

INTERNATIONAL BIRD HUNTING TRIAL RULES

1 PURPOSE OF THE TRIAL

The objective of bird hunting trials is to improve the bird hunting abilities of the dog breeds listed below and to collect information for purposes of breeding selection, to maintain bird hunting as a high quality dog sport, to develop the skills and cooperation of people active in the sport, and to create possibilities for competition based on these rules.

2 TRIAL TYPES

Bird hunting trials may be

- general trials,
- trials or competitions between the members of a club, or
- trials or competitions for specific breeds

3 ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE, AND LIMITATIONS

The following breeds are eligible to participate in bird hunting trials: Finnish Spitz, Karelian Bear Dog, Norrbottensspitz, Russian-European Laika, East Siberian Laika and West Siberian Laika.

Dogs participating in trials must be registered, ID marked and vaccinated as specified by the applicable regulations, and at least nine (9) months of age.

Participation to Open class is allowed even without a result from an official dog show. Dogs participating in Winner class must have been awarded a quality grade at an official show approved by an FCI-accepted kennel organisation at the age of at least 9 months.

Participation is not allowed in the following cases:

- the dog is sick,
- bitches 30 days or less prior to estimated time of whelping, or less than 42 days after whelping,
- dog does not meet the valid anti-doping regulations,
- possible other trial-specific limitations apply.

The chief steward and chief judge shall verify the eligibility of every dog.

The organiser of a trial has the right to limit the number of participants in accordance with valid regulations. Any limitations to participation must be clearly stated in the trial applications. Dog owners must be informed at the latest when the entry period ends of whether or not they will be able to participate in the trial.

4 INELIGIBILITY OF JUDGES DUE TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF BIAS

1. A judge is ineligible to act as chief judge in a trial if any one of the participating dogs owned by, or residing with him or his family member. Parents, spouses/life partners, children and siblings are considered to be family members even if they live in different addresses.
2. A judge is ineligible to judge the performance of a dog if he or a member of his family
 - owns the dog,
 - is the breeder of the dog, or
 - the dog lives with him/her.

Parents, spouses (or persons living with the judge), children and siblings are considered family members even if they live in different addresses. The siblings of the breeder are regarded as family members only if they live in the same address as the breeder.

5 GRANTING THE PERMISSION TO ARRANGE A TRIAL

These rules shall be applied in all bird hunting trials granted by the FCI, the Finnish Kennel Club or its local sections. The FCI grants the international trials. The Finnish Kennel Club grants the permission for national championship trials and qualifying trials for these, and competitions between countries, at the proposal of the breed club for Finnish Spitz. The local kennel districts grant the general and local trials.

6 APPLYING

6.1 Applicant and organiser

The organising club applies for permission to arrange a trial. The organising club must be a member of the Finnish Kennel Club; membership in breed club(s) is recommended.

The organising club appoints an organising committee to carry out the tasks included in arranging a trial.

6.2 Term of application

The applications for trials must be submitted to the Finnish Kennel Club by the specified application dates.

6.3 Content of application

The trial application must contain the following information:

- organising club, type of trial, possible limitations to participation
- date and place of the trial
- the classes included
- entry fee, where the entries are sent and how the entry fee shall be paid
- the appointed chief judge and deputy chief judge
- the chief steward in charge of the trial

6.4 Submitting the application

The application must be submitted to the kennel district of the area where the trial will be arranged. A copy of the trial application is sent to the kennel district where the organising club is domicile.

6.5 Information about a trial

The kennel districts send a list of all their approved trials for publication in the Finnish Kennel Club magazine. The organising club may also distribute information of a trial in other ways.

7 CHANGING THE DATE OR CANCELLING A GENERAL TRIAL

The valid regulations of the Finnish Kennel Club shall apply.

8 CHIEF JUDGE AND DEPUTY CHIEF JUDGE

When the kennel district grants the permission to arrange a bird hunting trial, it also appoints a chief judge and a deputy chief judge. The organising club may include their own proposal in the application.

The chief judge and deputy chief judge must be accredited bird hunting trial judges, with a valid judging licence, and members of the Finnish Kennel Club and the appropriate breed club.

