

# **SPORTING SPANIEL FIELD TRIAL RULES & REGULATIONS**

**Effective July 1, 2021**



**CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB**

**CLUB CANIN CANADIEN**

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## ***PURPOSE***

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The purpose of a Spaniel field trial is to demonstrate the performance of a properly trained Spaniel in the field. The performance should not differ from that in any ordinary day's shooting, except that in the trial a dog should do its work closer to perfection.

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# 1 INTERPRETATIONS

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## 1.1 Definitions

For the purpose of these rules and regulations, the following interpretations shall apply.

**“Board”** means the Board of Directors of The Canadian Kennel Club

**“breeder”** means the person owning or leasing the dam at the time of breeding

**“By-laws”** shall mean the By-laws of The Canadian Kennel Club

**“CKC”** means The Canadian Kennel Club

**“Club”** means The Canadian Kennel Club

**“club”** means a club or association accredited by The Canadian Kennel Club

**“complainant”** means any person who has laid a charge or complaint against another person, partnership, company or organization relative to the contravention of these rules, regulations, procedures and policies of The Canadian Kennel Club

**“debar”** means to prohibit a person from participating in any competition or other activities directed, sanctioned, sponsored or authorized by The Canadian Kennel Club if held under its auspices or under any of its rules and regulations

**“defendant”** means any person, partnership, company or organization against whom a charge or complaint has been laid, relative to the contravention of these rules, regulations, procedures and policies of The Canadian Kennel Club

**“deprive of privileges”** means to deprive a non-member of all privileges accorded to non-members of The Canadian Kennel Club, including the use of the Head Office

**“dog”** means a purebred dog of either sex

**“entrant”** means the individual, or if a partnership, all the members of the partnership, entering in a field trial

**“expel”** means to terminate membership in The Canadian Kennel Club and depriving the person

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so expelled from all privileges of The Canadian Kennel Club

**“good standing”** means an individual who is not under suspension, deprivation, debarment or who has not forfeited his right to participate in any Canadian Kennel Club approved event

**“handler”** means the person who is handling the dog in competition

**“Head Office”** means the office at which the business of The Canadian Kennel Club is carried out on a regular ongoing basis

**“immediate family”** means spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparents and significant other

**“just cause”** means how a reasonable person without personal bias or prejudice would act

**“owner”** means the owner or owners as stated on the registration certificate of the dog

**“purebred dog”** means a dog registered, or eligible for registration with, The Canadian Kennel Club

**“suspend”** means to deprive a member, for the period ordered, of all the privileges of The Canadian Kennel Club

*(01-05-18)* **“Temporary Competition Number”** means a number issued by the CKC that allows a dog of a recognized breed that is eligible for CKC registration to participate in CKC events. Dogs that require a Miscellaneous Certification Number, Performance Event Number, or Canine Companion Number, are not eligible for a Temporary Competition Number

This rulebook shall be read with all applicable changes in gender so that the masculine shall include the feminine and vice versa and the singular shall include the plural if applicable.

## **1.2 Field Trials Defined & Classified**

1.2.1 An approved field trial is a formal event given by a CKC accredited club at which championship points may be awarded.

1.2.2 A sanction field trial is an informal event given by a CKC accredited club at which dogs compete but do not earn qualifying scores towards a title.

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- 1.2.3 Limited Entry Open All-Age Stake is a stake given by a CKC accredited club at which championship points may be awarded but limits the entry. The minimum limit cannot be less than 50 dogs. A club that limits the entry must state this on the front of the premium list (see Section 6.6)
- 1.2.4 Minor stakes (Limit, Puppy and Novice Trials) may only be held in conjunction with and on the same day and at the same location as either an Open or Amateur All Age Field Trial. As well, there should be a limit of one of each minor stake type in the same day.  
*(09-04-21)*
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## **2 GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS**

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### **2.1 Eligibility of Clubs to Hold a Spaniel Field Trial**

- 2.1.1 Only CKC accredited clubs or associations in good standing with the CKC are eligible to apply for and hold a Spaniel field trial.
- 2.1.2 Field trial or specialty clubs formed for the improvement of several breeds of hunting Spaniels may give field trial stakes in which one or more breeds of Spaniels may compete together.
- 2.1.3 The use of an organization's name for field trial purposes cannot be transferred.
- 2.1.4 At club's discretion, they may choose to hold Amateur All-Age trials.

### **2.2 Adverse Weather Conditions** *(47-06-17)*

- 2.2.1 During adverse and/or severe weather conditions, it is at the discretion of the event giving club to cancel, curtail and/or postpone the judging of the event if the weather is severe enough to cause injury to the handler and their dog. No penalty shall be imposed by The Canadian Kennel Club if such condition has caused the cancellation or postponement of the event.  
*(47-06-17)*  
*(64-06-20)*
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## **2.3 Making Application**

- 2.3.1 A club or association applying to hold a Spaniel field trial or water test must make application on forms provided by the CKC. The Event Date Application must be submitted so as to be received not less than 180 days prior to the date of the proposed trial. The CKC will notify the club whether or not approval has been granted. If the date is granted and the club fails to hold its trial on the date approved, an administrative fee as set by the Board will be assessed against the club, unless the CKC waives this fee on grounds that the club had no alternative but to postpone or cancel.
- 2.3.2 The Event Secretary must be a regular member in good standing with the CKC.
- 2.3.3 The CKC shall have the authority to grant or withhold approval of an application for trial dates. In the event the approval is withheld, the trial-giving club shall have no claim against the CKC.
- 2.3.4 The avoidance of conflicting dates for trials will be a consideration in the processing of applications.
- 2.3.5 The CKC will not approve an application for a Spaniel field trial when dates conflict with one or more CKC Spaniel field trials being held less than 804.7 kms (500 miles) apart, unless it can be shown that the granting of such approval will not work to the detriment of either clubs.

## **2.4 CKC Publication**

- 2.4.1 All clubs holding Spaniel field trials are required to have copies of the latest edition of these Spaniel Field Trial Rules and Regulations available at the trial.

## **2.5 Advertising**

- 2.5.1 A club that has not been granted priority dates must not advertise or publish the date of any event that has not been approved by the CKC.
- 2.5.2 A club that has been granted priority dates for its event may advertise those dates prior to submitting the Event Date Application. This does not exempt the club from submitting the required applications to the CKC within the prescribed time frame.
- 2.5.3 A club must not advertise the names of the judges until the club has received official notification from the CKC that the judges have been approved.

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## **2.6 Sanction Field Trial**

- 2.6.1 Sanction field trials authorized by the CKC shall be governed by such rules and regulations as from time to time shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 2.6.2 A sanction field trial match is an informal event at which dogs may participate but not qualify for championship points. Sanction field trials are held by a club or association under the jurisdiction of the CKC.

## **2.7 Officials & Committees**

- 2.7.1 Any club or association holding a field trial under these rules must select a Chair of the Field Trial Committee and a Field Trial Secretary and their names and addresses must appear in the premium list.
- 2.7.2 Only those persons in good standing with the CKC may act in any official capacity at Spaniel Field Trials.
- 2.7.3 A dog that bites or attempts to bite another dog or a person may be removed from the event grounds or permits for the duration of the event by the Field Trial Secretary.
- 2.7.4 Where a person who has control or custody of a dog at a CKC event causes that dog to suffer serious injury or death through negligence or willful misconduct, the Field Trial Committee Chair shall file a report to the CKC for possible submission to the Discipline Committee.

## **2.8 Field Trial Committee**

- 2.8.1 Field trials shall be managed by a committee known as the Field Trial Committee, which shall consist of at least five (5) members.
- 2.8.2 The Field Trial Committee shall appoint sufficient officials to carry out its orders and those of the judges.
- 2.8.3 A distinctive identification shall be worn by the Field Trial Chair, Field Trial Secretary, Judges and Marshals at field trials to indicate their office.
- 2.8.4 The Field Trial Committee shall have the authority subject to the By-laws, rules, regulations and policies of The Canadian Kennel Club to:

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- (a) Interpret for the trial-giving club and to decide on all the running rules and matters not provided for therein.
  - (b) Refuse any entry for just cause but must file good and sufficient reasons for doing so with The Canadian Kennel Club within 2 weeks of the trial.
  - (c) Take action on any written objection to an entry.

2.8.5 The Field Trial Committee and Field Trial Chair shall be held responsible for the compliance with all of the applicable rules and regulations relating to field trials and must be supplied with a complete copy of the latest edition of the CKC rules and regulations for reference.

2.8.6 Field Trial Committees may make such regulations or additional rules for the governance of its field trial as shall be considered necessary provided such regulations or additional rules do not conflict with any rule or policy of The Canadian Kennel Club. A written report shall be submitted to the CKC with the trial results detailing such additional rules applied and their justification.

## **2.9 Handler with Disability**

2.9.1 At the judge's discretion a modification to the exercise/routine may be made to accommodate a handler with disabilities providing that such modification does not aid the dog's performance or inhibit other dogs and the dog is required to perform all exercises/routines.

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# **3 JUDGES**

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## **3.1 Application for Approval of Judges**

3.1.1 After a club has been granted permission by the CKC to hold a Spaniel field trial, the club must submit a Judging Panel Application. The application must be submitted so as to be received not less than 120 days prior to the date of the trial. The application sets forth the names and addresses of the persons selected to judge, as well as the stakes assigned to each judge.

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- 3.1.2 When the Judging Panel Application reaches the CKC less than 120 days prior to the date of the trial, an administrative fee as set by the Board will be assessed against the club.
- 3.1.3 Once approval is granted, the CKC will inform the trial-giving club that the judges have been approved. The trial secretary shall send to each approved judge a confirmation of assignment letter, supplied by the CKC, as well as any other pertinent information that the club may include.
- 3.1.4 If The Canadian Kennel Club is not prepared to approve a selected judge, or is not prepared to approve the entire assignment for which a judge has been selected, the club must submit to the Head Office of The Canadian Kennel Club the name or names of alternative persons to judge that stake or stakes.
- 3.1.5 Officers of the clubs holding field trials may run their dogs in their club's trials and may also judge any stake in which they do not run dogs.
- 3.1.6 (49-06-20) Once a panel of judges has been approved by the CKC, no change will be permitted except when necessary and with CKC permission (i.e. due to death or illness). If a judging change is necessary, the test giving club will inform the CKC and submit the name of a qualified replacement judge for approval. For All-Age stakes at least one of the judges must reside out of the province of the host club.

## **3.2 Judges' Eligibility**

- 3.2.1 A judge of any official stake must be a regular member of CKC in good standing.
- 3.2.2 In a Minor Stake (a Minor Stake is any stake other than All-Age Stake) there must be 2 judges and their combined experience must be such that they have judged not less than 3 All-Age Stakes.
- 3.2.3 In the All Age Stake there must be 2 judges and their combined experience must be such that they have judged not less than 5 All-Age Stakes.
- 3.2.4 A judge who has not judged an All-Age Stake at a CKC approved Spaniel field trial within 5 calendar years shall not be approved to judge the All-Age Stake, unless he has judged at least 3 minor stakes at a CKC approved Spaniel field trial within the previous 5 calendar years. Non-Resident judging assignments can count for these purposes.

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- 3.2.5 The CKC shall have the authority to prescribe from time to time, the requirements for eligibility to judge one or more stakes at CKC approved trials. It shall also have the authority to prescribe the procedures in order to determine and/or test the qualifications of a person seeking to establish eligibility to judge one or more stakes. It may prescribe regulations by which a person may be removed from the list of persons eligible for approval to judge at a CKC approved trial.
- 3.2.6 Judges of any official stake at a CKC approved Spaniel field trial should be thoroughly experienced in the handling, training and the requirements of spaniel work. They should have a thorough knowledge of the field trial rules and regulations. No person shall be selected to judge any official stake unless that person has handled a dog in an official All-Age Stake. AKC licensed trials will count for these purposes.
- 3.2.7 A non-resident may judge at a CKC approved field trial providing he is qualified to judge an All-Age stake in his country of residence or provided he is a CKC member and meets CKC eligibility requirements to judge the stake for which he has applied.

### **3.3 Judges' Authority**

- 3.3.1 A judge shall remove:
- (a) Any dog that does not obey its handler
  - (b) Any handler who wilfully interferes with another handler or dog
  - (c) Any dog, he may consider unfit to compete.
- 3.3.2 A judge's decision shall be final in all cases affecting the merits of the dogs. Full discretionary authority is given to the judge to withhold any, or all, awards for want of merit.

