

Gadharchumann Na hEireann (Teoranta)
The Irish Kennel Club (Limited)
Field Trial Rules and Regulations
(Copyright)

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A copy of these rules must be available for reference at all Field Trials.

Purpose of Field Trials:

Field Trials are of special value to breeders for the selection of working strains of gundogs, to shooters looking for the right type of dog with working ability, and to handlers wishing to gain experience in the handling of their dogs. The purpose of Field Trials is to test dogs for their suitability as gundogs. The judge's task is the assessment of the dogs proficiency at work. Officials and competitors should make themselves familiar with the Field Trial rules and ensure that trials are efficiently run and are enjoyable and sporting occasions. Inexperienced handlers will need encouragement and clear instruction from Judges and each dog should be given every opportunity to show his working ability.

The Irish Kennel Club Ltd.

Every year approximately 200 Clubs, Associations and Societies nominate their Representatives to attend the monthly meetings of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. They form "An Ard Comhairle" which is the governing body of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. They approve all major decision of the Club.

An Ard Comhairle at their January meeting delegate some of the administrative and research work to various sub-committees for the year. They are

1. The General Purposes Committee who are the Board of Directors for the year.
2. The Field Trials Committee who look after Field Trials for Gundogs.
3. The Green Star and Judges Committee who peruse all show Judges and determine the Green Stars index for Shows.
4. The Obedience and Agility Committee who look after Obedience and Agility Competitions.
5. The Appeals Committee who hear appeals against disciplinary decisions.

They also elect the President, Vice- President and the Treasurer.

“The Field Trial Committee Role”

An Ard Chomhairle elects seven (7) members to form the Field Trial Committee.

This committee elect their chairman and also have the option to co-opt a further three (3) members should they be required to represent all sections. They usually meet once a month and, if necessary, additional meetings are arranged. The Field Trial Committee is responsible for the overseeing and authorisation of all Field Trial and Working test events. The Field Trial Committee, in consultation with Field Trial clubs reserves the right to alter, amend or redefine at any time the contents of thisbook, subject to approval from an Ard Chomhairle.

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Irish Kennel Club (Ltd.) Field Trial

Rules and Regulations

Effective From: 1st January 2026

Where difficulties regarding interpretation of any of these Rules and Regulations occur the Field Trial Committee MUST be consulted to further define such rules, and their definitions shall be final and binding, subject to confirmation by An Ard Chomhairle.

These Rules supersede all previous Field Trial Rules issued by the Irish Kennel Club.

These Rules should be read in conjunction with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the General Rules.

Introduction To Field Trial Rules:

The rules have been divided into four Chapters viz.,

Chapter 1: Definitions are for rules as they apply to Field Trials.

Chapter 2: General and Specific Rules.

Chapter 3: Guide to Field Trial Judging.

Chapter 4: Requirements for the appointment of Field Trial Judges:

Registration and/or Transfer

Remember ALL dogs must be registered with the Irish Kennel Club and if ownership has changed, the transfer must also be registered with the Irish Kennel Club prior to the date of the relevant Trial or Test. The particulars on the entry form should coincide with the Registration Certificate, as issued by the Irish Kennel Club Ltd.

Remittance of Entry Fee

Entry fees should be paid as instructed on the relevant schedule/entry form.

Chapter 1

Definitions as they apply to Field Trials.

These definitions are for Rules and Regulations as they apply to Field Trials and are at the time being in force, unless the contrary applies.

- (a) An Ard Chomhairle is the governing body of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd.
- (b) An Award is defined as: A Certificate of Merit is awarded at the judge's discretion for satisfactory work in an Open or All Age Stake and can be given to any dog outside the prize winners. In contrast, a Diploma of Honour is specifically awarded at the judge's discretion in a Championship Stake, highlighting satisfactory performance in a more prestigious context. Both awards are discretionary and recognise merit beyond standard 1 to 4th prize placements.
- (c) The Council shall mean a duly constituted meeting of An Ard Chomhairle and if and so far as any powers of An Ard Chomhairle have been delegated shall include the delegated authority.
- (d) Delegated Authority shall mean a duly constituted meeting of the Field Trials Committee (a quorum of the Field Trials Committee should consist of four members including the Chairman of the Field Trials Committee and excluding ex-officio members) of An Ard Chomhairle, or other body to whom powers have been delegated by An Ard Chomhairle.
- (e) The word Month shall mean a calendar month.
- (f) The word Year shall mean the calendar year as defined in the appropriate specific rules section of these Rules from 1st to January - 31st December.
- (g) Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa.
- (h) Words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender and vice versa.
- (i) A Club means any Utility Club, Society or Association recognised by the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., as responsible for the organisation, holding and control of the Field events, and its duly appointed Committee shall be responsible for the executive work of the Society.
- (j) A Field Trial or a Field Event is a meeting for the purpose of holding competitions for the work of Gundogs in the Field.
- (k) A Working Test is a meeting for the purpose of holding competitions of a minor nature for working dogs.
- (l) Gundogs shall be divided into the following categories:
 - Section 2: Retrievers
 - Section 3: Pointers and Setters
 - Section 4: Spaniels
 - Section 5: Dual Purpose Gundogs
(Dogs which Hunt, Point and Retrieve)
- (m) A Prize is a money prize or a prize of any description offered for competition at a field event held under the Rules of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. (Rule 33-34-35).

- (n) A Stake is a competition held at a Field Trial.
- (o) The Draw is the selection by ballot of the number of dogs and in the order in which dogs in any Field event should compete (Rule 15).
- (p) Green Star may be offered with the prior approval of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., to dogs categorised "Excellent" and placed first at a Championship, Open or Derby Stake (Rule 50). Championship Points may be offered with the prior approval of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., to dogs placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in the Irish Kennel Club Championship Stake at Open or at Derby Stakes in accordance with Rule 50.
- (q) Certificate of Merit is not a prize but may be awarded at an Open Field Trial at the discretion of the Judges. Such Trial must carry a Green Star (Rule 37).
- (r) Qualifying Awards is an award which certified that the dog has attained the required standard as indicated on the Certificate of Competency (Rule 50-51).
- (s) Diploma of Honour is not a prize but may be awarded at a championship stake at the discretion of the Judges (Rule 37).
- (t) Stake Definitions
 - (i) A Brace Stake is for two dogs of the same or different breeds entered to work as a brace by the same owner.
 - (ii) A Novice Stake is confined to dogs which have not won any of the following awards:
 Section 2 (Retrievers) First (1st) Second (2nd) Third (3rd) in a Novice or puppy stake and categorised excellent and any dog who has won a championship point.

 Section 3 (Pointers & Setters) First (1st) Second (2nd) Third (3rd) in a Novice or puppy stake and categorised excellent or very good and any dog who has won a championship point

 Section 4. (Spaniels) First (1st) Second (2nd) Third (3rd) in a Novice or Puppy stake and categorised excellent and any dog who has won a championship point.

 Section 5. (Dual Purpose Gundogs/HPR's) First (1st) Second (2nd) Third (3rd) in a Novice or Puppy stake and categorised excellent or very good.
 - (iii) A Puppy Stake is for dogs under two (2) years of age on the date of the original event. (Rule 19).
 - (iv) A Non Qualifying Stake is for dogs where no entry qualifications are required and for which no Qualifying Awards, Championship Points or Green Stars can be obtained.
 - (v) A Derby Stake is for dogs under two (2) years of age on the date of the original event. Only one Derby Stake will be allowed annually and shall be confined to Section 2 and Section 3 (Rule 19).
 - (vi) An Open Stake is for all dogs of a specific breed (See (2) below) or breeds in any of the categories as detailed in Definition (k), however preference in the draw will be given to qualified dogs provided that:
 1. Section 2 (Retrievers). They have been placed (1st) First (2nd) Second (3rd) Third in an Open, Derby, Puppy or Novice Stake and categorised excellent or any dog who has won a championship point.

Section 3. (Pointers & Setters) They have been placed First (1st) Second (2nd) Third (3rd) in an Open, Derby, or Puppy stake and categorised excellent or very good or any dog who has won a championship point.

Section 4. (Spaniels) They have been placed First(1st) Second(2nd) Third (3rd) in an Open, Derby or Puppy or Novice stake and categorised excellent or any dog who has won a championship point. Section 5. (Dual Purpose Gundogs/HPR's) They have been placed First (1st) Second (2nd) Third (3rd) in an Open, Derby, Puppy or Novice Stake and categorised excellent or very good, or any dog who has won a championship point.

2. Should the stake be confined to one specific breed then only two such stakes will be permitted in any one year. The right to hold such confined Stakes will only be granted to the parent Club in the breed as defined by the Field Trial Committee. That the Breed Club is entitled to give one of their Confined Stakes to another Club at the discretion of the Field Trial Committee. Where a Breed Club is in existence and not running Confined Breed, Stakes the Field Trial Committee may nominate a promoting Body to run a Single Breed Stake.
3. An Open Stake confined to our Native Irish Setters – the Irish Red Setter & the Irish Red & White Setter, may be held each year. (Limits on Championship points from confined stakes apply as per Rule 52(b) (iii))

A Championship Stake is a stake which confers on the winning dog the title of Field Trial Champion subject to an excellent grade and subject to the provisions of Rule 52, of the Rules and Regulations.

Only one Championship Stake will be allowed in each category of Gundogs, per year, for section 4, two Championships will be allowed in any one year (AV, excl. Cocker Spaniels and Irish Water Spaniels) & (AV, Excl. English Springer Spaniels and Irish Water Spaniels) and Section 3 are permitted to run two Championships (Grouse Championship and Snipe Championship).

(vii) as defined in DEFINITION (vi a,b,c,d,) of these Rules and Regulations.

Chapter 2

General Rules

- Section 2 Specific Rules
 applicable to Retrievers
- Section 3 Specific Rules
 applicable to Pointers and Setters
- Section 4 Specific Rules
 applicable to Spaniels
- Section 5 Specific Rules
 Applicable to Dual Purpose
- Specific Rules
 applicable to Championship Stakes

All dogs for competition must be registered in the name of the owner or where application has been applied for in accordance with the provisions of the General Rules and Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club Limited.

