



KENNEL UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA REGULATIONS FOR FLUSHING SPANIEL FIELD TRIALS

SCHEDULE 5C(2)

A. PREAMBLE

This document takes the form of Regulations which are the rules that are binding on all those who are involved in the running of Flushing Spaniel Field Trials. At the end of this document there is a guide which assists Field Trial Secretaries and Committees with the procedures required in setting up a field trial.

B. LICENSING AND HOLDING OF TRIALS

The Regulations relating to licensing and to all other matters to do with Field Trials as set in Schedule 3 (Championship Breed Shows) and Schedule 4 (Non-Championship Breed Shows) of the Constitution of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa shall apply to Field Trials so far as they can be relevant to Field Trials and so far as they do not conflict with the specific terms of this Schedule 5C.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. Abbreviations

- 1.1. **KUSA** = The Kennel Union of Southern Africa
- 1.2. **FC** = The Federal Council of The Kennel Union of Southern Africa.
- 1.3. **FTLC** = The Field Trial Liaison Council of The Kennel Union of Southern Africa.

2. Stakes

- 2.1 **Puppy Stake** is for Dogs from six months and not exceeding twelve months of age, dating from and inclusive of the date of its birth on the first day of the trial.
- 2.2 **Junior Stake** is for Dogs from six months and not exceeding twenty four months of age, dating from and inclusive of the date of its birth on the first day of the trial.
- 2.3 **Limit Stake** is a stake restricted by the regulations of the Club providing the trial.
- 2.4 **Novice Stake** is confined to Dogs which have not been placed first, second, third or fourth in an Open or Championship Stake, or have won three Novice Stakes prior to the date of the closing of entries.
- 2.5 **Open Stake** is for Dogs without restriction as to age or previous performance. In order for an Open Stake to carry championship status, the minimum number of dogs to actually take part in the trial shall be eight.
- 2.6 **Championship Stake** is held not more than once per year within the area of jurisdiction of the KUSA.
The conditions, qualifications and organisation governing a Championship Stake shall be decided by the FTLC, subject to the approval of the Federal Council, and these conditions shall be published in the Kennel Union Gazette. All Field Trial Champions shall automatically qualify for entry in Championship Stakes. Entries shall be limited to those dogs placed first, second or third in any Open Stake during the two field trialing seasons preceding the championship stake to be held.
- 2.7 **Field Tests** are gun dog tests where dummies only or dummies and live and/or cold game may be used and which tests may not be classed as Field Trials.
- 2.8 **Field Qualifying Stake** is for Dogs who have won a reserve challenge certificate or challenge certificate (See Section J).

Within this schedule, and with due recognition to Field Trial participation, all references to "he", "him" and "his", which terms are used for convenience of writing and of reading, shall be taken as meaning "he or she", "him or her" and "his or hers", respectively.

3. **Awards**

3.1 **Certificate of Merit (C.O.M.)**

A certificate of merit (C.O.M.) does not constitute a placing.

3.2 **Field Trial Award (FTA)**

This is an automatic award to any dog placing first or second in an Open or Championship Stake. A dog so placing shall be entitled to carry the affix FTA after its name.

3.3 **Field Trial Champion (CH FT)**

A Field Trial Champion is defined as a dog which has won two or more Open Stakes or won a Championship Stake. A dog so placing shall be entitled to carry the prefix CH FT before its name. The affix FTA shall automatically drop away when this award has been given.

3.4 **Field Qualifying (FQ)**

A Field Qualifying certificate (FQ) shall be issued to a dog which has successfully passed the FQ test and has been awarded a Reserve Challenge Certificate or Challenge Certificate prior to the closing date of entries for the trial. Such a dog may carry the affix FQ after its name.

3.5 **Place**

A first, second, third or fourth place in any stake, but not a Certificate of Merit, constitutes a place.

D PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING AWARDS

In all instances where a dog qualifies for an award (as defined in C.3.1,2,3 and 4 above), its owner must make written application to the FC, giving all the necessary details concerning the dog's performance and the events in which the dog earned the right to the award applied for.

E DATES FOR FIELD TRIALS

1. **Application for Dates to hold Field Trials**

Affiliated Clubs shall, in the first instance, apply for dates to hold Field Trials to the FC via the FTLC, such application to state proposed date, proposed venue, type of trial and stakes to be run.

Such application shall be made nine months in advance of the date of the proposed trial.

2. **Field Trial Programme for Season**

The FTLC will draw up a programme of Field Trials for the season giving details as in E.1. above and forward to FC for approval and/or comment.

3. **Publication in Gazette**

The approved programme for the season shall be published in the Kennel Union Gazette.

F PRE-TRIAL REQUIREMENTS

1. **The Schedule**

1.1 **General Requirements**

1.1.1 A club holding a Field Trial must issue a schedule which is to be treated as a contract between the club and the public.

1.1.2 The schedule, together with the prescribed application form to hold the trial and the licence fee (cheque payable to KUSA) must be received by the KUSA at least nine months prior to the date of the trial.

1.1.3 No schedule shall be issued to the public before being approved by the Federal Council.

1.2 **Contents.**

The schedule shall contain, inter alia:

1.2.1. The name of the club and officers thereof.

1.2.2 The type of trial, the gundog breeds which may be entered, the stakes to be run and the definitions thereof.

1.2.3 The date and venue of the Trial.

1.2.4 The names of the Judges for each stake.

1.2.5 The cost of entry fees and the cost of any applicable KUSA levies at the time.

1.2.6 The latest date for receiving entries.

1.2.7 The order in which the stakes will be run and the starting time for each stake.

1.2.8 Notice to exhibitors that:

- 1.2.8.1 Bitches in season within the precincts of the Trial are forbidden.
 - 1.2.8.2 Castrated dogs and spayed bitches are eligible for entry.
 - 1.2.8.3 Conditions attracting immediate disqualification are set out in Regulation 31 of Schedule 3 of KUSA regulations for Championship Shows (Breed), subject to 1.2.8.1 and 1.2.8.2 above.
 - 1.2.8.4 Only those dogs that are actually taking part in the Field Trials are allowed at the venue.
 - 1.2.8.5 The Judges' decision is **final**.
 - 1.2.9. A list of prizes.
 - 1.2.10. The time, date, venue and conditions of the draw for numbers of the running order of dogs.
 - 1.2.11 Details of any restrictions on minimum and maximum numbers to be accepted for each stake.
 - 1.3 **Details regarding the dog to be entered must include:**
 - 1.3.1 Registered name and number of dogs.
 - 1.3.2 Name of owner.
 - 1.3.3 Breed of dog.
 - 1.3.4 Sex of dog.
 - 1.3.5 Date of birth of dog.
 - 1.3.6 Registered names of Sire and Dam.
 - 1.3.7 Name of breeder.
 - 1.3.8 Name of handler.
2. **The Draw**
- 2.1 **Per the Schedule**
The draw shall take place at the time and venue and under the conditions stated in the Schedule. At the Trial each dog shall be given the number according to the draw. At least 3 days prior to the Trial each handler must be notified of the number(s) drawn.
 - 2.2. **Handlers with more than one dog**
The draw must make allowance for situations when a single handler has more than one dog entered in a particular stake.
3. **The Programme**
- 3.1 **Contents**
The club holding a Field Trial must publish a programme which must contain:
 - 3.1.1 The name of the club.
 - 3.1.2 The breed(s) for which stakes are run at the Trial.
 - 3.1.3 The date(s) of the Trial.
 - 3.1.4 The names of the Judges, Field Trial Manager or Steward for each stake, and of the KUSA Representative, where applicable.
 - 3.1.5 The venue of the Trial.
 - 3.1.6 A definition of each stake to be run in the Trial.
 - 3.1.7 The prizes offered.
 - 3.1.8 Entries, listed in numerical order of running, as follows:
 - 3.1.8.1 Registered name and number of dog.
 - 3.1.8.2 Name of owner.
 - 3.1.8.3 Breed of dog.
 - 3.1.8.4 Sex of dog.
 - 3.1.8.5 Date of birth of dog.
 - 3.1.8.6 Registered names of Sire and Dam.
 - 3.1.8.7 Name of breeder.
 - 3.1.8.8 Name of handler.
 - 3.1.9 A list of names and addresses of owners of all dogs in the Trial, in alphabetical order.
 - 3.1.10. A statement that the Trial is held under KUSA Rules and Regulations.
 - 3.1.11. A statement that the club holding the Trial accepts no responsibility for injury, loss or damage to person or property, however occasioned.
4. **Copy of the KUSA constitution and 5C(02) Regulations for Flushing Spaniel Field Trials**
Copies of the above Regulations shall be available at the venue during the Trial.

G APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

1. List of Judges for Field Trials

1.1 Acceptance of List by FTLC

A club holding a Field Trial shall appoint Judges from the List of Judges for Field Trials, as approved by the FC. In respect of those Judges appointed, a Senior Judge shall be appointed for each stake and shall be an "A" Panel Judge.

Guide:

It is recommended that the Senior Judge be one who has judged within at most three calendar years prior to the date of the appointed trial and that he/she has judged that particular stake within a prior three year period.

1.2 Recommendation to Panels

A person may be recommended to a Judges' Panel on the list of Judges for Field Trials by a club holding Field Trials. Such recommendation to the Federal Council via the FTLC shall be made by the club, at whose field trial that person judged, as soon as possible after the Trial. See Clause G.1.6. "Qualification for Panels".

1.3 Overseas Judges

Recognized overseas Judges shall be entitled to Judge any stake, but may not be appointed Senior Judge.

1.4 Election to/Removal from Panel

Judges may, from time to time, be added to or removed from A or B Panels.

1.4.1 Notification on being removed from Panel

The FTLC shall, within two weeks of the date of the meeting at which it was decided that a person be removed from a Judges' Panel, send written notice of the recommendation to the FC. The FC shall have the final say in accepting or rejecting such recommendation.

In those cases where the FC upholds the FTLC's recommendation to remove a person from a Panel, such person shall be notified in writing within one month of rectification of FC of such removal. Reasons for such removal shall be given.

1.5 Qualifications for Panels

The qualifications required before a person can be added to a panel are:

1.5.1 "A" Panel

A person must be an existing "B" Panel Judge on the list of Judges for Spaniel Field Trials, and have judged at least four (4) stakes as a "B" Panel Judge under the KUSA Regulations for Flushing Spaniel Field Trials.

1.5.2 "B" Panel

A person must have judged at least two stakes as a Learner Judge in Field Trials run under the KUSA Regulations for Flushing Spaniel Field Trials. He/she must also have completed and passed the examination.

1.5.3 Learner Judge

A person who is neither an A or B Panel Judge, entitled to express an opinion, but whose scoring may not be taken into account when placing the dogs. There may not be more than one Learner Judge per stake.

1.5.4 Examination

An examination, which all aspiring Judges will write, shall be sat as required by the FTLC and shall be held at appropriate venues.

All persons being examined shall write the examination without the aid of reference material or advice from other parties. The organisation of such examination shall be vested with the FTLC.

1.5.5 Questionnaire

New Questionnaires may from time to time be prepared. It shall be compulsory for all A and B Panel Judges, when required by Federal Council, to complete a Questionnaire.

Refusal to complete the Questionnaire may result in a Judge being removed from a Panel. Failure to attain the necessary pass mark may mean a down grading to a lower Panel.

The FTLC shall make recommendation to FC on the removal from or addition to the Judges' Panel.

1.6 Compulsory number of Judges for various Stakes

The minimum compulsory number of Panel Judges for the various stakes is as follows:

1.6.1	Championship Stake:	2 "A" Panel Judges
1.6.2	Open Stakes:	1 "A" Panel Judge and 1 "B" Panel Judge
1.6.3	Other Stakes:	1 "A" Panel Judge and 1 "B" Panel Judge
1.6.4	Field Qualification Stake:	1 "A" Panel Judge and 1 "B" Panel Judge

The Senior Judge at each stake must be an "A" Panel Judge.

H THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF A SENIOR JUDGE

1. Equal Say

In a Field Trial all the officially appointed Judges have an equal say. No Judge, including the Senior Judge, can dictate to another Judge or Judges or tell the Judge or Judges how to mark the work of a dog or where to place a dog at the end of a Trial. The awarding of a placing to a dog at the end of Trial is based on the decisions of the majority of the Judges and in the case of an even number of judges, the Senior Judge shall have the casting vote where there is a split vote.

2. Duties

The duties of a Senior Judge shall include, *inter alia*:

- 2.1 To assist the committee of the club holding the Field Trial to set a field course that will test the standard of the dogs.
- 2.2 To liaise with the Field Trial Manager regarding the efficient running of the Field Trial including the placing of birds, guns, throwers, collectors of dead birds, etc.
- 2.3 To signal the release of the bird or to delegate another Judge to do so.
- 2.4 To instruct handlers to send the dogs for their retrieve, or to delegate another Judge to do so.
- 2.5 To examine each and every bird for hard mouth, or to delegate another Judge to do so.
- 2.6 To position the other Judges and to be their spokesman.
- 2.7 To undertake or to delegate another Judge to select game to be used in saluted retrieves and flushes.
- 2.8 To complete and to sign the official Judges' Report on the day of the trial and to submit this Report to the Field Trial Secretary of the host club.

JUDGES' REPORT

The Judges' Report must contain the following:

Name of host club.

Stake.

Date of Stake.

Venue and address.

Names of Judges, Learner Judge, Field Trial Manager and KUSA Representative.

Number of dogs entered.

Number of dogs participating.

Number of pickups.

Game used in the stake.

Comment on the standard of the dogs' work.

Placings by dog number (as per draw) and registered name.

A table of all the Judges' points of the dogs which have been placed.

Declaration of confirmation of results signed by all Judges at that stake.

I MANAGEMENT OF A FIELD TRIAL

1. Management Entrusted to Club

The management of a Field Trial shall be entrusted to the club holding the Field Trial.

2. KUSA Representative

It shall be necessary for a KUSA Representative to be present at the Open Stake of any Field Trial.

The KUSA Representative shall, in any case, with the exception of the Championship Stake, be elected by the club holding the Field Trial and be approved by the Federal Council. In the case of the Championship Stake, the KUSA Representative shall be nominated by the FTLC and be approved by the FC.

3. **Procedure in the Case of a Procedural Irregularity**
An alleged procedural irregularity may be raised only by a handler participating in the Field Trial. Such allegation must be raised with the Field Trial Manager.
The Field Trial Manager in turn shall notify the Club Secretary/Committee and the Judges of the alleged irregularity.
The allegation shall be decided within thirty minutes from the time it was lodged, by a majority of the committee members present.
4. **Treatment of Captive Game**
- 4.1 **Housing of Game**
Prior to the trial, game shall be kept in a sufficiently large cage or aviary, with adequate perches, to enable all the perching birds to fly and perch comfortably. Sufficient water and feed must be provided for each type of game at all times. Care should be taken to ensure that food and water containers are not easily overturned. The cage/aviary must afford shade and shelter from the elements at all times. With reference to ground birds, adequate space must be provided to meet their natural behavioural requirements.
Guide
Ground birds must have enough space in which to walk, eat and drink.
- 4.2 **Keeping of Game at the Venue**
Game to be used at the venue on the day must be transferred from the cage/aviary to crates (typically of the type used to transport chickens or pigeons) during the hours of darkness. An aviary should be used at the venue in cases where game is being kept for periods of more than a day.
Provision shall be made for water in each crate. Water containers shall be fixed to the crate preventing accidental spillage.
Guide
Fixing of water containers is best achieved by securing them to the sides of crates with cable ties.
- 4.3 All crates must be kept in shade and covered with hessian. Crates shall be kept flat (upright). In this regard, two people should always be deployed to carry crates with live game. Only required game should be temporarily stored a reasonable distance from the point of release. Unused game must not be stored in crates overnight.
- 4.4 The numbers of game per crate should never exceed:
- 20 Pigeons; or
 - 6 Pheasants; or
 - 6 Ducks; or
 - 4 Rabbits
- Guide*
The crate size shall be approximately 1000mm long x 800mm wide x 300mm high.
- 4.5 **Handling of Birds**
Birds may only be taken out of their crates just before the retrieve commences and physically handled for the shortest possible period.
Guide
The line Judge must ready to commence the retrieve before the first bird is taken from a crate. Subsequent birds may only be taken from the crates when the next competitor is coming into line.
- 4.6 **Shooting of Game**
Released birds must be shot using shotguns with suitable ammunition. Sufficient, competent, guns must be present to ensure effective culling of birds. It is the responsibility of a forward Judge to ensure that, in the event of a wounded bird not being quickly retrieved, the trial is stopped and an official instructed to dispatch the bird swiftly and humanely.
Rabbits and ducks must always be dispatched with a small calibre weapon.
Guide
Shot size between 6 and 7½, with minimum 24g load, for pigeons; and
Shot size between 5 and 6, with minimum 28g load, for larger birds.