### **3.4 Substitute Judge**

- 3.4.1 Any person in good standing with The Canadian Kennel Club may be used as a substitute judge in an emergency. The substitute judge shall judge the stakes as originally approved by The Canadian Kennel Club. The Canadian Kennel Club shall be promptly notified of substitute judges on the appropriate forms.

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### **3.5 Indignities to a Judge**

- 3.5.1 A judge officiating at a trial held under these rules shall not be subjected to indignities of any kind during the progress of the trial. It shall be the duty and obligation of the club holding the trial to see that this rule is effectively carried out.

### **3.6 Judge's Conduct**

- 3.6.1 Any action or conduct, which leaves the impression of a judge being compromised, must be avoided. It is considered inappropriate for a judge officiating at an event to lodge with a competitor, prior to the completion of the judging assignment.
- 3.6.2 A judge must conduct himself in a manner that is fair and not prejudicial to the sport.

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## **4 PREMIUM LIST & CATALOGUE**

### **4.1 Premium List**

- 4.1.1 A standard premium list must be published by all clubs holding a Spaniel field trial under these rules. A club which has been granted permission to hold a trial and has received approval of its selected judges must prepare and have printed a Premium List with entry forms to be made available to prospective entrants.
- 4.1.2 Premium lists and entry forms shall be such size, in such form, and contain such information as prescribed by the CKC. The following information must be listed on the cover (or first inside page excluding the inside cover) of the premium list:
- (a) The words "Official Premium List"
  - (b) The name of the club or association holding the event
  - (c) Type of event being held
  - (d) Dates of the events
  - (e) Date and closing time for entries and whether post entries are accepted
  - (f) A statement setting forth the time, date and exact place at which the draw will take place
  - (g) A statement as to whether the trial is open to all Sporting Spaniels, or restricted to certain breeds

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- 4.1.3 The following must appear in a premium list:
- (a) Exact location of the event (may include a map showing the location of the site)
  - (b) A statement “These events held under the rules of The Canadian Kennel Club”
  - (95-05-19) (c) A list of the club officers (email address and phone number may be given if desired)
  - (d) A list of the Field Trial Committee including the Field Trial Chair
  - (e) The address and phone number of where entries are to be sent (if different from the Event Secretary)
  - (95-05-19) (f) A statement as to where entries are to be sent
  - (95-05-19) (g) A listing of the judges and their email addresses
  - (h) A complete list of the judge’s assignments broken down for each day
  - (i) A list of awards and prizes if offered
  - (j) A statement as to the order of running of the stakes, the date on which each will be run, the entry fee for each, and the type of birds to be used
  - (k) The name of the Chief Executive Officer of The Canadian Kennel Club and the address of the Head Office
  - (95-05-19) (l) The name, email address and telephone number of the CKC Board Member and CKC Spaniel Representative for the zone in which the trial will be held
  - (m) The statement “A listing fee as established by The Canadian Kennel Club must accompany the entry of a dog for which a Canadian Kennel Club individual registration number or Event Registration Number (ERN) is not shown on the entry form”
  - (n) A statement as to the stake or stakes that will be provided
  - (o) A statement to include the wording of Section 21.7 regarding indignities
- 4.1.4 At the time of distribution to prospective entrants, 2 copies of the premium list must be sent to The Canadian Kennel Club and one copy each to the Spaniel Field Trial Representative and Board member representing the zone in which the trial is to be held.
- 4.1.5 The Field Trial Committee may make such regulations or additional rules for the governance of its
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field trial as shall be considered necessary, provided such regulations or additional rules do not conflict with any rule of The Canadian Kennel Club. Such regulations or additional rules shall be printed in the premium list or entry form and violations thereof shall be considered the same as violations of the rules and regulations of The Canadian Kennel Club.

- 4.1.6 Every premium list or entry form shall specify the date on which the entries for the field trials shall close, but if so stated in the premium list or entry form, post entries may be accepted up to the time of the drawing.

## **4.2 Catalogue**

- 4.2.1 An official catalogue must be provided for all Spaniel Field Trials. The official catalogue must be printed or typed or available on electronic medium.

- 4.2.2 The following information must be listed on the outside front cover or the first page of the catalogue:

- (a) Name of the club or association holding the trial
- (b) The dates of the trials
- (c) The statement "This event held under the rules of The Canadian Kennel Club"
- (d) Exact location of the trial
- (e) List of the Field Trial Committee including the Field Trial Chair

- (95-05-19) (f) Name, email address and phone number of the Field Trial Secretary

- (95-05-19) (g) A complete list of the judges and their email address

- (h) A listing of each judge's assignment for each day

- (i) A statement to include the wording of Section 21.7

- (50-06-20) (j) Name of the Gun Captain

- 4.2.3 The information in the catalogue on each dog must be in the following order:

- (a) Catalogue number of the dog
- (b) Registered name of the dog (in capital letters only)

- (01-05-18) (c) Canadian Kennel Club registration number (if given) or Temporary Competition Number (TCN)

- (d) Date of birth



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- (e) Name of breeders
  - (f) Registered name of sire
  - (g) Registered name of dam
  - (h) Place of birth
  - (i) Name of owners
  - (95-05-19) (j) Email address of owners
  - (k) Agent (if applicable)
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## **5 RIBBONS & PRIZES**

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- 5.1.1 All clubs or associations holding Spaniel field trials under the rules of The Canadian Kennel Club, except sanctioned field trials, shall use the following colours for their prize ribbons or rosettes:
- First prize – blue
  - Second prize – red
  - Third prize – yellow
  - Fourth prize – white
  - Special prize – dark green
- 5.1.2 Each ribbon or rosette, except those used at sanctioned field trials, shall be at least 5 cm (2 inches) wide, and approximately 20 cm (8 inches) long; and bear on its face a facsimile of the crest of The Canadian Kennel Club, the name of the prize, and the name of the field trial-giving club with numerals of the year and date of trial.
- 5.1.3 If ribbons are given at sanctioned field trials, they shall be of the following colours, but may be of any design or size:
- First prize – rose
  - Second prize – brown
  - Third prize – light green
  - Fourth prize – grey
  - Special prize – a combination of these colours.
- 5.1.4 If money prizes are offered, a fixed amount for each prize shall be stated.
- 5.1.5 All special prizes, not money, which may be offered, shall be accurately described or the value stated. Stud services shall not be accepted as special prizes.
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## **6 ENTRIES & END OF TRIAL**

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### **6.1 Entry Requirements**

- 6.1.1 Every dog entered in an approved or sanctioned Spaniel field trial must be one of the following:
- (a) Registered with the CKC
  - (b) Have an Event Registration Number (ERN)
  - (c) Eligible for registration with the CKC
- 6.1.2 *(01-05-18)* If a dog is not registered with the CKC, it may be entered at a field trial held under these regulations with a Temporary Competition Number (TCN), provided that:
- (a) If born in Canada, it is eligible for individual CKC registration.
  - (b) If not born in Canada, it is eligible for individual registration in the records of the CKC.
  - (c) If foreign born and owned, it obtains an Event Registration Number (ERN) or CKC registration number, from the CKC within 30 days of the first trial entered.
- 6.1.3 *(01-05-18)* The entry of a dog with a Temporary Competition Number (TCN) at a field trial held under these rules (sanctioned field trials excluded) must be accompanied by a listing fee and all listing fees must be remitted by the club or association holding the trial to The Canadian Kennel Club within 21 days after the trial.
- 6.1.4 *(01-05-18)* The CKC shall have the right at any time to require the owner of a dog with a Temporary Competition Number (TCN) to submit proof of the dog's eligibility for registration with the CKC. If The Canadian Kennel Club is satisfied that the dog is not eligible for registration in the CKC studbook, it shall have the right to order the cancellation of all awards, championship points and prizes earned by the dog at these trials.
- 6.1.5 Failure to comply with The Canadian Kennel Club's order to return ribbons and/or prizes to the clubs or associations concerned will result in the owner of the dog automatically rendering himself ineligible to enter dogs in any competition approved by The Canadian Kennel Club.

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- 6.1.6 Entries must not be accepted from any person who is not in good standing with The Canadian Kennel Club on the day of entries closing. A list of persons not in good standing shall be forwarded to the Field Trial Secretary by The Canadian Kennel Club.
- 6.1.7 Under no circumstances can telephone entries be accepted.
- 6.1.8 A dog is not eligible to be entered in any field trial in any stake in which championship points are given, if the judge of that stake or any member of his family owns or has owned, sold, held under lease, retained financial interest in, boarded, trained or handled the dog within 6 months prior to the date of the field trial.
- 6.1.9 The owner or agent entering a dog in a trial does so at his own risk, and agrees to abide by the rules of The Canadian Kennel Club.
- 6.1.10 Electronic entries are allowed. They must include an electronic signature and promise of payment acceptable to the event giving club.

## **6.2 Entry Forms**

- 6.2.1 The following information must appear on each entry form:
- (a) Registered name of dog
  - (01-05-18) (b) CKC individual registration number (if registered in the CKC studbook), Event Registration Number (ERN), or foreign registration number or Temporary Competition Number (TCN)
  - (c) Name of breed
  - (d) Sex of dog
  - (e) Date and place of birth
  - (f) Name of sire and dam
  - (g) Names of breeders
  - (h) Stake entered
  - (i) Name of the owner (name of lessee shall be given instead of the owner if the dog is being held under lease)
  - (j) Complete address of owner or lessee
  - (k) Name of handler if the dog is not to be handled by the owner or a member of his immediate family
  - (l) Signature of owner, lessee or authorized agent

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- 6.2.2 Owners or lessees are responsible for errors or omissions in completing the entry forms, regardless of who makes the error.
- 6.2.3 No entry shall be made under a kennel name unless the name has been registered with the CKC. All entries under a kennel name must be signed with the name of the kennel followed by the word “registered”.
- 6.2.4 An entrant is the individual, or if a partnership, all the members of the partnership entering a dog in a trial. In the case of entry by partnership, every member of a partnership entering a dog must be in good standing with The Canadian Kennel Club before the entry will be accepted. In the case of any infraction of these rules, all the partners shall be held equally responsible.
- 6.2.5 All entries must be made on an official CKC entry form and must show all particulars as set forth in these rules. The Field Trial Secretary shall supply entry forms. Any dog proven not to correspond with its entry form shall be disqualified and all winnings and entry money shall be forfeited. Should the act of fraudulent entry be proven, the owner and/or handler, shall be referred to the Discipline Committee of the CKC who shall take such action as it sees fit.
- 6.2.6 If the dog is not registered individually in the records of The Canadian Kennel Club, the litter registration number must be stated on the entry form if the dog was born in Canada.
- 6.2.7 If not born in Canada then either the dog’s individual registration number or Event Registration Number (ERN) must be stated on the entry form.
- 6.2.8 If the dog is being held under lease the name of the lessor shall be given. Every entry form must be signed by the owner or handler of the dog entered in competition.
- 6.2.9 Facsimile entries are allowed. The entry must include a signature and promise of payment acceptable to the event giving club.

### **6.3 Entry Fees**

- 6.3.1 A club may not accept an entry fee other than that which is published in the premium list or entry form or in any way discriminate between entrants.
- 6.3.2 The entry of a dog at a field trial held under these rules must be accompanied by the entry fee.
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- 6.3.3 Tendering of a dishonoured cheque or credit card in payment of entry fees shall be considered non-payment of entry fees, and is an offence punishable by disciplinary action and cancellation of awards.
- 6.3.4 The Field Trial committee may decline any entry or may remove any dog from its trial for just cause, but in each such instance, shall file good and sufficient reasons for doing so with The Canadian Kennel Club within 2 weeks of the trial.
- 6.3.5 Non-compliance with this section of these rules shall be considered an offence punishable by disciplinary action and cancellation of awards.

## **6.4 Bitches in Season**

- 6.4.1 Bitches in season are not permitted to compete or enter, nor shall they be allowed on the grounds.

## **6.5 Withdrawals**

- 6.5.1 Any dog withdrawn because of injury or illness, or for a dog that dies, or a bitch that comes into season shall be refunded in full by the event-giving club. Prior to paying such refund, the club may require an appropriate veterinary certificate.
- 6.5.2 The event-giving club is free to formulate its own policy with reference to refunds for other reasons provided that the terms thereof are clearly stated in the premium list.

## **6.6 Limiting Number of Entries - All-Age Stake**

- 6.6.1 A club may be permitted to limit the number of entries in an All-Age Stake but the minimum entry shall be 50 dogs. If the number of entries received by the closing date exceeds the number of dogs permitted to enter then a draw shall be held to select the dogs for the trial. If a host club chooses to limit the number of entries in an All-Age Stake, the appropriate information must be stated on the Premium list.
- 6.6.2 A club wishing to limit the number of entries in an All-Age Stake must state this on its Event Date Application submitted to the CKC.

