

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.**

Dogs are to be on a lead at any time they are not hunt in a field. This include to, from the field, and in the gallery area. Host is encouraged to designate a off leash area. Handler is responsible for any damage caused by their dogs.

Open: Any dog may compete in this class

Open Events will consist of one, 15 minute, 3-bird plant (*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.)

20 dogs is a full field (exceptions must be requested and posted on website)

Scoring

A Point is worth 10pts

Each shell left is worth 5 pts

A Full Retrieve is worth 10pts

A Partial Retrieve is worth 5pts

A Bagged Bird is worth 10pts

A Trapped Bird is a 15 pt deduction (-15pts)

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 bird must be taken out of dogs mouth throw , shot, and then bird taken out of dogs mouth for a full retrieve.

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 3 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 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.

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 rolls 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. Points will be awarded if the handler hits the bird, the dog retrieves (full, 10pts or Partial, 5pts) and the bird is bagged (10pts).

If the bird is missed and gets away, only points for the point will be awarded.

If this is the third bird and 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. If dog catches a bird running it will result in a trap, unless the bird has flown at least 10 yards and determined a safety .

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.

Shells: Shells are worth 5pts each. 5 shells are allowed, if all shells are used, dog can only receive points for a retrieve and bagged bird, then run is over. If only two birds are bagged the time will be recorded as a full run.

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. Second tie breaker will be first bird. First bird is the time in which handler has the first bird in hand.

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

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:

A points will be awarded if the handler calls point and after 2 seconds the bird pop's/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.

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.

No communication with the dog after the point is called until the judge states the point is good.

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)

Partial Retrieve: Is when the dog picked 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.

Non-Retrieveable bird: After a bird is shot, it will be deemed non-retrieveable 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.

Bagged bird: A bird is considered a bagged bird when the bird is dead and placed in the handler's game bag and 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 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 counted 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 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.(dog can work birds on the boundary line).

Reruns: with the Judge and Host approval.

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.

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 (Bar talk) 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.

Lets all have fun !