



## **BIRD HUNTERS UNITED (BHU) AMATEUR, HUNTER, AND YOUTH POINTING RULES**

- 1) THE JUDGE'S RULING IS FINAL. Only the contestant, involved persons, field marshal, or club host will discuss any ruling prior to the JUDGE final ruling.**
- 2) No interference or harassment of the Bird Planter or Judges will be allowed.**
- 3) BHU, the club host, and/or the judge reserve the right to disqualify any person or persons for any violations of club rules. Disqualifications may be for one trial run, an entire event, and/or participation in any future BHU events. Disqualification may include forfeiture of any fees paid.**

**Dogs are to be leashed at any time they are not involved in a scheduled trial run or in a designated 'off-leash area. Host is encouraged to designate an off-leash area. Handler is responsible for any damage caused by his/her dog(s).**

### **DEFINITIONS OF CLASSES**

**YOUTH :** Youth must be between the ages of 13-17. They may draw and run in the Amateur , Open ( if they run an open dog, they must use open rules in qualifying events.), or Hunter class, whichever they choose to sanction . If they choose to not sanction their run(s), they will receive only a 1 trial qualifying credit toward National Trial entry. Placement Points will go towards the dog in the class chosen. Youth must have 4 BHU runs (2 must be with the dog to be used at nationals) to compete at Nationals. Youth entrant must handle his/her dog and shoot the birds themselves.

**HUNTER:** Class is limited to handlers and dogs who have not received a placement (first-third place) or championship points in any recognized dog trial circuit. Placements in BHU trials will be recognized as Amateur points. There must be at least 5 dogs in a trial to receive BHU recognized placements. (1st-3rd)

**AMATEUR:** Class is limited to DOGS which are not champions in any dog trial circuit. A dog must advance to open class as soon as it becomes a champion, but may still compete at nationals the season it is awarded a championship and is locked into the High Honors points. There must be at least 5 dogs in a trial to receive championship points.

**Events will consist of one, 15 minute, 3-bird plant (*Quail, chucker, pheasant, or any consistent combination*)). The club host may increase or decrease the run time due to weather and/or number**

**of entries. 20 dogs is considered a full field. Host may determine total number of entrants they can accommodate.**

### **Scoring**

### **Example:**

A 6-second <u>Point</u> is	=	10pts	3 full points	X 10 =	30 points
A <u>Full Retrieve</u> is	=	10pts	2 full retrieves	X 10 =	20 points
A <u>Partial Retrieve</u>	=	5pts	1 partial retrieve	X 05 =	5 points
A <u>Bagged Bird</u>	=	10pts	3 bagged birds	X 10 =	30 points
A <u>Trapped Bird</u> is a 15 pt deduction (-15pts)			Total	=	85 points

**Trapped Bird:** Any bird in a dog's mouth which has not been shot at, even if the dog drops the bird. (Exception: Safety birds) Both a trapped bird and a safety bird will have one shell deducted and count as a bagged bird. Bird must be thrown, shot and retrieved to receive retrieve points.

**Safety:** May be called by the Judge or the Handler. A safety will be awarded if taking a shot might cause harm to any person, automobiles, buildings, or in any way be deemed dangerous. Everyone is encouraged to identify any areas which might be cause to call a safety prior to beginning a run. Full points will be awarded on a safety granted by the Judge. That bird cannot be scored on again during the same run. The handler will be charged 1 shell (the same as if he/she had shot the bird) (The dog may retrieve the bird for no additional score.) If the safety bird is the third bird bagged, time stops when the handler has the dog by the collar. If at any time, the gun is pointed at the judge the handler may be warned and/or disqualified at the judges' digression.

**No shot will ever be taken after a safety has been called.**

**Safety on the Dog:** May be called by the Judge or the Handler. The bird has to be flying, travel at least 10 yards and the dog be dangerously close. Judge's decision is final.

**Pulled Shot:** At no time will a handler purposely discharge a firearm off to one side of a dog or bird to avoid a caught bird being ruled a 'trapped bird.'

**Non-performing bird:** After a dog has established a 6 second point, a handler may request judge's ruling that a bird not willing to fly is a non-performing bird. Hunter must make several gentle attempts to move the bird &/or roll the bird out of the nest. With the judges approval the bird may be picked up, thrown, and shot. Bird stomped or harmed on purpose may result in disqualification.

Running birds are considered a bad luck. Any bird caught by dog will result in a trap, unless bird has flown 10 yards or more and a safety was granted.

### **Shells:**

**Amateur / Hunter:** 5 shells may be used. Shells have no point value. After the 5<sup>th</sup> shell is used the run is over if no bird is to be retrieved. If only two birds have been bagged, time will stop and run will be considered a full run.

**Youth:** 6 shells may be used. AMATUER RULE applies

**Shell sizes:** 12 gauge shells limited to 2 ¾ inch, shot sizes 6 to 9 for quail & chucker. Shot size 5 is allowed for pheasant. 20 gauge shells (or smaller) may be 2 ¾ or 3 inch, shot sizes 5 to 9 for all birds.