Foreign chief judges must be approved by the Finnish Kennel Club and breed club, authorised to judge according to these rules, and a member of an FCI-approved kennel organisation in his country of residence.

More detailed information for the chief judge is given in the guidelines attached to these rules.

9 FIELD JUDGES

Each dog owner entering a trial is required to name a field judge who is then available for the chief judge to use during the trial. The organising committee may also appoint field judges. All field judges must be accredited bird hunting trial judges, with a valid judging licence, and members of either the Finnish Kennel Club or the appropriate breed club. Foreign field judges must be approved by the Finnish Kennel Club and breed club, authorised to judge according to these rules, and a member of an FCI-approved kennel organisation in his country of residence.

More detailed information for the field judges is given in the guidelines attached to these rules.

10 ENTERING A TRIAL

10.1 Entering

Entries must be made at the latest 5 days prior to a trial.

10.2 Late entries

The organising committee has the right to accept late entries, and to require a double entry fee for them.

10.3 Absence from a trial

If an entered dog is not going to participate, the organising club must be informed of the situation before the start of the trial. The paid entry fee shall only be refunded if the absence is due to an insurmountable obstacle, for example if the dog or handler has fallen ill or the dog is a bitch that has come to heat.

11 ASSESSMENT

The grounds for judging and assessment are stated in the judging guidelines attached to these rules.

12 TRIAL CLASSES AND DEFINITIONS

12.1 Trial classes

The dogs compete in either Open or Winner class. Dogs that have previously achieved the first prize in Open class are entered in Winner class.

12.2 Definitions

Barred. Barring is always caused by the dog and what it did or did not do. The dog's performance up until the time of barring shall be assessed and scored and points given, but the dog shall not get a final result, prize or ranking.

Withdrawn. Dog's owner/handler decides to withdraw before the trial is over. The dog's performance up until the time of withdrawing shall be assessed and scored and points given, but the dog shall not get a final result, prize or ranking.

Interrupted. Field judge interrupts the dog's performance in the middle of the trial, for example because the dog falls ill, is injured, or comes to immediate danger. The dog's performance up until the time of interruption shall be assessed and scored and points given, and the obtained points shall be the final result of the dog. The dog shall also get a prize, final result and ranking.

Disqualified. Field judge disqualifies the dog for some other reason, for example the use of a dog tracking system. The dog's performance shall not be assessed, nor shall a ranking be determined.

13 INJURY TO DOG

If a dog becomes injured, the field judge must interrupt the trial. Any results achieved prior to the injury shall remain in force.

14 RESPONSIBILITY

The dog owner is responsible for any damage or injuries caused by, or suffered by the dog during the trial.

15 JUDGING, RESULTS AND PRIZES

The performance of each dog shall be assessed according to the merit point and penalty point scales specified below.

15.1 Merit points

15.1.1. Searching for birds	0–25
15.1.1.1. Searching	0–10
15.1.1.2. Finding birds	0–15
15.1.2. Barking performance	0–35
15.1.2.1. Marking	0–10
15.1.2.2. Bark output	0–5
15.1.2.3. Stopping the birds	0–20
15.1.3. First standing barks from finds	0–10
15.1.4. Following and renewed standing barks	0–20
15.1.4.1. Following	0–10
15.1.4.2. Renewed bark	0–10
15.1.5. Finding birds in trees	0–5
15.1.6. Extra merit points	0–5
Total	0–100

15.2 Penalty points

15.2.1. Over-excitability	0–10
15.2.2. Abandoning a standing bark	0–10
15.2.3. Other disturbing behaviour	0–10
Total	0–30

15.3 Barring a dog from trial due to its performance

A dog shall be barred from continuing the trial if its merit points for either 15.1.1.1. Searching or 15.1.4.1. Following are zero (0) points, or if it gets full ten (10) penalty points for any part of its work.

15.4 Points and prizes

Prize	1.	2.	3.
Open	70	60	45
Winner	75	65	50

In international trials the CACIT and RES-CACIT may be given according to the valid regulations given by the FCI.

16 TRIAL RESULTS

16.1 Checking the results

The secretary of the trial shall check and verify all calculated points, ensures that the results are marked in the trial report form and dog performance reports, and submits these without delay to the chief judge for verification. The chief judge checks the results and confirms them with his signature.

