

19. All trials are subject to rules and regulations of the State of Ohio including laws regarding the possession of a current hunting license while participating in a trial – depending on the club. It is responsibility of the handler to ask if the club requires a current license. It is also the responsibility of the handler to have appropriate leg bands or paperwork etc. when leaving a trial for legal transportation of any taken birds.

Disqualifications & Gun Safety

20. Abuse of a dog in any manner while participating in a trial or on trial grounds will be cause for immediate disqualification. Judges, trial chairmen or their appointed representatives may impose such a disqualification. You will be advised of the disqualification and asked to leave the trial grounds. Any such disqualification shall remain in effect for one (1) calendar year and shall apply at any trial held by any of the participating clubs during such time frame.
21. Disqualifications for poor and improper sportsmanship: any handler, gunner, spectator, field help, etc. may be disqualified and removed from club grounds for what is deemed as extremely poor and improper conduct and sportsmanship. Such disqualification shall remain in effect for one (1) calendar year and shall apply at any trial held by any of the participating clubs during such time frame. Judges, trial chairmen or their appointed representatives may impose such disqualification.
22. Handlers and/or gunners who shoot dangerously close to the gallery, handler, judge or any other person or towards/within areas designated as no shooting zones will be disqualified immediately. however, if they were not on their last bird, a gunner may be requested by the handler at the discretion of the judge for a 10% deduction in order to complete the remainder of the run. The disqualification will remain in effect for one (1) calendar year and shall apply to all trials in that time frame hosted by any of the participating clubs. Any person disqualified for a dangerous shot will not be eligible to gun in any capacity for (1) calendar year. Judges, trial chairmen or their appointed representatives may impose such disqualification.
23. Any handler or gunner can be disqualified for lack of gun safety. Disqualification for gun safety shall remain in effect for one (1) calendar year and shall apply to all trials in that time frame hosted by any of the participating clubs. Any person disqualified for gun safety will not be eligible to gun in any capacity for one (1) calendar year. Judges, trial chairmen or their representatives may impose such a disqualification.
24. Any handler who is disqualified three (3) times for improper gun safety shall be disqualified for life from shooting at a hunters' trial or winners' trial event. During their lifetime, a handler who receives 3 disqualifications, one of which is for poor and improper sportsmanship, may be disqualified from participating in hunters' trials and winners' trials for life.
25. Any handler receiving a one (1) year probation for a disqualifying act shall be notified to the best of the club's ability within 72 hours. The one year probation period shall apply at all trials held by any of the participating clubs during such time frame.
26. *The Hunters' Trials are about the camaraderie between sportsman, their love of great dogs and the sport of upland hunting; as well as enjoying the opportunity to participate in such events. GUN SAFETY is of the utmost significance! It is an important part of protecting our right to continue to enjoy these events. Poor gun safety in and/or out of the field at a Hunters' Trial will not be tolerated. Let's make it a safe year!*

JUDGING GUIDELINES for the Hunters' & Winners' Trials

Imagine yourself accompanying someone who is out on a day's hunt with his or her dog. A more desirable dog might be one that requires little or no commands, stays in range nicely, and puts birds in the game bag. A less desirable dog might not obey, runs off and hunts on his own, loses (won't retrieve) or drops birds. A well trained dog will retrieve to hand while others may only retrieve to the handler's feet. A dog needing help remembering a fallen bird is less desirable than one that marks unquestionably well. Remember this is a hunters' trial. Most hunters make one pass through an area and wouldn't consider covering the same area twice. A bird missed on a first pass should score considerably less than one found on a second or third pass. You are at a hunters' trial to show case your dog and the great hunting companion he is. You have 10 minutes on a given course with 2-3 birds depending on the trial.

Your dog will be judged based upon the following guidelines:

1. **Desire to hunt:** the dog must seek game with boldness, enthusiasm, and desire. It must look like it's trying to find birds and wants to hunt.
2. **Hunts the Field Correctly:** the dog should cover the field in a thorough and efficient manner, depending on conditions (wind, weather, scenting conditions, etc.). It should hunt at a reasonable distance from the handler, with regard to the breed.
3. **Locates Birds Correctly:** Pointer – the dog should locate, lock on point, and show intensity while on point. It should remain on point and not creep as the handler flushes the bird. Flusher – the dog should boldly locate and flush the bird.
4. **Steady to Wing & Shot (All-Age Class only):** Pointer – the dog should not move forward as the bird flushes. The dog may pivot to mark the bird. It should remain this way during shooting and as the bird falls. It will then be released by command of the handler. Flusher – After a bold flush, the dog should not move forward and must