

CHUKAR CHALLENGE

Rules & Regulations

Championship Qualification Guidelines

I. MEMBERSHIPS

- A. Yearly membership fees of \$15 are good from December 1-November 30. Membership form must be completed each year and accompanied by the membership fee. Memberships are per dog, not per owner. Lifetime memberships for a dog are available at a cost of \$75.
- B. Membership fees include: Membership card, quarterly newsletter, brochures, and any other promotional material as needed.
- C. Membership cards must be shown each time the member registers/checks in for a sanctioned event.
- D. Participation in sanctioned events is open to persons age 13 and over (within the guidelines presented in each division).

II. DIVISIONS

A FLUSHING DIVISION

- 1) If multiple birds are flushed at once, multiple flushing points will be awarded. Multiple flushes will not be awarded for a dog flushing the same bird more than once.
- 2) The number of flushes awarded in one run shall not exceed the number of birds allowed.

B POINTING DIVISION

- 1) If a bird is pointed, but then trapped by the dog, a five-point deduction will apply and results in loss of shell.
- 2) If a dog goes on point, and multiple birds are produced, multiple points will be awarded. Multiple points will not be awarded for a dog relocating on a moving bird.
- 3) The number of points awarded in one run shall not exceed the number of birds allowed.
- 4) A hunter may not use a command to make his dog go on point; however, a command may be used after the dog has established the point to steady the dog or keep him from flushing the bird.
- 5) It is beneficial to the hunter to call "point" when the dog has established a point in order to obtain the attention of the scorekeeper.

C DOUBLES DIVISION (POINTING)

- 1) Each hunter is allowed 6 shells. Hunters cannot exchange shells during the competition. Once a hunter has used his shells, his gun must be left open.
- 2) Given shells are not split between the two hunters. As soon as 6 given shells are fired (by one hunter or a combination of the two hunters), extra shells will then be counted.
- 3) The dog may retrieve to either hunter no matter which one shot the bird.
- 4) If the bird is not shot at, the shell is taken from the hunter the dog retrieves to.
- 5) Each hunter must shoot at least one bird.
- 6) Each hunter is only allowed three (3) given shells. Hunters may not share given shells. If one hunter shoots more than three times, the two point deduction will apply per extra shell used. Rule 4) above applies to this rule as well.

C DOUBLES DIVISION (FLUSHING)

- 1) Each hunter is allowed 6 shells. Hunters cannot exchange shells during the competition. Once a hunter has used 6 shells, his gun must be left open.
- 2) If the bird is shot, the dog may retrieve to either hunter no matter which one shot the bird without loss of an extra shell.
- 3) If the bird is not shot at, the shell is taken from the hunter the dog retrieves to.
- 4) Each hunter is only allowed three (3) given shells. Hunters may not share given shells. If one hunter shoots more than three times, the two point deduction will apply per extra shell used by that hunter. Rule 3) above applies to this rule as well.

D. JUNIOR DIVISION

- 1) Participants must be between the ages of 13 and 17 at the time of his/her first run of the membership year. Once a participant has competed in the Junior division, that participant will complete the year as a Junior.
- 2) A parent/legal guardian must sign the release form for the participant in order for him/her to compete.
- 3) Participants may be accompanied by an adult for dog handling purposes only. All gun handling will be done by the Junior (adult may hold gun for junior while retrieving, etc.)
- 4) Juniors may only compete in the Junior division except when competing in the Doubles division with an adult as a partner.

E SENIOR DIVISION

- 1) Participants must be 60 years of age and over.
- 2) Participants may compete in the Senior and open divisions in the same year.

