

# UTILITY GUNDOG SOCIETY

## Field Trial and Gundog Working Test Rules and Regulations

### 1. DEFINITIONS OF WORKING TESTS

*To be read in conjunction with the Kennel Club GWT Regulations*

Puppy Stake	By Age a Puppy is any dog or bitch that is under 18 months old on the DAY BEFORE the test is held.
Special Puppy Unclassified	Branches wishing to arrange another test involving puppies may do so, but these must be designated 'Special Puppy' and must make clear any difference between this test and a Puppy Test.
Novice Dog/Novice Handler Unclassified	Neither dog nor handler to have won any award, including Certificate of Merit at a Field Trial, or 1st, 2nd, 3rd or CoM (Reserve) in an Open Working Test or 1st in any Working Test.
Young Handler	Any person under the age of 16 years at the time of the event.
Novice Stake	Any dog or bitch of any age not having won: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Field Trial award including CoM</li> <li>2. A 1st, 2nd or 3rd in any Open Working Test</li> <li>3. A 1st in a Novice Test or any test above Novice level</li> <li>4. A 1st in a combined Puppy and Novice Test at which one set of awards is given. (A 1st in a Puppy Stake or a 1st in a Novice Dog/Novice Handler Is discounted for this purpose)</li> </ol>
Puppy and Novice (where only one set of awards is given, namely Novice)	Any dog or bitch not having won: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Field Trial award including CoM</li> <li>2. A 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in any Open Working</li> <li>3. A 1st in any previous Novice Test or any test above Novice level.</li> <li>4. A 1st in a combined Puppy and Novice test where separate awards for puppies were not given.</li> </ol>
Intermediate Unclassified (An Intermediate test is graded between Novice and Open)	Any dog or bitch of any age not having won: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A 1st in any Intermediate, Open or All-Aged Working Test.</li> <li>2. A 1st, 2nd or 3rd In any Field Trial.</li> </ol>
Open Stake	Open to all members of the UGS. Preference in the draw will be given to dogs of member which have qualifications, and which make them ineligible to run in any other category of test. Preference in the draw will be given to host Branch members.
Veteran	Open to all dogs aged EIGHT years or over on the day before the test is run.
Cold Game	These tests will be understood to be run at Open level or, if not, the standard at which they are run must be specified e.g. Novice Cold Game.
Tests run in conjunction with training classes	These are run to assess ability or progress of dog or handler and are specifically designated as such and do not count as disqualification for any UGS events outlined above.

### 2. UGS FIELD TRIAL AND WORKING TEST REGULATIONS

- 2.1. All trials organised by the Society and the Branches will be held in accordance with The Kennel Club Rules and Field Trial Regulations and the UGS Field Trial Regulations.
- 2.2. Should circumstances so dictate, the Society, in consultation with the judges, may alter the arrangements for a field trial as necessary. Such changes and the circumstances surrounding them will be reported to the Kennel Club at the earliest opportunity.
- 2.3. The Society reserves the right to refuse entries.
- 2.4. The Society will be responsible for organising and appointing judges for all spaniel field trials.
- 2.5. The Society accepts no responsibility for injury, loss or damage to persons or property however occasioned.
- 2.6. Branches will hold an All-Aged Stake and Novice Field Trials as decided by their committees.

- 2.6.1. The running of an All-Aged Trial is an absolute obligation on each Branch and is to take preference ahead of all other trials organised by the Branch.
- 2.7. Entry Fees for the trials shall be decided by the Society committee.
- 2.8. The competitions are open to all (except for the Field Trial Finals), however, fully paid-up branch members will have preference in the draw.
- 2.9. All persons attending a trial must be appropriately dressed out of respect to the host and guns and must consider themselves under the control of Chief Steward and officials. All mobile phones must be switched off.
- 2.10. Trophies are to be held until the next season and then returned cleaned and engraved before the next trial. Should a trophy be won by an overseas member, the member will not be permitted to remove the trophy from the United Kingdom. It will be retained by the parent body or branch as appropriate.
- 2.11. Any bitch in season or any dog suffering from hysteria must be removed from the trial.

