

1. Registration closes at 9:00 P.M. the Thursday prior to the trial. Do not expect to be able to sign up the day of the trial nor ask a trial chairman for exceptions. **Once reservations are made, the handler is responsible to the club for payment of all reserved runs unless cancelled before birds have been ordered.** Anyone with outstanding "tabs" for unpaid runs due to "no shows" will not be able to compete in any trials until their "tab" has been settled – this included the Winners' Trial. Clubs will not hold or store birds for "no shows". Extenuating circumstances for "no shows" will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
2. All handlers MUST be on the grounds one hour before their assigned starting time and confirm that time with the trial Secretary or the Secretary's appointee one hour prior to their assigned starting time. Handlers with starting times reserved have preference, regardless of the order of their arrival, if checked in with the field marshal one hour before that time. The handler MUST also be the owner or immediate family member of the dog(s) being run and, if requested, proof of ownership must be presented.
3. All dogs MUST be properly vaccinated, kept on lead, and under control, or in a vehicle or crate so as not to distract working dogs in the field. Any dog that should disrupt another dog's hunt may be disqualified if deemed appropriate by the judge.
4. When your number comes up, go into the blind with your dog on a lead. Your gun shall be empty, chamber open and on safe with the barrel in a safe direction at all times. If a gunner is used, the gunner must go into the blind with the handler. You will be instructed when to approach the judge. The judge will tell you when and where you may load your gun, define field boundaries and no shooting zones, and answer any questions you may have prior to beginning your hunt.
5. Each handler shall be entitled to 10 minutes to locate, flush, shoot and pick up his birds. Handlers should carefully consider the location of the gallery, gunners and judge with regard to safety throughout the hunt. If time is called and a dog is NOT actively on point or flushing game, the handler must discontinue the hunt and pick up his dog.
6. No training devices may be used on dogs; including but not limited to check cords, pinch collars, weighted collars, electric or dummy collars, flushing whips and bells.
7. A maximum of 2 shells may be in your gun at any one time, shell size limited to nothing larger than #5 shot. You are allowed only 2 shots per bird. The handler must stay at least ten (10) feet behind the dog once a pointer goes on point or when a flushing dog becomes birdie. The gunner must stay with the handler so as to be in a position to make a safe and clear shot. The judge shall maintain a safe position between the gallery and the handler.
8. Any handler who so desires may use a gunner. A handler who uses a gunner will have 10% deducted from their final score. Exception: there will be no deduction for children under the age of 18. Each club's field marshal or person in charge will have the option of review for all other requests for the use of a gunner without being subject to the 10% deduction (i.e. an injury that inhibits shooting safely).
9. The gunner shall not shoot at birds on the ground, either crippled or running, before flushing. There will be no running in the field with a loaded gun! If you are attempting to flush a running bird, you will not run and will keep gun safety first and foremost in your mind.
10. Spectators will be required to stay in designated areas. All spectators as well as handlers, judges, bird setters, gunners and any other field help must wear hunters orange. We ask that you wear, at the very minimum, a hunter orange vest as required by Ohio law for regular upland hunting.
11. No drinking of alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the trial grounds during a trial.
12. Bitches in season will be allowed to run only after all other dogs have completed their runs. They must be isolated from other dogs until entering the field.
13. Judges will decide the winners at the conclusion of the trial. Their decisions are final.
14. All member clubs have agreed that gallery gunners will be the option of the individual club, though, they will be required at the Winners' Trial. The handler will call "GALLERY" when the shot is not safe. The judge will then determine if the call was correct. The dog will then get 75-100% of the retrieve at the discretion of the judge. If no other retrieve was made, the judge can call for a (live or dead) bird to determine if the dog will retrieve. If the dog mishandled the first bird, no second bird for the retrieve is necessary.
15. Pointing puppies will not be required to retrieve and no additional credit should be given for those pointing puppies that do retrieve. The word "retrieve" shall be blanked out of the judging sheet. Flushing puppies shall be given appropriate credit for retrieving.
16. To qualify for the Winners' Trial, a handler must place his dog at a trial during that season. A dog may qualify in more than one class. On the day of the Winners' Trial, any one dog may be entered in only one class. At a regular trial prior to the Winners' Trial, any one dog may enter 2 classes in one trial for placement, running the more difficult first.
17. Only dogs receiving a placement of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th in a Memorial Trial or the Winners' Trial may be eligible for "Dog of the Day".
18. At the Winners' Trial, under no circumstances shall any owner/handler be permitted to participate in the capacity of bird setter, gallery gunner or field marshal on the field that he/she is competing in.