



## Bird Hunters United (BHU) FLUSHING

### Rules

Jan 2011

**1) THE JUDGE'S RULING IS FINAL.** The Judge may discuss the matter (prior to ruling) with the contestant and the field marshal (or club host, as the case may be) for clarification purposes. However, the Judge will make the final decision and the Judge's decision is final and may not be appealed.

**2) No interference or harassment of the Bird Planter or Judges will be allowed.** The field marshal or the Judge will determine if the behavior constitutes interference or harassment. Interference or harassment will result in disqualification.

**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 will include forfeiture of any and all moneys paid for the current event.

Dogs are to be on a lead at all times unless they are in a field hunting. They must be on a lead when being taken to and from the field. In addition, they must be on a lead in the gallery area. Host must provide a designated "off lease" area for dogs. Handler is responsible for any and all damage caused by his/her dog(s).

**Amateur Events will consist of one 20-minute, 3-bird plant** (*Quail, chuckar, pheasant, or any combination of these three (the combination will be made clear to all contestants prior to their run).*)

**Open Events will consist of one 20-minute, 3-bird plant** (*Quail, chuckar, pheasant, or any combination of these three (the combination will be made clear to all contestants prior to their run).*) **(OR) two 20-minute, 3-bird plants combined for one score.**

**Doubles Event will consist of one 20-minute, 5-bird plant**, with two handlers and two dogs working as a team (*Quail, chuckar, pheasant, or any combination of these three (the combination will be made clear to all contestants prior to their run).*) Hunters must stay within 50 yards of each other.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The club host reserves the right to increase or decrease the run time due to weather and/or number of entries.

### Scoring

A Flush is worth 15 pts

Each shell left is worth 5 pts (in Open Class only)

A Full Retrieve is worth 15 pts

A Partial Retrieve is worth 5pts

**Shells:**

**Amateur:** No more than two shells above the bird bag (or five shells for a 3-bird run) are allowed. Shells have no point value. After the last shot, if the hunter has not obtained credit for three flushes, he may continue to hunt until he has three flushes, or moved a total of four birds, or time has run out.

**Open:** Shells are worth five points each. No more than two shells above the bird bag (or five shells for a 3-bird run) are allowed. After the last shot, if the hunter has not obtained credit for three flushes, he may continue to hunt until he has three flushes, or moved a total of four birds (in doubles, six birds), or time has run out.

**Shell sizes:** 12 gauge is limited to 2 ¾ inch sizes 9 to 6s for quail and chuckar. 9 to 5s for pheasant. 20 gauge is limited to 2 ¾ or 3 inch sizes 9 to 5s for quail, chuckar and pheasant.

**Ties:** Ties will be determined (i) first by total minutes and seconds used; and (ii) second by first bird time. If the tie is not broken the placement will be shared.

**Time:** Time stops when the final bird is retrieved (the handler has the bird in hand and the dog by the collar) If a Safety occurs on the final bird, time stops when the handler has the dog by the collar. The Dog shall be placed on a lead and walked out of the field.

**Flush:** The dog actions must produce the bird or flush the bird to receive credit. If the Judge flushes bird, full credit will be awarded.

**Full Retrieve:** The dog picks up the bird and brings it to the handler; the handler takes the bird from the dog's mouth. The bird can not be picked up off of the ground. The handler may pivot on one foot but can not take a step after the shot.

**Partial Retrieve:** The dog picks up the bird but the handler does not take the bird from the dog's mouth. The handler must then find and bag the bird to get the points for a partial retrieve. Dead birds may not be left in the field.

**Non-Retrievable Bird:** After a bird is shot, it will be deemed non-retrievable if it 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 (said predetermined area will be announced prior to the start of competition).

**No cripples (live birds) will be carried out of the field.** We have the public watching, it is bad publicity and illegal in most, if not all, states. Please make sure all birds are dead prior to leaving the field.

**Safety:** 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, dog, automobile, building, or deemed, in anyway by either the Judge or the Handler to be dangerous. Everyone is encouraged, prior to runs, to try to identify any and all areas that might be cause to call a safety. Full points will be awarded for a safety bird. The safety bird cannot be scored on again during the same run. The Handler will be charged 1 shell (the same as if the Handler shot the bird). The dog may retrieve the bird but no additional points will be awarded. If the safety bird is the final 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 will be warned and may be disqualified at the Judge's discretion. **No shot shall ever be made after a safety has been called. If a shot is made at the time the safety is called, the Handler will be disqualified.**

**Pulled Shot:** At no time will a Handler willfully discharge a firearm off to one side of a dog for any reason. **A pulled shot will result in disqualification.**

**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 an area previously designed for such.

**No Running Rule:** Running is not be allowed. The first time will result in a warning; the second time will result in 10 points deducted from the Handler's score on that run and the third time will result in disqualification.

**Reruns:** Reruns will be allowed with the approval of the Judge and the Host.

**Anyone in an event field must wear an orange vest and orange hat at all times. In addition, all youth must also wear safety 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 the Judge believes safety is an issue. Either the Judge or the Host may determine that a re-run is needed. A rerun will be given at the expense of the interfering dog's owner.

If a Handler shoots a bird that lands in an adjacent field and retrieving that bird would cause interference in that field, the Judge must instruct the handler to call his/her dog back and the Handler will receive full retrieve points.

**Unsportsmanlike conduct** will result in a warning and/or disqualification at the discretion of the Judge or the Host. Examples: (i) intentionally flushing a bird towards the gallery, judge, or other unsafe area; (ii) abuse of the safety rule; (iii) abuse of a dog; (iv) abuse of the Judge, bird planter, Host, any other Handler, or spectators. When children or wives are present, cursing in the gallery will not be tolerated.

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.

Lets all have fun!