

UNITED FIELD TRIALERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Official Rule Book
9th Edition
2022



Photos By: LT Productions

UNITED FIELD TRIALERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SEE UFTA WEBSITE FOR CURRENT LIST OF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SEE UFTA WEBSITE FOR CURRENT LIST OF
NATIONAL RULE INTERPRETING COMMITTEE
MEMBERS

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The official UFTA Website:
www.ufta-online.com

Check the website frequently for current updates of this book and news of the
United Field Trialers Association, Inc.

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POINTING RULES

Updated August 8, 2022

POINTING DIVISION

In the event that a trial Host elects to take the option of using manual release traps:

1. The trial posting on the website will note that manual release traps will be used and the usual format and time of posting for all trials will be applied.
2. The manual release trial will be run as follows:
There will be three (3) manual release traps used, one in each zone, which is front, middle and back of the field. You are guaranteed a bird in each manual release trap. The manual release trap will be moved around in each zone and the birds replaced that were flushed. In the unlikely event that no bird was in a manual release trap, it will be scored as a safety with not shot bird points.

Non- Performing Birds

After acquiring a good point, properly acknowledged by the Judge, the handler or designated shooter must make an attempt to flush.

The handler or designated shooter may throw the bird in a safe direction and shoot to receive shot bird points provided the following requirements are met:

1. Receive a good point
2. Made an attempt to flush (bird has to be produced).
3. Dog has made no contact with the bird.
4. The bird must be retrieved and bagged.
5. Gun must be shouldered and pointed in a safe direction.

If you miss and the bird flies off, there is no score. If you blow up the bird and have no retrieve, there is no score. This rule does not apply to dead birds.

UKC registration is no longer mandatory for new dogs.

UFTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOTE: THE BY LAWS OVER RIDE THE RULES IF A CONFLICT WOULD ARISE.

Rule 1; Definitions:

Sec 1: Acted On: Acted on is when a handler fires his gun at a bird for the purpose of bagging it.

Sec 2: Back: A back is when one dog honors another dogs point and holds his back until the pointing dog moves or the bird flushes. A back is worth five (5) points and must be called by the handler. Only one back per dog, per run will be scored. No dog in the doubles can be bumped or handled in any manner in an effort to safeguard a back. The handler cannot relocate the pointing dog until a reasonable attempt to flush has been made. NOTE: The pointing dog may not be whoa'd to point to give a partner's dog a back. The back must be in a natural situation where a pointing dog stops to point on his own accord. One attempt to call back per dog.

Sec 3: Bagged Bird: A bagged bird is a bird that has been shot, retrieved, or picked up after a 3 second point was established, and in the possession of the handler or the judge

Sec 4: Beeper Collars: A Beeper collar is an electronic device designed to beep a particular cadence to aid the handler in locating his/her dog, whether the dog is running or on point. Beeper Collar must be turned on and working properly. The beeper collar must be worn properly as intended by the mfg. Properly, is defined by being behind the ears and in front of the shoulders on the dog's neck. A handler that does not place the beeper collar on the dog properly will be disqualified.

Sec 5: Designated Shooter (DS): A Designated Shooter is a person Designated or Approved by the Field Marshal, Trial Host or Trial Committee to shoot for a handler. Designated Shooter may not assist handler in any way. The Designated Shooter's sole purpose is to shoot for the handler.

Sec 6: Designated Walker (DW): A Designated Walker is a person Designated or Approved by the Field Marshal or Trial Committee to walk for an injured or physically challenged handler. The Designated Walker Carries the gun for the hunter.

Sec 7: Youth Handler: Handler between the ages of 14-18 years may participate in a sanctioned trial as long as the following conditions are met:
NO EXCEPTIONS:

- a. The youth handler must be a paid member (Family Membership) or Individual). Must present a current Hunter Education/Safety Course from their state of residence.
- b. Must have a waiver (Indemnification) which must show the youth handlers name and must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- c. The youth handler between the ages of 14-16 years must have their parent or guardian accompany the judge during the course of the trial.
- d. A parent or guardian may communicate with the youth handler during the trial but must remain with the judge. This can be done when the parent or guardian has also been in the blind along with the youth handler.

Sec 8: Field Marshal: A field Marshal is a person appointed by the trial committee or host to oversee a particular field(s). A Field Marshal has the authority to make rulings on protests, changing of running order and to oversee the overall proceedings of the field he/she has been assigned too.

Sec 9: Illegal Dog: Is a dog that enters into a field in which the dog is not assigned too.

Sec 10: Ineligible Dog: Is a dog that does not meet the registration requirements of the UFTA By-laws or that has been suspended from UFTA events, or that is running under an assumed name. EFFECT: Immediate disqualification of the dog and handler.

Sec 11: Interference: Any dog or person not assigned to the field in which the run is taking place enters into that field and distracts the legal dog in any way. Or flushes a bird from the field, or in the judgment of the judge, hinders the legal dog in any way will be considered interference.

Sec 12: Point: A point is awarded when the handler calls "Point" and the handler's dog has been stationary for three seconds, and the judge has determined the point to be a "Good Point". In order for the handler to receive points awarded for a "Good Point" the judge must see the bird.

Sec 13: Re-runs: A re-run is an aborted run, which is to be started over. On any re-run, a handler cannot better their time from when the re-run was awarded, but the score can be improved.

Sec 14: Retrieves: There are two kinds of retrieves, a full retrieve and a partial retrieve:

- a) A full retrieve is worth 10 points and is awarded when a dog brings the bird(s) back to within one step of the handler or doubles partner.
- b) A partial retrieve is worth 5 points and is awarded when a dog only partially brings a bird back to the handler. To be scored as a partial retrieve, the dog has to have the bird in its mouth and make an attempt to bring the bird to the handler (the dog must make a complete step with at least one foot)

Sec 15: Running: The definition of running is the handler, the designated walker or designated shooter not having at least one foot on the ground at all times while competing.

Sec 16: Safety: A safety can be called by the handler, DS, or the judge. A safety shall be called only when the dog, judge, gallery, competitor in the other field or personal property would be in peril if the handler would choose to shoot.

Sec 18: Time Limit: A UFTA field trial will be run with a fifteen (15) minute time limit for Open and Amateur divisions and fifteen (15) for doubles pointing division.

Sec 19: Trapped Bird(s): A trapped bird is a bird that has been caught (trapped) by the dog before leaving the nest. If the bird has gotten up, has moved, fluttered, or is moving, this bird by definition HAS left the nest.

Sec 20: Trial Grounds: The field trial grounds are 7-12 acre fields with mown or fixed boundaries with either fence or flags or some other approved markings to clearly mark out of bounds areas. Trial grounds may be larger if approved in advance by the Board of directors or State Director.

Sec 21: Walking: The definition of walking is a handler, designated walker or designated shooter having at least one foot on the ground at all times while competing. The cadence of the walk should be heel - toe, heel - toe

Rule 2; Field Trials & Divisions:

Note: At no time can any handler, DW, or DS in any division use any communication devices which includes but is not limited to; radios, transmitters, flags, signs, etc. This will be considered un-sportsmanlike conduct and grounds for immediate disqualification.

Sec 1: Open Shooting Dog division is open to any pointing dog and consists of one handler and one dog. The Open Shooting Dog division will compete in two (2) fifteen (15) minute runs. The two scores will be added at the end of the trial for one total score. The total score of the two runs will determine the order of finish. The Open Shooting Dog Division will be a three (3) Bird Run unless otherwise approved by the Board of directors prior to the start of the trial. EXCEPTION: more than one hunter may be in the field if the handler is utilizing the Designated Walker or the Designated Shooter. All rules and penalties of the Designated Shooter (Rule 9) and Designated Walker (Rule 10) apply.

Sec 2: The Open Doubles Division is an open division to any pointing dog and consists of two (2) handlers and two (2) dogs. The time limit for the Open Doubles Division is 15 minutes. The Open Doubles Division will be a six (6) bird run unless otherwise approved by the Board of directors prior to the start of the trial. Each handler must bag 3 birds and must quit shooting when he/she bags his/her third bird. The handler that bags his/her three birds first, may take his/her dog and assist the other handler to find his/her remaining birds. However, he/she may not assist the other handler in shooting. Each

dog per run may get a back that is worth five (5) points to that team. No dog in the doubles division can be bumped or handled in any manner in an effort to safeguard a back. The handler cannot relocate the pointing dog until a reasonable attempt to flush has been made. No dog in the doubles can be leashed until the sixth bird is bagged or time has expired. Only one attempt to call back per dog.

EXCEPTION: more than two hunters may be in the field if the handler is utilizing the Designated Walker or the Designated Shooter. All rules and penalties of the Designated Shooter (Rule 9) and Designated Walker (Rule 10) apply NOTE: Two (2) judges are required to judge the Open Doubles Division

Sec 3: Amateur Shooting Dog Division is open to any dog three years or younger. If the dog turns three (3) before January 1st it will not be eligible for that years amateur qualifying runs. This division is run with one dog and one handler for fifteen (15) minute time limit. This division runs only one time.

EXCEPTION: more than one hunter may be in the field if the handler is utilizing the Designated Walker or the Designated Shooter. All rules and penalties of the Designated Shooter (Rule 9) and Designated Walker (Rule 10) apply

Sec 4: A dog can compete only one time per division per trial. However, the dog may compete in more than one division per trial.

Sec 5: Scheduling of run times will be determined by a witnessed blind draw prior to the event.

Sec 6: All fields must be flushed each morning prior to the event by dogs that are not scheduled to compete in that field that day

Sec 7: A handler may not use any objects to assist him/her to reach a dropped bird other than the one step and his arm's length to pick up the bird.

Sec 8: A handler may not lie down to reach a dropped bird.

EFFECT: Sec 7-8: A partial retrieve will be scored if the dog has completed all necessary phases of the partial retrieve rule.

Sec 9: Handler must make an attempt to flush. After the three (3) second point is established and the dog does not move and the bird comes up the bird can be acted on for a full score. Hunter must be in reasonable distance to the dog or in the area of dog; up to judge's discretion.

Sec 10: If the time limit has expired and a bird has been shot, the handler has a thirty (30) second grace period to complete the retrieve. If the retrieve is not completed within the thirty (30) second grace period, no (0) points will be awarded for neither the bagged bird nor the retrieve.

NOTE: If the time limit has expired while the dog is on point and no bird has been produced the handler must leash his dog immediately and (0) zero points will be awarded

Sec 11: If a shot bird falls behind an obstruction that the dog cannot pass safely over or through, the handler or designated shooter may help the dog over the fence and back and receive full points for the retrieval if the dog brings the bird back to within one step of the handler or designated shooter. Once the handler or designated shooter helps the dog over the fence the handler must now remain stationary until the dog retrieves the bird to within one step of the new position. If a bird is pointed in bounds and flushed and lands in an out of bounds tree it can be shot out of the tree. If you have not acted on (shot at) the bird you can move to the field boundary and shoot the bird from the tree and receive points for a full retrieve. NOTE: The handler is allowed one step from this new position; however the pivot foot must remain stationary.

Sec 12: If a fence is used to divide fields and a handler or designated shooter shoots a bird the judge must witness the bird had fallen dead in order for the handler or designated shooter to set the dog over the fence to attempt to make the retrieve in the field on the other side of the fence. Once the handler or designated shooter helps the dog over the fence the handler must now remain stationary until the dog retrieves the bird to within one step of the new position.

Sec 13: Once a dog has moved his quota three (3) plus one (1) extra bird without the handler bagging three (3) birds then the handler must pick up his

dog. Birds flushed only count if dog works that bird. Multiple birds flushed only count as or for the ones acted on. If dog flushed bird on a retrieve it does not count towards quota rule. Time is stopped and the run is scored as full time.

Sec 14: If the dog goes on point during a retrieve in bounds. The handler or designated shooter may move to flush the second bird with no penalty on the first bird. However, he/she must use the second shooting spot as the stationary position for both birds. If no bird is produced the second shooting spot is still the stationary position for the first retrieve and the handler will be awarded a full retrieve provided the dog completes the retrieve to this new position.

Sec 15: Trees and bushes that are inside the boundaries are considered to be in bounds if the trunk of the tree is on the boundary or inside the boundary (over hanging limbs that are outside the boundary are considered in bounds if the trunk of the tree is in bounds. Over hanging limbs that are in bounds from a tree that is out of bounds are considered in bounds. An acted on bird that lands in or lodges in a tree can be shot again with the penalty of five (5) points for the additional shell. If the handler or designated shooter must move in order to shoot the bird again a partial retrieve will be scored if the dog makes a retrieve. If the judge witness that the bird had fallen dead in an in or out of bounds tree/object and a retrieve is impossible the handler will receive full points for the bagged bird.

Sec 16: Ties for first, second, third and beyond will be broken as follows:

a) For first place ties, time used based on seconds will be used as the tiebreaker (open division will have both runs times totaled) example: 12 minutes 30 seconds beats 12 minutes and 31 seconds, b) time of first bird is second tie breaker c) Number of unused shells will be used as the third tiebreaker d) Number of full retrieves will be used as the fourth tiebreaker.

Sec 17: On the last bird, including a safety, time does not stop until the dog is on the handler's leash or held by the collar and the bird is in possession of the handler.

Sec 18: The field trial grounds are 7-12 acre fields unless larger fields are approved by the State Representative or Board of directors that are clearly marked with fixed or mown boundaries. Fence, flags, paint can mark boundaries or mown strips or any other method approved by the UFTA Board of directors.

Sec 19: Any female dog in season must be run last. Handler must make the trial committee or field marshal aware of this. Failure to do so may result in the disqualification of the dog.

Sec 20: Trial Chairman, his/her immediate family or employees may compete in their own trials.