16.2 Sending the results

The organising club sends the trial report and dog performance reports, verified by the chief judge, to the party that granted the trial within one week of the end of the trial.

The kennel district sends the required report copies to the Finnish Kennel Club and the breed clubs within two weeks of the end of the trial.

17 CHANGES TO THESE RULES

Changes to these rules must be approved by the general meeting of the breed club for the Finnish Spitz and submitted to the Finnish Kennel Club for approval. The same applies to guidelines and instructions complementing these rules.

18 COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS

The general rules of the Finnish Kennel Club valid at the time of occurrence shall be applied.

19. SPECIAL CASES

In exceptional cases the Finnish Kennel Club has the right to limit participation to these trials or give other special instructions.

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING AND ASSESSMENT IN BIRD HUNTING TRIALS

1. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Detailed special instructions include the approved game birds, working hazelhens, and working flocks.

The trial procedure and judging of dogs are based on detailed judging guidelines that give instructions on the assessment of each dog's performance, merit points and penalty points. These guidelines also include point tables.

The rights and duties of chief judge, field judge, dog handler and organising committee are described in detail in separate guidelines approved by the breed club.

2. USE OF DOG TRACKING SYSTEMS AND OTHER TECHNICAL AIDS

Dog tracking systems, phones and other such devices may not be used to aid in judging and assessment. A dog may wear a dog tracking device, but its use during the trial is not allowed.

Using a dog tracking system during the trial leads to disqualification. Binoculars may be used, but the use of any other technical aids for assessment of a dog's performance is not allowed. A tracking device may be used for directions only under the supervision of a field judge, but it may not be used to assess the dog's performance, to measure distances, etc. If the judge appointed for a dog uses a hearing aid prescribed by a doctor, it may be used also when judging the dog.

3. ALLOTMENT OF TRIAL AREAS

The trial areas shall be drawn by lot under the supervision of the chief judge after the field judges have been appointed or allotted for each trial area. If the allotted field judge may be biased, the chief judge has the right to appoint the field judges for each dog if necessary.

4. TRIAL PERIOD: STARTING, ENDING, EVENTS

The dog handler must start the trial period at the place and time stated by the field judge. The handler may let his dog get some exercise before the period begins.

The field judge makes decisions on the direction of the group's movement and actions in the area in accordance with these rules and guidelines.

Dog handler has the right to give reasonable suggestions and wishes to the field judge regarding matters such as the direction in which the group will move, and to give commands to the dog, but he must not disrupt the trial when doing so. The field judge must inform the dog handler clearly of the start and end of the trial period, and of any breaks during the period. Each time the dog has been working the field judge shall briefly explain his interpretation of the events.

Dog handler is only allowed to put the dog on lead without a judge's order if he wishes to withdraw from the trial, or if the dog has gone outside the designated trial area, or in case of imminent danger.

If the dog handler withdraws from the trial while in the trial area he must immediately inform the field judge, if elsewhere he must inform the chief judge. The grounds for withdrawing must be stated.

5. TRIAL PERIOD

5.1. Duration of trial period and extending it

The duration of a trial period is exactly four (4) hours. During the entire trial period the objective shall be to get the dog working birds.

If the dog repeatedly barks at the same bird or flock still after the end of the trial period, the period shall end when the dog handler so decides. If the period is extended because the dog is still working birds, this must always be ascertained. The dog is considered to be working birds when it is either following a bird it has

found, barking at a bird after the first or renewed contact, or following a bird after these. The bird must have been found during the trial period. If the dog has found a bird and is tentatively barking at it still after the end of the trial period, this shall be accepted if it leads to actual barking.

5.2. Transition and break in trial period

For example crossing a large clear-cut area or marsh may be considered a transition; such an area must be at least 0.5–1 km long in the direction of transition, depending on the terrain, and the time required for the transition must be at least ten (10) minutes.

Transition time is not included in the trial period. During the transition the dog must be on lead. Transition time begins when the dog is put on lead, and ends when it is released again. A break in the trial period is only allowed when moving from one area to another, or because of an excessive disturbance. If the excessive disturbance is such that the group must move to a wholly new area, a car may be used for the transition; otherwise transitions using a car during a trial period are not allowed. The group must always discuss with the chief judge if they need to move to a new place.