5. **Field Trial Manager - Election/Duties**
The club holding the Field Trial shall elect a Field Trial Manager who shall be responsible for:
 - 5.1 Running of the Field Trial.
 - 5.2 Assisting Judges in the setting of the course.
 - 5.3 Ensuring the humane treatment and culling of captive game

6. **Requirements for a Field Trial for Spaniel Breeds**
 - 6.1 **Minimum number of exercises**
 - 6.1.1 In an Open Stake, the minimum number of exercises shall be six.
 - 6.1.2 In a Championship Stake, the minimum number of exercises shall be ten.
 - 6.2 **Pick-up Dog**
The club holding the Field Trial must ensure that there is handler with a pick-up dog at each Trial.

J FIELD QUALIFYING STAKE

1. **General Regulations**
 - 1.1 A Field Qualifying Stake may be run at a Field Trial or at a Field Qualifying meeting for Spaniels.
 - 1.2 A minimum of two Judges awarding the Field Qualifying Certificates must be appointed, one from the "A" Panel of List of Judges for Field Trials, and one from "B" Panel.
 - 1.3 Only clubs which hold Field Trials may run Field Qualifying Stakes.
 - 1.4 Permission to run a Field Qualifying Stake and a licence must be obtained from KUSA.
 - 1.5 The club Secretary shall notify KUSA of the numbers and names of the Field Qualifiers. These shall be published in the KUSA Gazette. These dogs shall be entitled to carry the designation "FQ" after the names.
 - 1.6 A dog shall either be passed or failed by the Judges, whose decision is final. The dogs which Field Qualify shall not be placed in order of merit.
 - 1.7 The dogs shall be expected to retrieve fur and feather, and to enter water.
 - 1.8 The names of the dogs must be entered on the programme for the meeting. Entry fees shall be at the discretion of the club.
 - 1.9 A dog may not run in a Field Qualifying Stake more than three times in all, and not more than twice in any one field trial season.

2. **Requirements to be fulfilled**
Before signing a Spaniel's Field Qualifying Certificate, the Judges must be satisfied that the following requirements had been met:
 - 2.1 All tests must be conducted off the lead.
 - 2.2 Any dog which commits an eliminating fault shall be failed.
 - 2.3 A dog must show that it is not gun shy.
 - 2.4 Excessive vocalizing and handling is not used during the stake.
 - 2.5 The dog has amply demonstrated its natural working ability.
 - 2.6 The dog completes the series of exercises set out in Clause J.3.1. through J.3.5. below in such a manner that Clause J.2.5. is satisfied.

3. **Exercises for Field Qualifying Stake**
 - 3.1 **Exercise No. 1**
To quest for game, ahead of the handler, in an orderly and efficient manner, within range of the gun, when ordered to do so.
 - 3.1 **Exercise No. 2**
To flush a bird from medium cover, remain steady to flush and shot, and to retrieve the bird on command.
 - 3.2 **Exercise No. 3**
Tossed, saluted rabbit at approximately 40 metres in medium to heavy cover, single dog in line; retrieve to be from a stationary position.
 - 3.3 **Exercise No. 4**
Saluted bird into dam; bird to be tossed about 15 metres from shoreline. Single dog to retrieve from a stationary position, approximately 35 metres from the shoreline.
 - 3.4 **Exercise No. 5**

Two saluted pigeons in light cover with birds approximately 45 metres from the line. Birds to fall 90 degrees apart. Single dog in line; retrieve from a stationary position. Any bird to be retrieved first.

K MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. **Awards**
Equal placings at a Field Trial are prohibited.
2. **Record of Entries**
The Secretary of the club holding a Field Trial shall preserve all entry forms for twelve months after the meeting and produce any of them to an official body inquiring into an objection or dispute.
3. **Handling of dogs**
 - 3.1 **Deputy Handling a Dog**
If a deputy handles a dog, the owner may be in the line with another dog, but may not take part in the working of the deputy's dog.
 - 3.2 **Maximum Number of Dogs**
No handler may handle more than three dogs in a single stake.
 - 3.3 **Running Under a Judge who is Related**
There is no objection to the immediate family of a Judge running in a Field Trial judged by him.
There is, furthermore, no objection to a dog belonging to a Judge (he being the registered owner) running in a Field Trial judged by him.
 - 3.4 **Switching of Handlers During a Trial**
Once the Trial has begun, a handler of a dog may NOT be switched.
4. **Dogs under Trial**
The control of all matters connected with dogs under trial shall rest with the Judges of the meeting but they may call the Field Trial Manager to their assistance if they think fit.
The Judges are empowered to disqualify, from any stake any dog whose handler does not obey them or wilfully interferes with another competitor or his own dog.
5. **Removal from Trial for Various Causes**
Should the members of the committee of the club, after consultation with the Judges or Veterinary Surgeon, consider a dog unfit to compete by reason of sexual causes or of any contagious disease or from an attack of hysteria occurring on the ground, or any cause which interferes with the safety, or chance of winning of his opponents, such dogs must be removed immediately from the grounds and from the Trial. Any such case is liable to be reported to the KUSA and to be dealt with under KUSA Schedule 1.
If a dog competes which has been exposed to the risk of any contagious or infectious disease during the period of six weeks prior to the Field Trial and/or if any dog shall be proven to be suffering at a Field Trial from any contagious disease, including contagious results of inoculations against distemper, the owner thereof shall be liable to be dealt with under KUSA Schedule 1.
6. **Unpunctuality**
A dog which is not present within 15 minutes when required by a Judge may be disqualified by the Judges.
7. **Withholding Awards**
 - 7.1 The Judges are empowered and instructed to withhold any prize or award if, in their opinion, the dogs competing do not show sufficient merit.
 - 7.2 If, in the case of technical qualifications, a prize winner is disqualified, the dogs next in consecutive order of merit, if so placed by the Judges and awarded first, second, third or fourth place, may be moved into the higher places in the prize list, at the Judges' discretion, and such placings there upon become the awards.
8. **Withdrawal of Dogs**
 - 8.1 No dog entered for competition, and once under a Judge at the Trial, may be withdrawn from the competition without the consent of the Field Trial Manager.
 - 8.2 No competitor may, whilst under Judges' orders, leave the line without the permission of the Judges and any dog so removed is liable to disqualification.

9. **Weather and/or Venue Conditions**

If the club considers the weather and/or venue unfit for the holding of a Trial, the meeting may be held at a different venue or postponed from day to day until the end of the week, when the stakes that are not decided upon may be abandoned and the entry fees refunded, or a fresh draw may be made and a fresh date fixed for the abandoned stakes.
10. **Impugning Decisions**

Anyone taking part in a Trial openly impugning the decision of a Judge or Judges shall render himself liable to be reported to KUSA under the provisions of Schedule 1 (KUSA Disciplinary Rules).
11. **Fur/Feather Stake Requirements**

All dogs running in Field Qualifying, Novice, Open or Championship Stakes will be required to retrieve both fur and feather.
No dog in a Puppy or Junior Stake shall be required to retrieve fur.
12. **Collars/Leads**

Dogs must not wear any form of collar when under the orders of the Judges. Handlers may not carry leads and/or choke chains in line. All dogs must be kept on a lead when not working.
13. **Judges/Shooting/Handlers/Guns**

At a Field Trial, only the forward Judge/s may be used as gun/s. Handlers may carry a gun when required to do so by a Judge, with the strict proviso that the gun may not be loaded. The gun carried may be a non-functioning replica of a shotgun.
14. **Altering Judges' List**

The FTLC shall be entitled, subject to the approval of the Federal Council, to alter the rules and Panel structure governing the appointment of Field Trial Judges.
15. **Prohibition of "Run Offs"**

In the event of certain dogs having the same scores near the end of the stake, no "run offs" are permitted between those dogs alone; all dogs remaining in the stake must be run on.
16. **Training on the Venue**

There shall be no practising or training on any part of the Field Trial grounds from the start of the trial until the conclusion, except in those areas designated by the Field Trial Manager.
17. **Clothing Worn at a Trial**

All guns, Judges, handlers, bird throwers, field trial managers and other officials shall wear neutral coloured clothing of the type which would be worn on a natural shoot, such as khaki. White or brightly coloured shirts, trousers or hats will not be permitted. If spectators are not in neutral coloured clothing, they must stay out of sight of the dogs working. Handlers may use a white handkerchief on blind or control work to assist giving clarity to hand signals.
18. **Contingencies**

Any event not provided for in these Rules and Regulations shall be decided by committee members of the club present but not competing in the Trial, assisted by the Judges, and their decision shall be final.