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- 6.6.3 The host club, having received approval from the CKC to hold a limited entry All-Age Stake, must select the entries by draw in accordance with the following rules:
- (a) The draw must be held with the full field trial committee present
  - (b) All entries meeting entry requirements as provided for in section 6 of the Sporting Spaniel Field Trial Rules and Regulations must be included in the draw
  - (c) Persons entering more than one dog may choose to enter each dog individually or submit all entries in one envelope for purposes of the draw
  - (d) If an envelope containing a multiple entry is drawn and puts the total number of dogs over the announced limited entry, then all dogs in the multiple entry will be permitted to participate. For example, if the entry is limited to 50 dogs, and the envelope selected as 49th contains a multiple entry of 4 dogs, then all 53 dogs chosen may participate in the trial
  - (e) Entry monies for those dogs not selected in the draw shall be promptly refunded
  - (f) Entry monies shall not be refunded for dogs that are selected in the draw but are subsequently scratched for reasons other than those permitted in the Sporting Spaniel Field Trial Rules and Regulations.
- 6.6.4 The number of entries in the Canadian National Open and Amateur Championship Stake cannot be limited.

## **6.7 Health**

- 6.7.1 No dog may be entered at a trial if it has any communicable disease.  
*(90-05-19)*
- 6.7.2 Dogs entered in a test must have current immunization status.  
*(90-05-19)*
- 6.7.3 No dog may be brought onto the grounds or premises of a trial if it:  
*(90-05-19)*
- (90-05-19)* (a) is known to have distemper, parvovirus, kennel cough or other communicable disease or
  - (90-05-19)* (b) has recovered from distemper, parvovirus, kennel cough or other communicable disease within the last 30 days.

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(90-05-19) (c) has been housed within 30 days prior to the show, trial or test on premises on which there existed distemper, parvovirus, kennel cough or other communicable disease.

6.7.4 Where it is found that these rules have been contravened, the dog in question shall be removed from the show, trial or test premises/grounds and the exhibitor will be subject to disciplinary action.  
(90-05-19)

## **6.8 Disqualification**

6.8.1 Any dog disqualified for biting or viciousness shall automatically be disqualified from entering in any other event in any other discipline until such time as the dog is officially reinstated.

6.8.2 The judge shall have the authority to disqualify or excuse a dog which menaces, threatens or attempts to bite the judge, another person, or another dog. If a dog is twice excused for any combination of these actions, it shall have the status of a disqualified dog. The judge shall also have the authority to disqualify or excuse a dog which attempts to bite, or bites in response to an attack from another dog.  
(58-06-17)

6.8.3 The judge shall disqualify or permanently disqualify a dog which bites the judge, another person or any dog. Dogs permanently disqualified under this provision will not be eligible for reinstatement. The decision to permanently disqualify a dog must be clearly indicated on the Judge's Disqualification Form.  
(58-06-17)

6.8.4 Once a dog has been disqualified for any reason at a Spaniel Field Trial, it may not be entered until the dog has been reinstated by the CKC. All awards earned by a dog in violation of this section will be cancelled by the CKC and the owner of the dog is subject to disciplinary action. A dog disqualified under section 6.8.3 is not eligible for reinstatement.  
(19-03-16)

6.8.5 Any dog that is disqualified under section 6.8.3 shall automatically be disqualified from entering in any other CKC event in any other discipline until such time as the dog is officially reinstated, if the dog is eligible for reinstatement.  
(19-03-16)

6.8.6 Reinstatement

(19-03-16) (a) The owner of a dog which has been disqualified at an event trial held under these rules may, after

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30 days from the date of said disqualification, apply in writing to the CKC for reinstatement of the dog, unless the dog is ineligible for reinstatement as per Section 6.8.3. The request for reinstatement must be accompanied by a deposit as set by the Board.

## **6.9 End of Trial**

- 6.9.1 *(21-12-19)* The Field Trial Secretary shall, within 14 days of the completion of an approved field trial, forward to The Canadian Kennel Club the official catalogue marked to indicate awards and absentees and certified by the Field Trial Secretary in the judge's book.
- 6.9.2 At the conclusion of judging the Field Trial Secretary shall provide the judges with a list or log book containing the full names of all dogs entered and the names and addresses of the owners.
- 6.9.3 *(21-12-19)* The Field Trial Secretary shall file the judges' book and all original entry forms. The Field Trial Secretary shall forward to The Canadian Kennel Club within 14 days after completion of the trial the following:
- (a) A signed certification over the signature of the Field Trial Secretary of the club as to the number of listed dogs entered and the total number of dogs entered in competition
  - (b) The judges' book
  - (c) All entry forms
  - (d) Any other information or reports which may be required by the CKC
- 6.9.4 *(21-12-19)* The trial-giving club is responsible for the collection of all listing fees and the submission of same to The Canadian Kennel Club so as to be received not more than 14 days after the closing of the trial.
- 6.9.5 In the event that the CKC establishes that the remittance fails to cover the fees set forth, an administrative fee as set by the Board will be assessed against the club.
- 6.9.6 An administrative fee as set by the Board will be imposed for each day's delay in the returns reaching the CKC.



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## **7 UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

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- 7.1 It shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct if a person during the running of or in connection with an event abuses or harasses a judge, trial official or any other person present in any capacity at the event.
- 7.2 Any handler who displays unsportsmanlike conduct or who is seen to kick, strike or otherwise roughly manhandle a dog while on the grounds of a Spaniel field trial at any time during the holding of the event, may be expelled from the trial by the Spaniel Field Trial Committee.
- 7.3 The judges shall also have the authority to expel a handler from a trial if they observe unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of a handler or see a handler kicking, striking or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog while the event is in progress. It will be the duty of the judge to report promptly to the Spaniel Field Trial Committee the expulsion of a handler.
- 7.4 The Spaniel Field Trial Committee shall investigate, at once, any instance of alleged unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the handler, or any report that a handler has been observed kicking, striking or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog. If the Spaniel Field Trial Committee, after investigation, determines that a handler is in violation of this section, and that the incident, if proven, would constitute conduct prejudicial to the sport or the CKC, it shall exercise its authority in accordance with the Complaints section of these rules.
- 7.5 The trial secretary shall submit to the CKC a complete report of any hearing action taken under this section within 21 days.

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## **8 CANCELLATION OF PLACEMENTS**

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- 8.1 A dog entered in any stake for which it is ineligible, when confirmed by the judges' book, shall forfeit all prizes and awards.
- 8.2 If the placement of a dog is cancelled, the dog next in order of merit shall be moved up and the place-

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ment of the dog moved up shall be counted the same as if it had been the original award.

- 8.3 When the placement of a dog is cancelled by The Canadian Kennel Club, the entrant of the dog shall return all awards and prizes for such win to the field trial secretary of the trial-giving club within 10 days of notification by The Canadian Kennel Club.

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## **9 SPECIAL RULES FOR SPANIEL FIELD TRIALS**

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### **9.1 Guidelines**

- 9.1.1 In all stakes the Spaniels shall be regularly shot over in the customary sporting manner and may be worked in various wind patterns, and on fur and feather, as well as in water when possible.
- 9.1.2 No handler shall carry any training or other handling equipment (except whistle) exposed or in such manner that it may be used as a steadying aid or threat.
- 9.1.3 Only trials that are run on live full-winged bird, (64-06-20) or on rabbits, or both, shall be permitted to carry championship points.
- 9.1.4 The use of any trap or contrivance from which game can be released is prohibited. All Provincial and Federal regulations regarding the use of game birds and/or rock doves must be respected.
- 9.1.5 Two judges only shall officiate at one time. Both judges of a stake are required to examine game before a decision is made as to hard mouth.
- 9.1.6 Splitting prizes and/or places at Spaniel Field Trials is prohibited.
- 9.1.7 In the event of a disagreement between the judges on any question, the Field Trial Committee or the club giving the trial shall appoint a referee to cast the deciding vote.
- 9.1.8 The decisions of the Field Trial Committee shall, in all matters arising at the trial, be final and conclusive and shall bind all parties subject to the rules of The Canadian Kennel Club.

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## 9.2 Postponement

- 9.2.1 In the event the weather is unsuitable for holding the trial, the Field Trial Committee may suspend indefinitely, cancel or postpone any trial up to 3 days beyond the last advertised date. Notice of such suspension or postponement shall be forwarded immediately to the CKC. Postponement beyond 3 days must have CKC approval.
- 9.2.2 In the event of a postponement, any competitor shall have the right to withdraw his entry and his entry fee shall be refunded.
- 9.2.3 In the event the weather is still unsuitable after 3 days, the Field Trial Committee may cancel the trial.
- 9.2.4 When, due to circumstances beyond its control, the Field Trial Committee may, subject to CKC approval, alter the original date of the trial after the closing of the entries. All competitors must be formally notified, who may exercise their option of canceling their entries within 4 days from the date of such notice. Any competitor who cancels under such notification shall have his entry refunded. Any competitor, who does not exercise this option, will automatically have his entry carried over to the altered date of the trial.

## 9.3 Order of Running

- 9.3.1 The order of running in any stake shall be decided (64-06-20) by lot at the draw. Dogs worked by the same person or belonging to the same owner should be separated when possible. The judges will carry on the trial of 2 dogs simultaneously, working parallel beats as far as possible and not requiring any cooperation in quartering. At the end of each series the judges will call up any dogs they require to be run in additional series. In no event may a dog not under judgement be used to create a pair. All dogs that are awarded a placing or Certificates of Merit shall have been down for one performance under each of the 2 officiating judges. There must be a minimum of 3 series in All Age stakes unless lack of birds, inclement weather, etc., dictates otherwise.

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## **10 REGULAR OFFICIAL STAKES**

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### **10.1 General**

10.1.1 The Regular Official Stakes at a Spaniel Field Trial (51-06-20) shall be Puppy, Limit, Novice, Open All-Age, Amateur All-Age and Shooting Dog.

### **10.2 Puppy Stake**

10.2.1 A Puppy Stake at a Spaniel Field Trial shall be for dogs at least 6 months of age and under 2 years of age on the day of the trial at which the Puppy Stake is judged.

(52-06-20) (a) The points earned for the purpose of calculating high point status for puppy stake/ limit stake be determined as follows:

If 4 or more entries:

1st place	5 points
2nd place	3 points
3rd place	2 points
4th place	1 point

If 3 entries:

1st place	3 points
2nd place	2 points
3rd place	1 point

If 2 entries:

1st place	2 points
2nd place	1 point

If 1 entry:

1st place	1 point
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### **10.3 Limit Stake**

10.3.1 A Limit Stake at a Spaniel Field Trial shall be for dogs at least 6 months of age on the day of the trial that have not placed in an All-Age Stake, or received 2 first placements in any Regular Official Stake (Puppy Stake excepted), at an approved trial in Canada or any equivalent Spaniel trial in any other country.

(53-06-20) (a) The points earned for the purpose of calculating high point status for puppy stake/ limit stake be determined as follows:

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If 4 or more entries:  
1st place 5 points  
2nd place 3 points  
3rd place 2 points  
4th place 1 point

If 3 entries:  
1st place 3 points  
2nd place 2 points  
3rd place 1 point

If 2 entries:  
1st place 2 points  
2nd place 1 point

If 1 entry:  
1st place 1 point

#### **10.4 Open All-Age Stake**

10.4.1 An Open All-Age Stake at a Spaniel Field Trial shall be for all dogs at least 6 months of age, on the day of the trial at which the stake is judged.

#### **10.5 Amateur All-Age Stake**

10.5.1 An Amateur All-Age Stake at a Spaniel Field Trial shall be for dogs at least 6 months of age, on the day of the trial at which the stake is being judged.

10.5.2 A person shall be considered an amateur if he has not attempted to receive any part of his livelihood from the training, handling or showing of field trial or hunting dogs in the calendar year of the trial or the preceding calendar year.

10.5.3 Dog running in Amateur stakes must be owned by (64-06-20) an amateur and handled by an amateur. Dogs that are owned, either in whole or in part, by a professional are excluded from entry in CKC approved Amateur All-Age Stakes.

#### **10.6 Shooting Dog Stake**

10.6.1 A Shooting Dog Stake at a Spaniel Field Trial shall be open to all dogs at least 6 months of age, on the day of the trial at which the stake is judged.

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## **10.7 Novice Stake** *(54-06-20)*

10.7.1 A Novice Stake at a Spaniel Field Trial shall be for *(54-06-20)* dogs at least 6 months of age on the day of the trial (with no age limit) that have not placed in an All-Age Stake.

