a full and accurate account of all monies received, and records will be open, at all reasonable hours, to the inspection of the officers or members of the Board of

Trustees. Upon election of his/her successor, the Treasurer must deliver all records, books, accounts, and funds to the successor.

The Treasurer will perform other functions as determined by the Board of Trustees.

The Treasurer will be allowed to make charitable contributions on behalf of the Association with the consent of a majority of the Board of Trustees.

The Treasurer will provide a security bond for the accounting of funds of the Association that come into his/her possession. The sum and condition of the bond should be determined by the Board of Trustees and paid for by the Corporation.

Article VII Amendments

Section 1.

The By-Laws of this corporation may be amended at any Annual Delegates Meeting of the active member clubs of this Association, at any special meeting called for that purpose, by a two-thirds vote of certified representatives of active member clubs, or by a vote taken by mail of the certified representatives of the active member clubs.

Section 2. Effective Date

These By-laws will be effective from and after the day of March 27, 2021. All existing previous By-laws are hereby repealed.

Article VIII Dissolution

Section 1.

The Association may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds of the members. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property or assets of the Association, nor any proceeds thereof, will be distributed to any Members, Officers, Trustees, or individuals of the Association. After payments of the debts of the Association, its property and assets will be given to a charitable organization selected by the Board of Trustees for the benefit of dogs.

Attest

/s/ Natalie Inderman
Secretary

/s/ Keith Richardson
President

**RUNNING RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR FIELD TRIALS OF
THE NATIONAL GERMAN SHORTHAIRED
POINTER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**Chapter 1
American Field
Minimum Requirements for Field Trials**

Section 1.

Wins will not be recognized and recorded unless the trial or stake in which such win is made conforms to the following conditions as adopted by the National German Shorthaired Pointer Association, Inc.

Section 2.

The name of the club, place, and date of the trial, and the secretary's name and address, must be announced in an issue of the American Field, bearing a publication date of at least fourteen (14) days before the trials are to run.

Section 3. Recognized Stakes.

(A) Puppy Stakes. Held from January 1 to June 30 in each year for dogs whelped on or after January 1 of the year preceding. Held from July 1 to December 31 in each year for dogs whelped on or after June 1 of the year preceding.

(B) Derby Stakes. Held from July 1 to December 31 in each year for dogs whelped on or after January 1 of the year preceding, and from January 1 to June 30 in each year for dogs whelped on or after January 1 of two years preceding.

(C) Broke Dog Stakes. Held for dogs of any age. Stakes will be classified as "Shooting Dog Stake" (or "Gun Dog Stake") and "All Age Stake." An "Open Stake" is one in which there are no limitations with respect to either dogs or handlers. An "Amateur Stake" is one in which all handlers are amateurs as defined in Chapter 2, Article VIII, Section 1, Running Rules and Regulations for Field Trials. An amateur can receive no professional assistance during the running of that stake.

The first three placements in Shooting Dog, All Age, and Derby Stakes will be recognized. Any other stakes not conforming to the definitions contained under this article will not be recognized.

(D) Championships, Winner's Stakes, and Futurities. Wins (placements) will be recorded only in such amateur and open events of the above character, as are recognized by the NGSPA.

Section 4.

The minimum length of heats for all stakes other than Puppy and Derby Stakes shall be thirty minutes, on the basis of the time that an average brace takes to negotiate the course. In the event a bird field is used in a one-course trial, no more than eight minutes of the thirty shall be spent in the bird field. Minimum length of heats for Puppy Stakes shall be fifteen minutes.

Section 5.

A stake must be drawn by lot and numbered in the order drawn, in a place open to the public, no later than the night before the stake will run.

Section 6.

Dogs shall not be substituted after the draw except as set forth in Section 7.

Section 7.

Braces shall be run as drawn except with the prior consent of the judges and handlers, whose 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.

(A) Should there be a bye in the stake, the judges may, at their discretion, order it to be run alone or with a dog selected by them for the purpose. Provided, however, that if a dog from any regularly drawn full brace should be withdrawn, fail to appear, or be disqualified, the bye dog shall be named by the judges to run with the dog remaining in that particular brace provided reasonable notice can be given to the handler, the bye moved up to fill the vacancy caused by the absent dog. In the event there is no bye or reasonable notice cannot be provided to the handler of the bye dog, then such dog losing its bracemate, as previously contemplated, must be run in its regular order of drawing, either alone or with a dog as a running mate that is satisfactory to the judges. In the event there be two withdrawals from different braces, the bracemates of such withdrawn dogs may be run together where the first vacancy occurs, or in their regular order, at the discretion of the judges. This same rule applies if there be four or any even number of dogs withdrawn from the stake.

(B) All stakes should be so arranged that if at all possible, no more than one bye dog is drawn or run. Except where there is an uneven number of starters in a stake, no bye should ordinarily occur. For example, in the event the drawing by lot has two dogs handled by the same person remaining as the last in the stake, the bracing is rearranged with the last previous dog drawn not so handled, changing places with the first drawn of the final two dogs.

Section 8.

No entry shall be accepted after the stake is drawn.

Section 9.

No more than one brace of dogs shall run on a course, or any part of a course, at the same time, irrespective of whether the dogs are in the same stake or in different stakes.

Section 10.

Stakes should run only on recognized game birds whose flight has not been impaired by caging, hobbling, wing clipping, brailing, or in any other manner.

Section 11.

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

Section 12.

Wins will not be recorded, or if recorded, will be canceled if made at a trial or in a stake not conforming to the above requirements.

Section 13.

It is recommended that courses contain sufficient bird cover and suitable objectives to induce intelligent searching by the dogs. Birdfields, if used, should be of adequate size to permit a dog to hunt without excessive hacking and should have cover sufficient to hold birds. A variety of cover and objectives is desirable. Five (5) acres is suggested as a minimum area for a birdfield.

Chapter 2 NGSPA FIELD TRIAL RULES

Article I General Running Rules

Section 1. Recognition of Wins.

This corporation, the **National German Shorthaired Pointer Association, Inc.** (NGSPA), will recognize the winners of stakes sponsored by active member clubs of this Association, provided:

- (a) The sponsoring member club has paid NGSPA membership dues in the sum of \$50 for the year in which the trial is held;
- (b) The NGSPA has approved the sponsoring club to hold field trials;
- (c) In conducting the trial, the member club has conformed to the "Minimum Requirements" as set out in Chapter 1;
- (d) In stakes with three or fewer dogs competing, one win will be recognized. In stakes with four or five dogs competing, only two placements will be recognized. In stakes with six or more dogs competing, three placements, with no division of any place, will be recognized.

Section 2. Drawing and Bracing.

Drawings will be for order of running only and not for any particular course. Drawings shall be conducted in accordance with the Guidelines on Drawings for Championships approved by the Board of Trustees of the NGSPA, which may be amended by the Board from time to time, and which shall be posted to the NGSPA's website or otherwise published by the NGSPA. The duty to have a dog at the time and place where he is to start rests solely upon the owner or handler. A dog or handler who is absent from the designated starting place may be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.

Section 3. Payment of Entry Fees.

Any owner who refuses to pay an entry fee for his dog is subject to being barred from competition in member club trials.

Section 4. Objectionable Entries; Bitches in Season.