6. EXCESSIVE DISTURBANCE DURING TRIAL PERIOD

Excessive disturbances during a trial period may include, depending on the conditions, for example the following: a loose dog that disturbs the trial; hare or elk hunting in the area; the weather turning extremely bad; or some other situation where a short break in the trial is required to ensure fair assessment. The chief judge makes the decision on this.

When the disturbance is no more excessive, the trial period shall be continued in the same area, or in another area if the conditions require it.

7. GAME BIRDS, HAZELHENS AND FLOCKS

7.1. Game birds

The approved game birds are capercaillie, black grouse and hazelhen. The dog handler is not required to accept if the dog works hazelhens; this must be discussed with the dog handler before the start of the trial period.

7.2. Hazelhens

If a hazelhen flies repeatedly around and the dog barks at it several times, this shall be considered as a moving bird. Thus in the best case the dog shall get points for one standing bark and max. ten (10) minutes of barking time; in other words, the dog shall not get points for a renewed bark when it is working a hazelhen.

7.3. Working a flock

A flock is a group of two or more birds that are all within the area for one accepted standing bark. The flock may include several species.

The dog may either keep the flock moving, or it may result in new first standing barks or renewed contacts.

When the dog "rolls" the flock, the birds in the flock keep moving one after another within sight of the dog, so that the dog either moves while barking or gets several short standing barks. In this case the dog only gets short barking contacts with one or several birds. Only continuous, steady standing barks are counted in the barking time when the dog is rolling the flock.

When the dog is rolling the flock, it shall get barking points for maximum 10 minutes. Rolling a flock shall be considered as one standing bark and one chance to find birds; rolling the flock is not considered to give renewed standing barks.

The dog handler has the right to decide how long the dog is allowed to continue rolling the flock, so that the group can see whether it is able to scatter the flock and then continue normal work on single birds. If the flock does not scatter enough, the dog handler may request that the group moves to another spot in the area.

However, working a flock is not always just rolling it forward. If all or some birds in the flock scatter around at the same time and move over covered terrain to a place out of sight from the dog, or over open terrain (marshland, clear-cut areas, fields) to a sufficient distance (excellent following distance, 250 m), the dog shall get points for a renewed standing bark if it follows them and begins barking again.

If a single bird flies away from the flock and the dog follows it, its performance after working the flock shall be assessed in the same way as working a single bird. If the dog first follows a single bird or part of a flock but then returns to the original spot to bark at the birds that remained where they were found, this new standing bark can be assessed either as a new find or a new first standing bark, in case the dog started barking after it followed the birds or otherwise worked in an excellent fashion. Otherwise the new standing bark is considered as continuation of the previous bark.

When evaluating the dog's ability to work a flock, the events must be considered from the dog's point of view: especially in open terrain it is important to assess if the dog was able to see the flying birds or was the visual contact prevented by long grass, thickets or other such obstacles.

Working flocks is very common in late autumn and winter, when visibility and other conditions are usually better than earlier in the year. This must also be taken into account in scoring.

The dog's work on flocks must always be described in maximum detail to the chief judge.

8. MERIT POINTS

8.1. Searching for birds (0–25 points)

8.1.1. Searching (0–10 points)

Searching refers to the dog's movements in the area. Assessment is based solely on how widely and quickly the dog moves around. The expediency and purposefulness of searching, such as the use of smell, hearing and sight, and the search pattern, may give extra merit points.

Effect of terrain and weather

The terrain and weather have an effect on the speed and extent of searching and on how frequently the dog is seen. Dense undergrowth, thick snow or rough terrain make searching more difficult.

If the conditions are clearly worse than normal, the chief judge may increase the search points by max. 2 points without changing the performance markings; any such additions by the chief judge must be indicated in the dog assessment report under "Notes".

