

NAQC Field Trial Rules & Regulations

(1) Time

Each field trial will have a time limit of 15-30 minutes depending on size of field & number of entrants. Time limit will be set prior to the first brace by field trial chairman & field trial organizer (Marshal).

(2) Birds

5 birds will be placed in the field. The handlers objective is to kill 3 birds for single trials & 7 birds in the field with the objective to kill 5 birds in team doubles

(3) Teams

Single Trials-----1 Handler & 1 Dog
Double or Team Trials 2 Handlers & 2 Dogs

(4) Shells

Each handler is limited to 6 shells for a singles trial.
Each handler is limited to 5 shells each for the team trial. *If one handler uses their shells during the run, they **May not Borrow shells** from partner.*

(5) Classes

Puppy Under one year old on October 1
Derby Under two years old on October 1
Open Any age dog

(6) Scoring

Point	+ 10 points
Honoring (team)	+ 10
Kill (Bird in bag)	+10
Full Retrieve	+ 10
Partial Retrieve	+ 5
Flush	-10
Safety	+ 10
Remaining minutes	+ 5 points x remaining time.
Failure to Honor	-10

(7) Point

Once a dog goes on point, the handler **Must Call a Point** & dog must remain on point for a minimum of **5** seconds to qualify as a point.

Dog may relocate as long as bird is not flushed. If bird flushes during relocating, a flush will be charged.

(8) Retrieve

Retrieve points will be awarded as **Full** or **Partial** retrieve.

To receive a **Full** retrieve, handler must keep pivot foot in place as the dog delivers the bird to the handler. One step may be taken toward the dog with pivot foot in place for a full retrieve.

A Partial retrieve is awarded when the dog **picks up the bird & makes an attempt** to deliver the bird to the handler. (*Dog picking up bird & dropping it does not constitute a retrieve*).

Dog may be awarded retrieve points on a safety. The dog will be awarded retrieve points on a safety based on majority of other retrieve points awarded to dog on run in which safety occurs.

(9) Flush

Dog will be charged for a flush when the dog flushes a bird, whether it was intentional or not.

(10) Safety

A safety will be awarded when the judge deems a flushed bird is unsafe to shoot. This is awarded to protect the handler, judge, dog, gallery, or property. The judge will call safety & the handler is **NOT** to shoot. Points for a safety will then be awarded.

If a handler deems a shot is UNSAFE, he may request that a safety be called by the judge (*It is judges discretion to honor or disallow the safety, judge is to rule on the side of safety*)

When a safety is called, handler will lose 2 shells on single trials & 1 shell on a team trial with the team deciding on which team member will forfeit the shell.

(11) Honoring

Dog will be awarded points for honoring a dog on point or given a deduction for failing to honor dog on point. Honoring dog may move when point is broken &/or may move up with handler as long as dog does not break plain of point.

Honoring dog will receive a deduction and will not be awarded for a point when stealing point from pointed dog.

Handler has the option of holding the honoring dog once the honoring dog establishes the honor, handler may release honoring dog at any time.

(12) Marked Bird

A marked bird is a bird that has been flushed & relocates within the boundary of the field trial field. There is no distinction made on the cause of the flush.

When a marked bird locates with the boundary of the field, the **Judge** will call **Marked Bird** & the judge will note the time on the score card. If the handler or dog makes contact with a **marked bird** within a **3** minute period, points already accumulated with that bird, to that point, will **not be rewarded**. Contact with a marked bird after 3 minutes, all points will be awarded.

Example: If a point (10 points) has already been awarded for a pointed bird, a second score for a point (another 10 points) will not be awarded within 3 minutes if it is called a **marked bird**. Any points not yet accumulated will be awarded.

After 3 minutes, the bird is no longer a marked bird (it will be treated as any other bird) & all points may be awarded.

(13) E collars

E collars are allowed in NAQC trials, but NAQC discourages the over use of the e collar.

(14) Amateur Handlers

Any handler 15 years of age or under on October 1, may hunt in the amateur handler class. No firearms are allowed in the amateur handler class. 10 points will be awarded for a point (dog holds until bird is flushed by handler) or 5 points for a

partial point (dog points but moves in to flush before handler gets the bird flushed). Flushes will not be deducted (-10) in the amateur class. 3 birds will be placed in the field with a 10 minute time limit. 5 points will be awarded for addition time left over. Object is to find (point) 3 birds.

Amateur handler does **not** have to own dog that is run in the field trial.

(15) Handler age limits

Any handler under 21 must have a hunter education card to fire a firearm at a NAQC field trial.

Any handler considered an **amateur handler** may run in any division with adult supervision. NAQC strongly recommends that the firearm be carried by the adult until a point by the dog is made & a shot is ready to be made . Amateur handlers running a dog in divisions other than the amateur handler class will abide by all applicable rules to the division in which it is being run.

(16) Top Gun

Judge will record number of shots and number of kills by each handler. The handler with the highest percentage of kills at years end will be awarded **NAQC TOP GUN.**

(17) NAQC Dog of the Year

Dog of the year will be awarded from NAQC club trials only. At the end of each trial, First place dog will be awarded 6 points, second place dog will be awarded 5 points, 3rd place- 4 points, 4th place -3 points & 5th place -2 .All other entrants will receive 1 point for entering the trial.(*In double or team trials each dog on a team will be awarded the same points for placement*). The dog which accumulates the highest number of points at the end of the trial year end will be awarded **NAQC Dog of the Year.**

(18) Must be a Current NAQC member to win Top Gun &/ or Dog of the Year awards & **must participate in a minimum of 50%** of the NAQC trials held for that year.

(19) **Judges rule will be official**, no argument or harassment with judges will be allowed. Failure to comply will result in forfeiting trial run.

(20) **Protest or rule questions**

Any score protest or disagreements on scores are not to be discussed with field trial judge. Any concerns are to be presented to the Field trial chairman or field trial marshal.

(21) **No Drugs or alcohol** are allowed during field trial.

(22) Anyone who is to enter into the designated field area during a field trial, before entering must have on their person some **type of hunter orange or hunter yellow safety clothing**. This could be a hunting vest, shirt, or cap or any combination.

(23) **Have Fun & Be Safe**

NAQC promotes fun with your dog & enjoying each others company.

(24) **ATV**

Handler may request from Field Trial Chairman the use of a motorized ATV to use in the field trial if a **health issue** prohibits walking the course. The handler can not leave the judge while using the ATV. NAQC will not provide ATV.

(25) **Shot size** larger than 7 ½ oz & 2 ¾ shells can not be used in NAQC field trials . Exception would be 410, they can be 3" & #4 shot.