10.7.2 Dog running in Amateur stakes must be owned *(54-06-20)* by an amateur and handled by an amateur (in accordance with the rules 10.5.2). Dogs that are owned, either in whole or in part, by a professional are excluded from entry in CKC approved Novice Stakes.

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# **11 FIELD TRIAL CHAMPION**

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## **11.1 Points**

11.1.1 Provided that there are at least 10 starters in the *(55-06-20)* Stake, the dogs awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the All-Age Stake shall be credited with championship points as follows:

- (a) First - 5 points
- (b) Second - 3 points
- (c) Third - 2 points
- (d) Fourth - 1 point

## **11.2 Requirements**

11.2.1 To acquire an Open All-Age Field Trial Championship, a “FTCH”, a dog must:

- (a) win at least 10 points including at least one 5-point win in Open All-Age Stakes.
- (b) the 10 points earned must be earned under at least 2 different sets of judges
- (c) a dog must have placed no less than 4th in an Open All-Age Stake in which live full winged gamebirds (such as Pheasant and or Chukar Partridge) were used.

11.2.2 To acquire an Amateur All-Age Field Trial Championship, a “AFTCH”, a dog must:

- (a) Win at least 10 points including at least one 5 point win in Amateur All-Age Stakes.

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- (b) The 10 points earned must be earned under at least 2 different sets of judges.
  - (c) A dog must have placed no less than 4th in an Amateur All Age Stake in which live full winged game birds (such as Pheasants and or Chukar Partidge) were used.

11.2.3 Before a dog shall receive its field trial championship it must have shown its ability to retrieve game from water, after a swim. The holding of water tests during a field trial will be left to the discretion of the Field Trial Committee of the club conducting the trial, and the premium list of the trial shall state whether or not a water test will be conducted. Dogs competing must, if required by the judges to do so, take such a test. Refusal by an owner or handler to let his dog take such a test will disqualify the dog in the stake in which it is competing. It is the responsibility of the Field Trial Secretary or Committee to submit the results properly signed by the judges so that they will carry championship points and be recorded by The Canadian Kennel Club.

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## **12 NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP STAKE & NATIONAL AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP STAKE**

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### **12.1 Eligibility**

- 12.1.1 The winner of the National Open Championship stake will automatically become a Canadian Open Field Trial Champion and is also entitled to be designated “National Open Spaniel Champion”.
- 12.1.2 The winner of the National Amateur Championship Stake will automatically become a Canadian Amateur Field Trial Champion and is also entitled to be designated “National Amateur Spaniel Champion.
- 12.1.3 The dog declared the winner of the last National Open Championship Stake shall be invited to compete in the stake. Pursuant to this regulation and until otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors of The Canadian Kennel Club, entry of dogs in this stake shall be confined to the following dogs:

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- (56-06-20) (a) A dog which has placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th in an Open All Age Stake at a CKC approved trial held under these rules hosted by a member club in good standing with the Canadian National Spaniel Field Trial Association (CNSFTA) will be qualified for the following two (2) National Open Championship Stakes.
- (b) All dogs which have previously won this Stake

12.1.4 The dog declared the winner of the last National Amateur Championship Stake shall be invited to compete in the stake. Pursuant to this regulation and until otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors of The Canadian Kennel Club, entry of dogs in this stake shall be confined to the following:

- (56-06-20) (a) A dog which has placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th in an Amateur All Age Stake at a CKC approved trial held under these rules hosted by a member club in good standing with the Canadian National Spaniel Field Trial Association (CNSFTA) will be qualified for the following two (2) National Amateur Championship Stakes.
- (b) All dogs which have previously won this Stake.

## **12.2 Eligibility for 2021** (10-04-21)

12.2.1 Any dog that qualified for the 2020 National Open (10-04-21) Championship shall be qualified for the 2021 National Open Championship.

12.2.2 Any dog that has placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th in an (10-04-21) Open All Age Stake at an AKC approved trial in 2021 will be qualified for the 2021 National Open Championship Stake. The owner/agent of the dog in question must prove such to the National Field Trial Secretary 2 weeks prior to the trial closing date.

12.2.3 Any dog that qualified for the 2020 National Ama- (10-04-21) teur Championship shall be qualified for the 2021 National Amateur Championship.

12.2.4 Any dog that has placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th in an (10-04-21) Amateur All Age Stake at an AKC approved trial in 2021 will be qualified for the 2021 National Amateur Championship Stake. The owner/agent of the dog in question must prove such to the National Field Trial Secretary 2 weeks prior to the trial closing date.



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## **12.2 Points**

- 12.2.1 Championship points will be as set out for an All-Age Stake, along with such prizes as may be offered in the premium list for the stake.

## **12.3 Judges**

- 12.3.1 Two judges only shall officiate. Each judge must *(54-12-16)* have previously judged at least 5 All-Age Stakes at approved Spaniel Field Trials. At least one judge shall be a Canadian resident or a Canadian citizen.

## **12.4 Committee**

- 12.4.1 The organizing club shall name a Field Trial Committee to manage the stake and will be held responsible for enforcing the rules and regulations for the stake as set by The Canadian Kennel Club.

## **12.5 The Stakes**

- 12.5.1 The National stakes must have at least 6 series, 5 on land and one in water. The dogs should run in pairs for at least 4 land series, but it is required that each dog competing must be paired with another dog in at least 2 of these series; in all 4 if possible. In no event may a dog not under judgement be used to create a pair.
- 12.5.2 In the first land series all dogs shall run in the order that they are called to the line.
- 12.5.3 Dogs called back by each judge after the 1st series shall run under the other judge in the 2nd series. Dogs called back for a 3rd series shall be placed under the judges in the order that they are called to the line (as in 1st series). Dogs called back by each judge after the third land series will run under the other judge in the 4th series. Dogs called back for a 5th series shall be judged independently by both judges.
- 12.5.4 The posting of scores after each series shall be at the discretion of the Field Trial Committee. If points are posted after each series the final series shall be posted as the average of the 2 judges' totals.

## **12.6 Ribbons**

- 12.6.1 Ribbons shall be provided for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places.

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- 12.6.2 A club may issue Field Trial Certificates of Merit to dogs placed in Field Trials or designated for such Certificate of Merit by the judges for meritorious work at an approved field trial.
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## **13 BASIC PRINCIPLES OF SPANIEL FIELD TRIALS**

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- 13.1 The purpose of Spaniel Field Trials is to demonstrate the performance of a properly trained Spaniel in the field. The performance should not differ from that in any ordinary day's shooting, except that in trials a dog should do his work closer to perfection.
- 13.2 The function of a hunting Spaniel is to seek, find and flush game in an eager, brisk, quiet manner and when game is shot, to mark the fall or direction thereof and retrieve to hand. The dog should walk at heel or on a leash until ordered to seek game and should then thoroughly hunt the designated cover, within gunshot, in line of quest, without unnecessarily covering the ground twice and should flush game boldly and without urging. When game is flushed, a dog must hup or sit to flush **or** command, and, if game is shot, must retrieve on command only, but not until the judge has instructed the handler. Dogs should retrieve quickly and briskly when ordered to do so and deliver tenderly to hand. They should then sit or "hup", until given further orders. Spaniels which bark and give tongue questing are objectionable and should be severely penalized.
- 13.3 A Spaniel is a hunting dog who is also a retriever. His first job is to seek, find and flush game. This he should do with great desire, eagerness and the necessary drive. His second, is to bring the game to bag. Hence, he should be able to mark well the fall of game, to persevere on wounded game, and to retrieve promptly to hand.
- 13.4 Hunting and game finding are his primary requisites. To do this within gun range is an absolute requirement. This and the change from a hunting dog to a retriever demands discipline of a high order. Hence, those qualities instilled by training (control, steadiness and responsiveness) are of great importance.
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- 13.5 If hunting and game finding are primary, natural ability is clearly the most important quality and this includes nose and intelligence. Natural and trained abilities produces the capable dog.
- 13.6 The judges and the Field Trial Committee have complete control over the mechanism for the conduct of each trial.
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## **14 GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO JUDGES**

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- 14.1 The judge can only evaluate the performance before him on that day and under those conditions and must not consider previous performances.
- 14.2 The judge should not seek the advice of handlers or gunners or others, but reach his conclusions solely on his own. He may ask a gunner to indicate the point of fall of a bird. The judge is free to move to any position that he feels is warranted; he can search the ground for a fallen bird; he may, in his discretion, disregard any evidence not conclusive to him and proceed to further test the dog.
- 14.3 On the completion of the 1st series, judges may consult and each selects the dogs he wishes to bring back for a 2nd series under the other judge. Dogs, which have committed a major fault such as breaking or chasing, are therefore eliminated. If time permits and the number of Spaniels is not too great, all can be brought back that have shown merit and have not disqualified themselves. When in doubt, it is not out of order to give the dog the benefit of that doubt since there will be opportunity to demonstrate ability or the lack of it in the next and, if desired, in subsequent series.
- 14.4 However, when the number of dogs is large, a more difficult problem arises, since both judges should, insofar as possible, follow the same standard of selection. One should not condemn for the faults the other overlooks. There will be occasions when better performances seem to be all on one side and poorer performances occur under the other judge. Under such conditions an unbalanced 2nd series cannot be helped in a stake with a small entry, but with a large entry some equitable basis of selection can usually be agreed upon by the judges.
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- 14.5 Owners have often come long distances, spent months in training their dogs and all have paid the same entry fee. It helps an owner to accept the result if his dog is given ample opportunity to demonstrate clearly his good or weak qualities. It is better to spend the time testing thoroughly the abilities of the better dogs in successive series.
- 14.6 (55-12-16) When the judge gives a line to a handler and dog to follow, this must be followed and the dog not allowed to interfere with the other dog running parallel to him. The dog must "honour" the other dog's work. He must not have any forward motion when a gun is fired and must not interfere with the other dog's retrieve. On an honour, the dog should be steady, thereafter the handler may handle as they see fit unless otherwise instructed by the judge.
- 14.7 In a stake, judges while seeking the information with which to make their placings, must balance all factors of differing terrain, varying cover and wind. There are judges who would like to reproduce as nearly as possible the same conditions and tests for each dog since that indeed would simplify their job. This approach would result in artificial rather than natural conditions.
- 14.8 Judges will have to decide how to deal with unusual conditions. Certainly one that can be effective only in one type of cover or the other is of less value than a dog that can take the terrain as it comes and solve all the problems even when his handler can give him little help. Hence a tendency on the part of the handler to overdirect or overhandle should be looked upon as evidence of weakness in the dog no matter how perfect the result. Correspondingly greater value should be placed on the performance of a dog that requires a minimum of handling and direction.
- 14.9 The words 'flush game boldly and without urging' were included to clarify the problem of the 'pointing Spaniel'. Unless care is taken in training with planted birds a Spaniel can form the habit of hesitating on game, which is only one step from 'blinking' hence undesirable and to be discouraged. Were all training carried out on wild birds and all trials run on game roaming the fields at will, as in the earlier days, this problem would seldom arise. The only caution to the judge is that he should recognize the poorness of the scent given out by a deeply planted bird that has not moved and the difficulty of quickly locating it and hence make allowance as his judgement dictates. The brief pause when a dog that has located a bird by
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nose attempts to verify its position in order to pick up or force it into the air cannot be described as pointing, but such hesitation should not be prolonged.

- 14.10 Field trials are designed as a test to discover the best dogs, not as contests to discover individuals that have made no mistake. A negative approach will not necessarily eliminate all good dogs, but there is no trial in which fine, energetic dogs will not have committed some minor fault. Judging on faults rather than positive qualities can result in a set of placements that fail to possess class and hunting drive necessary if the breed is to improve or even hold its own.
- 14.11 A judge who constantly directs the handler and instructs him to put his dog 'in here' or 'in there' can cause a handler to 'hack' his dog and upset both dog and handler. The general practice is to give the handler the fullest instructions at the start, to assume he knows what he is doing and aside from obvious and unintended departures from those instructions, to let the handler run his dog. Only when it is unproductive over a long beat and the judge has knowledge of the presence of game in a neglected area is it wise to interfere.
- 14.12 Judges must judge the dogs for game-finding ability, steadiness and retrieving. In game finding the dog should cover all his ground on the beat, leaving no game in his territory and showing courage in facing cover. Dogs must drop to wing and shot and obey all commands. When ordered to retrieve they should do this tenderly and with speed. No trials for Spaniels can possibly be run without retrieving, as that is one of the main purposes for which a Spaniel is used.
- 14.13 The words 'be steady' are interpreted to mean that a dog will either sit or 'hup' to wing and shot or, at very least, will cease all forward motion. Occasionally a dog will stand on its hind legs, better to mark the line and see the fall. If he does this and remains in position, or if he merely stands rather than sits, it is not considered a fault. The old English word 'hup' is presumed to have meant 'the bird is up' and that the dog should remain in place, presumably in a sitting or 'hupped' position.
- 14.14 No person at an approved or sanction field trial shall throw a live bird into the air and have gunners shoot to kill the bird with the intent for a dog to make a retrieve. When a dog is on a retrieve with a live bird pick-up and the dog drops the bird and the bird then flies away, it will be at the judge's discretion whether

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the guns should shoot the bird. If a dog retrieves a live bird pick-up; and if the bird accidentally flies away after the handler has made contact, then the judge must instruct the gunners not to shoot the bird.