Sec 21: Trial committee members may compete for the cash and prizes, as well as the trophies and the points.

Sec 22: All dogs must be registered with a traceable pedigree. (Proof must be made available on request)

NOTE: If handler does not have the proper registration papers on hand. The handler has 7 days from the end of the trial to supply proper papers or any placements will be forfeited, and all prize money and prizes must be returned
EFFECT: Penalty for failure to return prizes and/or prize money will be the indefinite suspension of the offender until said prizes and/or prize money is returned

Sec 23: The UFTA will not under any circumstances tolerate poor sportsmanship, mistreatment of a dog, unsafe handling of a firearm, drug use or any other act that is un-becoming of a gentleman or a lady or that is a detriment to the Field Trial Game. No Competitor may consume alcohol at the trial field until the last run has been completed and the handler does not return to the field using a firearm.

Sec 24: A field trial must be set at least 21 days in advance to be recognized as an official trial.

Sec 25: An Open or Doubles field trial with less than eight entries or Amateur trial with less than six entries 48 hrs in advance of the trial will not be sanctioned as an official trial.

Sec 26: In a trial with 20 or more dogs, a handler may run four (4) dogs. Otherwise a trial with less than 20 dogs, a handler may run three (3) dogs. NOTE: This applies to each division and not the number of dogs entered into the whole trial. EFFECT: The consequences for breaking this rule will be to disqualify all dogs handled, shot for or any combination of the two.

Sec 27: No club will be allowed to put caps on dog totals for the sole reason for running multiple trials in one day, however if time permits, multiple trials are allowed if scheduled.

Rule 3; Scoring:

All scorecards must be signed by the handler and by the judge. Scorecards are FINAL and the only additions/changes that can be made to the scorecard once signed is for a mathematical error, or a judge giving a handler credit for something that the dog did not earn. If the handler should have a protest, the handler SHOULD NOT sign the scorecard until a final decision has been reached by the trial committee or field marshal, following the protest. A handler refusing to sign a scorecard after a final decision has been reached by the trial committee or the field marshal shall receive (0) zero points

Sec 1: (0) No points will be awarded unless a bird is produced (bird seen by the judge) If a handler gets no bird work in the allotted time limit, his final score shall be (0) zero. EXCEPTION: In the open doubles division a team may score up to ten (10) points (5 points per back) if each dog would get credit for a back

Sec 2: (10) Ten points will be awarded for each three - second point after the handler has called "Point" up to the pre-determined quota. A handler may be awarded more than three good points, however, only three will be scored on the card. A point is considered a "Good Point" after the handler has called "Point" and the dog has been stationary for 3 seconds. The judge may award

a “Good Point” as soon as the handler calls “Point” if the judge has observed the dog pointing for 3 seconds prior to the handler calling “Point”. To be credited with the score of 10 points for a “Point” the handler must call point. Multiple points will not be awarded to the dogs score if the dog relocates on the same bird. No points will be awarded if no bird was produced. Multiple points will be awarded if the judge sees more than one bird. If the handler acts on one bird and then bags another by any means, a shell worth 5 points will be deducted for the bagged bird as well as the shells the handler fired while acting on the other bird(s). This includes but is not limited to being awarded a safety for a bird that doesn't fly.

Sec 3: (5) Five points will be awarded for one “Back” per dog, per run. After the handler has called “Back”, the handler may then whoa his/her dog. The backing dog must remain motionless after the handler calls “Back” with no assistance from the handler other than the command whoa, until the pointing dog moves or a bird leaves the nest. Otherwise, the team has lost the opportunity to score that particular back. Each dog has the opportunity for one back, which could give the team a total of ten (10) points. No dog can be bumped or handled in any manner in an effort to safeguard a back. The handler cannot relocate the pointing dog until a reasonable attempt to flush has been made. NOTE: A bird(s) DOES NOT have to be produced to get credited for a back, however, the pointing dog may not be whoa'd to point to give a partners dog a back. The back must be made in a natural situation where a pointing dog stops to point on his own accord. One attempt to call back per dog.

Sec 4: (2) two points will be awarded for each minute under the time limit.

Sec 5: (2) two bonus points for each shot bird, provided the handler has not put his hands on the bird before it is shot. There will be no bonus points added unless the bird is bagged. If it is unsafe to shoot because of any person or personal property and a safety is called. The (2) two shot bird bonus points will be awarded. No shot bird bonus points will be awarded for a safety on the dog or a non performing bird. If the judge deems that the handler intentionally flushed the bird towards a known safety, (0) zero points will be awarded. No bonus points will be added after the dog has had the bird in it's

mouth. If bird flies the handler may, if a safe shot, take the bird out without penalty. No bonus points will be awarded. See section under Non-Performing Birds for option of throwing a non-performing bird at the beginning of the Pointing Rules section.

Sec 6: (5) five points will be awarded for each partial retrieve.

Sec 7: (10) ten points will be awarded for each full retrieve. A handler only gets credit for one (1) retrieve per bird.

Sec 8: (5) five points will be awarded for each shell not used.

Sec 9: (5) five points will be deducted if the handler doesn't shoot but still bags a bird.

Sec 10: (5) five points will be deducted for each time the handler shoots. EXCEPTION: When the judge instructs the handler or DS to take a bird out.

Sec 11: (20) twenty points will be awarded for each bagged bird

Sec 12: The dog has to establish a "Good Point" as called or as recognized by the judge on a bird before the handler will be permitted to bag that bird or zero (0) points will be awarded for the sequence and a shell will be deducted if the bird was acted on.

Sec 13: The judge for certain safety violations can deduct Penalty points.

Sec 14: A bird may be scored on only one time during the run (including doubles). The judge may instruct the handler to "take out" the "scored on bird" if feasible to do so with NO DEDUCTION'S FOR THE SHELL (S). Otherwise the judge will remember the immediate area where the bird is and the trial will continue. If a handler tries to score on the same bird more than one time the judge will not allow it. If handler shoots a shell while trying to score on the same bird twice the judge will deduct five (5) points for each time the handler shoots.

Sec 15: Zero (0) points will be awarded for a cold, dead bird retrieved from out of bounds.

Sec 16: A perfect sequence will be awarded for a whole dead bird that is pointed in bounds. No shot bird points will be awarded.

Sec 17: Zero (0) points will be awarded if a handler uses ANY command to whoa his dog to point. After the dog has become motionless and the handler has called point, the handler may then whoa his dog. The dog must have been motionless in order for the handler to call point.

Sec 18: Zero (0) points will be awarded for any bird shot with an illegal shell.

Sec 19: Zero (0) points will be awarded for a back; if in the judgment of the judge, the pointing dog was whoa'd to point.

Sec 20: Five (5) point penalty for trying to injure a bird while attempting to flush.

Rule 4; Retrieves/Partial Retrieves

Once a bird has been "Acted on" which means shot at; the handler must keep one foot stationary at all times to be awarded a full retrieve. The foot that is stationary is a pivot foot and the handler may use this pivot foot to pivot in any direction. In order for the dog to be awarded a full retrieve must bring the bird back to within one step of the stationary pivot foot. If the handler drags his/her pivot foot or moves that pivot foot in ANY manner prior to securing the bird from the dog, or prior to the dog bringing the bird back to within the one step; the handler cannot receive points for a full retrieve.

NOTE: The doubles partner not involved in the sequence does not have to stay stationary unless: 1) His/her dog is backing or 2) He/she is in a close proximity of the dog involved in the sequence and the judge instructs the handler to remain stationary. In which case the dog could retrieve to either handler and receive a full retrieve if all of Rule 4 has been adhered too.

Sec 1: The dog must retrieve the bird to the handler. If using a designated shooter the handler must move to the position of the designated shooter to receive the full retrieve points after the designated shooter has completed the shot. The designated shooter must step behind the handler immediately upon the handler assuming the designated shooter position from where the bird was shot.

Sec 2: The dog may retrieve the bird to either doubles partner however; the pointing dog gets credit for the bagged bird. NOTE: The doubles partner not involved in the sequence that is still moving or has moved from his/her stationary position, may receive a retrieve from the dog involved in the sequence, or may take his/her dog towards the acted on bird, but it will be awarded a partial retrieve even if the dog retrieves the bird to the partner who was involved in the sequence and who remained stationary.

Sec 3: Once the bird has been acted on (shot at) all participants must remain stationary. This includes doubles partners whose dog is backing and doubles partners who are in close proximity to the dog involved in the sequence. EXCEPTION: 1) The designated shooter must immediately step behind the handler who must assume the position of the designated shooter when they made the shot. 2) The doubles partner not in close proximity of the dog involved in the sequence may keep moving unless instructed to remain stationary by the judge.

Sec 4: If a shot bird falls behind an obstruction that the dog cannot pass safely over or through, the handler may help the dog over the fence and back and receive full points for the retrieval if the dog brings the bird back to within one step of the handler. Once the handler helps the dog over the fence the handler must now remain stationary until the dog retrieves the bird to within one step of the new position. NOTE: The handler is allowed one step from this new position; however the pivot foot must remain stationary.

Sec 5: If the dog goes on point during a retrieve in bounds. The handler or designated shooter may move to flush the second bird with no penalty on the first bird. However, he/she must use the second shooting spot as the stationary position for both birds. If no bird is produced the second shooting

spot is still the stationary position for the first retrieve and the handler will be awarded a full retrieve provided the dog completes the retrieve to this new position.

Sec 6: If a handler misses the bird after being awarded a good point and the dog repoints and the handler moves from the original spot he acted on the bird. He will only be awarded a partial retrieve.

Sec 7: The dog may not bring the bird to the designated walker. This will be scored as a partial retrieve if the handler cannot get the dog to retrieve to him/her.

Sec 8: A handler may kneel down but **MAY NOT** lie down to retrieve a bird.

Sec 9: Gun Handling

a. A handler **MAY NOT** lay his gun on the ground during a retrieve. Laying the "Unloaded" gun down on the final retrieve or third bird safety to leash the dog is permitted by acknowledgement of the judge. If the Handler lays a loaded gun on the ground it is an automatic disqualification.

b. The handler has the option to lay an unloaded gun down on the ground to receive the final retrieve and/or leash your dog. Likewise, if your dog leaves the field and the judge is not in close proximity, you may lay your unloaded gun down at the edge of the field to retrieve your dog. The judge must acknowledge that the gun is unloaded. In this instance, if you lay a loaded gun down it is an automatic disqualification.

Sec 10: The handler **MAY NOT** physically assist the dog other than the one step limit during the retrieve and still receive 10 points for the retrieve. **EXCEPTION:** The handler may take Golf balls, empty hulls or other safe objects to throw in order to help the dog mark a fallen bird(s). **REFER TO RULE 4 Sec 4** for impassable obstructions.

Sec 11: **ABSOLUTELY NO LIVE SHELLS OF ANY KIND MAY BE THROWN** to assist a dog in the retrieval of a bird.
EFFECT: An immediate 5-point deduction will be assessed for each shell thrown.

Sec 12: The handler may lift the dog over or through an obstruction such as a fence (electric or otherwise), hedgerow, or any barrier that is impassable by the dog with no deduction in points. However, this new position where the handler assisted the dog is now the position where the handler must adhere to all Rules set forth in Rule 4.

Sec 13: The doubles partner not involved in the sequence and that is not in a close proximity of the sequence does not have to remain stationary unless the judge instructs him/her to do so. If the judge instructs the handler to remain stationary, the dog is then permitted to retrieve the bird to either handler.

Sec 14: No more than one (1) retrieve may be scored on each bird.

Sec 15: Zero (0) points will be awarded for a cold, dead bird retrieved from out of bounds.

Rule 5: Shells:

Sec 1: Five (5) points will be given for each unused shell. Each handler or designated shooter will be allowed two (2) shells per bird. The handler's doubles partner will also be allowed two (2) shells per bird. Handler or designated shooters are not limited to how many shells that they may have in their possession in the field. However, the handler is only permitted to shoot double the amount of shells that the established quota of birds is. Example: 6 shells for 3 birds

Sec 2: Doubles partners may not share Shells. Once one partner is out of shells, that partner may not obtain extra-unused shells from his partner. Once one partner is out of shells he/she is not permitted to shoot from that point on

EFFECT: If a partner that is out of shells shoots an extra shell, that sequence will be scored as a zero (0)

Sec 3: One shell shall be forfeited for each bagged bird that was not shot at.

Sec 4: One shell shall be forfeited for each safety called.

Sec 5: The handler, designated shooter or judge may call a safety as long as there is a shell in the gun.

Sec 6: ABSOLUTELY NO LIVE SHELLS OF ANY KIND MAY BE THROWN to assist a dog in the retrieval of a bird. EFFECT: An immediate 5-point deduction will be assessed for each live shell that is thrown.

Sec 7: If a shell fails to fire, and the primer is dimpled a full sequence will be scored but **NO** shot bird points will be given. The dimpled shell must immediately be removed from the gun and shown to the judge for confirmation of dimpled shell.

Rule 6; Birds:

The UFTA highly recommends planting One (1) extra bird for the first run (example-on a 3-bird plant, put out 4 birds for the first run) in any single event and one extra bird for the doubles events. The birds must not be planted (if cover permits) closer than 30 feet of any boundary line.

Sec 1: A bagged bird must be in-bounds when pointed.

Sec 2: If a bird enters into the field of its own accord, this bird is then considered a legal bird.

Sec 3: If a bird is unintentionally pushed into the field by an out-of-bounds dog or if a hunter leaves the field to retrieve an out of bounds dog and accidentally flushes a bird back into the field. That bird becomes a "Marked Bird" and the handler has two options.

- a) The handler may go directly to the bird and take a six-point deduction.
- b) The handler may keep his dog off of the bird for three minutes and then hunt the bird for a full sequence.