Scoring instruction

Searching is assessed according to what it looked like on average during the trial period. If there are no birds in the area, this must not cause any deductions in search points. Momentary peaks or weak moments shall not be given too much value. If the dog stops to listen in the middle of searching, this must not affect the assessment of search speed, as this may be important for locating game. The search pattern may be zigzag, circulating, or in between. Searching is assessed according to the following criteria:

Searching speed:

- Fast: Most of the time he dog moves mainly in rapid gallop.
- Moderate: Most of the time the dog moves mainly in gallop.
- Slow: Most of the time the dog moves mainly in trot.

Extent of searching:

- Wide: Dog moves 250–400 m in front and to either side of the group. Reports back every 5–15 minutes.
- Moderate: Dog moves 150–250 m in front and to either side of the group. Reports back every 2–5 minutes.
- Close: Dog moves 50–150 m in front and to either side of the group. Reports back every 0–2 minutes.

Search points are given according to the table below.

SEARCH	POINTS
fast and wide	9–10
moderate and wide	8
fast and moderate	7
slow and wide	6
moderate and moderate	5–6
fast and close	5
slow and moderate	4
moderate and close	3
slow and close	1–2

Contact

An essential part of searching is that the dog keeps in contact with the handler. To get good points in contact the dog should report back to the group on average every 5–15 minutes while searching for game. Too infrequent contact shall cause deductions in search points according to the table below. The contact interval shall be calculated as an average value during the entire trial period. The times when the dog is working shall be deducted from the total time.

Effect of too infrequent contact on search points; average contact interval

Over 15 minutes	-1 points
Over 25 minutes	-2 points
Over 35 minutes	-3 points
Over 45 minutes	-4 points

Disappearance of dog

If the group has no contact with the dog for more than an hour and the dog is not working birds nor has disappeared due to an excessive disturbance, the dog shall be barred from the trial. If the trial period (4 h) ends before the banning time (1 h) is full, the period shall be extended until the group is able to see if the disappearance leads to banning.

Note: This is not the same as "Disobedience" which is assessed under section 9.3.3.

8.1.2. Finding birds (0–15 points)

The dog's ability to locate game birds staying in the area, regardless of whether they are on the ground or in trees. Points are given according to the table below, and the total points are determined by how many times the dog has had the opportunity to find birds, and how many times it finds them.

Chances to find birds

One chance to find birds is offered by each single game bird or flock of birds that is considered to be within reach of the dog. Each chance may or may not result in an actual find. If the dog begins barking at several birds in a flock, the number of chances to find birds is equal to the number of first standing barks at each bird. If the dog follows a bird, then returns to the flock but does not start barking again, this shall not be counted as a new chance to find birds. A flock that the dog rolls forward offers one chance, one find and one new standing bark.

Also see under 7.3. Working a flock.

No chances to find birds

The following situations shall not be considered as a chance to find birds:

- Birds that take to flight ahead of the group while the dog is working birds
- Birds that take to flight before the group has a chance to verify a standing bark (= not confirmed) or when the dog is barking at an animal that is not considered an error (= not noted). However, birds that take to flight when the dog can be verified to bark at nothing or at an animal that is not allowed (= shall be noted) are considered as existing chances.
- A bird or flock that flies over such obstacles in the terrain that the dog is unable to follow and thus cannot start a standing bark (e.g. waterways, wide rocky areas, steep cliffs, clear-cut areas, large fields, solid fences, roads with heavy traffic).
- Working on hazelhen, if the dog handler has stated that hazelhen should not be accepted.

The following situations shall not be considered as a new chance to find birds:

- The dog has already found a flock and the group scares to flight some birds that have remained in the trees or on the ground in the immediate vicinity of the place where they were

Finds

A find means that the dog finds a bird in the trial area, regardless of whether or not it starts to bark at it. If the group cannot say with certainty whether the dog found the bird on its own or only after the bird took to flight because of the approaching group, this shall be considered a find made by the dog if the dog was closer to the bird than the group. In addition, the dog may be considered to have found a bird that takes to flight when the group approaches, if the dog can be seen to have scented the bird and is trying to locate it when it takes to flight. This may occur especially when the dog is searching a bird that is sitting in a tree.

Score for finding birds

The total score for the dog's ability to find birds is determined by the number of chances and the number of finds. If there were more than 10 chances, their number as well as the number of finds shall be divided by two. The number of finds is rounded up and the number of chances is rounded down to the nearest integer. If there were more than 20 chances the divider is three, etc.