REGULATIONS FOR THE JUDGING OF FLUSHING SPANIEL FIELD TRIALS

A PRE-AMBLE

This document takes the form of regulations which are the rules which bind Judges in the manner in which they Judge Field Trials. Such regulations always fall under the heading "RULE".

Paragraphs appearing under the heading "GUIDES" are NOT rules, but merely assist Judges to interpret the "RULE".

Objectives

The objectives of this document are:

1. To promote a greater understanding of the facets that go to make up a Spaniel Field Trial;
2. To achieve greater conformity in the running of Field Trials;
3. To achieve greater conformity in the judging of the performances of Spaniels at Field Trials.

The standardization of objectives is therefore essential and all Judges, guns, competitors and Field Trial officials who play a part in the conducting of a Field Trial should be familiar with, and be governed where possible by, the following standard;

1. Purpose of a Field Trial

The purpose of a Spaniel Trial is to determine the relative merits of Spaniels in the field. Therefore Field Trials should stimulate as nearly as possible those conditions which can be expected in the natural shoot; these conditions should not vary materially from one dog to another.

2. Function of a Spaniel

The function of a Spaniel is to quest for game, ahead of the handler, in an orderly and efficient manner, within range of the gun when ordered to do so.

The game, when located, should be flushed or "sprung", to provide the guns the opportunity of a clean shot.

A spaniel is required to remain steady to the flush and shot and to retrieve, on command, quickly and briskly over land or water without unduly disturbing ground and deliver promptly and tenderly to hand and thereafter remain quietly at heel awaiting further orders. Good scenting ability when quartering, as well as ability to intelligently use the wind and adjust the quartering pattern to the type of cover and the direction of the wind is most important, as is the accurate marking of fallen game.

Rule 1 - Standard by which to Judge

Given the function of a Spaniel as above, Judges must judge dogs for: -

1. Their natural abilities including memory, intelligence, attention, nose, courage, perseverance, style, game finding ability; and
2. Their abilities acquired through training, including steadiness, response to direction and delivery.

B JUDGES' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. PRE-TRIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Rule 2 - Inspection of Field Trial Venue

It is particularly important that the Judges inspect the Field Trial venue with the Senior Judge and /or members of the Field Trial committee and/or Field Trial Manager in advance of the designated starting time.

Guide to Rule 2

The Senior Judge must always be assisted in setting the course by at least one other Judge and also the Field Trial Manager or his/her deputy. It is recommended that he/she also use a dog which will not be competing in that stake to check the various elements of each exercise.

Rule 4 - Positioning of the Judges

The Senior Judge should give consideration to the placing of Judges at the line and he should always place a forward Judge at the area of the fall.

Guide to Rule 4

It is vital, during the time the dog is quartering, leading to the flush, that no one is visible in the area where a bird may be expected to be found. Bird releasers must be well concealed from the view of the dog and judges must move in line with the handler and dog. The pace should be determined by that of the handler and dog. Judges, however, must be able to see the flush and also to determine whether the game sits until flushed or runs.

Rule 5 - Instructions to Handlers

Each handler, as he/she comes to the line, must be given the position he is required to take, the nature of the test, and any special instructions about the desired method of completing it. In a retrieve which calls for a walk-up, the Judge must give the handler the position in the line.

Guide to Rule 5

In order that all handlers receive the same instructions, it is recommended that, wherever possible, these handlers are summoned to the line, before the series is started, and these instructions be given to the handlers, as a group, and be repeated if requested by any handler when called into line.

It would be helpful to handlers and spectators if the Senior Judge explained to them the type of work which is required in the test and the dog's attributes which the exercise is designed to test.

TEST DOG: *In an Open or Championship Stake a test dog should be used prior to the running of the test to demonstrate to the handlers the nature and degree of difficulty of the test. A test dog may be used in any other stake at the discretion of the Judges.*

In a Spaniel Trial the logistical problems involved in setting the course are of great importance and must be resolved well in advance. Adequate manpower to set and release birds is required and helpers are vital to ensure an uninterrupted flow of exercises.

Rule 3 - Approval of Tests

Having familiarized themselves with the layout and characteristics of the venue, the Judges are required to approve the series of tests which are intended for a particular stake.

Guide to Rule 3

In approving tests, the following points should be borne in mind;

1. *As far as possible, quartering tests should be set so as to present each dog with the same set of circumstances including cover and terrain, wind intensity, direction and scenting conditions.
The conditions relating to the placing of birds to be flushed should be as near as possible the same.*
2. *A good test is one which will neither be so simple that all the dogs will turn in almost perfect performances, nor so difficult that all dogs turn in equally poor performances, but is rather designed to demonstrate (reveal) the various levels of competence and ability of the different dogs.*
3. *On "marked retrieves", a dog should be able to see a bird in the air and as it falls, since his memory and marking ability can only be tested when he has seen the fall. All dogs must be given a fair opportunity to see the fall.*
4. *On "blind retrieves", wherever possible, tests should be set such that advantage is taken on natural hazards such as islands, ditches, hedges, bushes, heavy cover and rolling terrain.
"Blind" tests should be planned so that the dog is in sight for the greater part of the time. A blind retrieve is a test of control. A dog should not be out of sight of a handler for any length of time and at all times the dog should be in sight of at least one Judge.*
5. *Tests should, as far as possible, resemble natural shooting situations.*

2. RESPONSIBILITIES ON THE LINE

Before a Trial, each stake and each series of exercises is started, Judges should reach decisions on certain aspects, such as:

Rule 6 - Position of Handlers in the Line

At the start of a Field Trial, the Judges must make sure that they have the correct dogs in numerical order in line, with the lowest number on the right. In subsequent series, Judges can elect to run the dogs in any order.

Guide to Rule 6

As a general rule, all dogs should be prevented from watching the Trial in progress, by whatever means available at the venue. However, unless it is critical to the success of the exercise that handlers be hidden, Judges should allow all handlers to watch all exercises. When there are two dogs in line, in order to prevent the first dog from being disadvantaged relative to the subsequent dogs, the "first and last" rule should be applied whenever possible. The "first and last" rule states that in a retrieve which requires two dogs in line, dog number one and the last dog shall be called in line. The last dog shall honour dog number one's retrieve, then leave the line; whereupon all subsequent dogs will be required to retrieve first before honouring, with the exception of the last dog.

Rule 7 - Calling by Number/Sending the Dog

Judges must refer to the handler by the number of the dog, particularly when used as a signal to him to send his dog. It is not correct for the Judge to use the handler's or the dog's name. If a dog goes after the Judge has called its number, this will not be considered a break, even if there has been no audible or visible command from the handler. Dogs must run singly or in as a brace in the flush. If they are run as a brace a judge shall be allocated to judge each dog.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE TESTS ARE IN PROGRESS

Rule 8 - Directions on the Fall

When requested to do so, the Judge controlling the line should give reasonable directions to the handlers as to the area where the game has fallen.

Rule 9 - Silence/Moving

Judges, guns and other officials must refrain from talking to anybody while a dog is out working on a retrieve or flush. They should, furthermore, be careful not to influence a test by moving around excessively; or by standing directly behind or in front of the handler and thus confusing the dog.

No helpers or captive game should, at any time, obtrude into the area in which the dog is working.

Guide to Rule 9: Ensuring a Clear View

From the moment a dog competing under him starts his exercise, a Judge should make every effort, bearing in mind the provisions of Rule 9 above, to keep that dog in view and so to place himself when the dog is sent out for a retrieve, to enable him to observe every move of the dog until the game is delivered to hand. Judges should wear neutral colours so that they are not confused with the handler.

Rule 10 - Attention on those Dogs not Working

While a dog is out working, Judges must be observant for infringements on the line by handlers and/or dogs not working.

Rule 11 - Advice to the Handler

The Judges must ensure that while a dog is out working, no person other than the Judge controlling the line gives advice to the handler as to the position of the dog.

Rule 12 - "No Bird" - General Information

If, in the opinion of the Judges, the circumstances surrounding a flush or retrieve differ materially from those experienced by other dogs, the test should be called "No Bird". Also, if a bird is so badly damaged by shot or is shot in such a way that makes the retrieve of no value, or makes the retrieve materially different from the retrieves of previous dogs, the test should be called "No-bird". Any Judge may call "No-bird".

A handler shall be given the option to take his/her dog out of line completely when a "No Bird" is called, to return after a few other dogs have run.