Rule 1 Restriction of Field Trials

- (a) License to hold Field Trials shall not be granted during the period 1st April to the 19th July inclusive.
- (b) Dogs will be assessed on their performance irrespective of the variety of game they encounter.
- (c) Field Trials shall not be restricted to any particular variety(s) of game.
- (d) Dogs which acknowledge Snipe shall be given credit.
- (e) Grouse, Pheasant, Partridge, Woodcock, Quail, Snipe, Rabbit, Pigeon, Duck, shall be adequate as retrieves for retrieving.
- (f) Hares shall not be used for retrieves.
- (g) The planting of game is prohibited for Sections 2 & 4 except for a water test.

Appropriate Game at Field Trials

- Section 2. Grouse, Pheasant, Partridge, Woodcock, Quail, Snipe, Duck,
(Chapter 2) Rabbit, Pigeon. See (f) This Rule and Rule 72
- Section 3. Major Game: "Grouse, Pheasant, Partridge, Woodcock, Quail". Other game: "Snipe".
(Chapter 2) Dogs shall not be eliminated for failing to acknowledge Snipe in this section. See (d) this Rule and Rule 72.
- Section 4. Grouse, Pheasant, Partridge, Woodcock, Quail, Snipe, Pigeon, Duck, Rabbit.
(Chapter 2) See (d) (e) (f) of this Rule.
- Section 5. Grouse, Pheasant, Partridge, Woodcock, Quail, Snipe, Pigeon, Duck and Rabbit.
(Chapter 2) Dogs shall not be eliminated for failure to acknowledge Snipe or Rabbit in this section. See (d) (e) (f) of this Rule and Rule 97.

Rule 2

License Applications:

- (a) All applications to hold any field event shall be made on the appropriate official form or forms.
- (b) The License, where the application is in order, will be issued as a normal office routine (with the exception of (d) below). Such fee as An Ard Chomhairle shall from time to time determine, shall accompany all Applications shall be made not less than 3 weeks in advance the date of the event with the exception of (d) below
- (d) Applications which must be approved by the Field Trials Committee, and which shall be made not less than 8 weeks in advance of the event, are:-
 - (i) A Field Trial confined to one breed.
 - (ii) Where a Judge or Judges are not on the official Irish Kennel Club Ltd. list.
 - (iii) Trials of an unusual or experimental nature.
 - (iv) Championship Stakes (Rules 105 - 107).
- (e) All Field Events must be covered by Public Liability Insurance under the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., General Dog Show and Field Trial policy.
- (f) The Stake definitions must be adopted when applications to hold a Field Trial is made (Definitions [t])
- (g) Alterations to Licenses (Rule 11).

Where a license has been issued and any change is made, then the license must be returned to the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., and approval of the change must be obtained. The Irish Kennel Club Ltd. reserves the right to make such charge as is considered reasonable for the administration costs incurred.
- (h) All licenses issued will be at the discretion of the field trial committee.
- (i) All late trial applications for licenses may be issued at the discretion of the Field Trial Committee.
- (j) Licenses for Field Trials may be issued to affiliated clubs only.

Rule 3.

Access to Rules:

The Secretary of the organising Society must have a copy of the Field Trial Rules and the General Rules of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., with him for inspection, if required at every Field Trial and Field Event (Rule 10).

Rule 4.

Consideration of Trial Ground

Before a Trial, Judges, Secretary and Steward of the beat should discuss the ground, consider the terrain and game position, in relation to the number of dogs in the Trial (Rule 25).

Rule 5.

Picking Up Wounded Game

“Runners” and wounded game should always be collected first and without delay. It shall be the responsibility of the Field Trial Secretary to ensure that a handler and dog are always available to pick up wounded game when required.

Rule 6.

Gun Shy

Every dog placed in the awards or receiving a Qualifying Certificate (Rule 51) must have been off the lead during gun fire satisfying the Judges that it is not “Gun Shy”

- Rule 7. Duration of Trials
Field Trial Stakes may not be run over for more than 2 consecutive days(Rule 11).
- Rule 8. Registration and/or Transfer
All dogs must be registered with the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., and if ownership has changed, such transfer must also be registered with the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., before the Trial or Test. The details on the entry form must agree with the Registration Certificate particulars as issued by the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. (Rule 14).
- Rule 9. Remittance of Entry Fee
Entry fees should be paid by bank transfer, crossed cheque or postal order and sent to the organising Secretary of the Trial or test together with the completed official entryform.
- Rule 10. Management of Field Trials
- (a) The management of the Field Trial shall be entrusted to the Society which shall decide any dispute in question by a majority of the Committee present, subject to the provisions of these Rules and Regulations (Rule 3).
 - (b) The Field Trial Secretary must ensure that red flags, armbands, markers cards, adequate officials and stewards be available at the trial for sections 2,4, & 5.
For Section 3 that adequate officials and stewards must be available at the trial. A Priest for dispatching game must be available where appropriate.
No. of guns must be as per license application.
The use of automatic shotguns is prohibited at Field Trials.
 - (c) Videos and recording equipment at Field Trials.
Prior permission for the use of video, cameras and recording equipment must be obtained from the organising committee of the event.
 - (d) That all dogs may be randomly tested at Field Trials for the use of performance enhancing substances.
- Rule 11. The Schedule
A Club holding a Field Trial must issue not less than 14 days prior to the Field Trial a Schedule which is to be treated as a Contract between the Club and the Competitor. The Schedule must contain at least the following information:-
- (a) Definition of Stake. (Definitions [t]).
 - (b) Name of promoting club and its secretary's name and email address.
Locality and date of the trial and the place and time of the Meet.
 - (c) The latest date for receiving entries.
 - (d) The amount of entry fee.
 - (e) The amount of the prize money (if any) (Rule 33).
 - (f) The conditions governing trophies and prizes (Rule 34).
 - (g) The date, time and place for the draw at which Members of the promoting body and entrants may be present.
 - (h) The names of the Judges.
 - (i) Where more than one Stake is licensed, the order in which the Stakes will be run.
 - (j) That spectators and competitors attend at their own risk.
 - (k) That all owners or handlers enter the dogs at their own risk.

- (l) That the Society shall have the right to refuse any entry (Rule 22).
- (m) Where a Field Trial is advertised as a two day event, the controlling body must state, in the Schedule, on which day the Stake will be run should the Stake only attract sufficient entries for a one day event.

Rule 12. Approved Declaration

I HEREBY DECLARE that I enter the dog or dogs as above subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., and of this Show/Trial and which dogs (to be best of my knowledge and belief) are not vicious and that they have not suffered from or been exposed to the risk of distemper or any infectious or contagious disease during the last six weeks, or exposed to kennel Cough in the preceding three weeks and I HEREBY AGREE not to exhibit or compete with them or bring them within the precincts of the Show/Trial if they incur such a risk or suffer from any such disease.

In consideration of my entry being accepted I HEREBY AGREE to undertake to abide by the Rules and Regulations and to indemnify the Show/Field Trial promoters and the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., in respect of any damage or loss caused by my entries or by me and I HEREBY CONSENT to any decision of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., arising there from being published.

The above DECLARATION and UNDERTAKING shall be signed by the competitor at the foot or end of the Entry Form.

Rule 13. Programme

The programme must contain:

- (a) Similar details to Rule 11 (a), (b), (e), (h), (i), (j), (k).
- (b) The name, breed, age, sex, breeding of each entry (rule 8).
- (c) The name of the handler.
- (d) The name and County of the registered owner (Rule 15).
- (e) The name of the Reserve dogs (Rule 8) in order of the draw (Rule 15).

Rule 14. Entries:

- (a) All entries accompanied by the fee (using any appropriate payment method) must be on the official form provided and shall include the name and full postal address of the registered owner, the registered name, IKC Reg. number, age, sex, breed, sire and dam of the dog, and the name of the breeder and the name of the handler (Rule 8 & 9)
- (b) Qualifications of dog and the Categorisation of the qualification, when necessary, giving date and place. (Rule 14[c])
- (c) A standard type of entry form, including e-forms, incorporating a declaration as approved by the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., must be accepted and used by all promoters of Field Trials or Field Events (Rule 12).
- (d) A dog may not compete under a Judge:-
 - (i) Who has given attention for payment or who has been the owner and/or breeder of the dog within nine (9) months preceding the date of the Field Trial or Working Test or:
With whom the competitor holds a joint Prefix/Affix or other interest in the case of any dog or dogs, or who has had such interest within 9 months preceding the date of the Trial.

- Rule 15. The Draw
- (a) If entries exceed the number permitted by the promoting body, the places will be drawn by ballot (Rule 18).
 - (b) The draw shall take place at such time and in such conditions as are stated in the Schedule (Rule 11).
 - (c) No unqualified dog may obtain an entry until all qualified dogs are entered.
 - (d) No two dogs owned or handled by the same person may run together or consecutively in the first round.
 - (e) No owner or handler shall be allowed to enter a second entry until all owners and handlers have been allowed to enter a first entry. No owner or handler shall be allowed a third or subsequent entry until all handlers have been allowed a second entry - and so on.
- Rule 16. Restriction of Open Stake
- No society or club shall be permitted to run a second or subsequent Open Stake in any one year **unless they have endeavoured to run** an unconfined Novice Stake in that year or have run one in the previous year.
- Rule 17. Restriction of Entries
- The only restriction shall be:
- (a) Breed
 - (b) Number of dogs
 - (c) Age or as provided elsewhere in these Field Trial Rules.
- Rule 18. Limitation of Entries
- For the number of dogs permitted to run in a Field Trial see the appropriate "specific rules" section.
- Rule 19. Age Limitation
- All competing dogs at Field Trials and Field Events must be over nine months of age [Definition t (iii), (v)].
- Rule 20. Record of Entries
- The Secretary of the Club shall preserve for at least 6 months the entry forms, correspondence, award slips and all other records in connection with the event, or until all objections have been determined all liabilities discharged, and the accounts fully closed (Rule 14).
- Rule 21. Record of Accounts
- The Club shall keep proper accounts of all monies received and paid on its behalf. They may be called upon to produce and vouch them to the satisfaction of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd.
- Rule 22. Refusal of Entries
- The promoting body may reserve the right to refuse any entries they think fit to exclude without assigning any reason for so doing, except if requested by the Field Trials Committee or the Irish Kennel Club Ltd.