Objectionable entries will not be allowed to start if the following conditions prevail:

- (a) The dog is not qualified to be entered in the stake.
- (b) Dogs afflicted with any disease that the Stake Manager may regard as contagious will not be permitted to start or to be handled in close proximity to other entries.
- (c) Bitches in season will not be permitted to start unless, in the opinion of the judges, it can be accomplished under conditions that ensure absolute fairness to other entries, and in no circumstances will they be permitted to be kenneled or transported near the starters.
- (d) Objection to entries will be given consideration by the Stake Manager prior to the running.

Section 5. Liberated Birds.

If birds are liberated for a stake, it shall not be done in a manner intended to favor or disfavor particular dogs or handlers.

Section 6. Judicial Authority.

The judges will be in general charge of the running and handling of the dogs, subject only to the Rules and Regulations for Field Trials of the NGSPA. After the first series has been completed, if the judges deem a second or additional series necessary, they may call the dogs wanted in whatever manner or order and for the length of time they deem necessary.

Section 7. Impugning Judges.

Any person who has, in the judgment of the Stake Manager, impugned the action of a judge officiating at any stake, or has otherwise harassed the judge because of his official action, may be barred by the Stake Manager from further participation in the trial. This disbarment could result in permanent disbarment from all member club field trials by subsequent action of the Board of Trustees.

Section 8. Handlers.

(A) An individual handler must be designated at the time of the drawing and, if present and physically able to handle or scout, must handle the dog drawn. Up to two alternate handlers may be named for a dog.

(B) If two dogs handled by the same handler should be drawn in the same brace, the second dog drawn shall change place with the next dog to be handled by another handler.

(C) Any person under suspension by the NGSPA, or any person barred from competition in trials by the NGSPA, will not be permitted to handle or scout a dog.

Section 9. Handler Conduct.

All handlers must conform to the regulations, rules, and directions of the judges, provided they do not conflict with the Rules and Regulations for Field Trials of the NGSPA. Should any

regulation be disregarded, the judges have authority to disqualify a handler and/or his/her dog or may leave the matter to the Stake Manager.

(A) The judges are expected to prescribe and rigidly enforce a strict rule upon the interference of a handler, scout, or dog with the bracemate's dog.

(B) Handlers are at liberty to inquire of the judges at any time as to any regulations within their province or of the Stake Manager concerning any rule beyond the jurisdiction of the judges.

(C) A handler may make a verbal complaint to either the judges or the Stake Manager concerning the conduct of his opponent, provided that this complaint is made promptly upon the alleged commission of the offense, therefore allowing the proper officials an opportunity to observe the immediate situation.

(D) During the running of a heat, no dog in competition will be removed from the ground for any appreciable length of time, placed on a leash, or worked otherwise than in the accepted manner of handling by voice, whistle, or signal.

(E) The use of any electronic device for communication or to in any manner influence the dog's action during the handling of a dog in competition in a field trial is forbidden.

(F) **Handler Instructions.** Under no circumstances will any person other than the judges or the Stake Manager address a handler while handling a dog in competition. In addition, no one other than the handler of a dog may give a dog, while in competition, any command or direction, except with the permission of the judges.

Section 10. Scouting.

Scouting is permitted in all stakes. One scout selected by the handler, should be permitted out, except in unusual cases as may be recognized by the permission of the Judge. The job of the scout is to locate the dog. If the dog is not found pointing, the scout may heel the dog in regaining the front. Otherwise no handling by a scout is permitted. No one in the gallery may lag behind for the purpose of locating dogs as this constitutes double scouting. Judges must use discretion as to what constitutes excessive scouting, and to what degree a dog should be penalized.

Section 11. Backing.

In an All-Age or Shooting Dog Stake, it is mandatory that a judge orders a dog up if that dog, in the opinion of the judge, demonstrates conclusively that he refuses to back his bracemate.

Section 12. Shooting.

No dog will be placed in a Broke Dog Stake until shot over when birds are flushed to its point.

Section 13. Field Marshal.

One or more Field Marshals should be appointed by the Stake Manager, and the Field Marshal or Marshals will have the full authority to control the movement of the gallery or other spectators. The Field Marshal will prevent interference with the judges, handlers, and dogs.

Section 14. Conduct Unbecoming a Gentleman.

A complaint made by an active member club of the NGSPA, or by an individual associated with an active member club, that a person entering a dog in, handling a dog in, or attending any field trial sanctioned by the NGSPA, has acted in a manner contrary to good sportsmanship and detrimental to the interests of field trials generally, should be made to the Stake Manager. The Stake Manager will call a meeting of the field trial committee at the earliest opportunity at that trial, and they should collect evidence. If the committee decides the complaint is well founded, it should be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the NGSPA and a hearing held in the same manner as is provided in the By-Laws, Article III, Section 1. If a majority of the Board of Trustees decide that the complaint is well founded and that the accused has acted in a manner contrary to good sportsmanship and detrimental to the best interests of field trials generally, the Board may issue such action or penalty as it deems appropriate in its sole discretion, which may include barring the person accused from attending or from handling or entering any dog in competition in any event sponsored by the NGSPA or by an active member club of the NGSPA. No win by a dog entered or handled by this person will be recognized by the NGSPA and if recognized is subject to cancellation. The Secretary should notify both the accused and the accusing party in writing of the decision of the Board of Trustees.

Section 15. Judges' Decision is Final.

The decisions of the Judges shall be final in all matters relating to the field trial performance of the dogs. Judges have full discretion to withhold any or all awards for want of merit unless otherwise stated in the premium or advertisement for the trial.

Section 16. Withdrawal of Dogs.

Entry fees paid for a dog withdrawn because of an injury or illness, or for a dog that dies, shall be refunded in full by the host club. The club may require an appropriate certificate or letter from a veterinarian before paying the refund. In all other circumstances, refund of entry fees for withdrawn dogs is completely within the discretion of the Trial Chairman or Stake Manager.

Section 17. Dog's Eligibility to be Entered Under a Judge.

A dog may not be entered or compete in any stake if a judge of that stake or any member of his or her family has owned, sold, held under lease, boarded, trained or handled the dog within one year prior to the start date of the trial. "Any member of his or her family" shall mean and include the judge's spouse, sibling, parent, child whether natural or adopted, or a person living in the same household as the judge in question and the children or parents of such cohabitants.

Section 18. Blank Guns.

Except in puppy stakes, a blank cartridge must be fired by the handler over any dog on point after the game has been flushed. The handler must shoot within the time that would be required to kill a bird at natural shotgun range; provided that this rule shall not require the handler to fire from an unsafe place or position (such as from the back of a horse), and in such circumstances the handler may, without undue delay, move to a safe place before firing.

Blank pistols used to fire a blank cartridge must have a solid barrel incapable of discharging live ammunition. All calibers up to and including .32, and shotgun 209 primers are acceptable. Pistol cartridges loaded with a rifle or pistol primer only and no powder in the load, or .22 caliber CB blanks also known as "acorn" blanks, shall not be used.

Section 19. Collars and Recovery Units.

(A) While competing, a dog shall wear no more than two collars. If a handler elects to use a recovery unit, the collar shall remain on during the entire time the dog is under judgment.

(B) All collars and receivers are to be used as received from the manufacturer. No modifications are to be made to the collar other than a name identification plate affixed. The collar must have a flat surface against the dog's neck.