F. ROOKIE DIVISION

- 1) Rookie status must be declared at the start of the membership year (or upon membership enrollment).
- 2) The definition of 'Rookie' is a hunter who is new to the sport of 'dog trials.' A Rookie must not have been a member of any other dog trial organization prior to their membership in the Chukar Challenge. If a hunter registers as a Rookie and it is found that he/she had already been a member of another organization, all points will be nullified and erased from record.
- 3) A Rookie may change to the Open Pointing or Flushing division at any time; however, that participant will no longer be able to return to the Rookie division. This rule applies no matter when the change is made. (i.e. Once a participant has competed in the Open Division, they have excluded him/herself from Rookie status.) If a participant qualified to run as a Rookie in the annual championship, but has since changed to the Open Division, that participant will not be able to compete in the Rookie Division in the annual championship.
- 4) At the end of the membership year, any dog that qualified to compete in the Annual Championship must compete in the Open Division the following year (whether or not the dog attended the Championships).
- 5) Shock collars are allowed in the Rookie Division, but abuse of the collar will be considered mistreatment of the dog and falls under the Penalties and Disqualification section.

G PUPPY DIVISION

- 1) The dog must be under two years of age before the December 1st season starting date.
- 2) Dog can only compete for one year in the Puppy Division whether or not the dog is under two years old at the start of the next season.
- 3) Shock collars are allowed in the Puppy Division, but abuse of the collar will be considered mistreatment of the dog and falls under the Penalties and Disqualification section.

III. ENTRY FEES AND PAYBACKS

A. Pricing

- 1) 1st run pricing includes all entry and administration fees and payback money
- 2) 2nd run pricing does not include payback money or administration fees

B. Payback per run will always be in a dollar amount form, not a percentage.

The optional 2nd run MUST be purchased prior to the dog starting its 1st run in that division. 2nd runs are not refundable after the event has started. Only the highest scoring run between the 1st and 2nd runs will go towards championship points and payback/optional pots. (2nd runs are optional and for the purpose of obtaining a "2nd chance" at a higher score.)

IV. SCORING (All scoring listed below are subject to the terms of VII. Definitions and Penalties listed below)

A. Pointing Division (Open, Seniors, & Juniors) 4 birds, 8 shells (4 given, 4 extra), 1 hunter, 1 dog, 15 minutes

Scoring: Used extra shells: -2 points each
Point (3-second hold): 10 points each
Trapped (caught) bird: -5 points each
Full retrieve: 10 points each
Partial retrieve: 5 points each
Bagged bird: 25 points each
Time remaining: 2 points for each minute (rounded down)

B. Flushing Division (Open, Seniors, & Juniors): 4 birds, 8 shells (4 given, 4 extra), 1 hunter, 1 dog, 15 minutes

Scoring: Used extra shells: -2 points each
Shot bird: 1 point
Flush (trap): 10 points each
Full retrieve: 10 points each
Partial retrieve: 5 points each
Bagged bird: 25 points each
Time remaining: 2 points for each minute (rounded down)

C. Doubles Pointing Division: 6 birds, 12 shells (6 given, 6 extra), 2 hunters, 1 dog, 20 minutes

Scoring: Used extra shells: -2 points each
Point (5-second hold): 10 points each
Trapped (caught) bird: -5 points each
Full retrieve: 10 points each
Partial retrieve: 5 points each
Bagged bird: 25 points each
Time remaining: 2 points for each minute (rounded down)

D. Doubles Flushing Division: 6 birds, 12 shells (6 given, 6 extra), 2 hunters, 1 dog, 20 minutes

Scoring: Used extra shells: -2 points each
Flush (trap): 10 points each
Full retrieve: 10 points each
Partial retrieve: 5 points each
Bagged bird: 25 points each
Time remaining: 2 points for each minute

E. Rookie Division: 3 birds, 6 shells (3 given, 3 extra), 1 hunter, 1 dog, 15 minutes

1. Pointing:

Scoring: Used extra shells: -2 points each
Point (3 second hold): 10 points each
Full retrieve: 10 points each
Partial retrieve: 5 points each
Bagged bird: 25 points each
Time remaining: 2 points for each minute

2. Flushing

Scoring: Used extra shells: -2 points each

Flush (Trap): 10 points each

Shot bird: 1 point (bird MUST be shot and can be inspected by judge when retrieved)