Guide to Rule 12

A bird should flush clearly within close proximity of the dog. If the bird runs instead of flying, it should be declared a "No Bird" and the dog called off. If the bird fails to flush, it is permissible for the Judges to instruct the handler to flush the bird.
In no circumstances should the dog be sent into such close proximity to the bird, which has not flushed, that the dog may be tempted to catch the bird.
In each retrieve, Judges must have a clear indication of where the bird should fall. If it should fall outside this area, the bird is to be called "No Bird". The limits of this area for each retrieve should be set by the Judge prior to the first dog coming into line.

Rule 13 - "No Bird" - Runner

Where there is a possibility of a runner, the retrieve should be called "No Bird". In this case, the pick-up dog must be used to collect the bird.

If, after a bird has been retrieved, it is proved to be a runner, no bonus or special points should be awarded to the dog relative to the retrieve expected for that particular test.

Rule 14 - Lost Bird

Where a dog is sent but fails to find the bird, a pick-up dog may be used to do the retrieving. If, however, the pick-up dog fails to find the bird, and all reasonable attempts have been made by the Judges and officials to find it, the retrieve must be annulled and completely disregarded by the Judges and the dog be given a fresh retrieve.

Rule 15 - Comments by the Guns/Instruction to Guns

The Judges shall disregard entirely comments made by the guns regarding the work of any particular dog.

The Senior Judge must make it quite clear to the guns that no shot is to be fired after the Judges have given permission for the dog to be sent, unless it is called for as part of the test. If for any reason a shot is fired contrary to the Judges instructions while the dog is out working and in the opinion of the Judges, the shot has created a material disadvantage or advantage to the dog in question that particular test should be called a "No Bird" and re-run.

All guns shall remain stationary after the bird has been shot and shall remain silent while the dog is out working.

Rule 16 - Gathering of Game

All wounded game must be gathered in as quickly as possible and despatched immediately.

Guide to Rule 16

Where a dog fails to retrieve, the Senior Judge may give instructions for the game to be retrieved by a "pick-up" dog designated for the Trial.

Rule 17 - Inspection of Retrieved Game/Hard mouth

All game retrieved, and delivered to the handler, shall be inspected by one of the Judges, and examined for hardmouth. Where a case of hardmouth is suspected, the Judge responsible for the line shall offer the game in question to all the other Judges for their opinion. Dogs displaying hardmouth must be eliminated.

In all cases of doubt, the benefit should be given to the dog. In cases where Judges have eliminated a dog for hardmouth, the bird shall be shown to the handler, in the presence of the Judges. Thereafter the bird must be discarded from further use in the Trial and kept under the control of the Field Trial Manager until the end of the Trial.

Guide to Rule 17

It is important to realise that a hardmouthed dog seldom gives visible evidence of hardness. He will simply crush in one or both sides of the ribs. Blowing up the feathers will not disclose the damage. The bird should be placed on the palm of the hand, breast downwards, head forward, and ribs felt with finger and thumb of the other hand. The ribs should be round and firm. If they are caved in or flat, this could be evidence of hardmouth. The attention of the Judges is drawn to the fact that at times the rump of a strong runner may be gashed. This may have been the result of a difficult capture, or have been caused by a young dog inexperienced in mastering a strong runner. Judges, therefore, should satisfy themselves that any damage was initiated by the dog and not by the shot or fall.

Rule 18 - Keeping of Detailed Notes

Judges must keep sufficiently detailed notes on each dog's performance to enable them to recall it completely or at least its outstanding features. Every fault should be noted, even those that are minor. Although these faults may not require that a dog be penalized at the time, repetitions of a particular fault or commissions of various other faults, in succeeding series, may cause the total of faults to assume serious proportions indicating a "failing" or a habitual tendency and resulting in a performance that is neither a finished job nor pleasing.

Guide to Rule 18

The following scoring system is recommended and will be of assistance, in general, for the preliminary classification of the performance of the dogs still in competitions. However, in the final summation and analysis of the various performances, by means of the detailed notes described above, a direct and detailed comparison of the work of one dog versus the work of another may produce some different conclusions from those suggested by the scores alone.

9 + 1 points	<i>Used expediently by Judges who have adjudged a previous dog's performance as deserving top marks, and then found another dog just bettering this performance with credits.</i>
9 points	<i>An excellent performance, deserving top marks, without infraction.</i>
8 points	<i>An excellent performance, against a few minor infractions.</i>
7 points	<i>An excellent performance against many more minor infractions.</i>
6 points	<i>An average performance with credits, against some infractions.</i>
5 points	<i>An average performance, with infractions.</i>
4 points	<i>A below average performance, with more infractions.</i>
3 points	<i>A poor performance, with more infractions.</i>
2 points	<i>A poor performance, with many infractions.</i>
1 points	<i>A poor performance, against moderate and major infractions.</i>

0 points	Non-retrieve.
----------	---------------

The half mark can be used by Judges, when assessing one dog with another or others of the same score, the Judge makes a credit comparison in favour of that dog. The half mark should only be additive.

A retrieve which calls for a double pick-up should be marked as though they were two (2) separate single retrieves and the marks combined to give a total. The same applies to any retrieve which calls for more than two (2) pick-ups, i.e. the number of pick-ups should always be marked separately as for a single, and then totalled.

Marking of Quartering, Flushing and Retrieving

An exercise in which the dog is required to quarter, flush and retrieve should be marked out of 30 marks in accordance with the above standard.

The Retrieve should be marked out of 10 points.

The Quartering and Flush should be marked out of 20.

C EVALUATION OF THE DOGS' PERFORMANCE

1. Pre-Amble

1.1 Judging

Judging can never be precise as it is not an exact science - there are many shades of grey between black and white. At the risk of over-simplification, it might be said that the primary purpose of a Spaniel is to quarter its ground in a systematic manner within range of the gun, find and flush any game on that ground and after it is shot, to get the birds to hand as quickly as possible in a pleasing, obedient manner - and all faults stem from a deviation of this.

1.2 Basic Principles

"Basic Principles" are "to determine the relative merits of Spaniels in the field..", in situations which "simulate as nearly as possible those conditions which can be expected in a natural shoot".

1.3 The Expected Performance

It is recommended that a Judge has clearly in mind what type of performance he expects for each test, since such work will merit high ratings in his records. The scores which dogs receive will reflect how closely they have attained or fallen short of this predetermined norm.

Much of the judge's responsibility is to determine how much weight he shall give to certain types of exceptional performance and the penalties of various individual faults. Some faults, by themselves, are sufficiently serious to **justify elimination** for a Stake, others may justify either a **moderate penalty**, or only a minor penalty. Some of the latter may be so minor that, on occasions, they are relatively so unimportant, for practical purposes, they can be ignored.

On the other hand, minor faults can **summate** into moderate faults and the moderate faults into serious faults, through repetition or through combinations of several types of faults.

With the aim of obtaining greater uniformity in judging, it is important that definition be given to the various types of faults, i.e. eliminating, serious, moderate and minor.

1.4 The Standard for Spaniels

The Standard, as laid down previously in this document states:

"Given the function of a Spaniel, Judges must therefore judge dogs for:

1.4.1 Their natural abilities, including memory, intelligence, attention, nose, courage, perseverance, style and game finding ability; and

1.4.2 Their abilities acquired through training, including steadiness, control, response to direction, delivery and quartering pattern."

Generally natural ability will be considered more important than that acquired through training.

2. The Standard - Natural Abilities

2.1 **Memory**

Memory of the fall or accurate marking is of paramount importance. The ability to mark, however, does not necessarily imply pin-pointing the fall. A dog that misses the fall initially, but recognises the depth of the fall, stays in it, then quickly and systematically "hunts it out", has done both a creditable and intelligent job of marking. Such work should not be appreciably out-scored by a dog that finds or pin-points on the first cast. However, a dog which consistently marks his birds close and therefore more accurately, should be judged accordingly.

2.1.1 **Area of a Fall**

The "area of a fall" is the area within which the Judge feels the dog should be hunting if the dog is to do a good job of work. The "area of the fall" defies accurate description. Each Judge must, in his own mind, define its boundaries for each bird in every test, before the test begins.

In determining these arbitrary and hypothetical boundaries of the area of the fall, consideration should be given to these various factors:

1. the type, the height and the uniformity of the cover;
2. light and weather conditions;
3. direction of prevailing wind and its intensity;
4. length and/or ease of sighting of the fall;
5. the variation in the cover;
6. whether one is establishing the area of the fall for a single, or the first bird a dog goes for in a multiple retrieve, or for the second or third bird in such a retrieve, since each of these should differ from the others.