- Rule 23. Acknowledgement of Entries
- The Secretary of every Field Trial must advise all entrants of the result of the draw, including list of runners (Handlers Name) and reserves (Handlers Names) in order i.e. 1st 2nd and 3rd reserve and the numbers they have received (Rule 15). Should circumstances arise where a judge stands down, secretaries are obliged to inform competitors at their earliest convenience in advance of the trial.
- Rule 24. Withdrawal of Dogs
- (a) No dog entered for competition may be withdrawn without the consent of the Judges, subject to the provisions of Rule 27 (c).
 - (b) Judges should not hesitate to allow a handler to “call up” his dog if the handler feels his dog is no longer capable of performing.
 - (c) Judges should ascertain from the handler who has “called up” his dog if he so wishes to “withdraw”.
 - (d) Once a dog has been withdrawn, he should take no further part in the Trial or receive any award.
- Rule 25. Competition Dogs in First Round
- (a) The draw for the first round shall take place as published in the Schedule (Rule 15).
 - (b) Dogs will normally run in numerical order (except where a draw has taken place for the order of running on the day of the Trial) that is the order in which they appear in Programme Rule 15). See (d).
 - (c) Lowest numbered dogs shall always be on the Judge’s left hand side when both Judge and dog are facing in the same direction.
 - (d) In the event of Judges having to separate, one Judge will take all odd numbered dogs, the second Judge will take all even numbered dogs. Undersuch circumstances dogs will still be called in numerical order. The judge, in consultation with the Steward of the beat will decide before the commencement of the Trial if dogs should be called in the order they appear in the programme of “odds” and “even” (Rule 4).
 - (e) Pointers and Setters only. Whenever there is a draw, that is the first and subsequent draws, the dog with the first number out shall be on the left.
- Rule 26. Competing Dogs in Second and Subsequent Rounds
- After the first round, dogs will be called at the Judge’s discretion.
- Rule 27. Physical Condition of Any Dog
- (a) If the Judges consider that a dog is unfit to compete by reason of sexual causes, disease, lameness or hysteria or any other fault which might reasonably be regarded as likely to jeopardise the safety or chances of his opponents winning, the dog must be removed immediately by its handler from the trial and from the ground, upon being requested to do so by the Judges or other official appointed by the Judges. The entry fee for such entry shall be forfeited and any such case shall be liable to be reported to the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., by the Judges or by the Secretary of the Society. A dog which is in season is debarred from competing or being in the

precincts of a Field Trial.

The owner of a dog which is in season at the time of the Trial or is unfit to run, is at liberty to substitute another dog under the same ownership provided:

- (i) That the dog has qualified to run under the Field Trial Rules and Regulations.
- (ii) That the approval of the Field Trials Secretary has been obtained.
- (iii) That the dog has been entered in the trial prior to closing date and the draw.
- (iv) Reserve placing have been taken in order of numbers received in the draw.

Rule 28. Dogs at Field Trials

Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times except when under Judges instructions. The control of all matters connected with dogs under Trial shall rest with the Judges at the meeting. The Competitor is solely responsible at all times during the continuance of the event for keeping his dog under proper control. A Judge is empowered to expel from the ground, or otherwise, any dog which is so aggressive or undisciplined as to interfere with the performance of any other dog competing (Rule 27).

Rule 29. Unpunctuality

Dogs must be run in the order in which they are drawn. A dog which is not present when required by the Judge shall be disqualified. In the first round its place shall be taken from the appropriate Reserve (Rule 25).

Rule 30. Accessories

It shall be at the sole discretion of the Judges as to what article, if any, a competitor may carry.

Rule 31. Wearing a Collar

No dog shall be permitted to wear any collar or harness except with the permission of the Judges and then only for the purpose of identification.

Rule 32. Handling of Dogs

- (a) All handlers must obey the orders of the Judges. A handler failing to obey the Judges' instructions may be immediately disqualified.
- (b) A handler must stand upright when in line except when accepting a retrieve or giving a direction.
- (c) If in the opinion of the Judge a handler who takes unfair advantage or is in any way unsporting may be expelled from the event or the ground.
- (d) Handlers are at liberty to extricate their dogs from wire etc. and are not to be penalised for so doing.
- (e) Handlers are at liberty to refuse to send their dogs over barbed wire or any obstacle likely to cause injury to the dog. Where such an obstacle exists, the dog may be assisted without penalty. The amount of assistance shall be at the discretion of the Judges (Rule 24).
- (f) Dogs must not be physically touched while competing, without the judge's

permission.

- Rule 33. Prize Money
All prize money offered must be paid out within one month of clearance by the Irish Kennel Club Ltd.
- Rule 34. Awards
Conditions governing awards and prizes must be approved by the Field Trial Committee of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd.
- Rule 35. Equal Awards
It is prohibited to give equal awards for any prizes offered at a Field Trial or Test.
- Rule 36. Withholding of Awards
Judges are empowered and instructed to withhold any placing or prize and Championship points if in their opinion, the dog or dogs competing do not show sufficient merit, or if the supply of game is insufficient to enable the judges to reach a decision (rule 50)
- Rule 37. Awards Other Than Prizes
Diplomas of Honour at a Championship Stake and Certificate of Merit at an Open Field Trial may be awarded by the Judges on the day to dogs, which in their opinion, were of sufficient merit to warrant such commendation. A Diploma of Honour is specifically awarded at the judge's discretion in a Championship Stake, highlighting good performance in a Championship. This award is discretionary and recognise merit of dog's performance who do not achieve the standard 1 to 4th prize placements.
Only dogs categorised at least "Very Good" shall receive such an award (Rule 50).
- Rule 38. Order of Merit Following Disqualification
If a prize winner is disqualified, the dogs next in consecutive order of merit within the prizes 1st to 4th, as placed by the judges and awarded not less than fourth (4th) place may be moved into the higher place in the prize list. See Rule 50 B and Rule 36.
- Rule 39. Referee
In the event of two or more Judges differing on the merits of a dog:
(a) The majority decision shall count.
(b) When the Judges are equally divided in their opinions, a referee must be appointed by the organising Club/Committee to decide between the dogs in question (Rule 35).
- Rule 40. Appointment of Judges
(a) The Judges for Field Trials shall be appointed by the organising Society and must be approved by the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. If any Judge is unable to act the organising Society may appoint another instead. In such cases, the issue of a GreenStar or Championship Points shall be subject to the approval by the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., of the substitute Judge (Rule 14 [d]) (Rule 42 [f]). If a judge has stepped down from the

- judging appointment, the judge recorded on the original schedule should not run in the trial except under exceptional circumstances.
- (b) The Irish Kennel Club Ltd. shall issue to Societies, on an annual basis, panels of Judges for Field Trials.
 - (c) Applications for inclusion and promotion in the official list of Field Trial Judges will be considered at meetings of the Field Trial Committee and approved by the An Ard Comhairle. (See Chapter 4).
 - (d) As from the adoption of these Rules the appointment of Judges to any panel shall be from year to year, subject to paying the annual license fee. The Field Trial Committee at its discretion or on a recommendation of any affiliated club with Field Trial interests may delete or retain the services of any Judge included on the panel in any previous year. List of approved Judges - only judges normally resident in Ireland will be included in the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., list of Judges.
 - (e) Judges on lists of other Kennel Clubs recognised by the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., must be approved by the Field Trial Committee of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. prior to appointment.
 - (f) Before a candidate can be considered for addition to any panel on the list of Field Trial Judges he must be recommended by a Gundog Society/Club with Field Trial interests, which is affiliated to the Irish Kennel Club and the candidate must have the following experience. (See "C" above and Chapter 4).

Panel A:

The candidate must have judged a minimum of six Trials, five of which must be Open qualifying Trials, over a minimum period of two years with at least a minimum of five different "A" Panel Judges. The written opinion from all the Co Judges on the suitability of the candidate to progress to the "A" Panel must be received in the offices of the IKC Ltd within twenty one days of the Trial. The candidate must have handled a dog to obtain a 1st 2nd or 3rd Excellent in an Open Qualifying Trial for the section in which they are progressing, within the last 5 years .

Panel B:

The candidate concerned must have acted as a "C" Judge at a minimum of six Field Trials, three of which must have been Open Qualifying Trials, and having been appointed to Judge by a minimum of three different clubs/ associations, or for Section 5 at present one is acceptable, over a minimum of three (3) calendar years with a minimum of four (4) different "A" Co Judges is the requirement for progression to this Panel. The written opinion from all the "A" Panel Co Judges will be sought on the suitability of the candidate for progression to the "B" Panel and must be received in the offices of the IKC Ltd within twenty one days of the Trial. The candidate must be actively competing in Field Trials for the Section in which they are progressing on a regular basis within the previous 2 years.

Panel C or Probationary Judge:

This is the normal entry grade for all prospective Judges. They should have been actively involved competing in Trials for at least three years in their nominated category and have competed in at least six Trials over that period and have obtained a minimum of a fourth place in any Trial for that Section. (See Chapter 4).

Rule 41. Number of Judges

- (a) The maximum number of Judges at any Field Trial shall be four and the minimum two, when four Judges officiate, they shall work in pairs.
- (b) The compulsory number of Panel "A" Judges shall be:-
 - (i) For Spaniel Championships a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4. – IKC A panel judges selected to officiate at a Spaniel Championship must meet the criteria of an A panel judge as outline within these current Rules and must have held a valid IKC judges license, for 3 consecutive years prior to the championship in question.
 - (ii) For all other Championship Stakes a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 4.
 - (iii) For all other Trials a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 3.
- (c) Restriction of "B" Judges
 - (i) Only one "B" Judge may be appointed at a Field Trials
 - (ii) "B" Judges shall not officiate at a Championship Stake.
- (d) Restriction of "C" Judges
 - (i) "C" Judges must always be accompanied by an "A" Judge and act under their supervision. C judges cannot make final decisions but may contribute to decision making process.
 - (ii) "C" Judges shall not award a Qualifying Certificate (Rule 51).
 - (iii) "C" Judges shall not officiate at a Championship Stake. See Guide to Field Trial Judging, Chapter 3 "Duties of the Judge".
 - (iv) "C" judges shall not sign the Certificate of Competency or Qualifying Certificate.