(C) Neither the handler nor the scout may carry the retrieval unit. Receivers are to be given to the person designated by the host club.

(D) All receivers in the gallery, including those in the possession of the host club's designee, are to be turned off. No one in the gallery shall "track" dogs while under judgment.

(E) No one shall communicate in any manner with the handler, scout, judges or gallery members, information obtained through use of a recovery unit while dogs are under judgment.

(F) A receiver may only be activated once judgment has concluded. If a dog is gone at time, that dog is still under judgment until such time as the judges indicated otherwise or the handler requests the recovery unit.

(G) If a dog is lost from a previous brace, the handler or designee may use a receiving unit during the succeeding brace solely for the purpose of locating his or her dog. Once the dog is located the receiver is to be turned off.

(H) Use of a recovery device is an elective by the handler; it is the handler's responsibility to furnish the device. Running of a stake shall not be held up for lack of a recovery device.

(I) The judges, at their discretion, have the option to select the retrieval unit frequency.

(J) All components, including collar, are not to exceed nine (9) ounces.

(K) Any person using a receiver to locate a dog currently under judgment and prior to its use by the host club's designee shall disqualify that dog in the stake, and the offenders shall be disqualified from field trials.

(L) Components, units or practices which do not conform to this Section 19 or Chapter 2, Article I, Section 9(E) may be used only if approved by the American Field or the NGSPA Board of Trustees.

Article II NGSPA Championships.

Section 1. Championships. The National German Shorthaired Pointer Association, Inc. may sanction such Championship Events as are deemed appropriate by its Board of Trustees. These events may include:

- (A) National Championship events;
- (B) Regional Championships;
- (C) Species Championships;
- (D) Such Other Championships as the Board of Trustees may authorize.

Section 2. Length of Championship Heats.

First series heats for all broke dog stakes in all Championship events shall be a minimum of one hour, unless the Board of Trustees authorizes a different length. In the National Futurity and in all Derby Classics, the first series heats shall be thirty (30) minutes unless the Board of Trustees authorizes a different length. In each stake, the judges may run as many additional series as they deem necessary. The time of running of any additional series will be determined solely by the judges.

Section 3. Judges.

Each Championship Stake will be judged by two or more judges selected by the host organization. The names of the judges should, if possible, be announced in the American Field advertisement for the stake. If any of the selected judges becomes unable to serve or fail to appear, a substitute judge may be selected by the host organization unless otherwise specified in these Rules.

Section 4. One Course Championships.

One-course championships are permitted. See Ch. 2, Art. V.

Section 5. Number of Dogs.

For a champion to be named, at least eight (8) dogs must run in an all-age championship and at least twelve (12) dogs in a shooting dog championship, unless the Board of Trustees specifies a different number.

Section 6. Eligible Dogs.

All dogs entered in any NGSPA Championship must be registered as a German Shorthaired Pointer in the American Field Dog Stud Book (“FDSB”). All dogs must also have or be eligible to have an FDSB DNA number issued. If a dog wins and no FDSB DNA number has issued for the dog, the owner or agent must submit DNA to the FDSB for testing within 30 days. The host club may withhold any prize, trophy, purse money, or other award until an FDSB registration and FDSB DNA number have been provided for that dog to the host club.

Section 7. Eligibility of Dogs in Amateur Stakes.

A dog must be amateur handled and amateur owned to be entered or to run in any Amateur Championship Stake, including without limitation any National event titled or designated as an Amateur Championship. The term Professional Handler is defined in Article VIII. A dog is not amateur owned if a Professional Handler owns any interest in the dog, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly.

Article III National Championships

Section 1. Holding of National Championships.

Each year, the National German Shorthaired Pointer Association, Inc. will hold one National championship event, including a National Championship (All Age), National Amateur Championship (All Age), National Open Shooting Dog Championship, National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship, National Futurity, and such other championships as the Board of Trustees may determine for Shorthairs registered, or eligible for registration, in the American Field Dog Stud Book.

Section 2. Qualifications for the National Championship, National Amateur Championship, National Open Shooting Dog Championship, National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship, and any other National Championship stakes.

(A) Qualification for Life. The following qualify a dog for life, for entry in the National Championship (All Age), National Amateur Championship (All Age), National Open Shooting Dog Championship, National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship, and any other National Championship(s) (excluding the Futurity) the Board determines to hold:

- (a)** A win (Champion or RU Champion) in an NGSPA or American Field Championship of an hour in length or more.
- (b)** A win (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) in a broke dog stake in any NGSPA or American Field sanctioned trial.

(B) The current year's NGSPA National Futurity winner qualifies for the next year's Championships (one year only).

(C) The same dog may not be entered in both the National Amateur Championship and the National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship. The same dog may not be entered in the National Championship and the National Open Shooting Dog Championship. However, the same dog may be entered in one of the amateur Championships and in one of the open Championships.

Section 3. National Futurity. (See Standards for the NGSPA National Futurity).

- (a)** Dogs eligible for the NGSPA National Futurity must be properly nominated by the breeder and the owner.
- (b)** The dog must be registered in the American Field Dog Stud Book.

Section 4. Date and Place; Titles Recognized.

The National Championship events will be held at a place and date to be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees. The champion named in the National Championship stake will be declared the "National Champion" for that year. The champion named in the National Amateur Championship stake will be declared the "National Amateur Champion" for that year. The champion named in the National Open Shooting Dog Championship stake will be

declared the “National Open Shooting Dog Champion” for that year. The champion named in the National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship stake will be declared the “National Amateur Shooting Dog Champion” for that year. The National Championship stake and the National Amateur Championship stake will be judged to all-age standards. The National Open Shooting Dog Championship stake and the National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship stake will be judged to shooting dog standards. The declaration of a champion and/or runner-up is to be at the discretion of the judges.

Section 5. Trophies.

A trophy will be presented to the owner of the champion in each stake each year. In the event a perpetual trophy is given, that trophy will remain in the possession of the owner until the running of the next Championship Stake, when it must be returned in good condition to the Secretary of the NGSPA. All trophies that are perpetual trophies may be retired upon being won three times by the same owner but not necessarily his same dog.

If the judges name a Runner-Up in a championship, his owner will also be awarded a suitable trophy to commemorate the win.

Section 6. Judges.

Refer to Chapter 2, Article II, Sec. 3. If any of the selected judges become unable to serve or fail to appear, a substitute judge may be selected by a committee of the Stake Manager, Field Trial Chairman, and Field Trial Secretary.

Section 7. Entry Fees.

For each event, the entry fee will be established by the Board of Trustees.

Section 8. Entries.

Advertising in the American Field at least thirty (30) days prior to the National Championship events will inform participants of the time, place, closing date, entry fee, judges, and the Field Trial Secretary along with his/her address.

If a dog has qualified to run in one or more National Championship events more than five (5) days prior to the advertised closing date, the entry(ies) for that dog must be received by the Field Trial Secretary on or before the advertised closing date. If a dog first qualifies to be entered in one or more National Championship events within five (5) days of, or on or after the advertised closing date, the dog may be entered at any time before the drawing for the National Championship events is held, provided that the name, handler, and other information concerning the dog may not be published in the National events catalog or other publications concerning the Nationals events. The dog's name, age, dam, sire, owner, and American Field Dog Stud Book registry number and FDSB DNA number should be included on the entry form. The NGSPA Secretary is authorized to refuse the entry of any dog until this information is supplied. The NGSPA may provide for online entries, and such entries shall be deemed received by the Field Trial Secretary at the time they are filed online.