Sec 4: No points will be awarded for a cold, dead bird retrieved from out of bounds.

Sec 5: An out of bounds dog may point a bird that is in bounds.

Sec 6: The whole bird must be completely out of bounds before the bird cannot be scored on. If the bird is standing on or directly above an out of bounds stake, fence or line, that bird is considered to be IN BOUNDS.

Sec 7: Pointed Dead Birds are a safety and shall be scored as a perfect sequence. The bird must be a whole bird. NO shot bird points will be awarded for a whole dead bird pointed in bounds.

Sec 8: No shot bird bonus points awarded for a non performing bird. See section noted under “Non-Performing Birds” at the beginning of the Pointing Division section for the option of throwing a non-performing bird.

Sec 9: The handler MUST make an attempt to flush the bird. If after the attempt to flush the bird fails to fly and the judge sees that the bird cannot or will not fly, the handler, designated shooter or the dog may pick up the bird and the sequence will be scored as a safety or use the option of throwing a non-performing bird as noted under “Non-Performing Birds” at the beginning of the Pointing Division section for full description of rule.

Sec 10: After a bird has been scored on the handler or designated shooter (at the judges request) may fire his gun to take the bird out or to have his/her dog retrieve the bird to get it out of the field. NOTE: An extra shell will not be deducted if done at the judge's request and no more than one retrieve will be scored on the bird.

Sec 11: In the doubles division, either dog may retrieve the bird to either doubles partner, but the pointing dog gets credit for the bagged bird.

Sec 12: It is considered un-sportsmanlike for a handler to refrain from calling a dog in from out-of-bounds in hopes of flushing a bird into the field.

Sec 13: A trapped bird is a bird that has been caught (trapped) by the dog before leaving the nest, which results in (0) zero points for the sequence. If the bird has gotten up, has moved, fluttered or is moving; the bird by definition has left the nest.

Sec 14: It is considered un-sportsmanlike for a handler to intentionally injure a bird while attempting to flush the bird. Five (5) point penalty for trying to injure a bird while attempting to flush.

Sec 15: Handler or Designated Shooter may not intentionally mutilate a bird. For any bird that is mutilated whether judged intentional or not, the handler or DS must completely pick up all remaining parts of the bird to the judges satisfaction while the clock is running.

NOTE: Intentional mutilation could be considered grounds for disqualification

Sec 16: If a handler shoots and it is not in the direction of the bird in flight, this will be grounds for immediate disqualification.

Sec 17: Handlers intentionally loading the field will be automatically disqualified.

Sec 18: In all UFTA field trials the bird planters must wear gloves that are free of any scent other than that of the birds.

Sec 19: The bird planter shall mix the bird planting to the best of their ability so that the birds are not planted in the same spot each time. The bird planter needs to use three zones, a front, middle and a back zone. This way all competitors need to cover the same amount of ground.

Sec 20: The Judge must wear a vest or have a means of carrying all shot or dead birds for that run. The judge will carry all shot or bagged birds

Rule 7; Safety

A GOOD, SAFE SHOOT IS ALWAYS the responsibility of the shooter. Failure to display safe shooting or gun handling practices while competing in a UFTA

event is grounds for immediate disqualification. This is left solely up to the judgment of the judge, trial host, field marshal or trial committee

Sec 1: No bird in flight may be shot unless it is safe to do so. A safety shall be called for ANY unsafe shooting condition involving potential injury to any person, dog, or personal property.

Sec 2: The handler, judge or doubles partner may call a safety. The final decision as to whether the safety will be allowed will be left up to the judge's discretion. NOTE: It is possible though NOT LIKELY for two or more safeties to be awarded if multiple flushes occur and there is no safe shot on any bird.

Sec 3: The handler MAY CALL a safety on his doubles partner or doubles partner's dog.

Sec 4: Running by any handler, designated shooter or designated walker is prohibited during the field trial. It is the handler's responsibility to control his/her designated shooter or designated walker from running.

EFFECT: The first warning assessed to the handler; zero (0) points will be deducted. For the second warning to the handler a five (5)-point deduction will be assessed. For the third warning, the handler WILL BE DIS-QUALIFIED.

Sec 5: A handler will be awarded a safety if the judge or cameraman flushes a bird out of the field and scored as a full sequence to include shot bird points. If the bird stays in the field the handler can immediately hunt the bird but will not be awarded the safety from the 1st flush.

Sec 6: As long as the handler or designated shooter has a shell in his/her gun, a safety can still be awarded.

Sec 7: Any Handler/Designated Shooter whose shot reaches the Gallery (whether a falling shot or a more direct peppering shot) is to be immediately disqualified if determined to be an unsafe shot by the judge, trial host, field marshal or trial committee. If any question arises, the Trial Committee has the final say. If not disqualified, the rerun rule will apply.

Sec 8: Handler Safety:

- a) No bird is to be shot on the ground.
- b) Blaze Orange Vest; Cap, or Coat must be worn during the trial.
- c) All guns MUST have the shells removed and the chamber left open at all times except while competing.
- d) All dogs must be leashed, staked out, in a vehicle or restrained in some manner (approved by trial committee or field marshal) unless competing.
- e) If the handler must help a dog over or through any obstruction, the handler must give the gun to the judge unloaded, with the chamber open.
- f) If the handler must leave the trial grounds for any reason during the run, the handler must give the gun to the judge unloaded, with the chamber open.
- g) Only 2 3/4 inch shells will be allowed for 16 gauge and larger bore guns. 20 gauge and smaller bore guns may use 3-inch shells. Maximum size shot is six (6) shot for ANY gun. NOTE: Some facilities or clubs may allow only smaller shot than six (6) shot, example, 7 ½, 8 or 9 shot.
- h) Handler must shoulder gun to shoot a bird. Not shouldering the gun is grounds for immediate disqualification.

Sec 9: It is highly recommended by the UFTA board of directors that all participants in the trial, handlers, judges, bird planters, spectators, and anyone else in the field wear safety glasses for eye protection.

Sec 10: If a handler is disqualified for a safety issue or safety of the dog, they will be disqualified for the entire day. This would include all divisions he/she is scheduled to compete in that day. If the division he/she is disqualified in is a two or three day event it would include these runs as well. This does not apply to the dogs he/she is scheduled to run whether owned or handled. Another handler (FUTA member) can be allowed to run those dogs.

Sec 10a: A non-safety disqualification will be for the division the infraction occurred in that day only. If multiple trials are run in one day, the non-safety disqualification will only apply to the division the disqualification occurred in.

Sec 11: The UFTA Board of directors highly recommends that an extended flag be used on ATV'S (bird planters, judges, etc.) while in the fields during the trial.

Rule 8; Dog Handler

Sec 1: It is each handler's responsibility to be in the blind on time. The decision on how many handlers are to be in the blind is left up to the trial committee.

Sec 2: Beeper collars must not have prongs of any kind. (This includes but is not limited to: nails, screws, pins, rivets, needles or any other material that would serve as a prong or training device) The beeper collar must be worn behind the ears and in front of the shoulders, on the dog's neck. The beeper collar must be turned on and working properly.

Sec 3: No electric training collars, combination collars, check cords or any other training device will be allowed during the trial.

Sec 4: The dog's regular collar must not have any kind of prongs. Refer to Rule 8 Sec. 2 for further information.

Sec 5: The handler may not use any outside assistance whatsoever while competing in the trial. This includes help from the gallery while in the blind or during the run, the Designated Shooter or the Designated Walker. UFTA events are designed for one handler and his/her dog to locate and bag game with their own abilities. EXCEPTION: The handler may use an ATV, Golf Cart or other means of transportation if the handler is physically challenged.

Sec 6: If you are a handler that is disabled for any reason and he has a shooter or handler and his dog goes out of bounds the shooter or handler can bring the dog back in bounds.

Sec 7: Any participant in a UFTA trial event is required to sign a waiver and release agreement before participating in the trial. This includes among

others, handlers, designated shooters, designated walkers, field marshals, judges and bird planters.

EFFECT: Sec 1-7: Immediate Disqualification

Sec 8: If a conflict occurs with starting times or fields, the next handler in rotation will be moved up, and the trial shall continue. The UFTA will try to make every attempt to make sure that this does not happen. The handler who had the conflict will move back into the regular rotation as soon as possible. NOTE: Moving ANY handler around in rotation is not grounds for protest. Handlers intentionally stalling to keep from moving back into rotation will be considered un-sportsman like conduct, and the handler may be disqualified.

Sec 9: A Physically challenged or injured handler may use an ATV, Golf Cart or other means of transportation. The trial committee should be made aware of this at least 24hrs a head of the scheduled start time of the trial. The contestant must provide a designated walker (DW) (and must be approved by the field marshal or trial committee). The handler must follow along behind the DW at a walking pace. The DW may be another contestant provided the contestant has no more runs in that field on that day, or the DW may be a Designated Shooter. NOTE: The trial committee or trial host IS NOT responsible for providing an ATV, Golf Cart or other mode of Transportation. However, the trial committee or trial host DOES RESERVE THE RIGHT to approve or to not approve a particular mode of transportation. Physically challenged competitors in their own best interest need to contact the trial committee or host prior to the start of the trial to get their particular mode of transportation approved.

Sec 10: The handler when using a Designated Shooter calls the "Point" for the sequence. The handler may assist the Designated Shooter with vocal instructions to assist in finding the bird. Once the designated shooter shoots the bird or has finished acting on the bird, the handler moves to the shooter for the duration of the sequence. NOTE: While the DS is trying to find the bird the handler may not make any attempt whatsoever to flush the bird or make it move from it's nest. Only the DS will be permitted to flush the bird from its

nest or from the ground. The handler MAY tell the DS where to look and where to attempt a flush, but must leave the flushing to the DS.

EFFECT: Zero (0) points will be awarded for the sequence

Sec 11: The handler when using a Designated Walker does not carry the gun while on the ATV or other vehicle. The Designated Walker carries the gun until the handler calls "Point" and is safely off of his/her ATV or other vehicle, and can safely handle the gun.

Sec 12: Handlers under the age of eighteen may participate in a UFTA trial as long as the following conditions are met: NO EXCEPTIONS:

- a. The youth handler must be a paid member (Family Membership) or Individual). Must present a current Hunter Education/Safety Course from their state of residence.
- b. Must have a waiver (Indemnification) which must show the youth handlers name and must be signed by a parent or *guardian.
- c. The youth handler between the ages of 14-16 years must have their parent or guardian accompany the judge during the course of the trial.
- d. A parent or guardian may communicate with the youth handler during the trial but must remain with the judge. This can be done when the parent or guardian has also been in the blind along with the youth handler.

Sec 13: Handlers under the age of eighteen must make it known to the Trial Chairman or Trial Committee that he/she is under the age of 18 prior to the start of the field trial.

Sec 14: All handlers must have an identification card to verify age.

Sec 15: Zero (0) points will be awarded if the handler uses ANY command to whoa his/her dog to point. After the dog has become motionless and the handler has called "point", the handler may then whoa the dog. The dog must have been motionless in order for the handler to call "point".

Sec 16: Any handler or team in Doubles that get disqualified for any reason that trial DOES NOT count towards his/her qualification into the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

Sec 17: When a handler is ready to start his run, if the field marshal or judge finds a live or dead bird in his possession, there will be a five (5) point deduction in the score.

Sec 18: Handler may not leash their dog before either moving three (3) birds or time has expired. EFFECT: Immediate disqualification and the run will not count towards a qualifying run. Only exception will be for a medical emergency or injury to the handler and or dog.

Rule 9; Designated Shooter (DS)

Sec 1: A designated shooter (DS) is a person that is assigned or approved by the field marshal, trial host or trial committee for the sole purpose of shooting for a handler.

Sec 2: Handlers under the age of eighteen may be a DS as long as conditions for a youth hunter have been met.

Sec 3: The DS may not assist the handler in anyway other than to carry the gun, flush the bird(s) and shoot for the handler
EFFECT: If the DS assists the handler in any way, the judge will score the sequence as a Zero (0) and the bird if still alive will not be score able for the remainder of the time limit.

Sec 4: The handler calls "Point" for the DS but must remain with the judge while the DS attempts to flush the bird. The handler may give vocal instructions only to the DS to assist him/her in finding the bird.

Sec 5: The handler and DS must walk together.

Sec 6: When the handler uses a designated shooter, the handler must move to the position of the designated shooter to receive the retrieve after the designated shooter has completed the shot.

Rule 10; Designated Walker (DW)

Sec 1: A Designated Walker (DW) is a person that is assigned or approved by the field marshal or trial committee for the purpose of walking for an injured or physically challenged handler. The injured or physically challenged handler may ride in golf cart, ATV or similar mode of transportation approved by the field marshal or trial committee. The Handler must follow behind the Designated Walker (DW) at all times and may guide the DW in any means necessary, as long as the DW and the Handler adhere to the official Rule Book of the UFTA.

Sec 2: The DW will carry the gun while the handler rides along behind in an ATV or other vehicle approved by the trial committee or field marshal.

Sec 3: The DW must walk at all times as defined in Rule 1, **Sec 15:**
EFFECT: The first warning assessed to the handler; zero (0) points will be deducted. For the second warning to the handler a five (5)-point deduction will be assessed. For the third warning, the handler WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

Sec 4: The DW will stop walking when the handler calls "Point" and wait for the handler to dismount his/ her ATV or other vehicle. The DW will give the handler the gun when it is safe to do so. The DW will then remain with the judge until the sequence is complete and the handler moves on to the next bird or the Time Limit has expired.

Sec 5: The DW will not assist the handler in ANY WAY other than to walk and carry the gun for the handler.
EFFECT: For giving assistance to the handler: No points will be awarded for the sequence and if the bird is dead or alive, will not be score able for the remainder of the time limit.