In general, the area of the fall for a single retrieve should be the smallest when compared to multiple retrieves. The area for the first retrieve in a double retrieve should be smaller than the areas for the second retrieve. The same rule is applied to triples. Furthermore, the area for short retrieves should be smaller than that for longer retrieves.

Given the hypothetical area of the fall which the Judge has defined for a particular test, the Judge will set his penalties according to how far the individual dogs have wandered out of the area, the frequency of such wanderings, the numbers of birds mis-marked in a given test and by the amount of cover disturbed in these meanderings.

2.2 **Intelligence**

Intelligence is not often tested intentionally since few tests can be designed for that specific purpose. Nevertheless, on occasions dogs may have an opportunity to demonstrate an unusual degree of intelligence, or lack of it, through the manner in which certain performances are completed. An example would be of the dog taking a route which results in a faster, neater pick-up and return. When these occasions arise, and usually they develop by chance rather than by intent, each dog must be credited or penalized on the basis of the intelligence demonstrated.

2.3 **Attention**

Attention is an eagerness and attitude which a dog displays in line. It is also displayed in his alertness in locating the guns, in acceding to his handler's commands and in his zeal.

These are highly desirable traits.

2.4 **"Nose"**

Most Spaniels have a good nose and generally Field Trials afford them ample opportunity to demonstrate this all-important quality. Usually it is something in his work which suggests that a dog lacks a good nose that attracts the Judges' attention. Such suspicion should be recorded, so that it can be verified or eliminated by his performance in subsequent tests.

On the other hand, scenting conditions are mysterious and little understood. They can be affected by many factors such as type of cover, wind, frost, rain, location of the fall and acidity of the soil. Therefore caution must be shown before a dog is penalised for a poor nose.

2.5 **Courage**

This too is a trait which cannot be tested at every trial. It may be displayed by a willingness to face, and without hesitation, enter rough cover, cold or rough water, ice, wind or other similar conditions which make the going difficult for the dog.

2.6 **Perseverance**

This quality is shown by a dog's determination to stick to it and complete the task at hand, that is to search systematically, aggressively and without faltering and find the bird he has been sent to retrieve.

A lack of perseverance may become apparent whenever:

2.6.1 A dog returns to its handler, voluntarily, before finding the bird;

2.6.2 The dog stops hunting or continuous in a slow lackadaisical, uninterested manner;

2.6.3 The dog "pops", that is, looks back for direction before it has hunted for a reasonable time.

2.7 **Style**

Style is another quality which defies accurate definition, yet it is apparent in every movement of a dog through his entire performance at Trials. Examples might be;

2.7.1 The gaiety of his manner;

2.7.2 Alertness in line;

2.7.3 His eagerness and speed on retrieves;

2.7.4 The manner in which he enters water;

2.7.5 An aggressive search for the bird;

2.7.6 Prompt pick-up and return;

2.7.7 Speed in gathering of game, i.e. "straight out and back" where the terrain allows.

2.8 **Game Finding ability**

This can be defined as the skill demonstrated by a dog in making the find without the aid of the handler.

2.9 **The Spaniel**

A Spaniel should at all times work in gun range with good treatment of ground; under no circumstances should it pass over game, it should flush within range of the gun. The direction of the wind has a considerable influence on the way a dog will work ground. With a head-on wind, the dog should quarter the ground systematically left to right and vice versa, making good all likely game-holding cover, but keeping within gunshot distance of the handler. Judges should regulate the pace of the line to allow the dog to do this and make good his ground. Often a dog has been penalised for missing game when, in fact, the line has been moving forward too fast to permit the dog to make good the ground.

During this period the Judge can assess the game finding ability and nose of the dog, also pace, drive, treatment of ground and courage.

Obvious dead scent should be ignored.

2.10 **Pointing and Flushing**

If a dog points or hesitates slightly before flushing, this is an added refinement, but the dog must flush on command.

2.11 **Marking**

Good marking should always be looked for and given full credit, and bad marking penalised.

2.12 Drive

A dog should have drive and thrust and face cover well, and, at the same time, should be amiable and gay, in short, a pleasure to watch. It should show good treatment of ground with the minimum of help from its handler. All things being equal, the stylish dog should be given the credit. Judges should, however, be satisfied that the fast stylish dog is also the best game-finder.

3. The Standard - Abilities Acquired through Training

Guide - General Application

The importance of these acquired abilities varies in the different Stakes eg: Judges will require far greater steadiness from Open dogs than from Novice dogs.

Guide - Obedience in Line

A Spaniel should quarter to command, cover the ground thoroughly within range of the gun and be steady to the flush and shot. The dog should respond to the handler's command at all times.

When called to be tested, a dog should come tractably to heel and sit promptly at the point designated by his handler and remain quietly there until given further orders. He should remain quietly in line beside the handler after delivery of the bird to him. When recalled, a dog should return promptly to his handler. Dogs which bark or whine on line, in a blind, or while retrieving, should be penalised. Loud or prolonged barking or whining is sufficient cause for elimination from the Stake.

Rule 19 - Restraining A Dog

No handler shall:

- 1) carry any training equipment (except a whistle) or use any other equipment, or give commands, gestures which may be interpreted as being an aid or threat in steadying or controlling the dog;
- 2) hold or touch a dog to keep him steady. A handler may, in cases of physical disability, with the permission of the Senior Judge, carry a shooting or walking stick. Violation of any of the above provisions is sufficient cause to justify elimination from the Stake.

Guide to Rule 19

A hand, fist or finger held across a dog's face; a knee or leg blocking a dog's path, may be interpreted as a gesture necessary to keep a dog steady.

4. Classification of Faults

Guide - General Classification

In order to assist Judges, most of the faults which may be exhibited by Spaniels, during the course of a Trial, have been classified in the sections below. These infractions are catalogued under the following headings:

"Eliminating Faults"

"Serious Faults"

"Moderate Faults"

"Minor Faults"

Each fault should be considered as a single occurrence, and only to an average degree. Some infractions may be so minor that they can be ignored, whilst others may be sufficiently grave to merit a much more severe penalty than is suggested below.

Repetition of a fault, particularly time after time, indicates a "weakness" or a bad habit and justifies a more severe penalty than in an isolated occurrence of the fault.

The primary consideration of Judges with respect to the importance of faults listed below, as well as others which may occur, is to determine the extent to which any such infraction would detract from the full enjoyment of an ordinary day's shooting.

4.1 ELIMINATING FAULTS

Guide to Eliminating Faults

These infractions are usually so recognizable that Judges have no choice but to eliminate the dog and handler at fault. There may, however, be certain exceptional circumstances whereby the Judges may decide the infraction warrants consideration as a serious fault and the dog be marked accordingly.

The following faults are not listed in order of seriousness.

Rule 20 - Breaking

In an Open or Championship Stake, should a dog make a movement which, in the opinion of the Judges, indicates a deliberate intent to retrieve without being ordered to do so, that dog shall be deemed to have broken and shall be eliminated. In any Stake other than an Open or Championship Stake, if a dog makes a slight break and is brought immediately under control within a few metres without unduly disturbing the other dogs in line, that dog need not be eliminated, but should be penalised for unsteadiness.

Guide to Rule 20

If a dog on line creeps or jumps forward a reasonable distance, short of breaking, as birds are shot and no effort is made by the handler to stop and restrain him, the Judges should not interpret such as a deliberate intent to retrieve, since nothing was done to stop the dog. Alternatively, if the handler does make a forceful effort to stop the dog, the Judges should assume that the handler believed the dog intended to retrieve and must eliminate the dog. This applies to Open and Championship Stakes only.

The Judges may require that a dog which has jumped or crept forward so far that, in their opinion, it could interfere with the work of another dog, disturb game, or make his retrieve materially different, be brought back to heel and remain in such a position until he is sent. The Judges may caution a handler that if a dog does not keep at heel and remain within reasonable distance from the handler, he is liable for elimination for being out of control.

The handler and dog are under Judges' orders from such time as the Judge controlling the line so states, until such time as the Judge tells the line to break.

Rule 21 - Failure to Enter

Failure to enter water or ice after having been ordered to do so several times.

Rule 22 - Out of Control

- 1) Any dog which pays no attention to repeated whistles and directions by his handler can be said to be out of control.
- 2) Any dog entered in the Trial, which, when out of line during the course of the Trial, disturbs the work of a dog working under Judges' orders, can be eliminated for being out of control.

Guide to Rule 22 (a)

When ascertaining the degree of control of a handler over his/her dog, Judges should take cognisance of dogs which persistently "slips" or ignores commands or whistles from the handler.