Section 9. Objectionable Entries.

See Chapter 2, Article I, Section 4. Objection to entries must be made in writing and addressed to the Secretary. Objections will be given consideration by the Stake Manager prior to the running.

Section 10. Stake Manager.

The Stake Manager will be appointed by the Board of Trustees. The Stake Manager will be responsible for the entire conduct of the running of each stake, subject to the regulation and running rules of the NGSPA, and subject to the jurisdiction of the judges. All questions arising, not determined by the jurisdiction of the judges, will be determined by the Stake Manager, and his/her decision will be final unless reviewed by the Board of Trustees. In such an event, the decision of the Board of Trustees will prevail. The Stake Manager is empowered to order any person in attendance at the trial removed from the field trial grounds and to prevent his/her return during the running of the stake if, in the Stake Manager's judgment, that person has been guilty of conduct unbecoming. The person may be permanently barred from attending future trials of the NGSPA by subsequent action of the Board of Trustees.

Section 11. Drawing and Running.

See Chapter 1, Sections 5-8 and Chapter 2, Article I, Section 2.

Section 12. Handlers.

See Chapter 2, Article I, Section 8 and Article II, Section 7.

Section 13. No Retrieving Requirement.

The National Championship events will be conducted without a retrieve.

**Article IV
Regional Championships**

Section 1. Regional Championships.

Regional Championships may be sanctioned by the NGSPA Board of Trustees in sections of the country that the Board deems advisable. To assist in this task, the Board may divide the country geographically into designated regions. See By-Laws, Article II, Section 2, **Regional Boundaries**. However, the Board may, in its discretion, permit a Regional Championship to be held outside the Boundaries of a particular region.

Section 2. Title Awards.

The champion in these events will be known as "Region Champion." Likewise, if a runner-up to the champion is named, it would be known as "Region Runner-Up."

Section 3. Stakes.

Regional Championship stakes may include: Open All Age, Open Shooting Dog, Amateur Shooting Dog, and Amateur All Age. Derby stakes would be designated Derby Classics.

Section 4. Sanctioning Championships.

See By-Laws, Article II, Section 2 (B) (a).

Section 5. Rewards to the Winners.

Rewards to the winners will be determined by the region field trial committee. If a purse is to be offered, it should be declared prior to the running of the event.

Section 6. Qualifications.

A dog shall have previously won a placement in an All Age or Shooting Dog stake, or a 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a Derby stake, duly held by an active member club of the NGSPA in accordance with its field trial regulations. For qualification requirements, gun dog and shooting dog stakes will be considered one and the same. There is no placement requirement to enter a dog in a derby classic.

Section 7. Regulations Controlling.

The Rules and Regulations of the NGSPA will govern in all matters not specifically covered by these Regional Regulations, except as provided under one-course championships. There must be no bird fields on the course, and it should be arranged so that no brace of dogs will have to cover the same ground the second time in the same heat.

Section 8. Retrieve.

A regional or species championship may elect to conduct its trial with or without a retrieve for adult dogs. If a regional or specie trial will require a retrieve, the retrieve requirement will be advertised. Owing to the various state regulations concerning the shooting of birds, the manner in which the retrieve will be proven will be determined by the Stake Manager and Regional Associations with due regard for the safety of all participants.

Section 9. Insurance.

The NGSPA Board of Trustees requires that prior to the conduct of a championship trial the regional or specie association is required to provide proof of the appropriate liability insurance prior to the sanctioning of the trial. If the association elects to conduct its trial with a retrieving requirement, the appropriate liability insurance must provide coverage for live ammunition.

Article V One Course Championships

Section 1. One-Course Championships.

The same regulations will apply to one-course championships as to other events except as follows:

- (A) All dogs must run on the same course.
- (B) The course shall be stocked prior to the running of the stake, and thereafter, birds should be liberated before each brace of dogs. Game birds must be used in sufficient numbers so that each dog has a full and fair opportunity to have bird work.
- (C) No bird will have its physical powers impaired by any manipulation or device before being liberated and, so far as possible, should be liberated with a minimum of handling.
- (D) Birds for the next brace will be liberated as soon as practicable after the field trial party has passed each point of liberation.
- (E) The single course must be sufficiently large and the running arranged so that no one brace of dogs will have to cover the same ground a second time in the same heat.

Article VI Species Championships

Section 1. Species Championships of the NGSPA.

The following Species Championships are established:

- (A) Chukar Championships
- (B) Greater Prairie Chicken Championships
- (C) Hungarian Partridge Championships
- (D) Pheasant Championships
- (E) Quail Championships
- (F) Sharptail Championships

The Board may establish such other Species Championships as it deems appropriate.

Section 2. Applicable Regulations.

The same regulations will be in effect for the Species Championships as for the Regional Championships (Chapter 2, Articles IV and V) except no definitive geographical boundaries will be included in the Species Organizations.

Section 3. Species Find Required.

To be named champion in a Species Championship, a dog must have a find on a bird of the specie for which the Championship is named.

Article VII Other Championships

Section 1. Other Championships Allowed.

The National German Shorthaired Pointer Association, Inc. may establish such Other Championships, in addition to the National, Region, and Species Championships, as the Board of Trustees shall authorize.

Section 2. Applicable Regulations.

The same regulations will be in effect for Other Championships as for the Regional Championships (Chapter 2, Articles IV and V), except that no definitive geographical boundaries will be applied unless so specified by the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. Special Conditions or Running Rules.

The Board of Trustees may authorize such additional or special running rules and conditions as are appropriate to the particular Championship, or may leave the determination of such rules and conditions to the particular Championship Organization.

Article VIII
Professional and Amateur Handlers

Section 1. Definition of Professional and Amateur.

A professional handler, classified within these Regulations, includes:

- (a) Any person who receives or has received, either directly or indirectly, compensation for training or handling dogs, or has accepted a cash prize or prizes or other valuable consideration for handling dogs other than his own in field trial competition;
- (b) any person who works for or has worked for a professional handler in the training of dogs; or
- (c) any member of the family of a professional handler who assists him in the training of dogs.

All handlers not classified as professional will have amateur standing.

Section 2. Professionalism.

Upon consideration of evidence deemed sufficient, any active member of the NGSPA is empowered to declare a person who has actually handled a dog or dogs in stakes fostered by an active member to be a professional and to disqualify his/her dogs or bar him/her from handling as an amateur.

Section 3. Complaints.

Any active member of the NGSPA may file a written complaint with the Secretary of the NGSPA that a professional handler has handled, or attempted to handle, a dog or dogs in an amateur field trial event.

(A) The complaint should state:

- (a) The name and the address of the person alleged to be a professional;
- (b) The time, place, and name of the member and the event in which the person alleged to be a professional handled, or attempted to handle, in an amateur event; and
- (c) A concise statement of the events upon which the complaint relies as proof to establish the person is a professional handler.