#### 14.15 Balancing Time and Distance

- (a) In this connection it is to be noted that some judges feel equal opportunity has been given in a series if, say, each dog has the opportunity to complete 2 retrieves. When a long birdless beat is encountered, they will in this effort keep one dog down for a far greater time than the others and thus place a greater burden on his strength.
- (b) Under such circumstances, the dog that keeps trying should receive credit. However, it is better to attempt a balance of time and distance. Guns will miss, birds will flush back toward the gallery, birds will run off the course. These troubles sometimes seem to happen all at once to the one poor victim of mischance. A judge should bear in mind that there will be further opportunities to test the dog in later series when, because of the reduced number of dogs, each may be given more time and attention and more retrieves.
- (c) Taking a dog up too quickly is another error into which judges occasionally fall. A dog may quickly demonstrate to a judge all the qualities he is looking for, have the good fortune to promptly flush game and retrieve the fall. Nevertheless, it is well to carry on a ways to see if the groundwork continues well and to study the dog's responses. If this results in one or even more additional finds, the judge has additional evidence on which to base his judgement. At any moment suitable to the judge the testing may be ended by taking the dog up though it were better not to do so at a moment when the dog gives evidence that game is in the immediate vicinity.

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## **15 EVALUATION OF DOG WORK**

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### **15.1 Judging Performance**

- 15.1.1 A dog must work to his handler and gun at all times. A dog, which marks the fall of a bird, uses the wind,

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follows a strong runner which has been wounded, and will take direction from his handler, is of great value.

- 15.1.2 (57-06-20) If a dog, following the trail of a bird or rabbit, is getting too far out he should be called off the trail and later should be re-cast back on it. A dog, which causes his handler and gun to run after him while tracking, is out of control. However, a dog that causes a handler to move quickly, but can be stopped at the edge of gun range allowing the handler to catch up is of great value and shall be marked accordingly. Handlers may control their dogs by hand, voice, or whistle, but only in the quiet manner that would be used in the field. Any loud shouting or whistling is evidence that the dog is hard to handle, and in addition, is disturbing to the game.
- 15.1.3 Good judging requires a positive attitude - searching for good qualities of every dog - in contrast to a negative attitude in which the judge could, if he were so inclined, be primarily interested in emphasizing those faults which penalize or disqualify contestants.
- 15.1.4 In judging a Spaniel's work, judges should rate the following qualities throughout the entire performance rather than giving too much credit for a flashy bit of work
- (a) Manner of covering ground and briskness of questing
  - (b) Scenting ability and use of wind
  - (c) Perseverance and courage in facing cover
  - (d) Aptitude in marking fall of game, and ability to find it
  - (e) Promptness and style of retrieve and delivery
  - (f) Control at all times and under all conditions
  - (g) Steadiness to flush, shot and command
  - (h) Ability and willingness to take hand signals
  - (i) Proof of tender mouth
- 15.1.5 Where terrain is irregular and there is much cover of varied character, there are frequent occasions when a dog and handler cannot see each other. Under such conditions the dog must be constantly relating himself to the handler. In addition he must work his cover out on a somewhat irregular pattern seeking always to pass downwind of likely cover in the line of quest. Resourcefulness in search is clearly more important than exactness in performance.

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- 15.1.6 The function of a Spaniel is to hunt out game, the manner in which he does this should be directed to the finding of game rather than to pleasing the eye. In other words, the effectiveness of his search is a combination of thoroughness and bird sense rather than pattern, provided that he does not neglect any area that might be productive.
- 15.1.7 A dog should show good treatment of ground with a minimum of help from its handler. All things being equal, the stylish dog that uses the wind with minimum help from its handler should be given credit.

## 15.2 Game Finding

- 15.2.1 Game finding ability is a quality that is difficult to define except in terms of results. It is the combination of nose, bird sense, thoroughness and intelligence. Some dogs seldom have a long, blank beat; they appear to be able to convert such a beat into a productive one. Such dogs seem to find more game in a given territory than others and to find it more quickly. Where there is recurrent evidence of this in a trial, judges cannot fail to place this to the credit of the dog.
- 15.2.2 A dog that thoroughly covers territory where game is known to have been and who fails to give evidence that game has recently been there must be looked upon as deficient in nose, at least on that day. Under those circumstances a judge is justified in consulting with the planter. Should he confirm the presence of game such a dog can be taken up and much time saved that could be better spent on those dogs that are still under consideration.
- 15.2.3 Most trials are run over a set course with planted birds. Delays occur and this on occasion permits birds to move off the course. Under such circumstances, if a dog trails a strong-running bird to the right or left, it is up to the judge to decide how far off course a dog should be permitted to work. If a bird is followed off course for a long distance, even though a flush and fall be eventually accomplished, this can unnecessarily delay the trial. If the judge decides further pursuit is not necessary, the dog should not be penalized if he has failed to flush the bird, provided he has exhibited drive and nose, and he should be given credit for being under control when ordered to leave the trail.



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## 15.3 Use of Wind

- 15.3.1 The manner of ground coverage will depend not alone on the terrain and the cover, but as well on the direction and force of the wind. A dog working upwind may cast right and left to the limit of his range in a fairly regular manner without risk of missing game. Downwind a dog will of necessity range out ahead of his handler at times to the limit of range, turning back to test out cover since he cannot scent game until downwind it unless, perchance, he strikes a trail. A crosswind presents another variation to the problem.
- 15.3.2 A dog that is using the wind and hunting his cover will vary his method accordingly. Judges should look with some doubt on the dog, which follows a set pattern regardless of the variations in such conditions. Natural hunting ability in a dog is evidenced by adaptation to conditions rather than the maintenance of a set pattern, regardless of such variations. It is as essential to use the wind in hunting as it is in locating shot game. The dog is less able to 'read' the evidence when the scent is blown away rather than toward him, except as it is left on the ground or hangs in the air in the cover over which he is searching, as when wet, heavy scenting conditions exists.
- 15.3.3 Working downwind a dog will naturally reach out and work back upwind on occasion. This can be faulted only if it results in game flushed out of range or ground unsearched.
- 15.3.4 When flat, level fields abound and a handler can observe his dog at all times, there is a tendency to make quartering of the ground in a regular and artificial pattern like a 'windshield-wiper' the criterion. This includes exactness of response to the whistle at the end of the beat. Such a pattern is not a fault if it is dictated by the direction of the wind. On the other hand, if the progress forward of each traverse of the course is limited to a few feet, regardless of wind and terrain, a dog can hardly fail to flush game in his course and there is less evidence of 'bird-sense', scenting ability and use of wind.

## 15.4 Perseverance

- 15.4.1 A dog that misses the fall should continue to search the area until he is successful. If a bird turns in its flight beyond the observation of the dog, it can only be located by searching a gradually widening area. When this search becomes aimless and it is evident it cannot

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be fruitful, the dog must be taken up, provided it can be determined that the bird actually fell in the area.

- 15.4.2 If a bird proves to be a runner, acknowledgement of the fall is the first requirement from where the dog should be able to seek out and follow the trail to a successful conclusion. More difficult is the problem when a dog misses the fall and in his search may even bring in another bird. The dog should be sent out again, as would be done in the field, and if he then fails to bring in the bird, and its presence can be verified, his failure is a fault.

## **15.5 Marking**

- 15.5.1 Marking the fall or the direction is one of the essential qualities of a good Spaniel. However, the eye level of a dog is but a short distance above the ground and some 4 or 5 feet lower than that of the handler, gunner and judge. Often all the dog can observe, even if heavy cover does not intervene, is the line of flight of the bird. Only under favourable conditions can he be expected to see the actual fall itself. Hence, the importance of the use of the wind cannot be overestimated. If the dog goes somewhat downwind to the fall whether it be a crosswind or behind him, he assures himself the best opportunity to locate the bird promptly. Certainly under such circumstances a dog cannot be penalized for failure to instantly locate the exact spot.

## **15.6 Retrieving**

- 15.6.1 An incomplete retrieve is a serious fault. And yet many times conditions exist which make decisive judgement difficult. The recollection of many trials is full of incidents that could not be explained by the limited evidence available.
- 15.6.2 While a judge may feel that an incomplete retrieve is not wholly the dog's fault, he can hardly overlook the fact that game was not brought to hand. Nevertheless, judges may well be more tolerant when some special conditions are encountered. For example, heavy green grass recently exposed to a hard frost gives out a rank odor that kills scent; dry leaves in woods will hold little scent and make trailing difficult; people off the course and behind a hill have been known to interfere with a dog which was trailing a runner. Handlers of long experience have noted that occasionally a bird will be instantly

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killed, fall in the open perhaps in slight depression, wings and feathers closely held, head upwind and prove a difficult bird to locate. This appears to happen more frequently with a hen than a cock and some observers have watched a dog with a known good nose actually step on such a bird and have wondered whether a particular condition was created such as quick paralysis of all functions so that the hen gave out little scent, much as a setting hen pheasant is known to do on the nest.

- 15.6.3 No matter what the cause, the purpose of a field dog is to bring game to the bag and a failure to do this is a fault that cannot be overlooked except in the most unusual circumstances. A judge under such conditions would be well advised to make the most minute inspection of the ground at the point of fall. Certainly, if the game is found there, all excuses are of no avail. A dog that failed to 'honour' the fall can, of course, have no defence of any kind unless the bird is lodged in a tree or falls beyond an impossible barrier such as a closely meshed wire fence; or if the fall is honoured and the bird has made good its escape through a fence that denies passage to the dog.
- 15.6.4 When the dog is sent on retrieve, it is his sole duty to complete the retrieve as promptly and as expeditiously as possible, disregarding all other sights and scents that are not related to the duty assigned to him. The ability to distinguish between a fresh scent and that of a wounded bird is the result of considerable experience, and it is his duty to be sure he is not passing up the bird he was sent for. If while on retrieve, a dog flushes a bird in the direction or area of the fall, it is natural for the dog to determine whether it is the bird he was sent for before turning away. If the bird flies off low, he could well assume that it could be wounded game, at least until it assumes full winged flight when he should turn and continue his search in the area of the fall.
- 15.6.5 When another bird is flushed during a retrieve, many handlers prefer a dog to stop or hup in accord with his training. This presents no problem if the dog is where the handler can see him since the dog may then be directed by voice, whistle or hand signal to continue his search for the dead bird.
- 15.6.6 The ideal conduct on the part of the dog would be to disregard the newly flushed bird and continue the search of the wounded or dead bird, which it is its duty to recover. If the fall is a long way off or in a heavy cover, the handler cannot see his dog, shall the dog remain hupped or leave his hupped position

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without command? To leave would be a violation of the first principles of discipline and training. For the handler to attempt to whistle at or give commands to an unseen dog may upset the dog's whole endeavor, particularly if it shall be following a vigorous runner.

15.6.7 The same general principle applies to a dog that is retrieving with a bird in his mouth. If he flushes game and in surprise or in accordance with his training temporarily stops, he cannot be criticized. In either case, however, a dog should be given credit if he disregards entirely the flushed bird, or having stopped momentarily, continues his search or in the case of a retrieve continues on in to deliver the bird.

#### 15.6.8 No Optional Retrieve

It was once the custom for the judge to offer to let a dog try a retrieve on which the brace mate had failed, when both had an opportunity to observe the fall. If the handler declined or the dog failed, no penalty was imposed. Extra credit went to the dog that successfully completed such a retrieve, as it gave evidence of memory. However, it introduces a number of unknown factors that are difficult to appraise and it is wholly opposed.