Rule 42. Judges At Field Trials

- (a) Judges shall not judge on more than five (5) occasions at Field Trials, where Championship Points are on offer in any one year in any one of the categories as detailed in Definition (k)
- (b) Judges shall not be allowed to shoot at a Field Trial at which they officiate.
- (c) Judges must refrain from discussing or talking to anyone other than his co-Judge(s) about the performance of any dog while the dogs are working. Reasons for decisions or placing should not be given until the Trial is over, when they may explain their reasons for the categorisation of the various prize winners. The contents of Judges books and notes are confidential, and their contents must not be disclosed to any person other than a co-Judge until the Trial is over.
- (d) Judges should be conversant with the different styles of the different breeds.
- (e) At all Open Stakes the Standard of work should be in keeping with the importance of the event (Rule 36).

- (f) Where a substitute Judge has to be appointed by an organising Society, he/she must (Rule 40[a]):
 - (i) Be appropriately qualified.
 - (ii) Have not already contracted to Judge a total of five section Open Stakes within the year at which Championship Points are on offer.
- (g) Once appointed he/she shall complete the event. "A" Judges at Field Trials will assume command of judging arrangements at the trial. In the event of there being two "A" Judges, the longest serving judge will take command. In the event of one of the judges being from overseas, the Irish Judge shall be regarded as the senior judge and must be an "A" Judge.

Rule 43. Impugning Judges Decision

Anyone taking part in or attending a Field Trial openly impugning any decision or award of a Judge shall render himself liable to be reported to the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. (Rule 44).

Rule 44. Objectionable Conduct

A person whose conduct is objectionable to the Judges, other Competitors, Officials person or persons present at a Trial may be expelled from the grounds. Belittling remarks and insulting behaviour when brought to the attention of the judges or Officials of the Trials shall be severely dealt with and, if considered necessary, a report made to the Field Trial Committee of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. (Rule 45).

Rule 45. Objections

Where an objection is made, the procedure laid down in the general Rules and Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., must be followed.

Rule 46. Complaints

The Filed Trial Committee may, upon a complaint being made, investigate any matter in connection with a Field Trial or such event which comes within their jurisdiction. Recommendations made shall be submitted to the appropriate Committee(s) of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., whose decision shall be final and binding.

Rule 47. Decision Final

The decision of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., on any matter within its jurisdiction shall be final and conclusive on all parties, whether under these Regulations or under any Field Trial regulations. Their decision shall not be impeached in any Court of Law by any party.

Rule 48. Abandonment of Trials

Where for any reason the management thinks it advisable to abandon the holding or continuing of the Trials, the meeting may be postponed and a new date fixed for the abandoned Stakes provided such date does not clash with any other Field Trial within the same group. No substitution shall be permitted, save in accordance with Rule 27 (c), or from the reserve dogs. In the event of competitors being unable to attend a reconvened Trial the entry fees must be refunded to the competitor(s) concerned. Where a trial is postponed or abandoned a promoting body may retain not more than 50% of the entry fees to cover expenses. In a reconvened Trial the

prize money shall be proportionate to the number of dogs competing. The postponed Trial, when reconvened must be started fresh.

Rule 49. Returns to the Irish Kennel Club Ltd.

Judges will sign a Certificate of Competency for dogs receiving any award (see appropriate Gundog categories). Green Stars and Qualifying Awards must be authorised by the Judges of the Trial. Their signed certificate of Competency must indicate that the dog has satisfied all conditions required by such Certificate. This Certificate must be forwarded by the Secretary of the Trial to the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., with a fully marked up Programme of the event, within 14 days of the termination of the event. (Rule 50). Where water certificates have been submitted to the secretary, these must be returned to the IKC with the above returns.

Rule 50. Categorisation

- A. A Judge shall categorise dogs' overall performance, rather than the specific assessment of the individual facets, and endorse the "Certificate of Competency" accordingly as follows: "Excellent", "Very Good", "Good". Dogs must complete all disciplines in accordance with the requirements of the Certificate of Competency/Qualifying Certificate to be categorised "Excellent", "Very Good", "Good".

Section 4:

Excellent: 2 A's or better.

Very Good: A and A-

Good: Two A-

Section 2: Dogs must receive a Minimum of 5 retrieves to be categorised.

- B. Dogs shall be placed - first, second, third, fourth, irrespective of categorisation in conjunction with rule 36.
- C. Dogs categorised.
- (i) "Excellent" shall be entitled to a maximum value of
 - 4 Championship Points if places First (1st).
 - 3 Championship Points if placed Second (2nd).
 - 2 Championship Point if placed Third (3rd).
 - 1 Championship Point if placed Third (4th).
 - (ii) "Very Good" shall be entitled to a maximum value of
 - 3 Championship Points if places First (1st).
 - 2 Championship Points if placed Second (2nd).
 - 1 Championship Point if placed Third (3rd).
 - (iii) "Good" shall be entitled to a maximum value of
 - 1 Championship Point if placed First (1st).
- D. A Green Star may be awarded by the Judge with the prior approval of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., to dogs categorised "Excellent" and placed first at a Championship Stake or at an Open or Derby Stakes (Rule 49) (Definition "o").

Rule 51. Show Dog Qualifying Certificates

- (a) A show dog may enter to qualify for the title of Champion in accordance with the requirements laid down for the

- breedconcerned.
- (b) Any qualifying award at a Field Trial i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, Diploma of Honour or Certificate of Merit shall be equivalent to such Qualifying Certificate for the title of Champion and must be categorised at least "Good".
 - (c) All dogs must be certified for qualifying Certificates by not less than two Judges, one of whom must be an "A" Judge for the appropriate Breed Section ("C" Judges, not acceptable [Rule 41(d) and categorised at least "Good" (Rule 50).
 - (d) Before applications are accepted for Qualifying Certificates the Secretary of the Trial must ensure:-
 - (i) That the Judges officiating have the necessary qualifications (See (c) of this Rule).
 - (ii) That the Trial ground is adequate to test the particular breedconcerned.
 - (e) Dogs may only qualify at trials in their own specific category (Definition k) (Rule 49).

Rule 52. The Title of Field Trial Champion.

- (a) Championship Pointed valued.
 Championship Pointed valued 1st – Excellent 4 championship Points
 Championship Pointed valued 2nd –Excellent 3 Championship Points
 Championship Pointed valued 3rd – Excellent 2 Championship Points,
 maybe offered by the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., at an Open, or Derby Stake.
 See Rule 50(c).

At a Championship Stake the following points may be awarded to dogs graded Excellent;

- 1st - 12 Championship Points
- 2nd – 10 Championship Points
- 3rd – 8 Championship Points
- 4th - 4 Championship points

At a Championship Stake the following points may be awarded to dogs graded Very Good;

- 1st - 10 Championship Points
- 2nd – 8 Championship Points
- 3rd – 6 Championship Points
- 4th - 2 Championship points

- (b) At least one Green Star won at Field Trials and 12 Championship Points, one of which must be **for 1st Excellent Award valued at a minimum of 4 points on major game** (defined in Rule 1 section 3) and the remaining eight include either one valued 4 points or two valued 3 points at Field Trials held under the License Of The Irish Kennel Club Ltd., having been cumulatively attained such dog shall be entitled to the prefix Field Trial Champion, provided that it complies with the provisions of

Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of these Rules as appropriated and that:-

- (i) At least eight dogs compete in each Stake.
- (ii) Not more than six championship points toward the title of field trial champion may be awarded by the same pair of judges. If either of the original judges officiates with any other judge, they may award the appropriate championship points associated with that award.
- (iii) Not more than 6 Championship Points gained at Field Trials confined to one breed shall count toward the title of Field Trial Champion.
- (iv) The dog has won a Green Star, or a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or Reserve in a Junior, Intermediate, Open, Championship or a Field Trial Class at a recognised Championship Show where Green Stars were offered in the breed.
Or have been assessed by a Gundog group Judge, Breed Specialist judge or An All-Breed Judge at a Designated Field Trial, and have been graded Excellent or Very Good under the following conditions:
 - a. The nominated Judge for the Show Qualifier held at a Spaniel or Retriever Open Stake should be a Group 8 Judge.
 - b. The nominated Judge for the Show Qualifier held at a Setter, Pointer or HPR Open Stake should be a Group 7 Judge.
 - c. A nominated Judge should be submitted to the show department of the Irish Kennel Club CLG for approval one month prior to the Trial and formally approved in advance.
 - d. A judge may not judge the same qualifying class within a twenty four-month period.
 - e. A judge's book and catalogue must be filled in recording all Grades and Placings and returned to the IKC CLG for future reference.
 - f. A ring of adequate size should be set up on the venue to facilitate judging.
- (v) As and from the introduction of these rules Green Stars won at Field Trials previously shall have the same value as Championship Points.
- (vi) In addition, and subject to the provision of Rule 52(v), of these Rules, the following dogs shall be entitled to be described as Field Trial Champions:-
 - (a) The winner of the Pointer & Setter Championship Stake.
 - (b) The winner of the Retriever Championship Stake.
 - (c) The winner of the Spaniel Championship Stake.
 - (d) The winner of the Dual Purpose Gundog Championship Stake.

- (vii) The title of 'Snipe Champion' may be awarded to dogs in Section 3 provided they have been awarded 12 championship points on snipe at Field Trials, two of which must have been valued at a minimum of 3 points (i.e. Minimum of 2 x 1st excellent) and the remaining 6 points to include at least one valued at 2 points (i.e. 1 x 2nd excellent) at Field Trials held under licence of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd, having been cumulatively attained such dogs shall be entitled to the prefix 'Snipe Champion' provided that it complies with these rules and rules 52 and 72 as appropriate.