(B) If, in the opinion of the Secretary, the complaint has merit, he/she will submit the complaint and supporting evidence to the Board of Trustees, who will make the final decision. Prior to this, the Secretary will notify the accused, in writing, of the charge and will set a time in which the accused may file a written answer to the charge and provide evidence thereon. The accuser should be given the same opportunity to substantiate his/her complaint.

(C) When the time reserved for response from the accused and the accusing party has elapsed, the Secretary will submit copies of the complaint and all evidence submitted by either party to each member of the Board of Trustees for his/her decision. The Secretary should also submit any explanation or comment that he/she may desire. If a majority of the Board of Trustees finds in favor of the accused, his/her amateur standing will remain unimpaired; but, if the Board of Trustees decides that the accused is or was a professional handler, the person so accused must be barred from handling any dog in competition in any amateur event in any stake sponsored by an active member of the NGSPA. No win made by a dog handled by such a person in an amateur stake, subsequent to becoming a professional handler, will be recognized by the NGSPA, or if recognized, shall be withdrawn. The Secretary should notify both the accused and the accusing party in writing of the decision of the Board of Trustees.

Section 4. Reinstatement to Amateur Status.

Any person who was admittedly a professional or who had been declared a professional by the NGSPA, and any person who has been barred from competition in any amateur event because of the charge of professionalism, or any person who has been embarrassed by unsupported charges of professionalism, even though he/she may not have been barred from competition in an amateur event, may, provided they have not for a period of three years violated either the letter or the spirit of the definition contained in Section 1 of this Article, qualify as an amateur handler in the following manner:

- (a) The individual may request, in writing, a hearing by the Board of Trustees, so that his/her status can be established. The individual must accompany the request with a statement and evidence supporting his/her claim of being an amateur, as defined by these Regulations, and should prove his/her claim in the manner and procedure described in Section 3 of this Article.
- (b) If a request is filed by an individual who has been barred from competition in an amateur event, the Secretary will notify the President and the Secretary of the member club that barred him/her and request that they provide, in proper form for presentation to the Board of Trustees, evidence on which their action was based.
- (c) If a majority of the Board of Trustees find that the petitioner is entitled to amateur status, the petitioner will be declared to be an amateur, and the Secretary will notify him/her and other interested parties of the Board's decision.

Article IX Amendments

These Running Rules and Regulations may be amended from time to time by the NGSPA Board of Trustees. Any changes to the Rules and Regulations shall be posted to the NGSPA website or published by other suitable means, and shall become effective immediately upon such posting or publication.

**Article X
Certification**

The undersigned, President and Secretary of the National German Shorthaired Pointer Association, Inc., hereby certify that the above and foregoing Running Rules and Regulations of the NGSPA were duly adopted by vote of the Board of Trustees. All prior existing Running Rules and Regulations of the NGSPA were expressly repealed.

WITNESS OUR HANDS THIS 27th DAY of March, 2021

/s/ Natalie Inderman
Secretary

/s/ Keith Richardson
President

Standards for the NGSPA National Futurity

The National Futurity, sponsored by the NGSPA, will be held for the purpose of promoting the development of National Caliber Class All-Age and Shooting Dogs and to give breeders, exhibitors, and spectators an opportunity to compare and evaluate the results of their breeding to the results obtained by other breeders.

The type of dog to be honored in this stake is one that shows the potential to go on and win the important NGSPA Championship stakes in the country.

The “single” futurity concept creates an environment of all-age and shooting dog potential candidates competing over the same course together. This places an extra burden on the judges. They must recognize the potential that the dog is displaying and judge it accordingly. The best dog, be it an all age or shooting dog, should emerge based on its potential and performance. In the event that an all-age and shooting dog are being considered for the winner and the dogs cannot be separated by performance, the all-age dog will break the tie.

Because of the nomination cycles for breeders, the age range of the dogs competing will be from sixteen (16) months of age to twenty-eight (28) months of age. The judging criteria of “Minimum Derby Requirements” should accommodate all the entrants with respect to the variance of ages but should never be lowered so as to lose sight of the above-mentioned standard.

The winning dog must:

- Demonstrate intense desire to find game.
- Show determination, which is demonstrated by its application under adverse conditions, such as unusually heavy cover, unpleasant weather, bad footing, and terrain.
- Voluntarily run an aggressive forward course performing to its potential.
- Show a consistent pattern, intelligently hunting and adjusting to the terrain and cover.
- Hunt independently of its brace-mate and not show a tendency to seek easy footing.
- Demonstrate Class. The term “Class” in this instance has reference to the manner of the going of the dog as to speed, loftiness, gait, and general appearance, such as you would expect to find in a superlative bird dog.
- Handle game with intelligence, although not necessarily with complete manners. If game is encountered, he should point staunchly and with style, but not necessarily steady to wing and shot.

General Running Rules for the Futurity

- Dogs may be handled from foot or horseback. If a handler desires to walk the course, the remaining handler, if mounted, should proceed at a corresponding gait and in no event precede the foot handler. On the other hand, if the foot handler unduly holds up the mounted handler, the mounted handler may, with permission of the judges, proceed.

- If a dog continually disturbs his brace-mate, it should be the duty of the judge to order the offending dog to be taken up. Interference is the only reason to order a dog up in the Futurity.
- The judges have the prerogative of setting the pace for the stake. If a handler speeds the course, he should be requested by the judge or the marshal to refrain. If he continues, the entry should be penalized accordingly.
- It should be to the credit of the dog if he voluntarily backs or honors another pointing dog.
- Potential should outweigh polish in a Derby. Our standard says a dog “should point staunchly and with style, but not necessarily steady to wing and shot.” In many of the Pointer/Setter Futurities there may be a difference in the way steadiness standards are applied between Spring and Fall Derbies. We have one Futurity and no such distinctions are to be made.
- In general, being a breeder’s stake, the inherent qualities of the dog that demonstrates its potential as an outstanding all-age or shooting dog should be used as criteria by the judges in their final decision.

Rules and Conditions.

(A) Eligibility. Only those dogs that have been properly nominated will be allowed to enter the National Futurity.

(B) Purse. All of the nomination fees less the expense of the operations, will form the purse to be paid.

(C) Placements. Dogs will be considered for three placements: First, Second, and Third place.

(D) Disbursement of Purse. First place will receive 50% of the purse, divided 60% to the owner and 40% to the breeder. Second place will receive 30% of the purse, divided 60% to the owner and 40% to the breeder. Third place will receive 20% of the purse, divided 60% to the owner and 40% to the breeder.

**FORWARD to
STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR NGSPA ALL-AGE CHAMPIONS
July 1, 2019**

The NGSPA Board recognizes the importance of the All-Age GSP to our breeding programs and the long-term trend which tracks the continual increase in the performance levels of our breed. All-Age dogs are the fastest growing segment of the NGSPA, both in numbers of dogs being entered, and the number of Championships being held. The NGSPA has encouraged the addition of Amateur All-Age stakes to our Championships and the number over a four-year period has grown from none to possibly 5 in 2019. In June, 2019, the Board approved the first Amateur All-Age National Championship to be held in 2020.

The Board has realized that many in the NGSPA community have deep experience with GSP shooting dogs, but have never owned, handled, trained or hunted an all-age GSP. There are essential differences and it is important for the GSP community to recognize, understand, and appreciate them.