**Tie Breaker** will be total minutes and seconds used. Time to First Bird bagged will be the second tie breaker. “First bird” refers to the time in which the first bird is harvested and in the handler’s hand after retrieve.

**Time:** Stops when the third bird is bagged (the handler has the bird in hand and the dog by the collar) If 3<sup>rd</sup> bird is a Safety or a Trap, time stops when the handler has the dog by the collar. Dog will leashed and walked out of the field. No points will be awarded after time has run out.

**Point:** Dog points, handler calls point, dog remains stationary (dog cannot advance) for 6 seconds. (The dog may shift its weight from foot to foot, sit, or stand, BUT THE DOG CAN NOT ADVANCE) If the dog advances, the judge will stop the count and indicate no point established. When the dog stops (reestablishes a point) the handler can then call point and a new 6 second count will start. The handler cannot command his dog on point at any time.

**Exception:**

All points will be awarded if the handler calls point but after **2 or more** seconds on point the bird flushes (pops) if dog has not moved and the handler did not flush the bird. The handler is still required to shoot the bird to get credit for the retrieve and bagged bird. Exception applies only on the initial point.

**NO** point will be awarded if the handler calls point and the dog advances before a 6 second point has been established, causing the bird to flush.

**NO** point will be awarded if the handler flushes the bird before the 6-second count is complete.

**If** a flushed bird lands in the field, the dog may work the bird with no time delay. The dog will be required to establish 6-second point before the bird can be shot. The Exception will not apply on this bird.

**If** a safety was called and granted, the bird will be considered dead for the brace and should not be worked, even if it lands in-bounds, and it cannot be scored a second time.

**Full Retrieve:** The dog picks up the bird and brings it to the handler. The handler may pivot on one foot but cannot take a step after the shot. Bird MAY be picked up off ground if it is within easy reach. (If a dog stops and points a bird during the retrieve, full credit for the retrieve will be given if a second bird is produced)

**Partial Retrieve:** If a dog finds and picks up a shot bird, but drops it before reaching the hunter, a Partial retrieve will be scored. The handler must find and bag the bird to get the points for a partial retrieve and bagged bird.

**Non-Retrieveable bird:** A shot bird which lands across a road, on unsafe ice, across an impenetrable fence, dead in a tree or on top of an obstacle or other predetermined unsafe area may be declared non-retrieveable and full points will be awarded (the bird must be dead as witnessed by the judge)

**Bagged bird:** A bird is considered a bagged bird when the bird is dead and placed in the handler's game bag to be carried out of the field. This includes all safety and trapped birds. (All cripples will be killed before being placed into the game bag. **No cripples should be carried out of the field.**) We may have the public watching and it is bad publicity (and illegal in most states). 1 shell will be counted as used per every bagged bird.

**Firearm Safety:** The only time a firearm may be discharged is in the field while safely attempting to shoot a legal game bird, or in a designated area with the host's approval.

**No Running Rule:** Running will not be allowed. First incident will receive a warning. 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence will result in a 10 point penalty. Should handler run a third time, disqualification is automatic.

**Out Of Bounds :** Handler cannot go out of bounds with a firearm. A dog can work birds from any angle on the boundary line. Only birds pointed and flushed from inside boundary may be scored. Judge may request hunter shoot an out-of-bounds bird near the line without penalty or points.

**Reruns: If dog's run is hampered or opportunity to score is damaged due to interference by another dog or hunter a rerun may be awarded** with approval of Judge and Host. Cost of the second run will be the responsibility of the owner and/or handler of the dog causing the interference.

**Hunter orange vest and orange hat is required by anyone in an event field. Youth hunters must wear eye safety glasses or prescription glasses. The host may require safety glasses for all handlers in the field.**

**Interference in the field by another dog:** The hunt will not stop; any birds produced by the interfering dog will count as full credit to the team in the field. The judge may stop the run if safety becomes an issue. The Judge and Host may determine whether rerun is needed. Expense of a rerun will be borne by the interfering dog's owner.

If you shoot a bird which lands in an adjacent field and retrieving that bird would cause interference in second field, the Judge may tell the handler to call his/her dog back and receive full retrieve points. Partial retrieve points will be awarded if the dog has not or cannot prove it will complete a full retrieve.

**Unsportsmanlike conduct** will result in a warning and/or disqualification. Example: Intentionally flushing a bird towards the gallery, judge, or other unsafe area.

Abuse of the safety rule. Dog abuse, abuse of the judge, bird planter, host, handler, or spectator or Cursing in front of the gallery is considered unsportsmanlike.

BHU's goals are:

To display outstanding sportsmanship.

To inform and encourage men, women and children new to the outdoors about participation in our sport.

To gather as friends and friendly competitors who love to watch and work good dogs on birds in the field.

Let's all have fun!