### 3. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND DRAW PROCEDURES FOR FIELD TRIALS

- 3.1. Entries are to be decided by ballot, which will form the order of running.
- 3.2. Substitution of entries will be allowed at the discretion of the Field Trial Secretary.
- 3.3. Applicants who do not provide an email address or enclose a self-sealing stamped, addressed envelope will not receive a copy of the draw.
- 3.4. After an applicant has been successful in the draw for a place in a stake, or as a reserve has accepted the offer of a run, if the run is not taken up, the applicant may become liable for the full entry fee except:
  - 3.4.1. Where the applicant has qualified out of Novice Stake (where applicable) or
  - 3.4.2. Where the dog drawn to run has qualified for the Championship after entries have closed or
  - 3.4.3. On production of a veterinary certificate confirming that the dog for the stake is unfit to compete or
  - 3.4.4. On production of a medical certificate that the applicant or the applicants nominated handler is unable to compete.
  - 3.4.5. Where a dog drawn to run is withdrawn more than 7 days prior to the stake.
- 3.5. Entries will not be taken over the telephone.
- 3.6. Entries will be by nomination. Reserves will be notified by telephone and email in draw order. If contact cannot be made the offer will be passed to the next on the list.
- 3.7. No modification can be made to a schedule except by permission of the Kennel Club followed by advertisement in appropriate journals if time permits before closing date for entries.
- 3.8. Any competitor not present at the meet when the Chief Steward announces the trial has commenced will forfeit their place to the reserve.
- 3.9. The Committee will be empowered to abandon or postpone the Trial as they find necessary. In the event of abandonment prior to the commencement of the Trial all entry fees will be returned.
- 3.10. It is expected that competitors having secured a run in a UGS stake and in another club's trial on the same or overlapping dates will withdraw from one or other stake at least seven days prior to the trial in order that their run might be offered to a reserve. Failure to do so may result in having entries refused in future UGS competitions. (J Regulation J7(d) refers)
- 3.11. Where a dog is in Joint Ownership all owners must either be individual or joint members of the Society in order to secure a member's preference in the draw

### FIELD TRIALS

#### 4. TWO DAY OPEN QUALIFYING RETRIEVER STAKE

- 4.1. The Two Day Open Qualifying Retriever Stake will be organised by each Branch in rotation as agreed by the Society.
- 4.2. The four judge system will be adopted for the Open Retriever Stake.
- 4.3. Preference in the draw will be as follows:

- 4.3.1. Members dogs that have achieved a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th in a 24 Dog Open Stake or 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a 12 Dog Open Stake, or a 1st award in an All-Aged or Novice Stake.
- 4.3.2. Members 2nd dogs with awards as detailed in 4.3.1 above.
- 4.3.3. Non-members dogs with awards as detailed in 4.3.1 above.
- 4.3.4. Non-members 2nd dogs with awards as detailed in (a) above.

## 5. BRANCH - ALL-AGED STAKE

- 5.1. Each Branch will hold an All-Aged Stake in which the dogs placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd will qualify to represent that Branch in the Utility Gundog Society Annual Area Cup Finals.
- 5.2. Preference in the draw will be given to dogs with qualifications in the following order:
  - 5.2.1. Member's dogs with any award in a Field Trial
  - 5.2.2. Any other member's dog.
  - 5.2.3. Any non-member's dog.
- 5.3. If a Branch runs more than one All-Aged Stake, it must Indicate which event is the qualifying trial for the Finals.
- 5.4. The Field Trial Secretary of each Branch MUST inform the Branch hosting the finals of the qualified dogs and a reserve.

## 6. THE UGS CUP FINAL FIELD TRIAL STAKE

- 6.1. The UGS Cup Finals Stake will be held annually by each Branch in rotation as agreed by the Society.
- 6.2. The UGS Cup Finals Stake will be run as an All-Aged Stake.
- 6.3. The four judge system will be adopted by the Branch hosting the Cup Finals.
- 6.4. This Trial will be limited to 13 dogs, (three representing each branch and the defending champion).
- 6.5. In the event of a dog qualifying for the Cup Finals and not taking up the nomination without good and sufficient cause, the dog and handler will be barred from that competition for a period of twelve months.
- 6.6. Should the circumstances described in 6.5 above occur, the nomination for the Cup Finals will be offered to the next dog on merit in the awards, then to the winner of the Novice Stake from that Branch.
- 6.7. The organising committee will be empowered to abandon or postpone the Cup Finals if necessary.
- 6.8. In the event of abandonment of the Cup Finals prior to the trial commencing all entry fees will be returned to competitors. Should abandonment occur after the commencement of the trial entry fees will be retained.
- 6.9. The Branch hosting the Finals is to provide Entry Forms.