#### 15.6.9 The Long Fall

Inasmuch as a championship stake is completed in one day, or at most a day and a half, judges should seize every opportunity to learn all they can about a dog. Because of shortage of time, judges have shown reluctance at times to send a dog for a long fall or one well off the course. The best rule in a championship stake is that any practical retrieve should be attempted which will not unduly disturb game planted ahead on their course. In a minor stake such falls may be disregarded since a young or inexperienced dog may miss the fall, encounter and flush other birds and generally disturb game on the course for a considerable distance ahead.

### 15.7 Control

15.7.1 All good qualities are useless if control is lacking. A Spaniel "in touch" with his handler requires a minimum of handling. A dog's hearing is ordinarily highly acute and the whistle or voice should be no louder than the dog can hear.

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## **15.8 The Handler & the Beat**

- 15.8.1 Poaching on the other beat is a difficult subject, especially when there is a crosswind. It has the possibility of upsetting the other dog. Yet the line between courses is often a varying line of poor definition that the dog cannot observe and the handler is not always sure of. Minor infractions are not important and should be overlooked. The primary fault is the interference with the other dog's work whether it is the fault of the dog or of the handler. There will, nevertheless, be difficulties when a bird from one beat has obviously moved over onto the other and the dog has followed the trail. No one can advise a judge in advance how to appraise such a situation, but a dog that responds when called off such a line should receive full credit. A dog that is constantly and recurrently over on the other beat and fails to respond to his handler's commands must be considered out of control.
- 15.8.2 Handlers intent on their dogs vary in their ability to keep to a line even when it is clearly marked. When working on planted birds, wandering around the course can be wasteful and reduce the chances of promptly finding game. Obviously a judge should from time to time warn a handler who strays from the course and reacquaint him if necessary.
- 15.8.3 A dog is expected not only to work to his handler but also to keep some sort of track of him. The handler can aid him in this by keeping as much in the open as possible and moving up when a dog is obviously on a strong scent and likely to flush game. This should not be penalized unless it results in leaving unsearched some part of the course.

## **15.9 Steadiness to Flush & Command**

- 15.9.1 Emphasis is placed on the necessity for steadiness to flush and command. The whole basis of training and control is involved, and without control the best qualities are to little avail.
- 15.9.2 Steadiness means that the dog is governed only by his handler regardless of other distractions or sounds. For example, dogs have in the tension of a field trial been known to go on the sound of the judge's voice. This is a fault subject to penalty. Hence, handlers prefer a judge to issue instructions to retrieve by tapping the handler or quietly saying "send".

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### 15.9.3 Break

- (a) Steadiness is a term of varying meaning to different people, including judges, and has been the cause of much discussion. Those who expect exact performance feel that a dog should instantly sit to wing and shot and will have no less. Others recognize that though a dog may instantly sit or 'hup' to shot (unless in the act of flushing game) it is the dog's duty in flushing, to push game out and into full flight. They are, therefore, less prone to criticize a dog that traveling at full speed, or driving in to flush, is less exact in sitting to flush provided he gives equally prompt indication that he is prepared to stop as soon as the bird is in flight.
- (b) There is the equally difficult problem of the dog who moves to the edge of cover or around a bush or up a slope to verify flight, observe the line and see the fall. It may be a highly intelligent thing to do, if observation is the sole 'intent' of the dog. If the dog has to be stopped by whistle or voice, the judge can only assume the handler believed he was in process of breaking and score it accordingly.
- (c) The problem can, therefore, best be resolved by the judge if he be guided in his appraisal by the way the handler dealt with it. If the handler ordered the dog to stop and the dog didn't stop, it is a break. Once stopped, any vigorous forward movement without command is equally a break.

### 15.9.4 Steadiness While "Hupped"

- (a) Handlers who call their dogs' to them without instructions from the judge (when the dog on the other beat is retrieving) run the risk of having the judge assume, that the handler lacks confidence that the dog is perfectly steady. The same thing applies to the handler who moves closer to his dog without orders to do so. This differs from the case of a dog that is in the line of retrieve when a judge may well use his discretion in instructing a handler to move away in order not to interfere with the work of the brace mate.
- (b) A properly trained Spaniel will remain where hupped until called off, and a dog which gives evidence of such control is entitled to a higher rating than one which the handler feels he

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must call back to him. At least in championship stakes it would be desirable for judges not to be in a great hurry to deprive themselves of the evidence of steadiness thus obtained, provided only the dog is not in a position to interfere with the other dog's work or retrieve.

## **15.10 Handling**

15.10.1 A dog that is unable to observe either the line of flight or the bird falling, that is a blind fall, the handler should direct the dog by hand, voice or whistle, as quietly as possible. A dog should be credited for willingness, ability and speed in accepting such directions. A dog that can be handled to a blind fall is of great value, whereas a dog that requires handling on a marked fall is deficient in marking and should be judged accordingly.

## **15.11 Tender Mouth**

15.11.1 Probably no subject has caused more discussion than the question of what constitutes a 'tender mouth'. With a dead bird the best carry is preferably by the back, weight of bird on lower jaw, dog's head up so that the bird is carried easily and is not readily caught by briars or low cover. Yet birds do not fall in a way that enables dogs to pick them up promptly and still have an ideal hold. The result is either a less perfect hold or a less prompt pickup.

15.11.2 The real problem arises on a hard runner or a flapping bird that requires the dog to seize the bird, sometimes in mid-air, sometimes even dragging it from briars or heavy cover, and hold it with sufficient grip to prevent its escape. If the skin is broken at times, it is not surprising, nor can the dog be wholly blamed if he is doing his duty by making a prompt retrieve. The rule of long-standing endorsed by experienced judges is that 'any doubt must be resolved in favour of the dog'. Judges would do well to be guided by this rule.

15.11.3 When birds are weak, have been crated for several days, are carried in sacks and are planted with head under wing, they will occasionally smother. Sometimes a closely shot bird will be damaged by the force of the charge or even the manner of fall on hard ground. All these considerations suggest that judges should be slow to mark a dog for minor damage.

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- 15.11.4 Occasionally during a stake, a dog will have the misfortune to pick up one or more live birds which may have failed to flush for any one of several reasons and deliver them dead or dying. This is occasionally the result of finding previously wounded or damaged birds. The repeated recurrence with the same dog or the evidence provided by a damaged bird is the criteria by which the judge will have to be guided.
- 15.11.5 Certainly a badly crushed bird is undeniable evidence of hard mouth and warrants elimination of the dog from further consideration. However, judges should remember that no dog may be eliminated for hard mouth unless both judges have examined the bird and concurred in the decision. If a judge does not wish to call public attention to a question not yet decided, the simplest procedure is to ask the steward to mark the bird clearly with a tag or other marker and hold it for later inspection by both judges.
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## **16 WATER TEST**

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### **16.1 General**

- 16.1.1 A Spaniel, is primarily a land dog. However, in many parts of the country he is used to retrieve waterfowl, and in an ordinary day's shoot there are occasions when the only way of gathering shot game is after a swim or from a stream, pond or lake.
- 16.1.2 Any dog that warrants the title of Field Trial Champion, should be at home in the water, swim willingly and adequately and, if necessary, take directions to game fallen in water or across it.
- 16.1.3 The successful completion of a water test is not only a very logical essential but is a positive requirement. Because adequate facilities do not always exist near a field trial ground, the water tests are held at the discretion of the Field Trial Committee. Dogs competing must, if required by the judges to do so, take a water test. Failure of the water test disqualifies the dog in the stake in which he is competing and for the remainder of the trial.
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## **16.2 Conduct of Water Test**

- 16.2.1 The dog and its handler shall be stationed on the shoreline with a clear view of the entire area from which and to which the bird will be thrown.
- 16.2.2 The distance from the dog on shore and the drop of the bird into the water shall be 27-36 meters (30-40 yards). The depth of the water must be such that the dog is forced to swim.
- 16.2.3 The bird thrower will be stationed in a boat, on shore or on an island; and shall throw the bird across the line of the dog's vision in order that the dog will see the entire flight of the bird through the air and its fall into the water.
- 16.2.4 A shot is fired from close proximity to the thrower, (60-06-20) and immediately thereafter the bird is thrown.
- 16.2.5 The bird used in the water test shall be freshly killed that day and must be the same species of bird used in the land series that day.
- 16.2.6 Conditions of light and background should be taken into consideration, particularly at the dog's level, and it is better to send the dog away from, rather than toward the group of spectators.

## **16.3 Evaluating the Water Performance**

- 16.3.1 If a dog is required to take a water test in competition at a CKC approved Field Trial, the judges shall take into consideration the performance of the dog in the water as part of the judging of the overall rating of the dog in the Field Trial. The judging of the quality of the water test should play a lesser part than any of the land series.
- 16.3.2 Judges in making their awards are required to give due weight to the manner and quality of the performance in the water tests, and to eliminate from any award a dog that fails to complete the water retrieve. It is specifically provided that such tests should not exceed in their requirements the conditions ordinarily met in a day's rough shoot adjoining water.
- 16.3.3 A Spaniel dog is expected:
- (a) to be steady to shot;
  - (b) to be sent only on the instructions of the judges;
  - (c) to enter water willingly;

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- (d) to swim adequately;
  - (e) to take directions when necessary;
  - (f) to display marking and retrieving abilities;
  - (g) to deliver promptly to hand.
- 16.3.4 The Field Trial Committee may allow non competing dogs to take a water test after all competing dogs have finished their water test. Such dogs will be judged on a pass/fail basis – rather than judging the quality of the water test.
- 16.3.5 Likewise a Field Trial Committee may host a “stand alone” water test to be judged on a pass/fail basis provided such information has been outlined in the premium list and approved by the CKC.
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## **17 TRIAL PROCEDURES**

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### **17.1 General Provisions**

- 17.1.1 In order that trials may be conducted as uniformly as is practical, standardization of objectives is essential and, therefore, all judges, guns, contestants, and officials who have a part in conducting trials should be familiar with and be governed by this rulebook. In respect to trial procedure, the rule book presents guidance to judges, guns and officials of the trial-giving club in the planning and conducting of the trial, in order that all dogs will be given adequate and relatively equal opportunity to display their merits.
- 17.1.2 All persons on the trial grounds (gallery, officials, judges, gunners, planters, handlers, etc.) are required to wear an item of Blaze Orange above waist level for the sake of safety. This is to be enforced by the Field Marshal. Course flags for all stakes in all series should be any high contrasting bright colour, other than Blaze Orange.
- 17.1.3 It is essential that all concerned with the conduct of Spaniel field trials, the Field Trial Committee, marshals, and judges, and guns, as well as the contestants, shall have read and shall be conversant with the current editions of the CKC’s field trial rules and regulations. This requirement would help ensure greater uniformity in both trial procedures and evaluation of dog work.
- (61-06-20)*
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- 17.1.4 It is essential that all spectators attending a trial be kept far enough from the line to enable the dog working to clearly discern its handler and nothing shall be done to distract a dog's attention from his work. A handler has the right to appeal to the judge if the gallery is interfering with his work in any way and the judges at their discretion may, if they believe the dog has been interfered with, give the dog further opportunity.
- 17.1.5 Humane handling and care of game at a trial must be rigidly practiced. All reasonable effort must be used to retrieve all wounded game. The use of a pick-up dog that is not entered in the trial is permissible.
- 17.1.6 Every stake in a field trial is a test of dogs; but it is also a test of the team: the dog and gunner-handler. The dog which works well and is fully under control allows the gunner to concentrate on his shooting. Good dog work and good shooting can hardly be beaten, but the dog that solves an interesting test provided by the gunner should receive credit, since by that process the dog is able to demonstrate his abilities.
- 17.1.7 Few judges can remember every performance without making adequate notes for reference in conference with a fellow judge. This is particularly true in stakes with large entries. Some judges have found it valuable to rate the performance of each dog on some simple scale; others have developed a check system based on the standards. Each must develop his own rating system. Nevertheless, the retention of notes for a reasonable time after the trial provides a ready and quick reference in case any question arises and is less fallible than memory.
- 17.1.8 No one except the judge's, the handlers, bird carriers/bird shaggers and the guns should be forward of the Field Marshal. This gives a better opportunity for the gallery to see and makes it easier to keep them in order. This applies equally to owners eager to watch their dogs, to guns not on the line, stewards not presently charged with a duty and to all other officials. Any conversation (no matter how trivial) of owners with judges, handlers and guns should be avoided.
- 17.1.9 Equipment
- (62-06-20) (a) The gun to be used in a Spaniel field trial shall be a double barrel, hammerless, 12 gauge shotgun. No load less than 3 1/4 dram equivalent of smokeless powder and 32 gram (1 1/8 ozs.) of No. 5, No. 6, or No. 7 1/2 shot may be used.
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All shells must be provided by the trial-giving club and must be factory ammunition only. If non-toxic shot becomes mandatory, then equivalent non-toxic shot ammunition must be supplied.