Sec 6: Handlers under the age of eighteen may be a DW as long as conditions for a youth hunter have been met.

Rule 11; Re-runs:

Sec 1: A re-run is an aborted run that will start over. The field will be replanted with the number of birds removed since the beginning of the original run. A reasonable rest period will be granted prior to the re-run. The rest period will be no less than 5 minutes and no more than 15 minutes. On any re-run, a handler cannot better their time from when the re-run was awarded, but the score can be improved.

NOTE: If the handler chooses not to take the rest period and chooses to continue immediately, this will not be grounds for protest once the handler proceeds with the re-run.

Sec 2: If the handler chooses a re-run, he/she must remain in the blind while the replacement birds are being planted.

Sec 3: If ANY dog other than the dog competing in the assigned field, interferes in the field with the competing dog; the handler will have the option of a re-run or to continue the run already started. If the handler continues the run in progress, a re-run will not be allowed. EXAMPLES OF INTERFERENCE: Any dog or person not assigned to the field in which the run is taking place enters into that field and distracts the legal dog in any way. Or flushes a bird from the field, or hinders the legal dog in any way will be considered interference. NOTE: An illegal dog simply pointing a bird is not necessarily interference, especially if the illegal dog can be removed from the field without flushing a bird.

Sec 4: A re-run may be awarded for various safety reasons such as but not limited to lightning, darkness or any other incidents that the field marshal or trial committee deems necessary.

Sec 5: A re- run may be awarded for any inconsistencies in scoring or bird quota. Or for a judges error in applying the rules of the UFTA that puts the handler at a disadvantage.

Rule 12; Time:

NOTE: During Any UFTA Field Trial, the time will be stopped only at the judge's discretion.

Sec 1: The judge will record Time used in minutes and seconds. Un-used time is calculated for additional points

Sec 2: Time will be called by the scorekeeper for any of the following:

- a) The hunter ceases to hunt (no points will be awarded for the un-used time).
- b) The Time Limit has expired.
- c) The handler has bagged the established quota of birds. Points will be awarded for un-used time.
- d) All shells have been used.
- e) An infraction of a rule, which leads to immediate disqualification.
- f) Time stops after 4-bird quota. Refer to Rule 2: Sec 13.

Sec 3: If a protest in the field should arise, the judge should note the time and any details of what is being protested and the run should continue.

EXCEPTION: When a re-run may or may not be awarded to the handler.

Sec 4: If time must be stopped for ANY REASON, the dog must be immediately leashed. Time is stopped once the dog is on the leash and in control of the handler. When the handler unleashes the dog the time will continue.

Sec 5: Time stops when the handler has bagged the established quota of birds and the handler has the dog by the collar or lead in bounds.

Sec 6: Time stops when the handler designated shooter or judge calls safety and that particular bird will give the handler his/her established quota and the handler be in bounds and has the dog by collar or lead.

Sec 7: The run is over and the handler must leash his/her dog even if the dog is pointing when the 15 minute (open and amateur pointing division) or 15 minute (doubles division) time limit has expired.

Sec 8: The dog and/or handler has 30 seconds after the time limit has expired to retrieve, partially retrieve or to find a downed bird. NOTE: To receive full

points for the retrieve the handler must adhere to all Rules concerning Retrieves. Refer to Rule 4. The handler may elect to simply pick up the bird and lose his/her retrieval points in order to bag the bird prior to the 30-second grace period expiring.

Rule 13; Judges:

Sec 1: All Judges must be certified and registered by each State Representative or duly appointed official

Sec 2: Judges must be certified by the UFTA or appointed official. Certification is complete once the judge has passed the UFTA OFFICIAL TEST, and has co-judged (with a certified judge) 8 separate runs consisting of both singles and doubles runs.

Sec 3: Judges and Field Trial Committees have the authority to rule on situations not specifically covered by the rules if The National Rules Interpreter cannot be reached.

Sec 4: The Judge must wear a vest or have a means of carrying all shot or dead birds for that run. The judge will carry all shot or bagged birds.

Sec 5: Judges are required to count out loud in determination of a good point.

Sec 6: Judges shall tell the handler if the judge sees the dog on point and shall also assist the handler in locating the dog.

Sec 7: Judges MAY NOT compete in the field in which they are judging until their respective runs in that field are completed for that day.

Sec 8: Judges may use ATV's, Golf Carts, or other means of transportation or they may choose to walk. The decision will be left solely up to the judge.

Sec 9: There will be two (2) judges in the field judging the open doubles division.

Sec 10: Judges will instruct doubles partners that are in close proximity to his/her partner and is not involved in the sequence to remain stationary during the retrieve. Partners not in close proximity do not need to remain stationary during the retrieve.

Sec 11: It is highly recommended that the judges wear safety glasses when in the field judging.

BY LAWS AND CONSTITUTION

Updated August 8, 2022

At the Board of Directors meeting in August 2021, the following wording was added to the Cage Trials rule:

These trials will be posted using the term "Manual Release Traps".

No birds are to be taken out of the field after a completed run or before the next run starts. The only birds that will be replaced are those that were moved out of the Manual Release Traps.

BY LAWS AND/ CONSTITUTION

UPDATED 08/08/2022

ARTICLE I: Liability

Sec 1. All affiliated Trial holders or Clubs that hold and host UFTA Field Trials must carry their own Liability coverage.

Sec 2. All trial participants must sign a liability waiver.

ARTICLE II: Dog Breeds

Sec 1. The UFTA is intended for and open to pointing and flushing breeds only. Therefore it is required that all dogs be of pointing and flushing breeds. All dogs must be registered in The Field Dog Stud Book or other proper register of that particular pointing or flushing breed (example AKC). Each dog must have a traceable pedigree. This is an absolute requirement, and dogs that cannot be registered ARE NOT ALLOWED TO COMPETE AND ARE CONSIDERED INELIGIBLE. EXCEPTION: Unregistered dogs that can be registered must be registered within a reasonable amount of time or placement points and other related accolades will be forfeited. Proof of registration or litter enrollment must be made available at the trial committee's request. A 7day grace period will be given to produce proper registration papers or litter enrollment.

ARTICLE III: Membership dues, sanctioning fee, entry fee, optional pot and Calcutta's

Sec 1: An annual membership fee of \$35.00 for individuals or \$45 per family will be assessed to each member, which is valid from September 1st through August 31st. For new members, someone who has never participated in a UFTA trial, the membership fee is \$17.50 for individuals and \$22.50 for a family membership. A family membership consists of the member, spouse and any dependent children under the age of 18. Anyone over the age of 18 must purchase their own membership. Each competitor **MUST** be a member in order to compete in UFTA field trials. Membership is open to all race, gender or religious beliefs.

Sec 2: Money trials, Calcutta (where legal) and/or optional pot monies shall be paid out as determined by the Trial Host and/or the person holding the trial. Calcuttas are to be a minimum of \$20.00 and a maximum of \$100.00 with the owner of the dog being able to purchase their dog back for \$1.00 over the last bid. Optional pots (where legal) of \$20.00 are acceptable for any division.

Sec 3: Entry fee for the UFTA Open Nationals will be \$225.00 per dog. Entry fee for the Doubles Nationals will be \$230.00 per team. Entry fee for the Amateur Nationals will be \$175.00 per dog.

Sec 4: Optional pot at the National Championships is \$20.00 per day per field.

Sec 5: Calcutta at the National Championships is limited to \$250.00 maximum with the owner able to buy his/her dog back at \$1.00 over the last bid. Calcutta is to be split 50% for 1st place, 30% for 2nd place and 20% for 3rd place.

Sec 6: Optional pot at regular UFTA events must not exceed \$20.00.

Sec 7: Amateur events may run a \$20.00 optional pot..

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Sec 6: Optional pot at regular UFTA events must not exceed \$20.00.

Sec 7: Amateur events may run a \$20.00 optional pot..

Sec 8: Each trial host must submit a \$20.00 sanction fee per dog (doubles will be \$40.00 per team) to the UFTA National office within 14 days of trial, or the scores or trial will not be validated.

Sec 9: Judges, bird planters, dog owners, DS's, DW's and handlers must be members in good standing.

Article IV: Board of Directors, Officers of Corporation, Committees and National Rules Interpreter.

Sec 1: All members in good standing will be able to vote, at the Nationals, on Board of Directors and State Representatives. Each state will have a State Representative elected by the members within that state. The Board of Directors is elected, after the term of organization, by the total membership.

Sec 2: Board of Directors will be duly elected by the total membership and they will serve for three (3) years with the opportunity to be re-elected. The Board of Directors will by majority vote elect a President- Chairman of the Board, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and shall be elected by the Board to serve a term of three (3) years. Election of board of directors will be held by ballot the week of the national finals. Restrictions for electing board members are: Must have been a member of UFTA for (3) three consecutive years, and not been on probation the previous (5) five years.

Sec 2:1. The property and business of the Corporation shall be managed under the direction of the Board of Directors.

Sec 2:2. Directors shall not receive compensation but shall be reimbursed for any expenses incurred in conducting the authorized and proper business of the Corporation.

Sec 2:3. Filling of vacancies. In the case of any vacancy in the Board of Directors through death, resignation, disqualification, removal, or other cause, the remaining directors by affirmative vote of the majority thereof, may elect a successor to hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of that director whose place shall be vacant, and until the election of his

successor, or until he shall be removed, prior thereto, by an affirmative vote of the majority of the Board of Directors.

Sec 3: State Representatives are elected by the members within the state that they represent and shall serve a term of two (2) years with the opportunity to be re-elected.

Sec 3:1. State Representatives shall run all aspects of field trials in their state and are responsible for the timely remittance of all paperwork and sanction fees from each individual trial. State Representatives shall be empowered to develop and/or to sanction new clubs to run UFTA field trials.

Sec 3:2. State Representatives work under the direction of the Board of Directors and may be replaced by the majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Sec 4: Committees: The Board of Directors may by resolution passed by majority of the whole Board, designate one or more committees. Each committee will consist of the President, Chairman of the Board and one or more of the Directors of the Corporation. To the extent provided in the resolution, the committee shall have and may exercise the powers of the Board of Directors. Such committee or committees shall have such names as may be determined from time to time by resolution adopted by the Board of Directors.

Sec 5: Nominating Committee: The Board of Directors shall elect a Nominating Committee consisting of the President, Chairman of the Board, and at least one other director along with two (2) members from the general membership. When there is a vacancy to be filled on the Board, any UFTA member in good standing may nominate a UFTA member for a Board vacancy no later than December 31. Therefore, no nominations will be taken from the floor. The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for preparing a slate of Directors for election to be presented to the members, for voting, at the next membership meeting.

Sec 6: National Rules Interpreter: This function is to be handled by a three (3) member committee. The committee will consist of a Chairperson and two (2) other members. This committee is appointed by the Board of Directors.

Sec 7: Any person or member desiring financial information must contact the National Office in Commerce, Georgia. Any person or member desiring legal action, the legal action must be brought in the State of Georgia where the National Office is located in Georgia and where UFTA was originally incorporated.

Sec 10: If a handler acts on a bird deemed dead or non-performing by the judge, the handler is subject to a 5 (five) point deduction (the score card will be marked as an extra shell) in addition to the forfeited shell taken for a non-performing bird and the handler will not receive the shot bird points. For more information on the By-Laws of the corporation of the United Field Trialer's Association, Inc, are on file at the National Office of the United Field Trialers's Association. See pointing rules section under "Non-Performing Birds' for further clarification.

ARTICLE V: Field Trial Hosts & Clubs

Sec 1: All clubs or hosts must submit a \$20.00 sanctioning fee per dog per trial along with a completed hard copy of the trial results on the official UFTA forms to the UFTA National Office.

Sec 2: Scores along with the sanctioning fees must be remitted to the National Office of the UFTA within 14 days from the end of the field trial to get the scores validated. EFFECT: TRIALS WILL NOT BE COUNTED AS OFFICIAL TRIAL. SANCTIONING FEE WILL BE RETURNED TO THE HOST. HOST WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ISSUING REFUNDS.

Sec 3: Trials are to be drawn prior to the scheduled starting day. The draw for a trial MUST BE MADE PUBLIC AND MUST BE WITNESSED TO BE A VALID TRIAL. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Sec 4: The UFTA highly recommends a field trial committee assigned to each trial. The trial committee should be a 4-6 person committee that would be comprised of judges, field marshals or anyone that is un-biased in his/her decision making ability and that is familiar with the UFTA Rule Book and has a keen interest in field trailing. The trial committee would serve as a decision making body that would rule on Protests, changing of running order or a host of possible situations that would or could directly effect the outcome of the field trial. Persons who serve as a judge and a trial committee member should excuse himself/herself from the decision making of a particular situation if the situation directly or indirectly involves him/her.

Sec 5: Penalty for Submitting Trials with dogs listed that did not run in the trial:

First Offence – Penalty: One (1) year suspension for dog owner and/or handler, event holder and the dog.

Second Offence – Penalty: Five (5) year suspension for dog owner and/or handler, event holder and the dog.

Third Offence – Penalty: Indefinite suspension for dog owner and/or handler, event holder and the dog.

Sec 6: At all Qualifying Trials the following awards are recommended per division and must be awarded the day the division ends its competition:

<u>8 – 16 Dogs</u>	<u>1 – 10.5"x13" plaque for 1st place</u>
	<u>1 – 9"x12" plaque for 2nd place</u>
	<u>1 – 9"x12" plaque for 3rd place</u>

<u>24+ Dogs</u>	<u>1 – 11"x15" plaque for 1st place</u>
	<u>1 – 10.5"x13" plaque for 2nd place</u>
	<u>1 – 9"x12" plaque for 3rd place</u>

Note: Trophies may be given in lieu of plaques; however, the trophy must be suitable size and no trophy may be less than 18 inches tall and must have a pointing dog on the top. The UFTA highly recommends that the 1st place trophy be 36 inches tall. 30 inches tall for 2nd place, and 24 inches tall for 3rd

place. Acrylic or glass trophies must be a minimum of 12 inches tall (including base & riser) and the base must be large enough to accommodate a pointing dog ample size.