## 7. BRANCH - NOVICE STAKE

- 7.1. Novice Stakes may be run under a three or four Judge system as decided by the Branch Committee.
- 7.2. Novice Stakes are to be run in accordance with Kennel Club and Society/Branch Rules prevailing at the time.
- 7.3. Dogs, which qualify out of Novice subsequent to the draw, will have their entry fee returned in full.
- 7.4. Where more than one Novice Stake is run by a Branch, applicants who are successful in the draw of the first Novice Field Trial, will go to the bottom of the draw for the second and subsequent Novice Stakes held by that Branch during that season.

## GUNDOG WORKING TESTS (GWT)

### 8. RETRIEVER AND SPANIEL

- 8.1. All GWTs should comply with the Kennel Club Regulations for GWTs otherwise be entitled 'Unclassified'.
- 8.2. The number of dogs entered at any GWT to be at the discretion of the branch.
- 8.3. The entry Fee for GWT to be at the discretion of the branches.

- 8.4. Judges are empowered to withhold awards, where, in their opinion, the standard is not sufficiently high to warrant such an award.
- 8.5. It is recommended there should be one judge to every 20 or part of 20 dogs running in any stake. Branches are free to appoint as many judges in excess of one as they think necessary to ensure the successful completion of the test.
- 8.6. If the organisers, after consultation with the judges, consider any dog unfit, for whatever reason, that dog shall be removed immediately from the test and the ground.
- 8.7. Handlers shall be under the control of the judges (who it is strongly recommended, should have practical experience of handling retrievers in tests and the shooting field) and the organisers of the tests. Any handler who fails to obey test regulations or the Instructions of the judges or organisers shall be excluded from the tests.
- 8.8. Each Branch shall decide by vote at Committee how the Teams for the Area will be selected.
- 8.9. Any non-member wishing to participate in Working Tests will pay an additional sum of the current joining fee of the Society.
- 8.10. Definitions for Working Tests appear overleaf.

## 9. SPANIEL (GWT)

- 9.1. Spaniel Working Tests will be the responsibility of the Society and all relevant UGS regulations must be observed.

## 10. THE AREA FINALS (GWT)

- 10.1. Each Branch is to select a Team for the Society Open Area Cup Finals and other team events in which each area is invited to participate.
- 10.2. The Area Finals will be held annually by each Branch in rotation as agreed by the Society.
- 10.3. The Area Finals will be run as an Open Working Test.
- 10.4. Judges will be appointed by the Branch hosting the Area Finals.
- 10.5. A handler may handle no more than two dogs unless extenuating circumstances prevail.
- 10.6. The Area Finals will be limited to 16 dogs, four representing each Branch.
- 10.7. Prizes will be set at the discretion of the Branch Committee hosting the final.
- 10.8. The organising committee will be empowered to abandon or postpone the Area Finals if necessary.
- 10.9. In the event of abandonment of the Area Finals prior to the commencement of the event, all entry fees will be returned to competitors. Should the Finals be abandoned after commencement, all entry fees will be retained.

## 11. GENERAL

- 11.1. No handler shall carry out any physical correction by way of punishment to any dog at any event (Field Trial, Working Test or Training Class) organised in the name of the UGS. A complaint can only be brought by person or persons present at the event where the incident occurred.
- 11.2. Should any case arise at a Field Trial or Working Test Meeting not provided for in the foregoing rules, the members of the Committee present, in consultation with the judges, will adjudicate.
- 11.3. The Society accepts no responsibility for injury, loss or damage to persons or property however occasioned at any of its events.
- 11.4. No person under the age of 18 will be allowed to attend a Society event without being accompanied by a responsible adult. This adult cannot be a competitor, or an official involved with the event.