Our Standard is not fundamentally new. It is rooted in long-observed practices compiled and memorialized in the *AFTCA Guidelines to Field Trial Procedure and Judicial Practice*, revised in 1988 and first published in 1948. These standards are comprehensive and ours is intended as a supplement and not a replacement for them. We encourage every field trialer and judge to read them thoroughly from time to time and refer to them often. All of us tend to develop preferences and biases of performance, and over time they may become divergent from these time-honored Standards. It is important to periodically reexamine our predilections and ensure that they are within Standard.

In compiling this All-Age Standard we have sought the advice and perspective of people with “All-Age experience”: handlers, judges and trainers from both the NGSPA and American Field communities. We have identified those issues most relevant to the All-Age dog, and added commentary to enlighten and inform, but not alter the AFTCA Standards.

For convenience the gender of people and dogs herein is expressed in the masculine form. The NGSPA recognizes the outstanding contribution of our female judges, handlers, and scouts, and of course our phenomenal female dogs.

CONTRIBUTORS and REVIEWERS:

GSP Community: Tom Davis, Robert Reynolds, DVM, Eldon Hongo, Dan DiMambro, Joe Amatulli, Chad Inderman, Ray Larrondo, Mike Patrick, Keith Richardson

American Field Community: Dale Bush, Hunter Wilcox, Jerry Reed, Douglas Vaughn, Jamie Daniels, Larry and June McConnell, Richard Robertson, Jr.

Keith Richardson
President, NGSPA

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR NGSPA ALL-AGE CHAMPIONS

July 1, 2019

The NGSPA National Champion (All-Age), National Amateur All-Age Champion, and any other National Championship stake titled or otherwise designated as an all-age stake must demonstrate the requisite qualities of the All-Age class. These standards also apply to the All-Age Invitational Champion, and Regional and Species All-Age Champions equally. No distinction is to be made between Open and Amateur stakes. This document deals with the standards and guidelines which apply to the All-Age GSP as a distinct class from the Shooting Dog. It does not cover guidelines and practices common to both. Please refer to the *Guidelines to Field Trial Procedure and Judicial Practice* on www.aftca.org under Clubs and Trials, or request a bound book. You will find it an invaluable guide for all competitors and judges of field trials. Some important excerpts are quoted below referring to "*The AFTCA Guide*."

GENERAL DISTINGUISHING QUALITIES

The AFTCA Guide (23) states: "The familiar capsule description of the all-age dog, attributed to old-time trainer Jim Avent, declares that he (or she) is a dedicated hunter of upland game birds which 'runs off-but not quite'. The all-age dog is a free spirit and fills up all the available country (plus a little) in a bold and sometimes reckless manner, yet ultimately acknowledges the control exerted by his handler and courses to the front in such a pattern as to maintain periodic, suitable contact with the handler. The really intelligent and accomplished all-age dog exhibits the knack of "showing" at strategic, distant, forward points... ." "He may frequently pass from view, only to show again after a lapse of time, or to be discovered by handler or scout pointing game." "He should exude animation and happiness with the task at hand," and run with a ground-grabbing gait that is pleasing to watch.

"ALL-AGE" APPLICATION TO COURSE

The All-Age dog uses the wind and terrain to his advantage as he hunts his way out to the extreme limits of the course in an efficient ground-covering manner. Consistently to the front, he maintains remote often unseen contact with his handler by quick glances and use of his acute hearing. His keen nose allows him to hunt quickly past likely cover without slowing for a methodical search.

He often bypasses off-line objectives that a shooting dog may search. This must be distinguished from line-running without apparent purpose which is a fault. Taking a long edge of good cover at speed and disappearing to the distant front is not to be considered line running, but is most often an intelligent, efficient move, while breaking off of that line is normally not desirable.

PACE AND ADHERENCE TO COURSE

The AFTCA Guide (19) says: "A judge should ride at a reasonable pace and be in a reasonable place to see...." "A judge is not obligated to follow a handler at all times, but he should ride and take advantage of the terrain, such as a hill, to see what the dog is doing. Laying back with the gallery and following in horse tracks on a course is not an acceptable performance of a judge." "A judge must keep foremost in his mind the selection of the best dog or dogs to win the trial."

The judge's pace and course of travel is secondary and must never become an impediment to his search for the best dog.

The AFTCA Guide (25) says: "The handler must show his dog to the judges while proceeding at a reasonable pace and at a reasonable distance in front of the field trial party." Excessive wild riding is not permitted, and while the perfect picture may be to maintain a 20 to 50-yard distance in front of the judges, this is often too restrictive for the All-Age handler whose dog is often "on-the-edge" of "running-off but not quite." He often needs to handle more aggressively than he would in a shooting dog stake. To show his dog may require him to speed up and ride off path to gain an obvious vantage point or to cover one side of a wide and long field while his scout covers the other. The judge will evaluate if the dog is making independent moves or is being pushed around the course. The handler is to show his dog without becoming the "show."

The movement of judges and handlers may be better described by talking about "rhythm" rather than "pace." The field trial is a moving, flowing, changing event with each brace, and judges' efforts to adhere to a fixed pace of travel and a fixed course may be at odds with the natural rhythm of this flow. The speed of travel ebbs and flows. It may slow to allow the dog to hunt an especially challenging area such as a rocky, brushy hillside, and it may speed up as everyone is approaching a known lookout or a dog on point, then it may become moderate as the course passes through a wide and long bottom. A judge may break off the course to gain a view point or a different perspective. He is not bound to a fixed path. Always there is the excitement of being carried along by the magnificence of a championship All-Age performance.

SCOUTING THE ALL-AGE DOG

The AFTCA Guide says (24,25): "The scout's sole duty is to locate the dog...." "If the dog is not pointing, he is to heel the dog via the shortest route possible in regaining the front." The All-Age scout has a challenging job. He is to search for the dog in an effort to find it standing, bring it to the front if he finds it behind, or find a vantage point to locate the dog and call it out to judges and handler. He has a lot of ground to cover and often does not know which way the dog went, so he tries to search it all. He tries to guess which direction the dog took and uses the terrain and vantage points to locate him. At times this seems an impossible task and often requires a more free-wheeling effort than that of a shooting dog. The scout must never herd the dog around the course or even appear like he is herding the dog. This makes the dog appear to lack independent intelligence. The most important rule for the scout is: NEVER GET IN FRONT OF THE JUDGES.

ABSENCES DURING THE HEAT

The AFTCA Guide says: "the customary rule for a single period of absence from judgment is 1/3 of the heat, or twenty minutes in an hour heat. The judge has discretion in application of this rule, as well as the timing of the absence. Consideration should be given to a dog found standing on point (32)." This is a guideline, and if this is their top dog, the judges might stretch out that 20 minutes. An All-Age dog is given more freedom to range, and should not be unduly penalized for periods of absence. When seen after an absence he should be to the front or standing on game. In most cases a dog which is constantly in sight is likely not manifesting an All-Age run. On the other hand, multiple extended absences may detract.

ADJUSTING RANGE TO COVER

The intelligent All-Age dog adjusts his range from his handler to the terrain and cover of the course. It is impossible to assign a numerical value to the appropriate range of an All-Age dog. Yet, whether on the prairies or in the piney woods, he is often “on-the-edge” of “running-off but not quite.”