- Rule 53. Other Field Events.
Other field events not specifically mentioned should as far as possible be conducted in accordance with these Rules and Regulations with the permission of the Field Trial Committee.
- Rule 54. Contingencies
Any contingency not provided for in these Rules and Regulations shall be decided by the Committee members of the club present, assisted by the Judges, and their decision shall be subject to the approval of the Field Trial Committee.
- Rule 55. Changes in Rules
The Field Trial Committee are responsible for the overseeing and authorisation of all Field Trial and Working Test events. The Field Trial Committee in consultation with affiliated Clubs with Field Trial interests reserve the right to alter, amend, or redefine at any time the contents of this document, subject to approval from An Ard Chomhairle.

Section 2 Retrievers

- Rule 56. Breeds
Breeds within this group are:
Retrievers- Chesapeake Bay, Retrievers-Curly Coated, Retrievers-Flat Coated, Retrievers-Golden, Retrievers-Labrador, Spaniels-Irish Water and such breeds as may be added from time to time
- Rule 57. Definition of Field Trial Season (Rule 1)
The legal shooting season.
- Rule 58. Limitation of Entries (Rule 18)
Dogs entered for Field Trials
(a) For a 1 day event - a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 18.
(b) For a 2 day event - a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 30 (excluding championships).
(c) A minimum of 17 and a maximum to be decided at the discretion of the Field Trial committee.
- Rule 59. Limitation of Handlers and Owners (Rule 15)
No limitation on the number of handlers and owners in a Championship, Open, Derby, Novice, Puppy or Non Qualifying Stake, provided that the places are filled in accordance with Rule 15.
- Rule 60. Retrieving
(a) No dog shall be asked to retrieve a hare.
(b) In Puppy or Novice Stakes Judges must not ask a dog to retrieve while shooting is in progress in the immediate vicinity.
- Rule 61. Second Retrieve
(a) No Judge shall give a dog a second retrieve until every dog under him shall have had a first retrieve in the first round.
(b) In a walked up trial, In a walked up trial, dogs in line should be tried first before trying other dogs on a particular retrieve. When the dogs tried have covered the area completely, only then should the Judges walk forward and look for the retrieve. Game is a scarce resource and should be fully utilised and collected where possible.
- Rule 62. Driven Pheasant/Partridge Requirement: (Rule1)

In order for a dog to become a Field Trial Champion he must be placed either, First (1st) Second (2nd) or Third (3rd) and categorised at least "Very Good" at a driven Pheasant or driven Partridge Field Trial. (See Rule 89 and Rule 52 (b))
- Rule 63. Eliminating Faults for Retrievers
Dogs will be eliminated from Field Trials for:

Showing serious aggression or intimidation. Hard mouth, Refusing to pick fur or feather. Blinking. Running in. Chasing and unsteadiness. Failing to enter water freely and swim. Out of control. Whining or barking. Gun shy. Catching healthy

game. Changing retrieve. Eye wipe. Discarding game on retrieving.

Rule 64. Major Faults for Retrievers

Dogs will be penalised for: Failing to find dead or wounded game, Disturbing ground. Noisy handling. Bad control. Being Eye Wiped, Bad heel work, Slack or unbusinesslike work, Bad retrieving or poor delivery.

Rule 65. Credit Points of Retrievers

Dogs will be given credit for:

Good nose. Good marking. Drive. Style. Natural game finding ability. Speed in collecting game. Quite handling. Control. Good retrieving and good delivery.

Rule 66. Certificate of Competency (Rule 50)

Judges must sign a Certificate for dogs' places 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th at all stakes to state that the dog mentioned:

Performance Category

- (a) Freely entered water, swam and retrieved from or across water.
- (b) Faced cover and retrieved.
- (c) Is not gun shy.
- (e) Retrieved game tenderly.
- (h) Did not bark or whine.
- (k) That there was adequate game.
- (l) If water is not available on the ground on the day of the trial, the Judges Card will mark as water unsuitable/not available.
- (m) Species of Game.

Rule 67. Show dog qualifying Certificates (Rule 51)

Dogs for qualification must be documented on the trial programme. Judges must sign a Certificate of Competency for dogs entered for a Qualifying Certificate to certify that the dog mentioned:

Performance Category

- (a) Entered water and swam.
- (b) Faced cover and retrieved.
- (c) is not gun shy.
- (e) Retrieved game tenderly.
- (h) Did not bark or whine while in line.
- (k) That there was adequate game.
 - (i) Steadiness is not absolutely essential for a Qualifying Certificate.
 - (ii) Before a gundog becomes a Champion, it must satisfy all the appropriate conditions in the general Rules and Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd.

Section 3

Pointers and Setters

- Rule 68. Breeds
Breeds with this group are:
Pointers, Setters-English, Setters-Gordon, Setters-Irish, Setters-Irish Red and White and such breeds as may be added from time to time.
- Rule 69. Definition of Field Trial Season (Rule 1)
(a) Grouse from 1 February to 31 March inclusive from 20 July to 31st October inclusive or in line with NPWS, Government Legislation and or requirements.
(b) Pheasant, Partridge Woodcock, Snipe and Quail from 20th July to March 31 Inclusive or in line with NPWS, Government Legislation and or requirements.
(c) If game is shot, the legal shooting season.
- Rule 70. Limitation of Entries (Rule 18)
Dogs entered for Field Trials
(a) For a 1-day event - a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 30.
(b) For a 2 day event - a minimum of 31 and a maximum of 60.
(c) For a two day Championship a minimum of 17 and a maximum to be decided at the discretion of the Field Trial committee.
- Rule 71. Limitation of Handlers and Owners (Rule 15)
(a) No handler or owner may handle more than 4 dogs in an Open Stake (Definitions [t] vi).
(b) In an Open Stake owners and handlers shall be limited to a maximum of 25% of the entry or 4 dogs, whichever is the lesser (Rule 15).
(c) No limitation on the number of handlers or owners in a Championship Stake, Novice Stake or Non-Qualifying Stakes. Places must be filled in accordance with Rule 15.
- Rule 72. Snipe (Rule 1)
Dogs which point snipe shall be given credit and should be awarded the following championship points provided they are categorised 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'
- First (1st) Excellent will be entitled to three (3) Championship points. Where a CACT is also awarded four (4) Championship points will apply.
 - Second (2nd) Excellent will be entitled to two (2) Championship. Where an award of RCACT is also made three (3) championship points will apply.
 - Third (3rd) Excellent will be entitled to one (1) championship point.
- No more than five (5) championship points gained from Snipe may be used towards the title of Field Trial Champion; however all championship points gained on snipe may be used towards the title of 'Snipe Champion' in accordance with Rule 52 (vii).
"It is important that the Green Star Certificate issued for points gained on

snipe are clearly identified at office procedure level and snipe are identified on the judge's card."

Dogs shall not be eliminated for failing to acknowledge Snipe.

- Rule 73. First Round
- (a) All dogs awarded Championship Points must have been inline working at least 15 minutes not necessarily in any particular round or under any particular Judge.
 - (b) Dogs who have found and produced game to the satisfaction of the Judges early in the first round may be taken up and have their ground treatment assessed in later rounds.
 - (c) Dogs showing undoubted lack of merit need not be run on (See Rule 42 (e))
- Rule 74. Dogs Working
Dogs must be worked in pairs. Bye dogs must have a partner as selected by the Judge.
- Rule 75. Handling on Point and Backing
As soon as a dog has obtained his point the handler of such a dog shall stand back a clear 2 meters and not move the dog up to flush until instructed by one of the Judges to do so. A handler shall not move in front of his dog or touch the dog while moving into flush. The backing dog must not be put on the lead or otherwise held while the other dog is working its point.
- Rule 76. Eliminating Faults for Pointers and Setters
Dogs will be eliminated for:
Showing serious aggression or intimidation. Lack of merit. Chasing. Out of control. Running in to shot and/or wing. Flushing up wind. Gun shy. Failing to acknowledge other dogs' point, naturally or to command. Passing game. Pinning unwounded fur or feather. Stealing a point. Consistent false pointing. Blinking. Whining or barking.
- Rule 77. Major Faults for Pointers and Setters: Dogs will be penalised for stickiness on point. Not making good his ground. Noisy handling. Unsteadiness.
- Rule 78. Credit Points for Pointers and Setters: Dogs will be given credit for:
Game finding ability. Style. Pace. Quartering. Natural backing. Quiet handling. Steadiness. Moving freely and on command.
- Rule 79. Certificate of Competency (Rule 50)
Judges must sign a Certificate of Competency for dogs placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th at all stakes to state that the dog mentioned:
Performance Category
- (b) Is not gun shy.
 - (c) Found and pointed game.
 - (h) Did not bark or whine.
 - (k) That there was adequate game.
 - (m) Species of Game.

Rule 80.

Qualifying Certificate (Rule 51)

Dogs for qualification must be documented on the trial programme. Judges must sign a Certificate of Competency for dogs entered for a Qualifying Certificate to certify that the dog mentioned:

Performance Category

- (c) Is not gun shy.
- (d) Found and pointed game.
- (g) Quarters and shown a general aptitude for their work.
- (h) Did not bark or whine.
- (k) That there was adequate game.
- (i) Steadiness is not absolutely essential for a Qualifying Certificate.
- (ii) Before a gundog becomes a Champion it must satisfy all the appropriate conditions in the general Rules and Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd.