ARTICLE VI: Field Trials & National Championships

Sec 1: Open Pointing and Double trials with less than 8 dogs, Amateur trials with less than six (6) dogs and Flushing trials with less than eight (8) dogs WILL NOT be recognized as an official event.

Sec 2: Trials must be submitted within 21 days of the scheduled starting date to be recognized as an official event.

Sec 3: Trials must be drawn by a witnessed draw prior to the scheduled starting date.

Sec 4: Open Shooting Dog Division will be one (1) dog and one (1) handler (unless a DS or DW is utilized by the handler and approved by the trial committee or field marshal). The run will consist of 3 birds and a 15-minute time limit. The Open Division will consist of two runs with the score from each run totaled for an aggregate score.

The trial committee or host in EVERY FIELD TRIAL to be recognized as an official UFTA event must use the following formula for the draw.

This is an example of a 16 dog trial for the open pointing division where a dog must run twice.

- 1a & 9b - Spike, Pointer Male
- 2a & 10b - Jake, Setter Male
- 3a & 11b - Buster, GSP Male
- 4a & 12b - Zep, GSP Male
- 5a & 13b - Quail, Setter Male
- 6a & 14b - Sam, Pointer Female
- 7a & 15b - Lady, Setter Female
- 8a & 16b - Rodney, Pointer Male
- 9a & 1b - Tonkie, Pointer Female

10a & 2b - Jack, Setter Male
11a & 3b - Amigo, GWP Male
12a & 4b - Little Bitty, Brittany Female
13a & 5b - Buddy, Brittany Male
14a & 6b - Cash, Pointer Male
15a & 7b - Sara, Pointer Female
16a & 8b - Hank, Setter Male

FURTHER EXAMPLES

For a 30 dog trial the first dog would run 1a and 16b

For a 36 dog trial the first dog would run 1a and 19b

Sec 5: Amateur Shooting Dog Division will be one (1) dog and one (1) handler (unless a DS or DW is utilized by the handler and approved by the trial committee or field marshal). The trial will consist of one (1) 15 minute three (3) bird run per dog with the highest score for the day being the winner.

Sec 6: Open Doubles Division will consist of two (2) judges, two (2) dogs and two (2) handlers (unless a DS or DW is utilized by one or both handlers and approved by the trial committee or field marshal). Each handler must shoot three (3) birds and each dog is allowed ONE back that is worth 5 points each. The handler who bags his/her birds first may take his/her dog and assist his/her partner in finding the remainder of his/her partners' birds. The Open Doubles Division will consist of one (1) 15-minute run with the highest score of the day being the winner. Doubles Division dogs (not handlers) qualify for the National Championships as a team. No dog substitutions will be allowed.

Sec 7: Field Trial host must supply the birds, and an ethical means of caring for all live birds as well as providing a humane way of disposal of all dead birds.

Sec 8: Field Trial host must approve all Designated Shooters (DS) and Designated Walkers (DW).

Sec 9: In any trial, with 20 or more dogs, a handler may run four (4) dogs. Otherwise a trial with less than 20 dogs, a handler may run three (3) dogs.

NOTE: This applies to each division and not the number of dogs entered into

the whole trial. EFFECT: The consequences for breaking this rule will be to disqualify all dogs handled, shot for or any combination of the two. Any prize money won will have to be returned.

Sec 10. Gun Handling

A handler MAY NOT lay his gun on the ground during a retrieve. Laying the “Unloaded” gun down on the final retrieve or third bird safety to leash the dog is permitted by acknowledgement of the judge. If the Handler lays a loaded gun on the ground it is an automatic disqualification.

The Handler has the option to lay an unloaded gun down on the ground to receive the final retrieve and/or leash your dog. Likewise, if your dog leaves the field and the judge is not in close proximity, you may lay your unloaded gun down at the edge of the field to retrieve your dog. The judge must acknowledge that the gun is unloaded. In this instance, if you lay a loaded gun down it is an automatic disqualification.

Sec 11: Any event with over 75 dogs/entries shall have the option to run in a three (3) run, three (3) day single trial format. This would consist of three (3) runs added together to determine placement. The dog of the year points and the championship points will be awarded as per placement.

Sec 12: No E-Collars or training devices will be allowed in any sanctioned UFTA trial.

Sec 13: The top three (3) high point dogs in each division shall have an invitation to the National finals.

Sec 14: PLAYER CONDUCT:

All competitors and those affiliated with a competitor agree to conduct themselves in a sportsman like and socially responsible manner. Competitors will not engage in behavior that damages the image of the UFTA organization. All competitors agree to refrain from behavior or language that might be perceived as threatening or offensive. Competitors will not engage in unsportsman like conduct with another teammate, judge, competitor, sponsor, attendee or UFTA representative at any time. All competitors agree not to engage in behavior which would endanger the health or safety of

themselves, another competitor, spectator, attendee, UFTA representative, host, marshal or other UFTA representative. All competitors understand that they are financially responsible for all fees and costs associated with competing and being a member of UFTA. All competitors agree that they are required to be punctual and on time for posted brace times in order to maintain the schedule of any competition. All competitors agree not to use alcohol or other controlled substance unless prescribed by a physician prior to or while competing. All competitors agree that they will abide by the definition and expectations of Player Conduct as it is outlined above. Failure to do so will be subject to immediate disciplinary action up to and including the following: (1) Verbal Warning, (2) Score Penalty (time added or point(s) deduction(s)), (3) Disqualification (from the brace or competition), (4) Suspension, and/or (5) Banishment.

National Championships

NOTE: NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RUNS DO NOT COUNT AS A TRIAL TOWARD THE TRIAL QUOTA DEFINED IN SEC. 1 BELOW.

Sec 1: Open Pointing Division dog that competes in six (6) trials will automatically qualify for National Championships. Open Flushing Division dogs must compete in six (6) trials to qualify for the National Championships. Amateur Pointing Division Dogs must compete in four (4) Amateur Trials to qualify for the Amateur National Championship. Pointing and Flushing Doubles Division dog teams must compete in three (3) Doubles trials to qualify for the National Championships. The dogs in the Open Pointing Doubles Division qualify as the team and must compete in the National Championships as a team though the handlers DO NOT have to remain the same all year. NOTE: Any handler or team in Doubles that get disqualified for any reason. That trial DOES NOT count towards his/her quota for qualification into the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP NOTE: * Dogs qualify for the National Championships and not handlers. EXCEPTION: THE OPEN DOUBLES DIVISION DOGS (handlers may be different) QUALIFY AS A TEAM AND MUST ATTEND THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AS THE TEAM THAT QUALIFIED. NO EXCEPTIONS. ELIMINATIONS WILL BE HELD DURING THE WEEK OF THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS TO REDUCE THE FIELD OF COMPETITORS. THE

NATIONAL DOG (S) OF THE YEAR WILL EARN AN AUTOMATIC SPOT IN THE FINALS OF THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AFTER THE ELIMINATIONS ROUNDS ARE COMPLETE.

In addition, the second and third place dogs in the High Points will receive an invitation to the Finals at the Nationals Championships after the Semi Finals elimination rounds are complete.

Sec 2: The top Amateur Pointing dog in each state, as determined by DOY points, will receive an automatic invitation into the Open Pointing National Championships.

Sec 3: A dog must compete in a minimum number of trials of the division that he/she is trying to qualify his/her dog in. (Example - to get to the National Championships that dog must compete in six (6) Open Shooting Dog Trials during the current year. To qualify for the National Doubles Championships that team of dogs must compete in three (3) doubles trials during the current year. To qualify for the Amateur National Championships that dog must compete in four (4) trials during the current year.)

Sec 4: The top three placing dogs in the Amateur National Championship will receive an automatic invitation to the Open Pointing National Championships.

Sec 5: The previous year's National Champion will receive an automatic invitation into the following years National Championships.

Sec 6: The National Champion automatically receives CHAMPION status.

Sec 7: Next year's National Championships will be set at the previous year's National Championships. Bids for the National Championships must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors by the beginning of the current year's National Championships. National Championship bids do not have to be monetary. An outstanding venue, with ample seating and spectator viewing areas are required. A banquet/dinner facility (the awards banquet/dinner facility may be on or off of the trial grounds property in a

nearby location) that will house a minimum of 150 dinner guests is also a requirement. Detailed description of grounds and facilities, photos and a short description of special prizes is also a requirement. NOTE: An awards banquet and dinner is a requirement by the host for the participants. Guests of the participants may be charged a nominal fee.

Sec 8: Doubles teams qualify for the National Championships as a team. Dogs can qualify one time only in the Open Doubles Division.

Sec 9: All T-Shirts, caps jackets and other novelties sold at the National Championships must bear the UFTA logo, with the UFTA logo being the predominant logo on every item. Trial host will be granted by the UFTA the permission for use of any Official UFTA logo. The UFTA retains no commissions from said sales of novelties but reserves the right to approve any person(s) hired to sell novelties by the National Championship host.

Sec 10: Each National Championship will have a 5 member trial committee appointed prior to the running of the National Championships by the trial host. This committee will be in charge of handling all protests or ANY other un-foreseen topics that may arise during the running of the National Championships. If the trial committee cannot reach a decision or has reached a decision that is contrary to the written rule or by-laws of the official UFTA Rule Book or is not performing it's duty in a manner that shows good judgment. Then and only then will the Board of directors intervene.

Sec 11: The Board of Directors will determine the number of places to be paid at the National Championships taking into consideration the number of dogs entered and the funds available.

Sec 12: At the National Championship, the manner of setting the birds in the field will be determined by the UFTA Board of Directors. No cages will be allowed.

ARTICLE VII: Rule Changes

Sec 1: The UFTA has placed a five (5) year moratorium on rule changes starting with the 2010 trial year. Rule changes are to be submitted to the National Office of the UFTA by July 31st of the 2025 trial year. The submitted rule changes will be sent to all members with the name of the member who submitted the change and will be voted on by paper ballot. The ballot must be returned to the National Office of the UFTA as instructed in the ballot that you receive. Rule changes will be sent to all members and posted on the UFTA web site by December 31st of the trial year. The new rules will take effect on Jan 1st of the next trial year and the new rules will be used at the UFTA Nationals.

ARTICLE VIII: POINTS TOWARDS A CHAMPIONSHIP AND DOG OF THE YEAR POINTS

NOTE: CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS ARE EARNED BY THE DOG AND NOT THE HANDLER

Sec 1: Open and Amateur Pointing Divisions: A dog must attain 20 points to be recognized as an open or amateur champion in the UFTA. To gain a division championship the dog must have two (2) first place finishes. The remainder of the points needed to complete the championship may come in any combination of points. The system for earning championship points is calculated on the amount of dogs participation in the trial and is as follows: 21 dogs and above: 1st place=5 points, 2nd place=4 points, 3rd place=3 points.

15 to 20 dogs: 1st place=4 points, 2nd place=3 points, 3rd place=2 points.

6 (open trial must have 8 dogs) to 14 dogs: 1st place=3 points, 2nd place=2 points, 3rd place=1 points

Sec 1a: Doubles Pointing: Championship points are awarded as follows: To gain a championship, the team must have 20 points of which there must be two (2) first place finishes. The points are awarded as follows: Eleven (11) or more teams – First place = 5 points, Second place = 4 points, Third place = 3 points. Eight (8) to ten (10) teams – First place = 4 points, Second place = 3 points, Third place = 2 points. Four (4) to seven (7) teams - First place = 3 points, Second place = 2 points, Third place = 1 point.

Championship points carry over year to year until the team earns a championship. The above process must be repeated to gain a second, third, fourth or more championships.

Sec 1b: Open and Doubles Flushing: Dogs competing in the Flushing division must attain 20 points to be recognized as a champion in the UFTA, 10 of which must be First place points. To gain a division championship the dog must have two (2) First place finishes worth five (5) points each for a total of ten (10) points. The remainder of the ten points needed to complete the championship may come in any combination of points. A Second place finish is worth three (3) points and a Third place finish is worth one (1) point. Championship points carry over year to year until the dog earns a championship. The above process must be repeated to gain a second, third, fourth or more championships.

Sec 2: An amateur may become a champion by the above process as spelled out in Article VIII Sec. 1. An Amateur may compete in the Amateur Division and achieve multiple championships until it no longer qualifies for the amateur division. Each state top Amateur Shooting Dog will be determined by the amount of dog of the year points earned during that year (example 21 dog of the year points would beat 20 points). A one run, 15-minute runoff can break ties for top Amateur Dog as described in Rule 2; sec 16) of the official UFTA RULE BOOK, over any other means of breaking the tie.

Sec 3: Dog of the Year points are earned by the following formula. This formula is based on the total number of dogs per trial instead of Championship points earned throughout the year. This formula is for ALL DIVISIONS OF DOGS. To determine the “National Shooting dog of the Year” the dog of the year points from the top 10 trial placements will be used. Dogs will earn points towards the Dog of the Year by their placement in the trial. The point system is: 1st place dog in the trial will earn 6 points multiplied by the number of dogs in the trial. The 2nd place dog will earn 5 points multiplied by the number of dogs in the trial. 3rd place dog will earn 4 points multiplied by the number of dogs in the trial. 4th place dog will earn 3 points per dog multiplied by the number of dogs in the trial. 5th place dog will earn 2 points multiplied by the number of dogs in the trial. Then to finish out top

dog points after 5th place the dog will get one (1) point, plus a point for each dog he beats in the trial. Example of a placements dog in a 8 dog trial. 1st place dog would earn 6 pts x 8 dogs = 48 pts., 2nd place dog would earn 5 pts x 8 dogs = 40 pts. , 3rd place dog would earn 4 pts x 8 dogs = 32 pts., 4th place dog would earn 3 pts x 8 dogs = 24 pts. , 5th place dog would earn 2 pts x 8 dogs = 16 pts., 6th place dog would earn 3 points (1 point for its placement plus 2 for beating 2 dogs), 7th place dog would earn 2 points (1 point for its placement plus 1 for beating 1 dog), 8th place dog would earn 1 point (1 point for its last place).