CONSISTENTLY FRONT RUNNING

An All-Age dog consistently reaches to the front of the course holding a 10:00 to 2:00 pattern where practical. A far-ranging dog which consistently holds a lateral pattern such as 9:00 to 10:00 should be penalized in most cases. Likewise, persistent, deliberate back casting should be severely faulted. Some courses loop back on themselves, or have numerous 90 degree turns where the natural flow of the terrain is straight on, so a dog ranging far to the front may easily miss the turn and be forced by terrain and cover to come in from behind. In this and similar circumstances a dog should not be penalized.

“GRABBING THE FRONT”

It has been wisely said: “the trial is to the front.” It is common practice for the handler to take his dog quickly to the front after a find to join the other handler and judge. This is acceptable practice and not to be considered wild riding. It is good practice to ask a slow riding judge if it is OK to ride fast to the front.

STYLE/CLASS ON POINT

The All-Age dog demonstrates class and style on point: remaining intense, statuesque with no let-up in intensity as the bird is flushed.

ROTATION TO MARK

The AFTCA Guide says (40): “A good dog should be intense in pointing and minimal movement in marking flight of the birds is an extension of that intensity. Movement of the head or wheeling in the direction of flight is permissible, but there should be no significant forward motion of the rear feet in the direction of the bird’s flight. What constitutes significant motion must be left to the discretion of the judge. A judge would most certainly not want to throw out the best dog in the stake just because he moved one inch more than what is specified.” This guideline applies to all breeds including the GSP, which is trained to retrieve.

RELOCATION

An All-Age dog may be seen at a distance on point, during the approach multiple self-relocations to pin a running bird are not to be penalized. Once the handler dismounts and gets in front of his dog, it must not release itself for relocation. When released for relocation the dog should proceed with intense determination and ultimately locate and point the bird with class. In most cases an energetic search is preferred over one that is overly cautious, slow, and methodical. *The AFTCA Guide* says (39,40): “voluntary relocation exhibits poor manners. Sometimes a handler will conduct a prolonged (too extensive) flushing attempt, and the dog will become impatient at the long wait and start to move. There is some excuse for this when the dog apparently loses scent contact with game that may be running. The fault lies as much or more with the handler than with the dog. A good dog seeks to stay “on terms” with his game and should be allowed to move up promptly.”

BIRDS FLUSH DURING A RELOCATION

It should never be assumed that if birds take flight during a relocation while the dog is moving, that the dog automatically bumped/knocked the birds. *The AFTCA Guide* says (38): “Each situation requires careful and critical analysis of the circumstances involved such as wind direction, scenting conditions, etc., with the benefit of the doubt going to the dog.” This is particularly important in All-Age stakes where dogs frequently work country not planted with birds, and in wild bird trials. In both cases, it is not unusual for the top All-Age dogs to have one or two finds, increasing the importance of getting the call right.

UNPRODUCTIVES

The AFTCA Guide says (42,43): “One unproductive is a very minor offense. Two unproductives in an hour stake are generally accepted as too many making it difficult to win a quality stake. This however; must be evaluated in the context of the other performances. Sometimes poor scenting conditions and other factors can give rise to many of the dogs having unproductives during the stake.”

In light of this reasoned, time-honored standard, today’s common practice of automatically disqualifying a dog for two unproductives without considering exigent conditions should be questioned. This is especially true in an All-Age stake where the dog may have been standing on point for a considerable time while out of judgment, during which the birds may have run or flown off, and notably when the species on course are wild birds. There are also mixed bird trials where pen-raised chukar and quail are released, but the course habitat also supports wild populations of the same species. There is generally no problem with the 2 UP rule on pen-raised quail. In some cases, where conditions of weather, scenting conditions, and species of birds may indicate, the prudent approach in some stakes may be to hold off on sorting out the impact of UPs until the end of the stake or until the judge has some dogs with great races and no UPs.

In summary there is no hard and fast rule that two unproductives automatically disqualify a dog in all circumstances. Evaluation of the surrounding conditions and circumstances are important in applying this standard and in the all-important search for the best All-Age dog of the stake.

PACKING A BIRD

The AFTCA Guide says (41,42): “If a crippled bird runs across a dog’s path while he is in motion and he picks it up, the degree of demerit would depend upon the surrounding circumstances. Generally speaking, it is not regarded as justifying a severe penalty. As one experienced judge puts it: ‘If the dog is tops in the rest of his work he can stay on top with this fault. If there are two dogs in the stake otherwise equal, the one that did not have this bad break in luck should get the placement.’”

A dog seen packing a bird without the circumstances of capture having been observed should be given the benefit of the doubt regardless of whether the bird is cold, warm and dead, or warm and alive. It may be a demerit, but is generally not an offense worthy of disqualification.

BACKING

The All-Age dog must back a dog on rigid point, however the backing situation must be analyzed through the eyes of the moving dog. Things look different two feet from the ground than they do off horseback. As the dog approaches the scene, one must consider the dog's weaker eyesight, possible interference of terrain and dense cover, and backgrounds that may camouflage the pointing dog. This analysis is even more difficult at a distant All-Age range. The approaching dog should always get the benefit of the doubt.

STAMINA

Stamina is of paramount importance no matter the length of the heats. Prime consideration must be given to the dog which finishes the heat with no reduction in speed or range. Consider the dog's ability to find and handle game in all parts of the heat, and especially in the latter stages when "nose" may be diminished by fatigue and overheating. It is often said that the last ten minutes are the most important of the heat.

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

The AFTCA Guide says (49): "While it is desirable that the winner of a championship stake be charged with no errors, it is a better practice to award a title to a dog which displays all of the characteristics of style, pace intensity, drive, bird sense, etc., even though such dog be charged with some minor error or breach of manners, than to award a title to a dog lacking many of these characteristics even though he was errorless...it is especially important that champions, as probable progenitors, be named for brilliance of overall performance rather than on the basis of errorless mediocrity."

MOST IMPORTANTLY IN NAMING AN ALL-AGE CHAMPION

This standard presents a perfect dog which may be hard to find on any given day. Variables of weather, terrain, and course may pose significant challenges. The total performance of the dog should always be examined with range foremost in mind. All-Age range defines the very essence of an All-Age dog and without it, the dog fails the test of Championship performance. *The AFTCA Guide* says: "Range must take precedence over and not be compromised for a shorter, methodical, unexciting performance, no matter how immaculate (24) or plentiful the bird work."

CHAMPIONSHIP VS. A CLASSIC

On occasion the judges may determine that no dog in the stake has demonstrated a true All-Age range. In this case an accepted practice is to downgrade the stake from a Championship to a Classic, and to name 1st, 2nd and 3rd place dogs. If performances are so poor that a 1st place dog cannot be named, then all placements should be withheld. It is never acceptable to name a Runner-Up without naming a Champion, nor to name a 2nd or 3rd place dog without a 1st place dog (51). Naming a Champion and withholding the Runner-Up is acceptable.

- 1) The NGSPA would like to thank the AFTCA for permission to quote from their long-standing classic publication: *GUIDELINES TO FIELD TRIAL PROCEDURE AND JUDICIAL PRACTICE*. This work is comprehensive and time-honored. It may be purchased from the AFTCA or viewed on their website www.aftca.org. We recommend its periodic thorough reading and constant reference.