- (b) Federal and Provincial regulations pertaining to the use of firearms must be complied with.

17.1.10 Participating dogs may not be trained on the grounds of a field trial within twenty-four (24) hours of the commencement of the event, or at any time during the event. The Field Trial Committee is responsible for the enforcement of this provision.

## **17.2 Responsibilities of Field Trial Committee**

17.2.1 All field trial-giving clubs should clearly recognize that Open All-Age Stakes are of primary importance. If the entry is larger an entire day should be reserved for the running of an Open All-Age Stake. When the entry is large, and even when it is not too large, avoid spending too much time on early series that might later have been devoted to more thorough testing of those dogs that warrant consideration for awards.

17.2.2 Many such situations can be avoided if judges plan their time and keep 'on top' of the trial, managing its progress in accord with their schedule. The benefits are many. All dogs will receive more nearly equal attention and much embarrassment will be avoided as daylight wanes far sooner than anyone expected.

17.2.3 However, this is not possible unless the Field Trial  
(88-06-17) Committee has set the start time early enough, assured the early arrival of strong, full-winged birds in good condition, provided for the presence of bird, planters and guns at the time specified; in other words, have everything in order for a prompt start at an early hour.

17.2.4 Three or more series are usually essential to disclose the abilities of good dogs in All-Age Stakes. Two series are required by the rule that each dog should be down at least once under each judge. Final determination is in the hands of the judges.

17.2.5 The Committee should recognize that with a large entry it is difficult to complete even a 2 or 3-series stake without these few series being hurried and inadequate.

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- 17.2.6 A word about the problem created by the inability to run trials on natural game. Birds recently removed from pens vary somewhat from wild birds in the character and strength of the scent they give off. They tend to smell of the yard or the crate. When closely planted in a grass bed or clump of cover without opportunity to move, there is a greatly reduced opportunity for the wind to carry their scent and less opportunity to spread scent to the surrounding ground cover. When in addition they show a reluctance to fly or are weak-winged and incapable of prompt escape, trials are run under an additional disadvantage. Birds are retrieved alive from their 'nests' and are pulled from heavy cover by force. If weak, they sometimes suffocate from being carried in bags or from the manner of planting or the dog's grip required to hold them, or from a combination of all three.
- 17.2.7 Hence the field trial committee should make every effort to provide strong-winged, healthy, vigorous bird, and employ skilled planters. Too great an anxiety not to waste birds can produce the very result that it is sought to avoid since closely planted birds will be more readily caught by the dogs. Birds planted well ahead of the dogs, even if they move off the course, will at least give the judge an opportunity to observe the ability of the dog on a recent scent.
- 17.2.8 All birds used at trials should be full-tailed, healthy, vigorous and eager to escape by flight.

### **17.3 Judges' Responsibilities**

- 17.3.1 All judges shall be thoroughly familiar with the field trial rules and regulations.
- 17.3.2 Judges should particularly note the basic principles of a Spaniel trial previously set out in these rules.
- 17.3.3 Judges should assemble the guns at the beginning of the trial or stake and give them any instructions they feel appropriate or interpret to them their instructions. If preferred, such instructions should be given to the Gun Captain to be transmitted to the other gunners. In addition there should be no hesitation on the part of the judge to give further direction to a gunner during the course of a trial. Such clarification will help provide a fair trial of the dogs' abilities.
- 17.3.4 The safety of all concerned – the handlers, the judges themselves, the dogs, the gallery and spectators

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– is involved. It is customary to instruct guns not to shoot at birds that fly over the gallery. In addition to the danger involved, a bird that falls among or beyond the gallery provides confused conditions for a retrieve. Guns should, therefore, feel that they should not be criticized for passing up shots that entail the slightest elements of danger or those shots which would be in conflict with the provisions of these paragraphs or the instructions of the judges.

- 17.3.5 During the course of a trial the judge should keep his own counsel, thus avoiding even the appearance of being influenced by the views, the opinions or even the knowledge of others. Any discussions with owners, handlers, gunners or other (except fellow judges) about the performance of a dog still under judgement would be in shocking bad taste on the part of both. The judge must base his awards on what he has himself observed of the performance on that particular day. When he was invited to judge, it was because the committee had confidence in his judgement, his powers of observation and his capacity to be objective. He has a personal responsibility to his fellow judge to inform him clearly and to appraise jointly with him the several performances. Each has an obligation to render fair judgement.

## **17.4 Handlers' Responsibilities**

- 17.4.1 It is generally considered that a handler should run his dog in a manner most likely to provide a display of his abilities. When game is flushed, the handler should in hugging his dog remain in such position as he finds himself unless otherwise instructed by the judge. He should of course, send his dog on retrieves only when so instructed as the judge may wish to assure himself that the dog is steady. In doing so the judge should move quietly and make every effort not to make any sudden movement, which the dog might mistake for a command of his handler to retrieve.

## **17.5 Gunners' Responsibilities**

- 17.5.1 The guns should shoot their game in a sportsmanlike manner, as they would in a day's shoot. The proper functioning of the official guns is of the utmost importance. The guns are supposed to represent the handler up to the time that the game is shot, although not interfering in any manner with

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his work, or that of the dogs. The gunners should attempt to kill any game flushed by the dogs at a point most advantageous to a fair trial of dogs abilities, with due regard to the safety of the dogs, handlers, judges, gallery and parking area unless otherwise directed.

- 17.5.2 Care should be taken not to shoot the game so it falls too close to the dog. If this is done, it does not afford a chance for the dog to show any good retrieving ability and often results in a bird being destroyed. The guns should stand perfectly quiet after the shot otherwise they may interfere with the dog and handler. The gun must also keep himself in the correct position to the handler.
- 17.5.3 What should be the position of the gun? If he is the 'good right arm' of the handler, he should be reasonably close to him, though not so close that he interferes with him or the dog. The gun should not crowd after the dog, which only encourages the latter to move out, but should guide themselves on the handler. Nor should wing guns be placed too far out on a flank. This is unnatural and often affects the dog in his beat and the type of fall he receives.
- 17.5.4 After a fall, the gun should stand quietly. They should volunteer nothing to handler or judge; speak only as the judge authorizes it. They are the silent partner of the judge in providing the test required – and of the handler in producing the result.
- 17.5.5 Gun Safety
- (a) While on the line (actively walking while a dog is competing) all gunners must practice safe gun handling. A loaded gun must be carried with muzzle straight up or slightly forward, never on the shoulder, never cradled in arms and never pointed to the side or ground. In this safe position the gun is immediately available to mount to shoulder to shoot. When not on the line, the gun should be open with no shells in the chambers (for example: changing courses, walking to and from the line).
  - (b) The gunner must not take a shot if in his judgement it is not safe to do so. The safety of all is more important than a shot bird. In general, the gun team should work together in a quiet and efficient manner, helping each other, noting unsafe conditions and passing this information to other gunners, such as bird planters location, off-line handlers and dogs.

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## 17.6 Gun Captain's Responsibilities

- (a) Acquire and assign gun team members and arrange rotation to avoid fatigue.
- (b) Observe gunners performances and arrange substitution if required.
- (c) Prior to trial arrange with judges to discuss gunning procedures as follows:
  - (i) Gunners should shoot all safe birds unless called off by judge
  - (ii) Special terrain problems such as fence, heavy or light cover, water problems, etc.
  - (iii) No birds shot over gallery
  - (iv) Do not shoot a bird while a dog is retrieving unless instructed by judge
  - (v) In case of a double flush, shoot both birds
  - (vi) If a gunning problem arises, consult the gun captain
  - (vii) A decision regarding position of center gunner or runners off the course
- (d) Consumption of any alcohol or controlled substances by gunners throughout the duration of the field trial is strictly prohibited

## 17.7 Gun Team

### 17.7.1 Braced Dog Series

Four gunners are required as follows:

- (a) one center gunner
- (b) two wing gunners
- (c) one, back-up gunner

### 17.7.2 Gunners Responsibilities in Braced Series

#### (a) Center Gunner

The center gunner walks down the center of the staked course, in line with the handler of the forward dog. The center gunner is responsible for birds which are crossing the centerline and birds that fly down the course. The center gunner does not shoot back under any circumstances. If the forward dog and handler take a runner off the course, the center gunner accompanies the wing gunner, one on each side of the handler. This part is not universally



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accepted or practiced. Many handlers prefer that only the wing gunner go with them or a runner. They say that the situation can be tense and confusing enough without having to worry about where a secondary gunner might be. If a bird flies straight down the course, both center and wing gunners may shoot. The center gunner must be careful, on crossing birds, not to jeopardize a bracemate by killing a bird and having it fall too close to the bracemate. This bird should be passed on to the wing gunner.

(b) Wing Gunner

The wing gunner maintains a position in line with the handler. The wing gunner is responsible for birds flying straight down the course or to his side. If the dog and handler take a runner then the wing gunner maintains a position in line with the handler to one side with the center gunner joining in on the other side.

(c) Fourth Gunner

Under normal circumstances, the fourth gunner maintains a position in front of the gallery and field trial marshal. He walks with open gun and no shells in chambers and is alert to the trial proceedings. If the forward dog is too far ahead, then the gallery gunner, with loaded gun, joins in as a center gunner in order that both dogs may have two gunners. The gallery gunner, with loaded gun may join in as a center gunner if one of the competing dogs is off the course on a runner, in order that the remaining dog has 2 gunners. The gallery gunner may be required as a replacement gunner.

### 17.7.3 Single Dog Series

Three gunners are required as follows:

- (a) 2 wing gunners
- (b) 1 back-up gunner

### 17.7.4 Gunners Responsibilities in Single Dog Series

(a) Wing Gunner

The 2 wing gunners are responsible for all birds. Both wing gunners position themselves in line with the handler. If the handler takes a runner off the course, both wing gunners must go with the handler maintaining a position in line with the handler.

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(b) Third Gunner

The third gunner maintains a position in front of the gallery and field trial marshal. He walks with open gun and no shells in chambers and is alert to the trial proceedings. The gallery gunner may be required as a replacement gunner only.

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## **18 MINOR STAKE**

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### **18.1 Puppy & Limit Stakes**

- 18.1.1 The stake will be run on live full winged birds on a flagged beat. Dogs will be run individually (not braced) and judged first and foremost on their natural ability and desire to willingly seek game. A strong emphasis is to be placed on the dog's nose rather than its ability to run the trained perfect pattern, even though the dog with the best nose, which also runs the perfect pattern for the wind conditions on the day, would no doubt be the most efficient hunter.
- 18.1.2 The dog entered in a minor stake must be expected to flush game aggressively and without hesitation. The dog must also be steady to the flush and shot, and must not attempt to retrieve the game prior to being sent except, for Novice stake where the dog can be unsteady to the flush and shot and where the dog can attempt to retrieve the game prior to being sent. However, the dog must not chase uncontrollably.  
*(63-06-20)*
- 18.1.3 The dog will also be judged on its ability to mark, retrieve and deliver game willingly to hand.
- 18.1.4 Minor stakes will be judged based on the dog having 2 contacts. However, if directed by the judges to determine placements, additional contacts will be allowed.
- 18.1.5 A minor stake will consist of only one series. However, in the event of a large entry, to determine placements, the judges may decide to run selected dogs in a second series based on approval from the field trial committee and time permitting.
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## 18.2 Shooting Dog Stake

18.2.1 Any type 12, 16 or 20 gauge gun may be used by the gunner-handler with the following restrictions:

- (a) When a pump or automatic gun is used gunner-handler shall load no more than 2 shells including the one in the gun chamber;
- (b) Immediately upon sending dog to retrieve gunner-handler shall break his gun. In the case of a pump or automatic gun, any remaining shell shall be ejected so that the gun chamber is empty and the action is left open;
- (c) The gunner-handler shall retain his gun at all times;
- (d) No gun shall be loaded until gunner-handler is instructed to do so by the judge;
- (e) The gun shall be carried in a safe manner and position at all times;
- (f) The gunner-handler must never shoot toward or over the gallery, judges or parking area;
- (g) Carelessness in handling his gun shall be grounds for the immediate elimination of the gunner-handler by the judges.

18.2.2 Dogs shall be run singly in the stake and their work and that of the gunner-handler be observed by both judges.

18.2.3 Particular attention is called to the requirement that the gunner-handlers should shoot their game in a sportsmanlike manner as they would in an ordinary day's shoot.