NOTE: In case of a tie for “NATIONAL SHOOTING DOG OF THE YEAR”, one 3-bird run per dog for singles or 6-bird run per dog for doubles will be held at the National Championships to crown the “NATIONAL DOG OF THE YEAR”. Dogs not coming to the National Championships that are tied for “NATIONAL SHOOTING DOG OF THE YEAR” forfeits the right to be crowned “NATIONAL SHOOTING DOG OF THE YEAR”

ARTICLE IX: Judges

NOTE: Failure of judges to adhere to Article IX shall not be grounds for protest.

Powers and Duties of UFTA judges:

Sec 1: The judges are the representatives of the UFTA for the particular field trial, which they have been assigned. Judges are authorized and required to enforce the rules contained in this book. The judges have the power to order a handler, DS or DW to do, or refrain from doing, any act that is necessary to enforce any of these rules; and to inflict any penalties prescribed.

Sec 2: The judge should inspect the trial grounds, equipment used by the trial host or committee.

Sec 3: The judge should clarify all ground rules to each and every handler prior to the start of their respective run.

Sec 4: Each judge shall have the power to make decisions on violations committed anytime during the assigned run or suspension of time until the scorecard is signed.

Sec 5: No judge has the authority to set aside or question decisions pertaining to protests made by the field marshal or trial committee within the limits of his/her respective duties.

Sec 6: A judge may consult with the field marshal or trial committee before signing the scorecard.

Sec 7: A judge has the legal authority to remove any participant from the field for violations of the rules as described in this book.

Sec 8: A judge may stop the time when, in his/her judgment, conditions justify such action.

ARTICLE X: Protests

Sec 1: PROTESTS SHALL NOT be considered or allowed if the protest is based solely on a decision involving judgment on the part of the judge. Examples (but not limited too) situations which will not be considered, are:

- a. Whether a handler, DW, or DS was running or not.
- b. Whether a dog pointed for 3 seconds or not.
- c. Whether or not a dog established a back or not.
- d. Whether a handler whoa'd his/her dog to point or whether the handler whoa'd his/her dog to back.
- e. Whether a bird was in bounds or out of bounds.
- f. Whether or not the handler moved more than the one step limit during the retrieve.
- g. Whether a safety was or was not awarded by the judge.
- h. Whether the grounds are fit to run or not.

Sec 2: PROTESTS THAT SHALL be considered are:

- a. Misinterpretation of a rule that does not involve the judgment of the judge.
- b. Failure of a judge to apply the correct rule to a given situation.
- c. Failure to impose the correct penalty for a given situation.

Sec 3: A formal protest should contain the following information:

- a. The time
- b. Name of the judge and handler
- c. Rule and Sec of the Official Rules

- d. The decision and conditions surrounding the making of the decision.
- e. All essential facts involved in the matter being protested.

Sec 4: The Decision made on a protested run must result in one of the following:

- a. The protest is found invalid and the run stands as per the official scorecard.
- b. When a protest is allowed for misinterpretation of a rule, the scorecard will either be corrected or the handler will be awarded a re-run if a re-run is in order.

ARTICLE XI: Acts of Disbarment or Suspension

Sec 1: Any UFTA member or gallery member who's conduct on or off the field that would be detrimental to the UFTA or the Sport of Field Trialing will be dealt with immediately. The UFTA expects that all members or gallery members to act in a manner where sportsmanship is always practiced. The UFTA reserve's the right to withdraw Membership (with no refund of said membership) during the running or otherwise any membership of anyone not adhering to these by-laws.

Sec 2: The UFTA will not tolerate any of following un-sportsmanlike behaviors:

- a. Any abusive behavior or language in any form, from anyone, during a UFTA field trial.
- b. Any competitor or gallery member using words or actions that will incite demonstrations.
- c. Using any form of intimidation tactics.
- d. The use of any behavior that is not conducive to fair play.
- e. Handling guns in any unsafe manner whatsoever.
- f. Fighting, or any kind of physical attack on a judge or trial official in any manner.
- g. Falsifying pedigree papers or registration papers.
- h. A UFTA member falsifying his/her age.

- i. Knowingly competing with a doubles partner who is not eligible to participate in UFTA events or with a doubles partner whose dog is not eligible to participate in UFTA events.
- j. Anyone participating in or permitting a fraud to be perpetrated including running an ineligible dog.
- k. Any person or persons submitting a bad check, or stopping payment of a check to the UFTA or its representatives, representatives or field trial hosts.
- l. Any handler who “NO SHOWS” an event without notifying the trial host prior to the start of the field trial. EFFECT: Handler must pay the entry fee to the trial host that said handler “NO SHOWED” before being permitted to run in anymore UFTA events. If handler refuses, the handler will be permanently disbarred until entry fee is remitted.
- m. Any person who purposely uses false information to damage the reputation, image, or credibility of the UFTA or its representatives or representatives.

NOTE: Upon further investigation by the UFTA Board of directors, if any of the above conduct is warranted to be severe enough in its nature, the UFTA has the right to issue additional penalties. Such penalties can involve probation, suspension of further participation and even disbarment of the guilty parties from the UFTA.

Sec 3: Suspensions:

- a. Any UFTA member that violates any of this Constitution/By-Laws or does not adhere to the policies or procedures of the UFTA may be suspended.
- b. Any UFTA member that fails to submit fees and/or information due the UFTA In a timely manner may be suspended.
- c. Any UFTA member or trial host that is suspended for any reason, will not be allowed to participate in any capacity with the Association, until such suspension has been lifted.

Sec 4: Outline of Appeal Procedures

Step 1: Any person effected by the occurrence or condition that would cause an appeal may present that appeal in writing with in the appropriate State

Director within fifteen (15) days after the occurrence or condition. If not filed within fifteen (15) days the applicant loses their right to appeal.

Step 2: If the appealing person does not receive a satisfactory resolution to the first appeal, the applicant may indicate dissatisfaction with the first appeal. The applicant may then submit in writing within fifteen (15) days to the Board of directors.

The Board of directors meets on all appeal decisions at the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS held on or around the third week of February each year. The Board of directors will render its decision at the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. NOTE: The Board of directors must render a decision before the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP week is complete or before adjourning from it's final meeting at the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS pertaining to the final appeal. The decision rendered by the Board of directors is final and under no circumstances will another appeal be granted.

ARTICLE XII: Awards

Sec 1: The Trial Host for the National Championships is responsible for the payment of the Awards Package. The "Awards Package" will be a package that exemplifies the standard of excellence that the dog and handler has achieved as National Champion, Reserve Champion and 2nd Runner up for all 3 divisions.

Sec 2: For a dog to achieve Hall of Fame status, it must have 5 Amateur or 5 Pointing Championships. A dog can also achieve Hall of Fame status with a combination of 10 championships in Open, Amateur, and Doubles.

FLUSHING RULES

Up Dated March 2, 2022

The Shot Bird points will now be two (2) points in the Flushing Division.

Flushing Open and Flushing Doubles trials are now required to have eight (8) dogs in each trial (regardless of their having been pointing division trials(s)) to be a sanctioned trial.

Rule 1; Definitions:

Sec 1: Acted On: Acted on is when a handler fires his gun at a bird for the purpose of bagging it.

Sec 2: Bagged Bird: A bagged bird is a bird that has been shot or trapped, retrieved and in the possession of the handler or the judge. If a bird escapes from a competitor's control and is no longer in his / her possession during the brace; it is no longer considered 'bagged'. If on the third bird the clock will be restarted and the competitor must either find and replace this bird back in his/her bag while the clock is running or find, harvest and retrieve an additional bird to meet the requirement of the event or until the allocated time has elapsed; whichever comes first.

Sec 3: Designated Shooter (DS): A Designated Shooter is a person Designated or Approved by the Field Marshal, Trial Host or Trial Committee to shoot for a handler. Designated Shooter may not assist handler in any way. The Designated Shooter's sole purpose is to shoot for the handler.

Sec 4: Designated Walker (DW): A Designated Walker is a person Designated or Approved by the Field Marshal or Trial Committee to walk for an injured or physically challenged handler.

Sec 5: Field Marshal: A field Marshal is a person appointed by the trial committee or host to oversee a particular field(s). A Field Marshal has the authority to make rulings on changing of running order and to oversee the

overall proceedings of the field he/she has been assigned too. Also, should ensure that no birds are bumped from the field while the bird planter is planting the field.

Sec 6: Illegal Dog: Is a dog that enters into a field in which the dog is not assigned too.

Sec 7: Ineligible Dog: Is a dog that does not meet the registration requirements of the UFTA By-laws or that has been suspended from UFTA events, or that is running under an assumed name. EFFECT: Immediate disqualification of the dog and handler.

Sec 8: Interference: Any dog or person not assigned to the field in which the run is taking place enters into that field and distracts the legal dog in any way. Or flushes a bird from the field, or in the judgment of the judge, hinders the legal dog in any way will be considered interference.

Sec 10: Re-runs: A re-run is an aborted run, which is to be started over. On any re-run a handler cannot better their time from when the re-run was awarded but the score can be improved.

Sec 11: Retrieves: There are two kinds of retrieves, a full retrieve and a partial retrieve.

a) A full retrieve is worth 10 points and is awarded when a dog brings the bird(s) back to within one step of the handler.

b) A partial retrieve is worth 5 points and is awarded when a dog only partially brings a bird back to the handler. To be scored as a partial retrieve, the dog has to have the bird in its mouth and make an attempt to bring the bird to the handler (the dog must make a complete step with at least one foot)

Sec 12: Running: The definition of running is the handler, the designated walker or designated shooter not having at least one foot on the ground at all times while competing.

Sec 13: Safety: A safety can be called by the handler, DS, or the judge. A safety is called only when the dog, judge, gallery, or personal property would be in peril if the handler would choose to shoot.

Sec 14: Time Limit: A UFTA field trial will be run with a fifteen (15) minute time limit for the singles division (both Open Shooting Flushing Dog and Amateur Shooting Flushing Dog).

Sec 15: Trapped Bird(s): A bird is trapped when a dog places it in its mouth and has enough control to retrieve it to the competitor. A bird can be in or out of its nest for this to occur. The competitor must not move after the dog has the bird in his mouth until the retrieve is complete for full retrieve points.

Sec 16: Trial Grounds: The field trial grounds are 7-12 acre fields with mown or fixed boundaries with either fence or flags or some other approved markings to clearly mark out of bounds areas. Trial grounds may be larger if approved in advance by the Board of Directors or State Director.

Sec 17: Walking: The definition of walking is a handler, designated walker or designated shooter having at least one foot on the ground at all times while competing. The cadence of the walk should be heel - toe, heel – toe.

Sec 18: Player Conduct: All competitors and those affiliated with a competitor agree to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike and socially responsible manner. Competitors will not engage in behavior that damages the image of the UFTA. All competitors agree to refrain from behavior or language that might be perceived as threatening or offensive. Competitors will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with another teammate, judge, competitor, sponsor, attendee or UFTA representative at anytime. All competitors agree not to engage in any behavior which would endanger the health or safety of themselves, another competitor, spectator, attendee, UFTA representative, host or dog at any time. All competitors agree to respect and support the decisions or rulings as administrated by an official, host, marshal or other UFTA representative. All competitors understand that they are financially responsible for all fees and costs associated with competing and being a member of the UFTA. All competitors agree that they are required to be punctual and on time for posted brace times in order to maintain the schedule of a competition. All competitors agree not to use alcohol or other controlled substance unless prescribed by a physician prior to or while competing. All competitors agree that they will abide by the definition and expectations of Player Conduct as it is outlined above. Failure to do so will be

subject to immediate disciplinary action up to and including the following:
Verbal warning -- Score penalty (time added or point deduction) --
Disqualification (from the brace or competition) -- Suspension --Banishment

Sec 19: Illegal Shell: Only 2 3/4 inch shells will be allowed for 16 gauge and larger bore guns. 20 gauge and smaller bore guns may use 3-inch shells. Maximum size shot is six (6) shot for ANY gun. NOTE: Some facilities or clubs may allow only smaller shot than six (6) shot, example, 7 ½, 8 or 9 shot.

Sec 20: Spectator: Any person's observing a competition, even if that person's is a competitor in an event. Spectators are there only to observe and should not attempt to interfere with or manipulate the outcome of a competition. Those determined to be in violation of the above may be removed from the grounds and subject to banishment from future competitions. It is our intent to make the UFTA competitions as enjoyable as safely permissible for as many as possible. However, should this privilege be abused by the spectator, we reserve the right to revoke it immediately. Spectators will never be allowed to influence the outcome of a competition.

General - The Field Trial

Note: During competition, at no time can any handler, DW, or DS in any division use any communication devices which includes but is not limited to; cell phones, radios, transmitters, flags, signs, etc. This will be considered un-sportsmanlike conduct and grounds for immediate disqualification.