Full retrieve: 10 points each

Partial retrieve: 5 points each

Bagged bird: 25 points each

Time remaining: 2 points for each minute

D. Puppy Pointing Division: 3 birds, 6 shells (3 given, 3 extra), 1 hunter, 1 dog, 15 minutes

Scoring: Used extra shells: -2 points each

Point (3 second hold) 10 points each

Trapped (caught) bird: -5 points each

Full retrieve: 10 points each

Partial retrieve: 5 points each

Bagged bird: 25 points each

Time remaining: 2 points for each minute

E. Puppy Flushing Division: 3 birds, 6 shells (3 given, 3 extra), 1 hunter, 1 dog, 15 minutes

Scoring: Used extra shells: -2 points each

Shot bird: 1 point

Flush (trap): 10 points each

Full retrieve: 10 points each

Partial retrieve: 5 points each

Bagged bird: 25 points each

Time remaining: 2 points for each minute (rounded down)

The time clock starts when hunter(s) or dog leaves the starting point.

F. Safety: Full points for the following: Point or flush (trap) (depending on the division), full retrieve, and bagged bird. One shell will be marked as "used". A thirty (30) second penalty will be subtracted from time remaining. A hunter has the option of firing his gun, releasing the dog and retrieving the bird in order to nullify the thirty (30) second penalty.

G. No points will be awarded unless a bird is produced (a bird seen by the scorekeeper running or flying).

H. In the event of a tie, the winning run will be determined in the following order:

1. Shortest actual time used (including seconds)
2. Time of first bird bagged
3. # of bagged birds

If the scores are still tied after the above is calculated, then those with the tied scores will share the placement, split the payback, and each receive an award/certificate for their placement.

V RETRIEVALS (All items listed below will refer to "full" and "partial" retrievals as defined under VIII. DEFINITIONS below.)

- A. If bird is produced inbounds, and falls dead out of bounds, the dog may retrieve the bird for full points.
- B. If a fence comes into play (boundaries, fence or other), hunter may move to the fence, which then becomes his point of stance, and the dog must then retrieve the bird to within one-step of the hunter. Hunter must unload his gun, action open, chamber empty, and leave it with the judge before assisting his dog through (over) the fence. If in doubles, only one hunter is allowed to assist dog, the other hunter must stay in his position. If the doubles partner moves past the "one step" rule for full retrieval, a partial retrieve will be awarded, even if the hunter was not moving to assist the dog or his/her partner.

- C. If a dog is retrieving a bird and goes on point or gets birdie on another bird, hunter may then move to the spot of the new bird without penalty on the first bird. The position of the second bird now becomes the spot of retrieval for both birds. If the second bird is not produced, the first bird will be scored as a partial.
- D. If for any reason a bird is shot but is irretrievable due to physical surroundings on the field (except for circumstances described in B above), it will be scored as a safety. Judge has final say on whether or not a bird is retrievable.
- E. If a bird is produced and shot within the legal time limit, but time expires before the dog has a chance to attempt retrieval, 30 extra seconds will be allowed in order to obtain retrieval. But when retrieval is made, no extra time will be awarded for a score.

