



POINTING DOUBLES RULES

- 1) **THE JUDGE'S RULING IS FINAL.** Only the contestant, involved persons, field marshal, or club host will discuss any ruling up to the point the JUDGE declares his/her ruling is final.
- 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 a run, an event, and/or participation in any future BHU events. Disqualifications may include forfeiture of any moneys paid.**

General Rules:

Dogs are to be on a lead at any time they are not hunting in a field. This includes to and from the field and in the gallery area. Host is encouraged to designate an off leash area.

Handler is responsible for any damage caused by their dogs.

Hunter orange vest and orange hat required by anyone in an event field. Youth have a mandatory safety glass requirement. The host may require safety glasses for all handlers in the field.

Doubles Event will consist of one, 20 minute, 5 bird plant, with two dogs working as a team, (*quail, chucker, pheasant, or combination - the combination will be made clear to all contestants*). The club host may increase or decrease the run time due to weather and/or number of entries.

Shell sizes:

12 gauge limited to 2 ¾ inch sizes 9 to 6's for quail & chucker. 9 to 5 are for pheasant.
20 gauge limited to 2 ¾ or 3 inch sizes 9 to 5's for both quail, chucker, & pheasant.

Ties: Will be determined first by total minutes and seconds used. If the tie is not broken, first bird time will be the second tie breaker. First bird is when the handler has bird in their hand.

Time: Stops when the fifth bird is in hand (the handler has the bird in hand and the dog by the collar). Safety or a Trap on the fifth bird: time stops when the handler has the dog by the collar. Dog will be placed on a lead and walked out of the field. No points will be awarded after time has run out.

Scoring

A Point is worth 10pts
Each shell left is worth 5 pts (Open class)
A Full Retrieve is worth 10pts
A Partial Retrieve is worth 5pts
A Bagged Bird is worth 10pts
A Back is worth 5pts
A Trapped Bird is a 15 pt deduction (-15pts)

Point: Dog points, handler calls point, dog remains stationary (dog does not advance) for 6 seconds. The dog may shift its weight to a different 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 (verbally or with collar) the dog to point.

Exception:

Points will be awarded if the handler calls point and after 2 seconds the bird pops/flies and the 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.

Shells: Shells left are worth 5pts each. Only 7 shells can be used in doubles events. Before run begins, teammates split shells, 4 to one and 3 to the other. Exp: John brings 4 shells to the field and Jeff brings 3. Once Jeff has shot 3 times he cannot shoot again (if bird is a safety or a trap, shell will be taken from handler working bird).

Full Retrieve: The dog picks up the bird and brings it to the handler and the handler takes the bird from the dog's mouth. The bird cannot be picked up off the ground. The handler may pivot on one foot but cannot take a step after the shot. (If a dog stops and points a bird during the retrieve, full credit for the retrieve will be given if a bird is produced). If a judge cannot determine if the bird was taken out of the dog's mouth, he may ask you to have your dog retrieve a bird after the run is complete. Full retrieve points will not be awarded on a safety if your dog has not shown its ability to retrieve.

Partial Retrieve: The dog picks up the bird but the handler did not take the bird from the dog's mouth. The handler must find and bag the bird to get the points for a partial retrieve and bagged bird.

Bagged bird: A bird is considered a bagged bird when the bird is dead and placed in the judge's game bag. This includes all safety and trapped birds. All cripples will be killed before being placed into the game bag. **No cripples will be carried out of the field.** We have the public watching, it is bad publicity and illegal in most if not all states. 1 shell is counted used per every bagged bird. All birds will be in the judges' game bags. Participants will have no birds in their game bags and game bags will be checked going into the field and coming out of the field.

Back: Defined as a dog seeing another dog on point, the backing dog stops, does not pass the pointing dog, and holds its back for 3 seconds. Dog cannot be commanded to back, but can be commanded to come to the area.

Trapped Bird: Any bird in a dog's mouth that 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 towards bagged bird. To receive a full retrieve you must throw the bird and shoot, and take the bird out of dog's mouth.

Non-Retrievable bird: After a bird is shot, it will be deemed non-retrievable if a bird lands across a road, on unsafe ice, across an impenetrable fence, dead in a tree or on top of an obstacle (the bird must be dead as witnessed by the judge) or other predetermined area before the event starts.

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 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 on a bird, this bird will be considered dead for the brace.

Handlers can have no communication with the dog after the point is called until the judge states the point is good. If communication is made you must relocate your dog and call point again.

Calling a 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 anyway be deemed as dangerous. Everyone is encouraged to identify any areas prior to starting a run that would be cause to call a safety. Full points will be awarded on a safety bird and that bird cannot be scored on again during the same run. The handler will be charged 1 shell (the same as if the handler had shot the bird). The dog may retrieve the bird for no additional score. If the safety bird is the 5th bird bagged, time stops when the handler has the dog by the collar. If at any time, the gun is pointed at the judge or other participants, the handler may be warned and/or disqualified at the judges' discretion.

No shot will ever be made 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, traveled at least 10 yards and be dangerously close to the dog.

Pulled Shot: At no time will a handler willfully discharge a firearm off to one side of a dog or in air for any reason.

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

No Running Rule: Running will not be allowed. 1st time warning, 2nd time 10 pt loss, 3rd time disqualification.

Out Of Bounds: Handler cannot go out of bounds with a firearm but the dog can work birds on the boundary line.

Non-performing bird: After a dog has established a 6 second point, a handler may request from the judge that a bird be deemed a non-performer if a bird will not fly after several gentle attempts to move the bird or roll the bird out of the nest, hop/flies less than 10 yards, or runs refusing to fly. With the judges approval the bird may be picked up, thrown, and shot. If the bird is missed and gets away, only points for the point will be awarded. If this is the fifth bird and it is bagged, time stops when the bird is in hand and the dog held by the collar. Bird stomped or harmed on purpose will result in disqualification. Running birds are considered a bad break and if caught by dog, result in a trapped bird.

Reruns: with the Judge and Host approval.

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 the safety becomes an issue. The Judge and Host may determine that a rerun is needed. A rerun will be given at the expense of the interfering dog's owner. If you shoot a bird that lands in an adjacent field and retrieving that bird would cause interference in that 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.

Cursing in front of the gallery. Etc.

BHU has the following goals:

To display outstanding sportsmanship.

To teach the kids, women, and those new to the outdoors about our sport.

To come together as friends who love to watch the dogs work birds in the field and share a little friendly competition. Let's all have fun!