Section 4

Spaniels

- Rule 81. Breeds
Breeds within this group are:
Spaniels-Clumber, Spaniels-Cocker, Spaniels-Cocker American, Spaniels-English Springer, Spaniels-Field, Spaniels-Sussex, Spaniels-Welsh Springer and such breeds as may be added from time to time
- Rule 82. Definition of Field Trial Season (Rule 1)
The legal shooting season
- Rule 83. Limitation of Entries (Rule 18)
Dogs entered for Field Trials
- (a) For a 1-day event (excluding championships) - a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 18
 - (b) For a 2-day event(excluding championships) - a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 30
 - (c) For a 1-day Championship Stake: A minimum of 12 and a maximum to be decided by the acting Championship committee, in consultation with the event host, and final approval from the Field Trial Committee
 - (d) For a 2-day Championship Stake: A minimum of 17 and a maximum to be decided by the acting Championship committee, in consultation with the event host, and final approval from the Field Trial Committee.
- Rule 84. Limitation of Handler and Owners (Rule 15)
No limitation on the number of handlers or owners in a Championship, Open, Derby, Novice, Puppy or Non-Qualifying Stake, provided that the places are filled in accordance with Rule 15.
- Rule 85. Dogs Working
- (a) Spaniels will work in pairs normally side by side, but where the ground requires, the Judges may separate, and one Judge will take all odd numbered dogs, and the second Judge will take all even numbered dogs (Rule 25).
 - (b) Guns should avoid shooting over novice dogs while retrieving. No dog shall be asked to retrieve a hare (Rule 1).
- Rule 86. First Round
- (a) All dogs awarded Championship points must have been inline working at least 15 minutes (minimum time required across both rounds – i.e. not minimum 15mins per round) not necessarily in any particular round or under any particular judge.
 - (b) Dogs who have found and produced game to the satisfaction of the Judges early in the first round may be taken up and have their ground treatment assessed in later rounds.
 - (c) Dogs showing undoubted lack of merit need not be run on. See Rule 42(e)

Rule 87. Eliminating Faults for Spaniels

Dogs shall be eliminated for:

- Showing serious aggression or intimidation.
- Hard mouth.
- Gun Shy.
- Running in and chasing.
- Failing to enter water freely and swim.
- Out of control.
- Whining or barking.
- Catching healthy game and failing to release on command (excessive or aggressive commands should not be accepted) .
- Passing fur or feather.
- Refusing to retrieve.
- Changing retrieves.
- Picking wrong retrieve
- Eye wipe .
- Discarding game on retrieving.
- Missing Game on the beat
- Performing without Merit

Rule 88 Major Faults for Spaniels

Dogs shall be penalised for:

- Poor control.
- Unnecessarily disturbing Ground and Game
- Not making good his ground. Not quartering.
- Not stopping to shot or flush.
- Noisy handling.
- Failing to Retrieve.
- Failing to find dead or wounded game
- Reluctant or indifferent cover work.

(a) Credit Points for Spaniels

Dogs will be given credit for:

- Good nose and natural game finding ability.
- Style.
- Drive.
- Marking Ability.
- Control.
- Retrieving and delivery
- Quiet handling.
- Good ground treatment.
- Proper wind treatment

Rule 89. Pheasant/partridge Requirement.

In order for a dog to become a FTCh he must have retrieved a pheasant or partridge at an open qualifying trial and have been placed First (1st), Second (2nd) or Third (3rd) and categorised at least "Very Good" provided the dog complies with Rule 52B.

Rule 90.

Certificate of Competency (Rule 50)

Judges must sign a Certificate of dogs placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th at all stakes to state that the dogs mentioned:

Performance Category

- (a) A water certificate may be awarded at a field trial to dogs that freely enter water, swim and retrieve from or across water. This water test must be carried out at an IKC Licensed field trial and under the direction of at least one "A" panel judge and one "B" panel judge or two "A" panel judges. Dogs MUST complete a water test :
 - i. Prior to gaining their first championship point(s) including any dogs attaining their first Championship point(s) at the IKC section 4 Championship. (In the event that water is unsuitable at the Championship a water certificate must be presented to the Spaniel Championship committee secretary prior to issue of the IKC Championship points).
 - ii. Owners must declare on the entry form when and where the water certificate was attained. Field Trial Awards/Champ points will not be awarded until IKC verifies water certificate.
- (b) Faced cover and retrieved.
- (c) Is not gun shy.
- (e) Retrieved game tenderly.
- (f) Faced cover and hunted.
- (h) Did not bark or whine.
- (k) That there was adequate game.
- (l) If water is not available on the ground on the day of the trial, the Judges Card will not be completed until the dog successfully completes the water test at a subsequent trial
- (m) Species of Game.

Rule 91.

Show dog Qualifying Certificates (Rule 51)

Dogs for qualification must be documented on the trial programme.

Judges must sign a Certificate of Competency for dogs entered for a Qualifying Certificate that the dog mentioned:

Performance Category

- (a) Entered water and swam.
- (b) Faced cover and retrieved.
- (c) Is not gun shy.
- (e) Retrieved game tenderly.
- (f) Faced cover and hunted.
- (h) Did not bark or whine.
- (k) That there was adequate game.
 - (i) Steadiness is not absolutely essential for a Qualifying Certificate.
 - (ii) Before a gundog becomes a Champion, it must satisfy All the appropriate conditions and regulations of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd.

Section 5

Dual Purpose Gundogs (Dogs which hunt, Point and Retrieve)

- Rule 92. Breeds
Breeds within this group are:
German Short Haired Pointers, German Wire Haired Pointers, German Long Haired Pointers, Large Munsterlanders, Vizlas, Weimaraners, Brittany Spaniels, Italian Spinone and such breeds as may be added from time to time.
- Rule 93. Definition of Field Trial Season (Rule 1)
Where game is shot to be the legal shooting season.
- Rule 94. Limitation of Entries (Rule 18)
Dogs entered for Field Trials
- (a) For a 1-day event - a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12.
 - (b) For a 2-day event - a minimum of 13 and a maximum of 20.
 - (c) For a 2-day Championship - A minimum of 17 and a maximum to be decided at the discretion of the Field Trial committee.
- Rule 95. Limitation of Handlers and Owner (Rule 15)
No limitation on the number of handlers or owners in a Championship, Open, Derby, Novice, Puppy or Non-Qualifying Stake, provided that the places are filled in accordance with Rule 15.
- Rule 96. Retrieving
- (a) No dog shall be asked to retrieve a hare.
 - (b) In Puppy or Novice Stakes Judges must not ask a dog to retrieve while shooting is in progress in the immediate vicinity.
 - (c) In order for a dog to become a FTCh. it must have retrieved a pheasant or partridge or grouse at an open qualifying trial and have been placed First (1st), Second (2nd) or Third (3rd) and categorised at least "Very Good" provided the dog complies with Rule 52(b).
- Rule 97. (Rule 1) Snipe and Rabbit
- (a) Dogs which point Snipe or Rabbit shall be given credit, but such game alone shall be considered inadequate for the awarding of a 4 point Green Star award.
- Dogs which point snipe or rabbit shall be given credit and should be awarded the following championship points provided that they are categorised "Excellent" or "Very Good".
- First (1st) Excellent, Three (3) championship points.
- Second (2nd) Excellent, Two (2) championship points.

Third (3rd) Excellent, One (1) championship point.

First (1st) Very Good, Two (2) championship point.

Second (2nd) Very Good, one (1) championship point.

Third (3rd) Very Good, one (1) championship point.

No more than five (5) championship points gained from Snipe or rabbit may be used towards the title of Field Trial Champion.

“It is important that the Green Star Certificate issued for points gained on snipe and rabbit are clearly identified at office procedure level and snipe and rabbit are identified on the judge’s card.

- (b) Dogs shall not be eliminated for failing to point Snipe or Rabbit.

Rule 98. First Round

- (a) All dogs awarded Championship points must have been in line working at least 15 minutes, not necessarily in any particular round or under any particular Judge.
- (b) Dogs who have found and produced game to the satisfaction of the Judges early in the first round may be taken up and have their ground treatment assessed in later rounds.
- (c) Dogs showing undoubted lack of merit need not be run on. (See Rule 42 (e))

Rule 99. Handling on Point

As soon as a dog has obtained his point the handler of such a dog shall stand back a clear 2 meters and not move the dog up to flush until instructed by one of the Judges to do so. A handler shall not move in front of his dog or touch the dog while moving into flush.

Rule 100. Eliminating Faults for Dual Purpose Gundogs:

Serious aggression and intimidation. Out of control. Whining or barking. Hard mouth. Gun Shy. Failing to point. Failing to hunt. Blinking. Passing game which in the opinion of the Judge, should have been found. Running into shot or game. Pinning fur or feather. Consistent false pointing. Changing retrieves. Eye wipe. Discarding game on retrieving. Refusing to Retrieve.

Rule 101. Major Faults for Dual Purpose Gundogs:

Dogs will be penalised for: Failing to Retrieve
Disturbing ground. Poor control. Not making good his ground. Noisy handling. Reluctant or indifferent cover or water work. Stickiness on point.

Rule 102. Credit Points for Dual Purpose Gundogs;

Dogs will be given credit for: Game finding ability. Style. Pace. Quartering. Quiet handling. Marking, control. Retrieving and delivery. Ground treatment.

Rule 103. Certificate of Competency (Rule 50)

Judges must sign a Certificate of Competency for dogs placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th at all Stakes to state that the dog mentioned:

Performance Category

- (a) Freely entered water, swam and retrieved from or across water.
- (c) Is not gun shy.
- (d) Found and pointed game.
- (e) Retrieved game tenderly.
- (f) Faced cover and hunted.
- (h) Did not bark or whine.
- (k) That there was adequate game.
- (l) If water is not available on the ground on the day of the trial, the Judges Card will not be completed until the dog successfully completes the water test at a subsequent trial.
- (m) Species Of Game.

Rule 104. Show dog qualifying Certificate (Rule 51)

Dogs for qualification must be documented on the trial programme. Judges must sign a Certificate of Competency for dogs entered for a Qualifying Certificate to certify that the dog mentioned:

Performance Category

- (a) Entered water and swam.
- (c) Is not gun shy.
- (d) Found and/or pointed.
- (e) Retrieved game tenderly.
- (f) Faced cover and hunted.
- (h) Did not bark or whine.
- (k) That there was adequate game.
- (i) Steadiness is not absolutely essential for a Qualifying Certificate
- (ii) Before a gundog becomes a Champion he must satisfy all the appropriate conditions in the general Rules and Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd.

Championship Stakes.