"Slipping" can be defined as the failure of a dog to respond immediately to a command or whistle: the dog may respond only on the third or fourth command or whistle. Persistent slipping can be grounds for eliminating the dog for being out of control, depending on the Stake being run.

Rule 23 - Chasing Game

- 1) A dog which switches its attention from fallen game and chases other wild game and cannot be brought under control, i.e. stopped from chasing or picking up, within a short distance, shall be eliminated. If the dog is out of sight of the handler, the above rule cannot apply.
- 2) If a dog deliberately catches game and the judge is satisfied that the game is unwounded and undamaged, the dog should be discarded. Should a dog indicate or strike at game without effect, the handler may "stop" his dog and appeal to the judges for permission to flush the game himself.

Rule 24 - "Hard-mouth"

"Hard-mouth", or badly damaged game which, in the opinion of the Judges, was caused entirely and solely by the dog without justification. (Refer to Rule 17, Guide to Rule 17 and Guide to Rule 34).

Rule 25 - Loud and/or Prolonged Whining or Barking

Rule 26 - "Blinking"

"Blinking", i.e. ignoring game when found and leaving it. A dog will not be eliminated for this fault in a Puppy Stake.

Guide to Rule 26

If, in the Judges' opinion, a dog which has blinked actually saw, recognised the game and refused to pick it up, it should be given the opportunity of a second cast before being eliminated. In a Puppy Stake, a blink should be treated as a failure to find.

4.2 **SERIOUS FAULTS**

Guide to Serious Faults

These faults are of such gravity that a dog committing them shall be penalised severely.

Rule 27 - Handling

- 1) Handling while quartering before game is shot:-
Whistle and hand instruction is permitted during this phase.
- 2) Handling after game is shot:-
Handling in a marked retrieve must be penalised. In a single retrieve a dog will be more heavily penalised for being handled than a dog that has to be handled on to a second bird of a double retrieve. Similarly a dog that is handled on the third retrieve of a triple retrieve will not be penalised as heavily as in the first two cases.

Rule 28 - Excessive and/or Continuous Vocalising or Noise

Excessive and/or continuous vocalising by handlers.

Rule 29 - Disturbing the Ground whilst Retrieving

Disturbing the ground which is considered to be outside the area of the fall.

Rule 30 - Failure to Find

- 1) Failure to find game subsequently proved to be in the area, by the dog when quartering
- 2) Failure to find and retrieve game after a reasonable period of time has elapsed.

Rule 31 - Failure to Mark

Failure to mark the "area of the fall" which may not require that the dog be handled to it - worse on a single retrieve, or first bird in a double or triple, than on either the second or third bird the dog goes for. See also Rule 27 above.

Rule 32 - Retrieving a Decoy

Retrieving a decoy or any article other than the game for which it was sent.

Rule 33 - Repeated Evidence of "Poor Nose"

Rule 34 - Freezing on the Bird

Freezing on the bird, i.e. extreme reluctance to release the bird to the handler.

Guide to Rule 34

Persistent refusal to release on command can render a dog liable for elimination from the Stake on the basis of it being "out of control".

Delivery of the bird should be made to the handler directly, upon return from the retrieve, and should be given up willingly. A dog should not drop the bird before delivering it and he should not "freeze" or be unwilling to give it up. He should not jump after the bird once the handler has taken it from him. A dog shall not be faulted for stopping to reposition the bird in the mouth as long as the dog does not release its hold on the bird.

Rule 35 - Switching Birds/Areas of Fall

Switching birds, i.e. giving up after a search for one bird and going to the area of another fall in a marked retrieve, or dropping a bird that is being retrieved, and going for another.

Guide to Rule 35

Where the dog is out of sight of the handler, the dog cannot be eliminated for being out of control as control work was not possible. In this instance the dog should merely be severely penalised for switching.

Rule 36 - Not Picking up in a Designated Order in a Multiple Retrieve**Guide to Rule 36**

There may be circumstances in a multiple retrieve where the handler is unable to get the dog to retrieve in the order designated by the Judges. The Judges may, at their discretion, eliminate the dog for being out of control.

Rule 37 - Picking up More than One Bird at a Time**Rule 38 - Urinating/Defecating Whist Questing or on the Way to a Fall****4.3 MODERATE FAULTS****Guide to Moderate Faults**

The infractions in this category may be so slight as to warrant their consideration as only a "minor" fault, or they may be so severe as to warrant their consideration as a "serious" fault. Also, repetitions of a "moderate" fault or combination of several of these faults, may readily convert the total infraction into a "serious" fault.

Rule 39 - Reluctance to Enter

Reluctance to enter rough cover, water, ice, mud or other situations involving unpleasant going for the dog.

Rule 40 - Hunting in a Slow, Uninterested and Lackadaisical Manner when Quartering**Rule 40 A - Hunting in a Slow, Uninterested and Lackadaisical Manner when Retrieving**

Hunting in a slow, uninterested and lackadaisical manner, either at once or after a short search whilst returning.

Rule 41 - Poor Style

Poor style, including an uninterested attitude, a slow or reluctant departure, quest for game or return with it.

Rule 42 - Not Stopping for Direction

Not stopping for direction, after two or three whistles.

Rule 43 - Deliberate Failure to Take Lines

Deliberate failure to take lines and various directions given to him. Failure to hold lines and directions for more than a short distance.

Rule 44 - Moderate Whining of a Short Duration**Rule 45 - Going Out of His Way**

Going out of his way to a fall, without certainty of purpose, to avoid getting into the water in a water retrieve.

Rule 46 - "Popping"

"Popping", i.e. looking back for directions on a marked bird before an extensive search.

Rule 47 - Unsteady Heeling

Unsteady heeling, i.e. a dog which can be considered to be interfering with other dogs or handlers in the line.

Guide to Rule 47

A dog which is heeling steadily is one which maintains a reasonable constant distance of a few paces from his handler.

4.4 **MINOR FAULTS**

Guide to Minor Faults

Either severe or repeated or combinations of these minor infractions may summate into a moderate or even a serious fault, also they may be so slight as not to warrant any penalty at all.

Rule 48 - Rolling and/or Mouthing the Bird

Rule 49 - Going out of His Way

Going out of his way by land, without certainty of purpose, on the return from a water retrieve.

Rule 50 - Lack of Attention

Rule 51 - Poor Line Manners, Heeling Poorly

Poor line manners, heeling poorly, not immediately taking and staying in the position designated, dropping a bird at delivery, jumping after a bird, not remaining quietly on line after delivery.

Rule 52 - Slow Pick-Up of a Dead Bird

Slow pick-up of a dead bird, dropping a dead bird, handling game in a sloppy manner.

Rule 53 - Not Stopping at the First Whistle

Not stopping at the first whistle, but stopping at the second or third.

Rule 54 - Urinating/Defecating.

Urinating/defecating on the return from a pick-up.

Rule 55 - Looking Back for Direction

Looking back for direction in a blind retrieve before taking a line or a cast for a reasonable distance.

Rule 56 - Occasional Failure to Take Handler's Direction

Occasional failure to hold the line or direction for more than a few metres

Rule 57 - Occasional Failure to Hold the Line

Occasional failure to hold the line or direction for more than a few metres

Rule 58 - Slight Short Whining or One Bark

Slight short whining or one bark, on being sent to retrieve.

The following "pigeon holes" the classification of faults and make for greater ease of understanding.