Field Trial Chairman

General Responsibilities

The Field Trial Chairman (FTC) is responsible for all phases of the organization and conduct of the trial. This responsibility begins following the decision by the Board of Trustees regarding the grounds, dates, judges, purses, and running order of the stakes. The Field Trial Chairman's role is supervisory—that is, the Chairman can delegate duties as necessary and then coordinate the activities of those to whom specific responsibilities have been delegated. The Chairman is responsible to the Board of Trustees and the Association President for all decisions and actions. The Chairman should always be a good will emissary for the NGSPA and all of its activities.

Specific Responsibilities

Judges.

Following their selection by the Board of Trustees, it is the responsibility of the Field Trial Chairman to contact all judges, confirm their acceptance, coordinate their duties if they are to judge more than one stake, and arrange travel, lodging, and incidentals of the judges' stay at the trial. The Chairman should ensure that all judges are accorded proper dignity, courtesy, and respect, and must promptly report violations of this to the Board of Trustees for their review.

Birds.

The Field Trial Chairman communicates with grounds officials with regard to bird populations and determines the necessity for liberated game. If necessary, he/she coordinates the purchase, housing, and liberation of all birds.

Horses.

If a wrangler is needed, the Field Trial Chairman coordinates a service contract with the wrangler.

Daily Running Time, Etc.

All decisions regarding starting times, quitting times, delay decisions, etc., are the responsibility of the Field Trial Chairman & Stake Manager.

Courses.

The Field Trial Chairman and Stake Manager are responsible for the layout of the course(s) for each event and any alterations that may be necessitated by unforeseen occurrences.

Food Service.

The Field Trial Chairman will not be responsible for the food service at the trial.

Social Activities.

The Field Trial Chairman is not responsible for the planned social activities but will work closely with the Social Director to ensure continuity between the running of the trial and all social activities.

Trophies and other Awards.

The Field Trial Chairman will not be responsible for the selection and purchase of the trophies and awards. The Board will designate an individual to purchase these as well as to solicit donations to support their procurement.

Judges' Gifts.

The Field Trial Chairman will not be responsible for purchasing the gifts given to the judges.

SUMMARY

The Field Trial Chairman coordinates and supervises the trial. He/she works closely with the Association President, the Board, the Field Trial Secretary, and the Stake Managers to do everything possible to ensure the orderly running of a class trial leading to deserving National winners.

Stake Manager(s)

General Responsibilities

The Stake Manager (SM) is responsible for the actual conduct of the stake during the trial. The Stake Manager coordinates all decisions and activities with the Field Trial Chairman to whom he/she is subordinate.

Specific Responsibilities

Judges.

The Stake Manager is responsible for the judges during the stake for which he/she is responsible. This includes but is not limited to:

- (1) Seeing that they are properly mounted;
- (2) Having appropriate judging books for notes;
- (3) Arranging suitable travel to/from motels;
- (4) Planning meals each day and evening in an appropriate manner; (It is recommended that the Stake Manager accompany the judges at all meals.)
- (5) Ensuring judges are treated as VIPs and members of the official party at all times; and
- (6) Arranging appropriate transportation to and from airports, if needed. Marshal and Judges

Marshal and Judges.

The Stake Manager is responsible for securing a competent Judges Marshal to serve the judges. This individual should be carefully selected with the consideration that he/she may become the alternate judge should some unforeseen event not allow one of the appointed judges from

finishing their assignment. The Judges Marshall will announce each brace (dogs, handler, owner) prior to each brace.

Marshal(s), Gallery.

The Stake Manager will be responsible for selecting individuals to serve as Gallery Marshals to aid in the orderly running of the trial.

Gunners.

The Stake Manager is responsible for ensuring that at least two qualified gunners ride each brace of any shoot-to-kill stake.

Scribe.

The Stake Manager is responsible for selecting a competent individual to scribe the stake for which he/she is responsible. The scribe should be familiar with the requirements with regards to timely submission of reports to appropriate journals and breed publications.

Photographer.

The Stake Manager will arrange for a person to take photographs of the winners of the stake for which he/she is responsible.

Drawing.

The Stake Manager is responsible for conducting the drawing for the bracing and order of running of all entrants. The Stake Manager will coordinate this activity closely with the Field Trial Secretary and Field Trial Chairman to ensure equity for all participants.

Trophy Presentation.

The Stake Manager is responsible for announcing the winners at the conclusion of the stake and presenting them with trophies.

Dog(s) of the Day.

The Stake Manager will post the top dog(s) of each day as appropriate.

SUMMARY

It is of vital importance that the Stake Manager works closely with the Field Trial Chairman and those to whom he delegates specific tasks. The Stake Manager must be willing to attend to all details during the running of the stake to ensure its orderly and positive outcome.

Field Trial Committee

General Responsibilities

The Field Trial Chairman (FTC) and the host organization may establish a Field Trial Committee. The Field Trial Committee shall operate under the leadership of the Field Trial Chairman, and shall be comprised of all persons named to the Committee, and to whom duties and responsibilities for the various aspects of the successful operation of the trial have been delegated by the FTC and the host organization. The Chairman may delegate to members of the Committee specific responsibilities, such as obtaining and liberating birds, obtaining a wrangler, monitoring and assisting with the daily running of the trial, seeing to the care and needs of the

Judges, arranging social activities and food service, obtaining trophies and judges' gifts, and such other duties as are necessary and appropriate to the proper operation of the trial and each stake. The Field Trial Committee may also meet to handle any incidents, investigations, or disciplinary proceedings as may be necessary. The members of the Field Trial Committee should always be good will emissaries for the NGSPA and all of its activities, as is the Chairman.

SUMMARY

The Field Trial Chairman coordinates and supervises the trial. The Field Trial Committee is comprised of individuals to whom the Field Trial Chairman or host organization may delegate duties and responsibilities for the successful operation of the trial.

Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices

Cell phones and other electronic communication devices at recognized trials can be a great benefit in the event of accident or emergency and the need for medical attention, or for use among the stake workers to manage a stake. But when the dogs are competing all cell phones and other electronic communication devices of all participants, including judges, handlers, scouts and gallery shall be turned off. Workers running the trial such as the stake manager, marshals, and bird planters, may use cell phones or other devices, but solely for purposes of running and managing a stake and always out of earshot of any handlers or dogs while under judgment. Club officials should announce this in the morning and afternoon before the running commences. It is common courtesy that the focus of the field trial party be the running of the dogs.

MODEL CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS FOR REGIONAL, SPECIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The NGSPA publishes a model Constitution and By Laws for Regional, Species, and other organizations, at its website www.ngspa.org. These are only model documents that may be adopted or modified for use by NGSPA Championship organizations.

THE DAVE McGINNIS AWARD

Following the untimely death of Dave McGinnis, the NGSPA Board began to consider the possibility of establishing an award to recognize those individuals who, like Dave, have given unselfishly of themselves and their resources to nurture and perpetuate the goals of the NGSPA. Those who knew Dave will remember well that, despite personal adversity, he always supported the NGSPA and its National and Regional activities, often at considerable personal hardship.

Dave was not only a winner in the field of competing, but also a man of unswerving integrity, honesty, and devotion to the principles of fair competition and sportsmanship. This award is intended to recognize those who stand above their peers and serve as examples of unswerving devotion, uncompromising integrity, and consistent sportsmanship.



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