- Rule 105 Championship Stakes (see Definition [t] (vii))
All Championship Stakes shall be controlled by the appropriate Championship Stake Committee, under the title: The Irish Kennel Club Championship Stake for:-
Retrievers
Pointers and Setters
AV, excl. Cocker Spaniels and Irish Water Spaniels
AV, Excl. English Springer Spaniels and Irish Water Spaniels
Dual-Purpose Gundogs,
as the case may be.
- Rule 106 Entry to Championship Stakes
Shall be confined to dogs with the necessary qualifications as laid down by the Championship Committee and as approved by the Field Trial Committee of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd.
- Rule 107 Championship Stake Committee
(a) There shall be only one Championship Committee for each grouping of gundogs as defined in rule 105 of the Field Trial Rules and Regulations. The function of each Committee shall be to run, if possible, one Championship Stake for its group in the year and such Stake shall be run in accordance with the law and the Irish Kennel Club Ltd., Rules and Regulations and to supervise the election of the following year's Championship Committee. The running of a Championship Stake shall be the function of the Championship Committee.
The Committee shall be entitled "The Irish Kennel Club Championship Committee for Retrievers/the Irish Kennel Club Championship Committee for Pointers and Setters/and the Irish Kennel Club Championship Committee for English Springer Spaniel and the Irish Kennel Club Championship Committee for Av spaniel excluding English Springer spaniel and Irish Water Spaniel or the Irish Kennel Club Championship Committee for Dual Purpose Gundogs".
- (b) The Championship Committee shall be limited to a minimum of 5 (five) and a maximum of 10 (ten) club representatives, in addition, should a member of the Field Trials Committee not be elected to the committee, then the Field Trial Committee reserves the right to nominate a FT Committee member, to represent them on the Championship committee of the year in question.
- A gundog club which ran an Open Field Trial, under the license of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. within the previous year shall be entitled to nominate two representatives for election to the Championship Committee, subject to a financial commitment by the said Club or Clubs to be defined by the Championship Committee of that year. The Av spaniel excluding English Springer spaniel and Irish Water Spaniel championship will be run by a committee approved annually by the IKC Field Trial committee.

- (c) The Secretary of each Championship Committee shall invite all eligible clubs to nominate candidates for the appropriate Committee. In the event of over ten candidates being nominated, then those representatives present at the General Meeting (pertaining to the criteria outlined in rule 107(c)) shall ballot for not more than ten representatives. The Secretary of each Championship Committee shall hold office from the date of his appointment until such time as a successor is appointed. In the event of a Secretaryship falling vacant during the year, then the Chairman of the Championship Committee, or failing him, the Field Trials Committee shall summon any required meeting.
- (d) The Championship Committee shall meet at least once in each year and at a meeting most convenient to the Committee concerned, a Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer and such other officers as the Committee may wish, are to be elected.
- (e) Prize bonds, deposit accounts, shareholdings and bank accounts etc. are to be in the name of the Championship Committee and not in that of an individual. In the event of the winding-up or disbandment of a Championship Committee, then the assets, including cups and trophies, of that Committee are to be surrendered to the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. to be held in trust pending the formation of a new Championship Committee.
- (f) At the time of application for a license to hold a Championship Stake the Stake Secretary must, at the same time, lodge a full list of membership of the Championship Committee and the Clubs they represent also a full list of the cups and trophies on offer as well as the qualifications of entry and such other requirements as set out in the Field Trial rules and Regulations.
- (g) A financial statement showing the profit made or loss incurred at a Championship Stake is to be furnished, within six months of the Stake, to the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. The statement to be certified by the Chairman and Honorary Treasurer of the Championship Committee.
- (h) The Honorary Secretary of the Championship Committee shall, in conjunction with the Championship Committee, be responsible for the running of the Stake and all matters arising. (Note rule 34 & Definition of Field Trial Committee on page 3)

Chapter 3.

Guide to Field Trial Judges. Duties of the Judge.

- Section 2 Judging Breeds which Retrieve
- Section 3 Judging Breeds which Point and Set
- Section 4 Judging Spaniel Breeds
- Section 5 Judging Breeds which Hunt/Point/
Retrieve

Guide to Field Trial Judging

This Guide is intended to assist Judges in their selection of the best dog on the day and should not be interpreted as Rules

Judges should make themselves conversant with all the Rules and Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. and study the Guide carefully.

Competitors should always remember this Guide does not bind a Judge to the suggested procedures, it is more of a Guideline from which a Judge's good sense and experience will take advantage.

Duties of the Judges:

Judges should take the opportunity to get on good terms with officials, handlers and guns before the start, to create an atmosphere of friendliness and confidence. They should consult with the Steward of the Beat regarding beats and availability of game and ensure that arrangements have been made for picking up wounded game which is not required, or which competitors have failed to find. They should decide which of them is going to give instructions and get handlers and guns together before the start and explain how the Trials will be conducted and what is expected of the handlers and guns.

Judges should co-operate with the Chief Steward regarding procedures and conduct of the Trials in accordance with the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. Rules. At the conclusion of the Trials, they will be required to sign a Certificate of Competency in accordance with the appropriate section (See also Rule 50), stating they are satisfied that there has been a sufficiency of game to test the dogs fully and that dogs placed have met the basic requirements of their breed.

Judges should take short notes on each dog's performance. It is suggested that dog's performance be marked:- A+/, A/, A-/, B+/, B/, B-/ etc. In all cases of doubt the dog should always have the benefit of such doubt. Judges' Stewards shall assist in whatever capacity the Judge shall direct. They will always be at hand to ensure the smooth running of the Trial and act as a link between handlers and Judge.

“C” Judge at Field Trials should consider themselves as in an apprenticeship capacity. They will always be accompanied by an “A” Judge. They should keep a Judges book assessing the dogs performance and at a convenient time discuss with the “A” Judge such assessment. The “A” Judge may require a “C” Judge to assist in the judging by acting as an additional pair of eyes or ears. On such occasions he should officiate as directed by the “A” Judge.

Prior to the start of the trial the “C” Judge should request from the “A” Judge exactly what his function at the Trial should be

“B” Judge at Field Trials will be partnered by an “A” Judge. The “B” Judge should discuss his marking with the “A” Judge and should take into account the experience and knowledge of the “A” Judge when making his assessment. Such assessment should always be his independent opinion.

“A” Judge at Field Trials will assume the command of judging arrangements at the trial. In the event of two “A” Judges the senior Judge will take command. In the event of a Foreign Judge the Irish Judge will be regarded as senior.

The senior Judge is the longest serving Judge on the “A” list of the appropriate section.

In addition, the “A” Judge should assume a guiding role. He should discuss with the “B” and “C” Judge in an objective manner the performance of the dogs, analysing situations which may arise, listening to the junior’s assessment, and reasons for decisions taken. The senior Judge will take the lowest or odd numbered dogs. He will ensure that the Trial is run in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. He must have available a copy of the Field Trial Rules for reference.

He must record his assessment of the “B” and “C” Judges on the official FCTI Form, as the Irish Kennel Club Ltd. will require his informed opinion regarding subsequent promotions. In the event of Judges failing to agree the organising Society shall nominate a referee (Rule 39).

Field Trial Judges shall not award Championship Points on more than five occasions in any one year as defined in Definitions (e), Chapter 1. See Rule 42 (a), Chapter 2).1

Prize Giving: At the end of the competition, the judges shall announce and comment on the results and hand in the classification and signed cards to the organiser’s before their departure.

Section 2.

Judging Breeds which Retrieve

A dog can only perform as well as the occasion will permit. Dogs which get an easy retrieve must be rewarded for the way the task is performed and not on the degree of difficulty of the task

A Trial should resemble a day's shooting where possible.

When there is any doubt about a retrieve a Judge should satisfy himself that the retrieve is possible.

A dog making a retrieve from cover, should such a retrieve be hung-up or impossible, may sometimes bark or whine - likewise a dog which hurts itself may yelp, this should not be confused with the eliminating fault of barking or whining.

A dog, which catches live game, will be eliminated. However, Judges must satisfy themselves that such game was not injured or unhealthy in any way. Game pinned by a dog if released undamaged on command should not be eliminated.

All game when retrieved should be handed immediately to the Judge who shall examine it for signs of hard mouth, the rib cage of the retrieved game should be round and firm. The best method of making this examination is by placing the retrieve on its back and feeling the rib cage with thumb and forefinger. The damage to the retrieve should be shown to the other Judge as soon as possible. The Judge's decision is always final, but Judges should show the damaged retrieve to the handler before eliminating the dog from the Trial.

Judges, their Stewards and officials who are aware of a "hard mouth" decision should treat such occurrence with the upmost tact and discretion. Under no circumstances should such decisions become public.

The dog should always get the benefit of any doubt regarding how the game was damaged. Superficial damage to birds may be caused in many ways - a bird shot at close range - or injury in the fall or - a difficult retrieve when a bird digs in to cover the dog may damage the bird trying to pull it clear. All of them look bad but should not be confused with hard mouth.

Excessively long, blind retrieves are undesirable, a dog should be brought to within a reasonable distance of the fall and then sent. In the case of runners which the dog has not marked, the dog should be brought close to the fall. A dog should not have to be handled after it has located the fall. Runners or wounded game should always be collected first and without delay.

A dog performing indifferently on a runner should be called up promptly. Where more than one dog is tried on a runner, assessment of the dog's work must be in relation to the order in which they were tried.

Judges should carefully consider before sending a dog for a retrieve which has been submerged in water. Handlers should be instructed from where to send their dogs. Judges should give reasonable directions as to the location of the retrieve. The wind direction and the possibility of the dog being able to see the handler should also be taken into consideration before sending a dog.

When a number of dogs have been tried and have failed on a retrieve, the Judge should not look for it unless he decides that no more dogs should be tried. Once a Judge has looked for and found the retrieve, then no more dogs should be tried on it. Only those authorised by the Judge or Judges should look for lost retrieves. Judges should assess the performance of the dog in a “no bird” situation. Pigeons and rabbits should be regarded as a suitable substitute for game when retrieving(Rule 1).

A dog, which has been “eye-wiped”, shall be eliminated. (The fact that a dog has “eye-wiped” other dogs does not automatically place such dogs higher than other successful competitors.) “Eye-wipes” can sometimes be easy retrieves badly performed.