Sec 1: Open Shooting Flushing Dog division: Is open to any flushing dog and consists of one handler and one dog. The Open Shooting Flushing Dog Division will compete in two (2) fifteen (15) minute runs. The two scores will be added at the end of the trial for one total score. The total score of the two runs will determine the order of finish. The Open Shooting Flushing Dog Division will be a three (3) Bird Run unless otherwise approved by the Board of directors prior to the start of the trial. EXCEPTION: more than one hunter may be in the field if the handler is utilizing the Designated Walker or the Designated Shooter. All rules and penalties of the Designated Shooter and Designated Walker apply.

Sec 2: Open Doubles Flushing Dog division: The Doubles event consists of two (2) hunters and one (1) dog. This team will hunt for six (6) birds that are either chukar or quail. Combinations of these are permissible as long as the same combination and quota are used for all competitors, even if birds still remain in the field from the previous competitor. Two shells are allowed per bird planted for competitors, but they are not allowed to share the quota of shells.

Sec 3: A dog can compete only one time per division per trial. However, the dog may compete in more than one division per trial.

Sec 4: Scheduling of run times will be determined by a witnessed blind draw. No competitor should run back to back braces.

Sec 5: All fields must be flushed each morning prior to the event by dogs that are not scheduled to compete in that field during the event whether its one or two days

Sec 6: Lack of knowledge of the rules will not be grounds for protest. Any situation not covered in this rule book will be considered bad luck for the competitor. Manipulating the rules in a way they were not intended will not be tolerated.

Sec 7: The field trial grounds are 7-12 acre fields unless larger fields are approved by the State Representative or Board of directors that are clearly marked with fixed or mown boundaries. Fence, flags, paint can mark boundaries or mown strips or any other method approved by the UFTA Board of directors.

Sec 8: Any female dog in season must be run last. Handler must make the trial committee or field marshal aware of this. Failure to do so may result in the disqualification of the dog. Females in heat may be subject to a bitch check to verify heat status.

Sec 9: Trial Chairman, his/her immediate family or employees may compete in their own trials.

Sec 10: Trial committee members may compete for the cash and prizes, as well as the trophies and the points.

Sec 11: All dogs must be registered with a traceable pedigree. (Proof must be made available on request) NOTE: If handler does not have the proper registration papers on hand. The handler has 7 days from the end of the trial to supply proper papers or any placements will be forfeited, and all prize money and prizes must be returned. EFFECT: Penalty for failure to return prizes and/or prize money will be the indefinite suspension of the offender until said prizes and/or prize money is returned.

Sec 12: The UFTA will not under any circumstances tolerate poor sportsmanship, mistreatment of a dog, unsafe handling of a firearm, alcohol or drug use or any other act that is un-becoming of a gentleman or a lady or that is a detriment to the Field Trial Game.

Sec 13: A field trial must be set at least 21 days in advance to be recognized as an official trial.

Sec 14: An Open field trial consisting of Open Flushing Division only must have 8 entries 48 hrs. in advance of the trial to be sanctioned as an official trial.

Sec 15: In any trial, a handler can run at least THREE (3) dogs, but otherwise no more than 10% which would allow four dogs in a 20+ dog trial. A maximum of four (4) dogs will be allowed no matter how many dogs are in the division. NOTE: This applies to each division and not the amount of dogs entered into the whole trial.

Sec 16: All Dogs must be kept in gun range to the competitor during their run. Gun range is defined as within 60 yards of the handler. 10 points will be deducted for dogs trapping or pointing out of range.

Doubles Flushing Division

Sec 1: The Doubles event consists of two (2) hunters and one (1) dog. This team will hunt for (6) six birds that re either chuckar or quail. Combinations of these are permissible as long as the same combination and quota re used for all competitors, even if birds still remain in the field from the previous competitor. Two shells are allowed per bird planted for competitors, but they are not allowed to share the quota of shells.

Sec 2: If one team member is waiting on a retrieve from the dog the other team member must also remain stationary as long as the other team member is.

Sec 3: A team member cannot call a safety on his partner.

Sec 4: One team member can shoot all the birds if desired and the bird can be delivered to either team member.

Sec 5: A winner will be declared by completing one (1), fifteen (15) minute brace per team to determine the highest score. Ties are broken the same was as Flushing singles. It is acceptable to adjust the time to a fifteen minute brace to accommodate weather, daylight or a modified format.

Sec 6: A competitor can enter a maximum of 4 dogs.

Sec 7: Once a team has flushed 8 birds that have been bagged or left the field the run will end and the time will be considered full time.

Safety

A GOOD, SAFE SHOOT IS ALWAYS the responsibility of the shooter. Failure to display safe shooting or gun handling practices while competing in a UFTA event is grounds for immediate disqualification. This is left solely up to the judgment of the judge, trial host, field marshal or trial committee

Sec 1: No bird in flight may be shot unless it is safe to do so. A safety shall be called for ANY unsafe shooting condition involving potential injury to any person, dog, or personal property.

Sec 2: The handler or judge may call a safety. The final decision as to whether the safety will be allowed will be left up to the judge's discretion. NOTE: It is possible though NOT LIKELY for two or more safeties to be awarded if multiple flushes occur and there is no safe shot on any bird. See FLUSHES – Sec: 2 for more information.

Sec 3: Running by any handler, designated shooter or designated walker is prohibited during the field trial. It is the handler's responsibility to control his/her designated shooter or designated walker from running. EFFECT: The first warning assessed to the handler; zero (0) points will be deducted. For

the second warning to the handler a five (5)-point deduction will be assessed. For the third warning, the handler WILL BE DIS-QUALIFIED.

Sec 4: A handler will be awarded a safety if the judge or cameraman flushes a bird out of the field to include shot bird points. If the bird stays in the field the handler can immediately hunt the bird but will not be awarded the safety from the 1st flush.

Sec 5: For a third bird safety (or quota ending bird) the time stops when the handler, judge or designated shooter calls safety and the dog is either leashed or the competitor has physical control of the dog (by the collar).

Sec 6: As long as the handler or designated shooter has a shell in his/her gun, a safety can still be awarded.

Sec 7: Handler Safety: a) No bird is to be shot on the ground. b) Blaze Orange Vest; Cap, or Coat must be worn during the trial. c) All guns MUST have the shells removed and the chamber left open at all times except while competing. d) All dogs must be leashed, staked out, in a vehicle or restrained in some manner (approved by trial committee or field marshal) unless competing. e) If the handler must help a dog over or through any obstruction, the handler must give the gun to the judge unloaded, with the chamber open. f) If the handler must leave the trial grounds for any reason during the run, the handler must give the gun to the judge unloaded, with the chamber open. g) Only 2 3/4 inch shells will be allowed for 16 gauge and larger bore guns. 20 gauge and smaller bore guns may use 3-inch shells. Maximum size shot is six (6) shot for ANY gun. NOTE: Some facilities or clubs may allow only smaller shot than six (6) shot, example, 7 ½, 8 or 9 shot..

Sec 8: When a safety is awarded, the shot point (2) will not be awarded. The shot point is awarded if safety is on a person or property, not the dog.

Sec 9: If the handler shoots and it is not in the direction of the bird in flight, this will be grounds for immediate disqualification.

Scoring

All scorecards must be signed by the handler and by the judge. Scorecards are FINAL and the only additions/changes that can be made to the scorecard

once signed is for a mathematical error, or a judge giving a handler credit for something that the dog did not earn. If the handler should have a protest, the handler SHOULD NOT sign the scorecard until a final decision has been reached by the trial committee or field marshal, following the protest. A handler refusing to sign a scorecard after a final decision has been reached by the trial committee or the field marshal shall receive (0) zero points

Sec 1: (0) No points will be awarded unless a bird is produced (bird seen by the judge) If a handler gets no bird work in the allotted time limit, his final score shall be (0) zero.

Sec 2: (2) two points will be awarded for each minute under the time limit. Time is called when the last bird is in hand, and the dog is leashed or held by the collar.

Sec 3: (2) two bonus points will be awarded for each shot bird.

Sec 4: (10) ten points will be awarded for a bird flushed in flight or trapped bird

Sec 5: (5) five points will be awarded for each partial retrieve

Sec 6: (10) ten points will be awarded for each full retrieve. A handler only gets credit for one (1) retrieve per bird

Sec 7: (10) ten points will be awarded for each shell not used (up to a maximum of 2 shells per bird used)

Sec 8: A shell will be counted as used (10 point deduction) if the handler doesn't shoot but still bags a bird (trap or safety)

Sec 9: A shell will be counted as used (10 point deduction) for each time the handler shoots. (shells used). If the shell fails to fire this is considered bad luck and a safety will not be awarded. EXCEPTION: When the judge instructs the handler or DS to take a bird out.

Sec 10: (20) twenty points will be awarded for each bagged bird.

Sec 11: In certain safety violations, the Judge can deduct Penalty points.

Sec 12: A bird may be scored on only one time during the run. If handler shoots a shell while trying to score on the same bird twice the judge will deduct ten (10) points for each time the handler shoots.

Sec 13: Zero (0) points will be awarded for a cold, dead bird retrieved from out of bounds.

Sec 14: A perfect sequence will be awarded for a whole dead bird that is retrieved in bounds. No shot points.

Sec 15: Zero (0) points will be awarded for any bird shot with an illegal shell.

Sec 16: Ties for first, second, third and beyond will be broken as follows: a) For first place ties time used based on seconds will be used as the first tiebreaker (open division will have both runs times totaled) example: 12 minutes 30 seconds beats 12 minutes and 31 seconds), b) Number of unused shells will be used as the second tiebreaker and c) Number of full retrieves will be used as the third tiebreaker.

Shells

Sec 1: Ten (10) points will be awarded for each unused shell. Each competitor will be allowed two (2) shells per bird.

Sec 2: If no points have been scored for the dog or competitor then no points will be awarded for unused shells

Sec 3: One shell will be used for each trapped bird or safety.

Sec 4: If a shell fails to fire, and the primer is dimpled this is considered bad luck and there will be no safety awarded. (Flushing division only).

Birds

The UFTA highly recommends planting One (1) extra bird for the first run (example-on a 3-bird plant, put out 4 birds for the first run) in any single event. The birds must not be planted closer than 30 feet of any boundary line.

Sec 1: A bagged bird must be in-bounds when flushed. If the bird flies out-of-bounds after being flushed from in-bounds, and the dog can flush the bird

again, the bird can be shot by the competitor as long as the bird is the same one originally produced in-bounds and the competitor is in-bounds.

Sec 2: If a bird enters into the field of its own accord, this bird is then considered a legal bird.

Sec 3: If a bird is unintentionally pushed into the field by an out-of-bounds dog or if a hunter leaves the field to retrieve an out of bounds dog and accidentally flushes a bird back into the field. That bird becomes a "Marked Bird" and the handler has two options: a) The handler may go directly to the bird and take a six-point deduction. Or b) The handler may keep his dog off of the bird for three minutes and then hunt the bird for a full sequence or bag a different bird then go you can go back to that bird for full points without waiting the three minutes.

Sec 4: No points will be awarded for a cold, dead bird retrieved from out of bounds.

Sec 5: An out of bounds dog may flush a bird that is in bounds.

Sec 6: The whole bird must be completely out of bounds before the bird cannot be scored on. If the bird is standing on or directly above an out of bounds stake, fence or line, that bird is considered to be IN BOUNDS.

Sec 7: Dead Birds are a safety and shall be scored as a perfect sequence. The bird must be a whole bird and in-bounds. No shot points will be awarded.

Sec 8: If after attempting to flush the bird to flight the dog catches the bird after or before the bird leaves its nest, the bird is considered a trapped bird and full points for the flush and retrieve will be given.

Sec 9: It is considered un-sportsmanlike for a handler to refrain from calling a dog in from out-of-bounds in hopes of flushing a bird into the field.

Sec 10: Handler or Designated Shooter may not intentionally mutilate a bird. For any bird that is mutilated whether judged intentional or not, the handler or DS must completely pick up all remaining parts of the bird to the judges satisfaction while the clock is running. NOTE: Intentional mutilation could be considered grounds for disqualification

Sec 11: Handlers intentionally cleaning or loading the field by leaving live or dead birds will be automatically disqualified

Sec 12: In all UFTA field trials the bird planters must wear gloves that are free of any scent other than that of the birds

Sec 13: The Judge must wear a vest or have a means of carrying all shot or dead birds for that run. The judge may carry all shot or bagged birds if the handler desires

Sec 14: A handler may not use any objects to assist him/her to reach a dropped bird other than the one step and his arms length to pick up the bird.

Sec 15: A handler may not lie down to reach a dropped bird.

Sec 16: If the fifteen minute time limit has expired and a bird has been shot, the handler has a thirty (30) second grace period to complete the retrieve. If the retrieve is not completed within the thirty (30) second grace period, no (0) points will be awarded for neither the bagged bird nor the retrieve.

Sec 17: After the dog has flushed/moved 4 birds that have been bagged or left the field the run will end and the time will be considered full time.

Flushes

Sec 1: Ten (10) points will be awarded for each flushed bird up to the predetermined quota

Sec 2: If a dog flushed multiple birds, flushed bird points will be awarded for only the number of flushes for each shot and bagged bird. Extra shells used will still be counted for un-bagged birds

Sec 3: If a bird is trapped, ten (10) points will be awarded in place of the flush and a shell must be used

Retrieves/Partial Retrieves

Once a bird has been "Acted on" which means shot at OR the bird has been trapped by the dog; the handler must keep one foot stationary at all times to be awarded a full retrieve. The foot that is stationary is a pivot foot and the handler may use this pivot foot to pivot in any direction. In order for the dog

to be awarded a full retrieve must bring the bird back to within one step of the stationary pivot foot. If the handler drags his/her pivot foot or moves that pivot foot in ANY manner prior to securing the bird from the dog, or prior to the dog bringing the bird back to within the one step; the handler cannot receive points for a full retrieve.