VI GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A. Two (2) entries per dog with same hunter per division allowed in each event. Maximum of four runs per dog allowed in each division. 2nd run with the same hunter MUST be in a different field than the first run. The 2nd run must be purchased prior to the dog running the first run in that division. 2nd runs will NOT be refunded after the event has been started. Only the highest score between the 1st and 2nd runs in that division will go towards championship scores and paybacks/optional pots.
- B. Hunters must be checked in at clubhouse thirty minutes prior to their scheduled brace (unless prior approval from the club) and ready to hunt.
- C. A field committee will be appointed to review all disputes regarding a run. The judge and hunter(s) only will be heard individually regarding the happenings of the run. The committee will then discuss and come to a ruling regarding the run in question. Committee members cannot run in the division they are ruling on (i.e. someone running in the Pointing Division cannot be on the Pointing Committee). The judge will note the time the dispute happens in the field and the time the hunt resumes. No disputes are to be made in the field except to note there is a dispute and that the hunter would like the committee to review the run.
- D. Orange vest or cap must be worn during hunt by anyone entering the field.
- E. Hunter (or team) must be in the blind while the field is being planted.
- F. No shells larger than # 6 shot may be used. No reloads!!
- G. NO SHOCK COLLARS will be allowed except in the Puppy Division. Bells , beepers , and dummy collars will be permitted as long as there are **no prongs** protruding from said collar.
- H. No running.
- I. Gun safety must be priority and practiced with no warnings (auto DQ)
- J. No more than two shells in any type of gun at any given moment.
- K. No aggravated hassling of the judges will be allowed. Any discrepancies will be brought before the field marshal for final say.
- L. No birds shot on the ground.
- M. No birds shall be produced out of bounds by either hunter or dog. If a dog is out of bounds and hunter is making an honest attempt to bring the dog back in bounds and the dog goes on point on a bird that is INBOUNDS, the bird is legal and can be acted upon as if the dog were inbounds.
- N. Birds are to be carried by hunter(s) unless judge offers, judges may also assist in placing the bird in hunter's vest.
- O. No dead birds or bird parts are to be left in field
- P. Dead birds(with in bounds) that have been pointed or trapped by the dog will be scored as a safety as long as the bird is still warm. A cold, dead bird will be pocketed by the judge, no points awarded to the dog/hunter team, and the hunt will resume.
- Q. If a hunter makes three honest attempts at flushing the bird/putting the bird in the air, the hunter will be scored for a non-performing bird. A non-performing bird is scored as a safety. (See safety rules)

- R. Any bitch in season will be ran in the last brace at the end of the day or in a separate field if available.
- S. Designated shooters must be OK'd by club management
- T. Time will only stop when
 1. Last bird of quota is in bag (hand) and dog is in hand (or leashed). Hunter may hand his gun to the judge so he can use both hands.
 2. Judge stops time for ruling or clarification (dog will be leashed until time starts again)
 3. The scheduled amount of time for the hunt is over.
 4. The amount of shells for the hunt has been spent (unused time will not be awarded for points)
- S. Once the hunt starts, the hunter's gun must stay in the field, even if retrieving a dog out of bounds.
- T. If, while hunting, a bird flies into your field from another, it is then a legal bird and may be acted upon immediately.
- U. If a safety has been called on a bird, which lands back in your field, you may act upon that bird immediately; however, you will obtain a 6 point penalty. You have the option of waiting for three minutes before acting on the bird without obtaining a penalty.
- V. If a contending dog from another field enters your field and disrupts your hunt (i.e. produces a bird), then a rerun will be warranted for the run that was disturbed. If a bird was not produced, then a rerun will not be awarded.
- W. Hunters must do their best to keep their dogs contained to their field. Hunters that do not make an effort to bring their dog back in bounds will be penalized 5 points. Time will continue running on the dog that is disrupting the other field(s). The judge may stop time in the field that is being disrupted if he/she deems it necessary to keep the current hunt honest.
- X. Hunters and spectators will not argue with judges or other members of the staff. If a discrepancy in scoring exists between hunter and judge, a field marshal will determine the outcome based on the accounts of both the hunter and judge. The field marshal has final say as to the scoring of the run in question.
- Y. Contestants may not consume alcoholic beverages before or during their runs.
- Z. **Calcuttas will be allowed!** A \$25 minimum bid is required from a buyer. Bids will be taken up until the first run of the event starts in that division. Once a bid is placed, it cannot be taken back. 10% of the calcutta winnings go to the house, 20% to the dog, and 70% to the buyer of the dog. Calcutta will pay to four (4) places (after the 10% is given to the house): 1st - 40%, 2nd - 30%, 3rd - 20%, 4th - 10%.
- BB. Club owners/operators and family members may compete in competitions on their own fields; however, they cannot win prize money or awards. They may compete for points only. Dogs that placed below them will be moved up one place and receive the points as if the owners dog was not present.