A bird, which falls close to, a dog and which would make a retrieve of no value:

- (a) Should be offered to the other Judge, or
- (b) The competing dog should be moved to a new position, making sure not to leave a line of scent to the retrieve, or
- (c) Should be picked by hand, or
- (d) Used by a previous competitor to complete their programme, Provided the retrieve has first been offered to the other Judge and they have indicated they do not require the retrieve. Only then can a previous competitor be brought back into line to complete their programme. Should more than one dog require a retrieve to complete their programme, Dogs must be called in numerical order.(Lowest number first)

Good marking is essential in a retrieving dog, as it should not disturb ground unnecessarily. Full credit must be given to the dog which goes straight to the fall and collects his retrieve. The pick-up should be quick with a fast return and good delivery. The handler should not snatch or have to drag game from the dog.

Dogs which adjust their grip on a retrieve should not be penalised, always remembering not to confuse adjusting a grip with “sloppy retrieving”. A good game finding retriever should not rely on his handler to find the retrieve for it.

Dogs with good game finding ability should get more credit than dogs requiring handling. Where possible, dogs should be given both fur and feather to retrieve.

A dog should be obedient and respond to the handler’s directions and signals where necessary.

A dog, which has had a gruelling search or quartering session, should not be severely marked down for putting down game to take a firmer grip, this applies especially to dog mastering a runner.

Speed of return should be considered in relation to the work leading to a retrieve.

Section 3.

Judging Breeds which Point

Every effort shall be made to minimise, as far as possible, the luck of the draw.

The Judges shall not decide on the merits of a dog's running from the number of times it points game or backs, but from the style and quality of its performance.

Judges shall penalise dogs, which are given to false pointing. Dogs must maintain a fast pace, quarter ground with judgement and regularity, wide or narrow, as the conditions demand, leave no birds behind them, be obedient and easily handled.

No handler shall cross between another handler and his dog if wishing to change sides.

Backing is the instinctive taking up of a pointing attitude and stance in seeing another dog on point. Judges should give preference to a dog which backs naturally rather than to a dog, which only backs to order. When a dog is on point the handler of the other dog (should his dog not already have observed and acknowledged the point of its own accord) shall draw his dog's attention to such a point by hand, whistle or both, and should his dog still fail to observe and acknowledge such a point, it shall be considered to have failed to back.

Dogs must be worked together, and their handlers must walk within reasonable distance of each other, as though shooting together. After a caution a Judge or Judges may disqualify the dog whose handler persists in neglecting this instruction.

Judges should keep up with handlers.

Where there is a bye dog, it should keep up with the Judge at all times and if a dog is eliminated for any reason, the bye dog may take its place.

Dogs should, where possible, get the benefit of favourable wind. If a dog flushes game upwind it should be discarded. If, however, the dog is running downwind and drops when the bird gets up this should not be regarded as a flush and the dog should not be discarded.

No dog shall get credit for work done outside its beat, but dogs which commit an eliminating fault outside their beat should be eliminated. Judges should be satisfied before refusing to acknowledge work outside of a given beat that the dog was not drawn into the position by scent of game.

Section 4.

Judging Spaniel Breeds

The sub-section dealing with Retrievers should be read in conjunction with the above. Spaniels at work should be a pleasure to watch, always gay and always in tune with their handler.

The dogs should have drive, with good ground treatment and always working within range of the gun. Courage, determination and style, but above all else, the Spaniel in the field is firstly a game finder.

In the event of a dog failing to retrieve: The other dog in line should always get the option of the retrieve. Where appropriate surplus game on the ground should be utilised to enable dogs having already finished their run to complete their programme of requirements. A Judge may call on his next dog to make a retrieve only if the other dog in the field is not within easy reach or if such a retrieve is not required by his Co-Judge.

The wind direction will influence the way a Spaniel may work. When working into the wind the dog will quarter the ground systematically, missing nothing. With the wind behind it, it may often go well out (still with gunshot range) and work back towards its handler. When a dog works in this manner Judges must watch the pace of the line (the gun, the Judges, Stewards, etc.) in case they should disturb game.

Game disturbed, which the dog has, no opportunity of finding should be ignored. The Spaniel which hunts foot scents and lines may pass game and should be penalised; "pulling on" as this is described, is bad ground treatment.

If, after several attempts, a dog cannot get game to flush then the handler may stop the dog and get permission from the Judge to go forward and flush the game personally. Game pinned by a dog, if released undamaged on command, should not be eliminated., however, excessive or aggressive commands should not be accepted. Some dogs before flushing may point or set, a dog, which hesitates in this fashion should not be penalised. On command, however, the dog must go in and flush; when game is flushed the dog should be steady automatically. The dog should also be steady to shot. A dog, which moves its position to mark, should not be considered unsteady. For example, a dog which is in cover and flushed game, shows intelligence if it moves out into the open to mark the fall. Good marking is to be desired -bad marking is to be penalised.

Section 5.

Judging Dual Purpose Gundogs (Breeds which Hunt, Point and Retrieve)

The sub-section dealing with breeds which Retrieve and breeds which Point should be read in conjunction with the above.

Each dog should, where possible, be given at least two runs - one on open ground such as stubble and another in roots and/or through rough ground taking either or both as they come and at least one water retrieve, provided that the dog has not been eliminated.

Judges should try to ensure equal opportunity as regards ground, wind and time but the first round should be completed while allowing approximately 15 minutes for each dog. The surviving dogs should be more thoroughly tested in the second round. Dogs, when being shot over, may drop to flush but may not stay dropped to shot or fall. It is important that they should mark the fall with a view to the retrieve that follows.

Steadiness to flush shot and fall of game is the standard to be achieved.

No dog shall get credit for work done outside its beat, but dogs which commit an eliminating fault outside their beat should be eliminated. Judges should be satisfied before refusing to acknowledge work outside of a given beat that the dog was not drawn into the position by scent of game.

Game pinned by a dog, if released undamaged on command, should not be penalised.

Waterwork is an essential part of the Trial. The water test may be artificial to the extent that a dead bird may be thrown, and a shot fired, nevertheless it must be fully judged, steadiness, direct entry to water, strong swimming, good marking, direct emergence and delivery to hand without putting down to shake. A shooter wants a bird retrieved from or across the water in the minimum of time and with the minimum of handling and whistling. This is the criterion by which the Judges should mark a dog up or down at the water, taking such marks into consideration when selecting the best all round performer.

Keeness, initiative, courage, method and an air of enjoyment about the dog at his work are very important and should be taken into account by the Judges in their assessments. It may not always be possible to test a dog on his approach to cover, as there may not be any suitable cover in the area of the Trials. Where possible, all dogs should be tested for facing cover, this may be done either by retrieving from or by hunting cover.

Chapter 4

Requirements for the appointment of Field Trial Judges:

This chapter is intended to assist affiliated Clubs when making nominations to the Field Trials Committee for the appointment of new Field Trial Judges and the promotion of existing Judges.

Each candidate whose name is put forward for inclusion or promotion to the approved IKC list of Field Trial Judges, should as requested from the Field Trial Committee submit their Curriculum vitae to the Field Trial Committee

The Rules concerning such nominations must be observed.

The yard stick used by the Field Trial Committee when making their assessments are the requirements as laid down in Rule 40. While it is accepted that there may be exceptions it is anticipated such exceptions will be few.

All prospective Judges must be nominated by a Gundog Society affiliated to the Irish Kennel Club Ltd,. (See Rule 40(g))

The candidate must be of the highest personal character and integrity and be fully conversant and compliant with the Field Trial Rule and Regulations. They must have a good working knowledge of the various breeds in the appropriate section and be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Qualifications for inclusion on IKC Ltd. judging panels:

Introductory Panel or "C" Panel.

The minimum requirements for candidates, for inclusion on the "C" list or probationer judges list, of the IKC judging panel are as follows:

A minimum of three (3) years active involvement in field trials in their nominated category and having competed in at least six (6) field trials for their section and must have handled a dog to win a minimum of a 4th place at any trial for that section.

This would establish a solid base for the probationer or "C" judges to develop as a person who has the interest in progressing through the judging panels and would have as their goal the interest of their breed at heart and a desire to be a credible and educated "A" judge. Upon appointment to the "C" Panel, the Irish Kennel Club will issue the candidate with a copy of the current Irish Kennel Club (Field Trials Rules & Regulations)

Panel "B".

In order to allow progression from the "C" panel to the "B" panel, the following requirements are designed to assist those individuals through the system of judging who have a deep interest in their breeds:

The candidate concerned must, over a period of three (3) calendar years:

- have acted as a "C" judge at a minimum of six (6) field trials.
- have acted as a "C" judge at a minimum of three (3) open qualifying trials.
- judged for a minimum of three (3) different clubs/associations (for section five (5), having judged for one (1) club/association is currently acceptable)
- They must have been accompanied by a minimum of six (6) different "A" co-judges.
- Prior to promotion to the B panel, the C panel judge must have had the opportunity to manage the line under the supervision of the A panel judge at a least two trials.

The written opinions of all the "A" panel co-judges on the suitability of the candidate for progression must be, on the form that must be completed by the A judge(s) and received in the offices of the IKC within twenty one (21) days of the trial in question.

The "A" panel co-judges may be duplicated for assessment purposes

The candidate must be actively competing in field trials for the section in which he is progressing as a judge. Evidence of competing in trials for this section will be required.

Panel “A”.

Those judges who are promoted to Panel “A” must be fully conversant with the Field Trial rules and regulations of the IKC Ltd., their experience and knowledge of their breeds should allow them to become “A” judges who know their breeds intimately and who are aware of the need for practical and honest consideration when judging.

The “A” judge should be educated on the working abilities of the breed concerned and also on the breed’s limitations and be actively involved in handling dogs at field trials. This should allow the “A” judge to act in a competent, positive and honest way in his judging appointments.

To progress to the “A” panel from the “B” panel, the candidate must have the following qualifications:

Having judged a minimum of six (6) trials, Five (5) of which must be open qualifying trials over a minimum period of two (2) years with at least a minimum of five (5) different “A” panel judges.

The written opinion from all the “A” co-judges on the suitability of the candidate to progress to the “A” panel must be received in the offices of the IKC Ltd within twenty one (21) days of the field trial. The “A” panel judges may not be duplicated

To have handled a dog to win a First (1st) or Second (2nd) or Third (3rd), categorised Excellent, at an Open Qualifying trial for that section, in which the candidate is progressing.