Sec 1: Ten (10) points will be awarded for each full retrieve up to but not exceeding the established quota of birds. The dog must retrieve the bird to the handler, (if using a designated shooter) the DS must step behind the handler immediately upon shooting the bird. The handler must move to the shooter.

Sec 2: Five (5) points will be awarded for each partial retrieve. A partial retrieve is defined as a dog not marking the bird and / or not making an attempt to bring the bird back to the competitor within his/her pivot foot. Once the bird has been acted on (shot at) or the bird has been trapped by the dog all participants must remain stationary. EXCEPTION: 1) The designated shooter must immediately step behind the handler.

Sec 3: A competitor must keep one (1) foot stationary after the bird is shot, or once the dog has the bird in his mouth.

Sec 4: If a shot bird falls behind an obstruction that the dog cannot pass safely over or through, the handler may help the dog over the fence and back and receive full points for the retrieval if the dog brings the bird back to within one step of the handler. Once the handler helps the dog over the fence the handler must now remain stationary until the dog retrieves the bird to within one step of the new position. NOTE: The handler is allowed one step from this new position; however the pivot foot must remain stationary.

Sec 5: If the dog flushes another bird during a retrieve in bounds. The handler or designated shooter may move to shoot the second bird with no penalty on the first bird. However, he/she must use the second shooting spot as the stationary position for both birds. If no bird is produced the second shooting spot is still the stationary position for the first retrieve and the handler will be awarded a full retrieve provided the dog completes the retrieve to this new position.

Sec 6: The dog may not bring the bird to the designated walker. This will be scored as a partial retrieve if the handler cannot get the dog to retrieve to him/her or designated shooter.

Sec 7: A handler may kneel down but MAY NOT lie down to retrieve a bird.

Sec 8: A handler MAY NOT lay his gun on the ground during a retrieve.

EFFECT: 1st offense the handler or shooter gets a warning. 2nd offense the handler is penalized five (5) points, and third offense the handler is disqualified for this particular run

Sec 9: The handler MAY NOT physically assist the dog other than the one step limit during the retrieve and still receive 10 points for the retrieve.

EXCEPTION: The handler may take Golf balls, empty hulls or other safe objects to throw in order to help the dog mark a fallen bird(s). REFER TO RETRIEVES/PARTIAL RETRIEVES: Sec 4 for impassable obstructions.

Sec 10: ABSOULUTLEY NO LIVE SHELLS OF ANY KIND MAY BE THROWN to assist a dog in the retrieval of a bird. EFFECT: An immediate 5-point deduction will be assessed for each shell thrown.

Sec 11: The handler may lift the dog over or through an obstruction such as a fence (electric or otherwise), hedgerow, or any barrier that is impassable by the dog with no deduction in points. However, this new position where the handler assisted the dog is now the position where the handler must adhere to all Rules set forth in Retrieves/Partial Retrieves.

Sec 12: No more than one (1) retrieve may be scored on each bird.

Sec 13: Zero (0) points will be awarded for a cold, dead bird retrieved from out of bounds

Sec 14: If a fence is used to divide fields and a handler or designated shooter shoots a bird the judge must witness the bird had fallen dead in order for the handler or designated shooter to set the dog over the fence to attempt to make the retrieve in the field on the other side of the fence. Once the handler or designated shooter helps the dog over the fence the handler must now remain stationary until the dog retrieves the bird to within one step of the new position.

Sec 15: If the dog flushes another bird during a retrieve in bounds. The handler or designated shooter may move to shoot the second bird with no penalty on the first bird. However, he/she must use the second shooting spot as the stationary position for both birds. If no bird is produced the second shooting spot is still the stationary position for the first retrieve and the handler will be awarded a full retrieve provided the dog completes the retrieve to this new position.

Sec 16: Trees and bushes that are inside the boundaries are considered to be in bounds if the trunk of the tree is on the boundary or inside the boundary (over hanging limbs that are outside the boundary are considered in bounds if the trunk of the tree is in bounds. Over hanging limbs that are in bounds from a tree that is out of bounds are considered in bounds. An acted on bird that lands in or lodges in a tree can be shot again with the penalty of ten (10) points for the additional shell. If the handler or designated shooter must move in order to shoot the bird again a partial retrieve will be scored if the dog makes a retrieve. If the judge witness that the bird had fallen dead in an in or out of bounds tree/object and a retrieve is impossible the handler will receive full points for the bagged bird. If the bird remains alive, the competitor must shoot the bird and if it falls out of the tree, the dog must retrieve the bird to the competitor to receive full retrieve points or the competitor may elect to take a partial retrieve. If the bird dies in the tree but fails to fall to the ground, full retrieve points will be awarded. If a shot bird lands in a tree out of bounds as witnessed by a judge and he/she can determine that the bird is not dead while remaining in the field of competition, the bird avoided being harvested and the hunt should continue. If the judge, under the same circumstances, determines that the bird is dead, full points shall be awarded.

Time:

NOTE: During Any UFTA Field Trial, the time will be stopped only at the judge's discretion.

Sec 1: The judge will record Time used in minutes and seconds. Un-used time is calculated for additional points. Example: For a run of 12 min. 15 seconds the unused time is 8 minutes giving the handler 16 points for the un-used

time (previous example was for a 20 minute time limit, however the time limit is fifteen (15) minutes). The recording of the seconds is merely for tie breaking purposes

Sec 2: Time will be called by the scorekeeper for any of the following: a) The hunter ceases to hunt (no points will be awarded for the un-used time). b) The Time Limit has expired. c) The handler has bagged the established quota of birds. Points will be awarded for un-used time. d) All shells have been used. e) An infraction of a rule, which leads to immediate disqualification. f) During “Sudden Death” run off situations when it is obvious that there is a clear cut winner. g) 4 birds have been removed from the field by the competitor.

Sec 3: If a protest in the field should arise, the judge should note the time and any details of what is being protested and the run should continue.
EXCEPTION: When a re-run may or may not be awarded to the handler.

Sec 4: If time must be stopped for ANY REASON, the dog must be immediately leashed. Time is stopped once the dog is on the leash and in control of the handler. When the handler unleashes the dog the time will continue.

Sec 5: Time stops when the handler has bagged the established quota of birds and the last bird is in hand.

Sec 6: Time stops when the handler designated shooter or judge calls safety and that particular bird will give the handler his/her established quota and the dog is on leash or the competitor has physical control of the dog (by the collar).

Sec 7: The run is over and the handler must leash his/her dog.

Sec 8: The dog and/or handler have 30 seconds after the time limit has expired to retrieve, partially retrieve or to find a downed bird. NOTE: To receive full points for the retrieve the handler must adhere to all Rules concerning Retrieves. Refer to Retrieves/Partial Retrieves. The handler may elect to simply pick up the bird and lose his/her retrieval points in order to bag the bird prior to the 30- second grace period expiring.

Dog Handler

Sec 1: It is each handler's responsibility to be in the blind on time. The decision on how many handlers are to be in the blind is left up to the trial committee.

Sec 2: No electric training collars, combination collars, check cords or any other training device will be allowed during the trial

Sec 3: The dog's regular collar must not have any kind of prongs.

Sec 4: The handler may not use any outside assistance whatsoever while competing in the trial. This includes help from the gallery prior to or during the run, the Designated Shooter or the Designated Walker. UFTA events are designed for one handler and his/her dog to locate and bag game with their own abilities. EXCEPTION: The handler may use an ATV, Golf Cart or other means of transportation if the handler is physically challenged.

Sec 5: Any participant in a UFTA trial event is required to sign a waiver and release agreement before participating in the trial. This includes among others, handlers, designated shooters, designated walkers, field marshals, judges and bird planters. EFFECT: Sec 1-5: Immediate Disqualification

Sec 6: If a conflict occurs with starting times or fields, the next handler in rotation will be moved up, and the trial shall continue. The UFTA will try to make every attempt to make sure that this does not happen. The handler who had the conflict will move back into the regular rotation as soon as possible. NOTE: Moving ANY handler around in rotation is not grounds for protest. Handlers intentionally stalling to keep from moving back into rotation will be considered un-sportsman like conduct, and the handler may be disqualified.

Sec 7: A Physically challenged or injured handler may use an ATV, Golf Cart or other means of transportation. The trial committee should be made aware of this at least 24hrs a head of the scheduled start time of the trial. The contestant must provide a designated walker (DW) (and must be approved by the field marshal or trial committee). The handler must follow along behind the DW at a walking pace. The DW may be another contestant provided the contestant has no more runs in that field on that day, or the DW may be a

Designated Shooter. NOTE: The trial committee or trial host IS NOT responsible for providing an ATV, Golf Cart or other mode of Transportation. However, the trial committee or trial host DOES RESERVE THE RIGHT to approve or to not approve a particular mode of transportation. Physically challenged competitors in their own best interest need to contact the trial committee or host prior to the start of the trial to get their particular mode of transportation approved.

Sec 8: Handlers under the age of eighteen may participate in a UFTA trial as long as the following conditions are met: NO EXCEPTIONS: a. The youth handler must be a paid member (family membership or individual). Must present a current Hunter Education/Safety Course from their state of residence. b. Must have a waiver (Indemnification) which must show the youth handlers name and must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. c. The youth handler between the ages of 14-16 years must have their parent or legal guardian accompany the judge during the course of the trial.

Sec 9: Handlers under the age of eighteen must make it known to the Trial Chairman or Trial Committee that he/she is under the age of 18 prior to the start of the field trial.

Sec 10: All handlers must have an identification card to verify age.

Sec 11: Any handler that gets disqualified for any reason, that trial DOES NOT count towards his/her qualification into the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

Designated Shooter (DS)

Sec 1: A designated shooter (DS) is a person that is assigned or approved by the field marshal, trial host or trial committee for the sole purpose of shooting for a handler.

Sec 2: Handlers under the age of eighteen may be a DS as long as conditions for a youth hunter have been met.

Sec 3: The DS may not assist the handler in anyway other than to carry the gun and shoot for the handler. EFFECT: If the DS assists the handler in any way, the judge will score the sequence as a Zero (0) and the bird if still alive will not be score able for the remainder of the time limit.

Sec 4: The handler and DS must walk together

Designated Walker (DW)

Sec 1: A Designated Walker (DW) is a person that is assigned or approved by the field marshal or trial committee for the purpose of walking for an injured or physically challenged handler. The injured or physically challenged handler may ride in golf cart, ATV or similar mode of transportation approved by the field marshal or trial committee. The Handler must follow behind the Designated Walker (DW) at all times and may guide the DW in any means necessary, as long as the DW and the Handler adhere to the official Rule Book of the UFTA.

Sec 2: The DW will carry the gun while the handler rides along behind in an ATV or other vehicle approved by the trial committee or field marshal.

Sec 3: The DW must walk at all times as defined in DEFINITIONS. EFFECT: The first warning assessed to the handler; zero (0) points will be deducted. For the second warning to the handler a five (5)-point deduction will be assessed. For the third warning, the handler WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

Sec 4: The DW will stop walking when the dog is attempting to flush a bird and wait for the handler to dismount his/ her ATV or other vehicle. The DW will give the handler the gun when it is safe to do so. The DW will then remain with the judge until the sequence is complete and the handler moves on to the next bird or the Time Limit has expired

Sec 5: The DW will not assist the handler in ANY WAY other than to walk and carry the gun for the handler. EFFECT: For giving assistance to the handler: No points will be awarded for the sequence and if the bird is dead or alive, will not be score able for the remainder of the time limit.

Sec 6: Handlers under the age of eighteen may be a DS as long as conditions for a youth hunter have been met.

Re-runs

Sec 1: A re-run is an aborted run that will start over. On any re-run a handler cannot better their time from when the re-run was awarded but the score can be improved. The field will be replanted with the number of birds

removed since the beginning of the original run. A reasonable rest period will be granted prior to the re-run. The rest period will be no less than 5 minutes and no more than 15 minutes. NOTE: If the handler chooses not to take the rest period and chooses to continue immediately, this will not be grounds for protest once the handler proceeds with the re-run.

Sec 2: If the handler chooses a re-run, he/she must remain in the blind while the replacement birds are being planted.

Sec 3: If ANY dog other than the dog competing in the assigned field, interferes in the field with the competing dog; the handler will have the option of a re-run or to continue the run already started. If the handler continues the run in progress, a re-run will not be allowed. EXAMPLES OF INTERFERENCE: Any dog or person not assigned to the field in which the run is taking place enters into that field and distracts the legal dog in any way. Or flushes a bird from the field, or hinders the legal dog in any way will be considered interference.

Sec 4: A re-run may be awarded for various safety reasons such as but not limited to lightning, darkness or any other incidents that the field marshal or trial committee deems necessary.

Sec 5: A re-run may be awarded for any inconsistencies in scoring or bird quota. Or for a judges error in applying the rules of the UFTA that puts the handler at a disadvantage

Judges

Sec 1: All Judges must be certified and registered by each State Representative or duly appointed official

Sec 2: Judges must be certified by the UFTA or appointed official. Certification is complete once the judge has passed the UFTA OFFICIAL TEST, and has co-judged (with a certified judge) 8 separate runs in the Flushing Singles Division

Sec 3: Judges and Field Trial Committee's have the authority to rule on situations not specifically covered by the rules if The National Rules Interpreter cannot be reached.

Sec 4: The Judge must wear a vest or have a means of carrying all shot or dead birds for that run. The judge will carry all shot or bagged birds

Sec 5: Judges MAY NOT compete in the field in which they are judging until their respective runs in that field are completed for that day.

Sec 6: Judges may use ATV's, Golf Carts, or other means of transportation or they may choose to walk. The decision will be left solely up to the judge.

2020 RULE CHANGE:

FLUSHING DIVISION

The Shot Bird points will now be two (2) points in the Flushing Division.

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