VII. PENALTIES AND DISQUALIFICATIONS (A penalty is a point deduction, disqualification is always without a refund of entry fees)

- A. Running - 1st reminder to "walk" is given in the blind and is considered your first warning, 2nd reminder to "walk" is loss of points for one bagged bird, 3rd reminder to "walk" is automatic disqualification.
- B. Misconduct - Participants who do not abide by the rules of good conduct while on the premises will be disqualified from the day's competition. Spectators in violation of good conduct will be asked to leave the premises for the duration of the day's activities.
- C. The mistreatment of dogs will not be tolerated. Anyone mistreating animals while on premises will be disqualified immediately.
- D. Unsafe use or handling of firearms will result in disqualification. Laying your gun on the ground will result in immediate disqualification whether it is empty or not. Your gun must be handed to the scorekeeper.
- E. Failure to let a judge inspect a collar or shells will result in disqualification.
- F. Intentional leaving of birds or bird parts in the field will result in a ten-point penalty. It is the judge's discretion if the penalty is applied.
- G. Shooting a bird on the ground will result in disqualification.

VIII. DEFINITIONS:

Given shell - the number of shells equal to the number of birds allowed in one hunt. In doubles, each hunter has as many given shells as half the number of birds allowed in one hunt.

Extra shell - any shell used that exceeds the number of given shells in one hunt (as defined above).

Flushed Bird - a bird produced inbounds by a flushing dog. No points will be awarded for an unintentional flush by the dog or an intentional flush by the hunter.

Full retrieve - the dog retrieves the bird and brings it back to the hunter within one step from where the hunter was standing when the bird was shot or trapped. The hunter is allowed one step or kneel down in order to pick up the bird. The hunter's back foot must stay planted while he takes one step with the other foot. A hunter cannot lie down and stretch, use a gun, stick, or any other object to pull the bird within the "one-step" boundary. In doubles, both hunters must keep their position in order for a full retrieve to be awarded.

Partial retrieve - consists of the dog picking the bird up and coming towards the hunter with the bird in his mouth, but not making it to within one step of the hunter as described in a full retrieval. A dog simply "mouthing" the bird, but not picking it up and walking towards the hunter does not qualify as a partial retrieve.

Pointed Bird - A bird pointed inbounds by a pointing dog for a minimum of a three second hold.

Produced bird - a bird running or flying inbounds, as seen by the judge, or a live bird trapped by the dog.

Safety - any situation whereas the judge deems it unsafe for the hunter to take the shot.

1. A safety is automatically called if the scorekeeper or cameraman kicks up a bird.
2. A safety may be called on the dog (bird must be at least 4 feet above the dog for a safe shot).
3. A safety is automatically called if a shot would be directed over a road, personal property, or within an unsafe distance of the gallery.
4. The judge or the shooter may call a safety, but the judge has final say if the safety was justified.
5. A hunter has the option of firing his gun, releasing the dog and retrieving the bird in order to nullify the thirty (30) second penalty.

Trapped Bird - A bird caught by a dog without the hunter having to physically shoot his firearm. Trapped bird results in loss of a shell. A trapped bird in the pointing divisions results in a penalty of 5 points. A trapped bird in the flushing divisions bears no penalty.

Walking - walking consists of two feet on the ground at all times. The judge has final say on what is walking - if the judge has to "run" to keep up with the hunter, the hunter is running.

IX. CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION

In order to qualify for the Annual Championships, the dog must have competed in no less than three events and have an average score of:

Open - Pointing & Flushing: 190

Doubles - Pointing & Flushing: 280

Juniors & Seniors: 190

Rookie: 145

Puppy: 145

The top 25 dogs in each division will compete in the Annual Championships. A top dog in each division will be awarded and prize money, prizes, and plaques/trophies awarded to 5 places. (The number of top dogs will increase to 50 as memberships allow.)