18.2.4 Special attention is drawn to provisions that 'the gunner-handler shall retain his gun at all times'. This is in his interest as well as that of gallery and officials. It is often a temptation to place the gun on the ground while accepting the bird from the dog. A dog should deliver so that the gunner by placing his hand under the dog's jaw will receive the bird in his hand. This, as well as all other provisions of the shooting dog stake, should be applied without hesitation or discrimination. There can be no substitute for safe gun handling and judges should immediately eliminate from the stake any gunner-handler that is unsafe.

18.2.5 It has become the custom to advise the gunner-handler to send his dog on retrieve as he shall himself determine, provided that he gives evidence that the

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dog is steady to flush and shot. This has the merit of establishing conditions almost as they would be in the field. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that this is optional with the judges, and it is in their discretion to require that the gunner-handler await the judges' order to retrieve.

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## **19 PROTESTS**

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19.1 A protest against a dog may be made by an exhibitor/ handler, any member of the CKC, or a member of the club or association holding the event in the following manner:  
(21-03-16)

(21-03-16) (a) A protest should be lodged with the Field Trial Committee before the closing of the event and must be in writing, on a form provided by the CKC (or facsimile thereof). A hearing shall be held prior to the departure of all parties. No protest will be entertained unless accompanied by a deposit. This deposit shall be returned if the protest is sustained. If the protest is not sustained, the deposit will be forwarded to the CKC with the Field Trial Committee's report.

(21-03-16) (b) If the protest cannot be filed at the event because of circumstances requiring medical and/or veterinary attention, or if the dog has been removed from the grounds, or if the owner and the dog leave the grounds immediately following the incident, the protest may be submitted directly to the CKC within 10 days of the event. All such protests shall constitute complaints under the CKC's By-laws and the provisions of same shall apply.

(21-03-16) (c) If the Protest is filed directly to the CKC, reasons should be provided as to why the Protest could not be filed with the Field Trial Committee.

19.2 Where the Field Trial Committee consists of more than 5 persons, the Field Trial Committee Chair of the trial-giving club shall name 5 members of the Field Trial Committee to act on any protest received by the trial-giving club.

19.3 Written copies of all decisions on protests must be forwarded immediately to the Discipline Committee of the CKC. The Discipline Committee may

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take such action as it deems fit in connection with such protest, provided no appeal is submitted to the CKC within 10 days of the date on which the decision of the Field Trial Committee was rendered. Such action may include barring the dog from future CKC approved events, imposition of an administrative fee, and/or cancellation of awards. The fact that the Field Trial Committee did not sustain a protest in no way inhibits the right of the Discipline Committee to take such action as it deems advisable.

- 19.4 An appeal to the Discipline Committee of the CKC from a decision of the Field Trial Committee where a dog has been protested must be forwarded to the CKC within 10 days of the date on which the decision was rendered, together with a deposit.
- 19.5 If a trial-giving club fails to hear a protest as prescribed above, or in the opinion of the Discipline Committee improperly handles a protest, the Discipline Committee shall have the authority to take such action as it deems fit and necessary, and it may at the same time take disciplinary action against the officials of the trial-giving club concerned.

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## **20 COMPLAINTS**

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- 20.1 A complaint shall be restricted to any of the following:
- (a) An act of omission or commission on which is based an allegation of a violation of the Spaniel Field Trial Rules and Regulations
  - (b) Any act on which an allegation of misconduct is based
  - (c) The alleged failure of an officiating judge to excuse or remove from competition a dog for which a provision for excusing or removal from competition appears in these rules and regulations
- 20.2 A complaint against a person regarding a violation of the rules and regulations related to Spaniel field trials must be in writing, on a form issued by the CKC (or facsimile thereof), and must be accompanied by a deposit. A deposit is not required on a complaint alleging that a judge officiating at a field

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trial held under these rules and regulations has been subject to indignities of any kind during the progress of the trial.

- 20.3 A complaint should be lodged with the Field Trial Committee Chair of the trial-giving club no later than 15 minutes after the completion of judging of the trial, or should the complainant choose to do so, a complaint may be submitted directly to the CKC within 10 days of the trial. All such complaints shall constitute complaints under the CKC By-laws and the provisions of same shall apply.
- 20.4 Any complaint against the club holding the trial or any of its officials must be submitted directly to the CKC within 10 days of the trial. All such complaints shall constitute complaints under the CKC By-laws and the provisions of same shall apply.
- 20.5 Where the Field Trial Committee consists of more than 5 persons, the Field Trial Committee Chair shall name 5 members to form a Field Trial Committee to act on complaints received by the trial-giving club.
- 20.6 When a complaint is received against a judge by the trial-giving club, the club will hold a hearing while all parties are still in attendance. The report and all statements given by all parties will be forwarded to the Discipline Committee along with the deposit from the complainant. The Field Trial Committee will not render a decision but will collect all pertinent information.
- 20.7 Upon receipt of a complaint the Field Trial Committee of the trial-giving club shall conduct an investigation as soon as possible thereafter, but in any event, within 14 days of receipt, conduct a hearing in accordance with procedures set out in the Procedure for Conducting a Field Trial Committee hearing as provided in these regulations.
- 20.8 The Field Trial Committee shall promptly forward the complaint, the deposit and a record of the hearing together with its recommendation on the disposition of the complaint to the CKC. Copies of the record of the hearing and the Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the parties concerned at the same time.
- 20.9 Notwithstanding any contrary provisions in these rules and regulations, the procedure specified herein for dealing with complaints shall govern.

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- 20.10 Disciplinary action will be taken against any official and the trial-giving club of which he is an official when it is established to the satisfaction of the CKC that an attempt was made to discourage the submission of a complaint.
- 20.11 Disciplinary action will be taken against a trial-giving club which fails to properly deal with complaints as provided in these rules and regulations.
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## **21 DISCIPLINE**

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- 21.1 The Discipline Committee of the CKC may take disciplinary action against any club, person, partnership, company or organization for any act of omission or commission, which violates any section or sections of the rules and regulations for CKC field trials. Such action will be taken as provided for in the By-laws of the CKC.
- 21.2 Any person who abuses a dog on the grounds or premises of a trial, or who otherwise conducts himself in a manner considered prejudicial to the best interest of the field trial, is subject to disciplinary action by the Discipline Committee of the CKC.
- 21.3 Any club, member, person, partnership, company or organization availing themselves of the privilege of participating in any capacity or manner whatsoever at a field trial shall, by such participation, be deemed to have agreed to the authority of the CKC and its Board as conferred on the CKC by its By-laws and all other rules and regulations adopted by the CKC.
- 21.4 At its discretion and subject to the appeal process, the Discipline Committee may cancel any or all qualifying scores earned by a dog owned by a person debarred, deprived, suspended or expelled of all privileges of the CKC when such wins were earned following the date on which such act occurred that resulted in disciplinary action.
- 21.5 The administration to a dog competing at a field trial of a drug or any substance in any form, which alters the nervous system by stimulation, sedation or tranquilization shall be considered as misleading the judge and will be considered misconduct. The
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person or persons responsible will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with this section.

- 21.6 Any person who does anything calculated to attract, distract or otherwise interfere in any way with the attention, deportment, or performance of a dog under judgement, may be disciplined by the Discipline Committee in whatever way it considers to be in the best interest of the club, or the judge may take summary action.
- 21.7 It shall be the duty and obligation of the trial-giving club to see that a judge, club official, field trial marshal, volunteer, gunner or competitor at a field trial held under these regulations, is not subject to indignities of any kind. The Field Trial Committee Chair shall promptly report to the CKC any infringement of this regulation, and the CKC shall have the authority to take such action as it deems fit on receipt of a report indicating that this has occurred. A copy of this regulation shall be prominently placed in every premium list and catalogue.

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## **22 PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING A FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE HEARING**

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- 22.1 It is essential that the defendant be given the opportunity to be present during the whole hearing and to testify and present his own witnesses. If a defendant refuses to attend or defend himself, the hearing may proceed without him. In notifying the defendant of the hearing, it is essential that he be informed specifically of the nature of the charges against him and that a record of such notice be made.
- 22.2 The complainant must also be informed of the hearing and allowed to be present throughout the whole hearing.
- 22.3 Both the complainant and defendant should be informed that they may be represented by legal counsel or an agent at the hearing if they choose but this is not necessary.
- 22.4 The chair is to call the meeting to order and then announce: "We are proceeding by reason of our appointment to the Field Trial Committee by



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(name of trial-giving club).”

- 22.5 The chair shall identify all persons present and the reason for their presence (i.e. complainant, defendant, and witness) and then ask the witnesses to withdraw until required to give evidence. After giving evidence a witness may be excused.
- 22.6 The complaint is to be read except that if the complainant and defendant agree, it may be necessary to relate only the substance of the complaint as set out on the Official Complaint form.
- 22.7 The chair is to ask the defendant whether he wishes to admit or deny the complaint as it has been read or stated.
- 22.8 The complainant is to give evidence on the complaint. He may then be questioned by the defendant. At the chair’s invitation, any member of the Committee may question the complainant. If the complainant has brought witnesses, such witnesses may then give evidence individually. Each witness may be questioned by the defendant or any member of the Committee. Each witness is to leave the hearing after evidence has been given.
- 22.9 Upon completion of the evidence given by the complainant and any witness appearing on his behalf, the defendant may then give evidence and may then be questioned by the complainant or any member of the Committee. If the defendant has brought witnesses, such witnesses may then give evidence individually. Each witness may be questioned by the complainant or any member of the Committee.
- 22.10 The chair may then call any other witness which the Committee considers appropriate to the proper hearing of the complaint.
- 22.11 The complainant may then have the opportunity of summing up the complaint and the evidence presented in support thereof. The defendant shall have the opportunity of summing up his defense and any evidence presented in support of his defense.
- 22.12 The Chair shall announce that the Committee will be submitting a report on the hearing together with its recommendation on the disposition of the complaint to the Discipline Committee of the CKC and the parties concerned. All but the Committee members shall be dismissed so that the matter may be considered.

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## **23 PARTICIPATION**

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- 23.1 The participation in any manner or in any capacity at a competitive event held under these rules shall be considered a privilege accorded to any person by the CKC and such privilege may be extended and withdrawn by the Discipline Committee.
- 23.2 Any person availing himself of the privilege of participating in any manner, shape or form and in any capacity, including that of a spectator at a competitive event held under these rules shall, by such participation, be deemed to have agreed to the authority of the CKC and its Board.
- 23.3 No person who has been expelled, deprived of privileges, suspended or debarred by the CKC may enter a dog, compete, judge, act as agent or handler for any competitor, take a dog into any competition or be connected in any capacity with competitive events held under these rules.
- 23.4 A club holding a field trial under these rules shall not engage in any capacity a person who is under suspension or expulsion, debarred or deprived of privileges by the CKC.
- 23.5 Any person who has lost the right to participate in events in their country of residence shall not, while such a loss of privilege is in effect, participate in any Canadian Kennel Club approved event. Any wins by a dog that is handled by such individual shall automatically be cancelled.

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## **24 LIABILITY** (22-03-16)

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- 24.1 (22-03-16) The CKC shall not be responsible to any member, person, partnership, club or corporation for any loss, damage or injury arising at or by reason of any event held under any rules adopted by the CKC.
- 24.2 (22-03-16) Every owner or authorized agent for the owner of any dog entered in a CKC event is required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog behaves properly at the event, and in particular to prevent the dog from threatening, menacing or biting a

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judge, another dog, or any other person in attendance at the event. Failure to take such reasonable steps may result in disciplinary action against such owner or authorized agent under the By-laws, which may result in the imposition of any of the penalties provided for in the By-laws.

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## **25 AMENDMENTS**

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- 25.1 These rules are subject to amendment by the Board.
- 25.2 Amendments to these rules may also be proposed by a person, association, club, representative group or body by presenting such proposal to the Board for its consideration. In such circumstances, the Board will forward the proposal to the Spaniel Field Trial Council for its consideration and input, prior to the Board making its final decision.
- 25.3 Any amendment to these rules shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the Board.
- 25.4 The Board shall set the effective date of any approved amendment.
- 25.5 The Board, at its sole discretion, may choose to perform a non-binding poll of the membership to attain general input prior to making a final decision on any proposed amendment to these rules.
- 25.6 Upon the Board making its final decision with respect to any amendment to these rules, the membership shall be advised by placing a notice in the Official Section as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible.

The background features a repeating pattern of the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) logo, which consists of a shield with a stylized 'C' and 'K' intertwined, topped with a crown and surrounded by maple leaves. Below the shield is a banner with the text 'INCORPORATED' and 'FOUNDED 1888 FONDE'. Large, stylized maple leaves are also scattered across the background.

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