CLASSIFICATION OF FAULTS			
ELIMINATING	SERIOUS	MODERATE	MINOR
Failure to Enter <i>Rule 21 & Clause 2.5</i>		Reluctance to Enter <i>Rule 39</i> Going out of his Way <i>Rule 45</i>	Going out of his Way <i>Rule 49</i>
Out of Control <i>Rule 22</i>	Handling in a marked Retrieve - <i>Rule 27</i> Excessive and or continuous vocalising noise - <i>Rule 28</i> Seriously disturbing ground - <i>Rule 29</i> Not picking up in a designated order <i>Rule 36</i>	Not stopping for direction - <i>Rule 42</i> Deliberate failure to take lines - <i>Rule 43</i> Popping - <i>Rule 46 & Clause 2.6</i>	Poor line manners <i>Rule 51</i> Occasional failure to take directions <i>Rule 56</i> Occasional failure to hold a line - <i>Rule 57</i> Not stopping at first whistle - <i>Rule 53</i>
Chasing Game <i>Rule 23</i>			
Hard-mouth - <i>Rule 24</i> <i>Rule 17 & Guide to 17</i> <i>Rule 62</i>	Freezing on the Bird <i>Rule 34</i>		Rolling and/or mouthing - <i>Rule 48</i>
Steadiness/breaking <i>Rule 20 & Guide to 20</i> <i>Rule 19</i>			
Loud/prolonged whining or barking <i>Rule 25</i>		Moderate whining of short duration <i>Rule 44</i>	Slight short whining <i>Rule 58</i>
Blinking <i>Rule 26</i>	Failure to Find <i>Rule 30</i>	Hunting in a slow, un-interested way <i>Rule 40</i> Poor Style - <i>Rule 41</i>	Slow pick-up of bird <i>Rule 52</i>
	Retrieving a Decoy <i>Rule 32</i> Switching birds <i>Rule 35</i> More than one bird <i>Rule 37</i>		Lack of attention <i>Rule 50</i>
	Poor "Nose" - <i>Rule 33 & Clause 2.4</i>		
	Leg lifting whilst questing or on way to fall - <i>Rule 38</i>		Leg lifting on return <i>Rule 54</i>

5. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Rule 59 - Standard - First Place

It is imperative that Judges are aware that if a dog does not meet the standard required to win a first place in a particular stake, it should not be awarded first place. If its work is so inferior, then it may not be awarded any placings. A dog which fails to pick up all the required game shall not be placed, but it may be awarded a Certificate of Merit, at the discretion of the Judges.

Guide to Rule 59

Judges should clearly recognise that Open Stakes for Championship points and Championship Stakes are of the first importance. Greater leniency in judging may be expected in Novice Stakes and even greater leniency in Puppy and Junior Stakes.

Rule 60 - Discarding of Dogs

If in the opinion of the Judges a dog's work is so inferior that the Judges can, by consensus, ask for the dog to be discarded for the remainder of the Stake. The Judges decision is final.

Guide to Rule 60

Attention of Judges is drawn to those dogs whose work is so inferior that in the opinion of the Judges they are unable to receive any award. Whilst these dogs may not be discarded, Judges should seriously consider the stricter implementation of the "Out of Control" rule by virtue of the application of the Guide to Rule 22.

Rule 61 - Unsportsmanlike Conduct

The Judges of a particular Stake shall have the authority to expel a handler from any further competition in the stake being conducted if they observe unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the handler or see the handler kicking, striking or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog during the course of the Field Trial. It will be the duty of the Judges to promptly report to the Field Trial Committee the expulsion of a handler from the stake, and the Field Trial Committee may then expel the handler from all remaining competition at the Trial, if in the Committee's opinion such further action is warranted.

Guide to Rule 61

It shall be the duty of the Committee to investigate, at once, any report that is made to it of alleged unsportsmanlike behaviour on the part of a handler, or a report that a handler has been observed kicking, striking or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog. If a Field Trial Committee/Judges, after investigation, determines that a handler is in violation of this section, it shall promptly notify the handler of its decision, specifying whether the handler is expelled from a particular Stake or from further competition at the Trials.

Guide - Distraction by Spectators

It is essential that all spectators attending a Trial should be kept far enough from the line to enable the dog working to discern his handler clearly and nothing shall be done to distract the dog's attention from his work. A handler has the right to appeal to the Judges if the gallery is interfering with his work in any way, and the Judges in their discretion may, if they believe the dog has been interfered with, give him another test.

6. **CONSENSUS OF THE JUDGES**

Guide

In ascertaining and categorizing the infractions of dogs and/or handlers, each Judge will rely on his expertise and judgement. Given the recommendations contained in this document, he will apply weight to these infractions depending on their severity.

In order that greater uniformity be obtained in the weighting of infractions, the following system must apply:

6.1 **Consensus on Faults**

The following rules shall apply in those cases where the dogs commit faults which may lead to elimination:

Rule 62 - Unanimity - Elimination

In the case of dogs with suspected hard mouth, there must be unanimity of all the Judges before a dog can be eliminated. In all other cases, all the Judges witnessing the infraction must agree that such an infraction warrants elimination.

6.2 **Consensus on Rating**

Consensus will also be required when the standard of work of dogs is being rated:

Rule 63 - Unanimity - First Place

Unanimity of the Judges is required in awarding first place, i.e. all Judges must agree on the winning dog and all Judges must be unanimous that the winning dog has met the required standard. This applies to all stakes.

Rule 64 - Simple Majority/Casting Vote

A simple majority is required for all placings and awards after first place. Where simple majority is required and a deadlock occurs, the Senior Judge will have a casting vote.

Rule 65 - Judges Have a Final Decision

Where the Rule or Guide does not cover a particular situation, the decision will remain with the appointed Judges on the day.

GUIDE TO SPANIEL FIELD TRIAL SECRETARIES

A DUTIES TO KUSA

1. BEFORE THE TRIAL

1.1 Applications for Dates to Hold Field Trials

Secretaries of affiliated clubs shall, in the first instance, apply for dates to hold Field Trials to the Field Trial Liaison Council, such application to state proposed date, proposed venue, type of trial and stakes to be run. Such application shall be made at least one year in advance of the date of the proposed trial. Thereupon the Field Trial Liaison Council will submit a programme of dates to the KUSA for approval and therefore application for a licence to hold a Field Trial as per A.1.2. below can be submitted.

1.2 Application for Licence to Hold Field Trials

When dates have been approved by FTLC, Secretaries must submit an application for a Licence to hold Field Trials or Field Qualifying Stakes, together with the required fee direct to KUSA (cheque payable to KUSA), nine months before the date of the Trial.

1.3 The Schedule

The Secretary of the Club shall send two copies of the proposed schedule (together with the prescribed application form and licence fee as per 1.2. above) to KUSA and a copy of the schedule to the Field Trial Liaison Council for final approval. The schedule must be received by KUSA and the Field Trial Liaison Council at least nine months prior to the date of the Trial.

No schedule shall be issued to the public before approved by the Federal Council. This schedule is to be treated as a contract between the Club and the public.

For the contents required in the schedule, refer to F.1.2. on page 2 of "Regulations for Flushing Spaniel Field Trials".

1.4 The Programme (Card)

The Club holding the Trial must publish a programme (card) containing the necessary particulars of the Trial and of the participants. These are enumerated in F.3 of "Regulations for Flushing Spaniel Field Trials".

2. AFTER THE TRIAL

2.1 Notification of all Awards Made at the Trial

The Secretary of the Club holding the Trial must submit to KUSA a marked programme (card) indicating the awards made at each Stake, including details of Field Qualifying Certificates to be issued. This information is to be submitted to KUSA within two weeks of the end of the Trial.

2.2 Keeping a Record of Entry Forms

The Secretary of the Club holding a Field Trial shall preserve all entry forms for twelve months after the meeting, and produce any of them to any official body inquiring into an objection or dispute.

2.3 Submission of Results

The Secretary of the Club holding the Field Trial must submit the completed official Judges' Report for all stakes to FTLC within two weeks of the end of the trial.

B DUTIES OF THE PUBLIC

1. BEFORE THE TRIAL

1.1 Distribution of Schedule and Entry Forms

The Secretary of the Club holding the Field Trials shall send copies of the officially approved schedule, plus entry forms, to all prospective participants.

1.2 Drawing up a Programme (Card)

The Secretary of the Club holding the Field Trials shall draw up a programme (card), as stipulated in A.1.4. above for distribution to participants at the Field Trial.

1.3 Prior Notification of Results of the Draw

At least three days prior to the Trial, each owner must be notified of the number(s) drawn by his/her dog(s) for the Trial.

2. AT THE TRIAL

2.1 KUSA Documents Required at the Venue during the Trial

The Secretary shall ensure that a copy of the “KUSA Constitution and Show Regulations” and a copy of the Schedule 5C(02) “Regulations for Flushing Spaniel Field Trials” be available at the venue during the Trial.

2.2 **Procedure in the Case of an Objection**

Club Secretaries shall familiarise themselves with the irregularity procedures under Section I.3 on page 6.

The Club Secretary or representative shall then notify committee members of the Club that there is an objection, and the irregularity shall be settled by a majority of committee members present at the Trial.

3. **JUDGES’ SIGNATURE ON ALL CERTIFICATES OF AWARD**

The Secretary of the Club holding the Trial must ensure that all Certificates of Award awarded at the Trial be correctly completed and be signed by all the official Judges.

Fedco – May 2008



68 Bree Street, Cape Town, 8001
P.O. Box 2659, Cape Town, 8000

TEL: +27 21 423 9027
FAX: +27 21 423 5876

www.kusa.co.za
EMAIL: info@kusa.co.za