FINDING BIRDS

F= Finds	C = Chances to find birds									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
2		13	12	9	7	6	5	4	3	2
3			15	13	11	9	7	6	5	4
4				15	14	12	10	8	7	6
5					15	14	13	11	9	8
6						15	14	13	11	10
7							15	14	13	11
8								15	14	13
9									15	14
10										15

8.2. Barking performance (0–35 points)

8.2.1. Marking (0–10 points)

The ability of the dog to indicate with its position and behaviour the location of the bird while barking at it. Results in practical hunting situations are essentially dependent on how accurately the dog marks the birds it finds; a good dog nearly always marks the birds correctly and accurately.

The points are determined by the points table. Total points are calculated from the number of markings and the sum of points obtained during each barking.

Scoring instruction

In order to accept and score a standing bark, the judge must be able to see either the bird or the dog while it is barking or immediately after it.

An exception is a situation where heavily covered terrain or other obstacle prevents visual contact; in this case the barking may be accepted and scored based only upon hearing it; however, in order to accept the situation the judge must hear both the dog and the bird with certainty either during the bark or when the bird takes to flight. The situation must occur so close to the group that the judge is able to hear with certainty that the dog is accurately marking the bird and that an accepted game bird takes to flight from the barking. If the dog is barking at one or more birds sitting on the ground, the bark shall not be accepted or scored.

Degrees of marking

Marking the bird shall be assessed for every accepted standing bark, and the degrees used are excellent, satisfactory and poor.

Excellent marking (3 points)

Based on the dog's behaviour the group is able to identify with certainty the tree where the bird is sitting. Usually the dog's behaviour is confident and its eyes and body language clearly indicate where the bird is. If the terrain is heavily covered, marking may be scored as excellent if the judge has visual contact with the bird or dog, and the barking can be heard to be accurate. Marking may be excellent even if the dog is relatively far away from the tree; this mainly occurs when an experienced dog is working in open terrain and the birds are shy, and in this case the dog's behaviour and steady barking clearly mark the bird.

If the dog is barking at a single bird in a flock and marks it excellently even though other birds are making sounds and moving about, this may be taken into account when giving extra merit points.

Satisfactory marking (2 points)

Marking is satisfactory if the dog is not able to accurately identify the tree where the bird is sitting but instead barks at a group of trees. Marking is scored as satisfactory if the dog barks steadily at more than two birds in a flock at the same time, or if it continues to bark after following a single bird or a smaller group of birds that separates from a flock. Marking is satisfactory when the barking is only heard and is found to be accurate. If marking can only be assessed based on hearing it, the maximum score is satisfactory.

Poor marking (1 point)

Marking is poor if the dog is not able to clearly identify the group of trees where the bird is. In this case the bark is usually uncertain and moves around, but the dog still remains close to the spot where the bird is. In a flock the dog cannot start standing bark at any single bird but is instead moving all the time and barking at the area.

Marking shall be scored as poor if one or several birds are seen behind a large clear-cut area, open marshland or fields and the dog is heard barking at the immediate vicinity of the observed birds.

Marking not accepted

Marking cannot be accepted and barking scored if none of the above criteria is met; for example if the distance to the spot is so long that the judge cannot reliably see or hear the situation to assess it.

Marking shall not be accepted in case of an obvious false marking.

Scoring instructions

Marking in a flock must be assessed in the same way as marking single birds.

MARKING BIRDS

Sum of marking points	M 1	A 2	R 3	K 4	I 5	N 6	G 7	S 8	9	10
1	1									
2	4	2								
3	7	4	2							
4		6	4	2						
5		8	5	3	2					
6		9	6	4	3	2				
7			8	5	4	3	2			
8			9	6	5	4	3	2		
9			10	7	5	4	3	3	2	
10				8	6	5	4	3	2	2
11				10	7	5	4	4	3	2
12				10	8	6	5	4	3	3
13					9	6	5	5	4	3
14					10	7	6	5	4	3
15					10	8	6	6	5	4
16						9	7	6	5	4
17						10	7	7	6	4
18						10	8	7	6	5

19							9	8	7	5
20							10	8	7	6
21							10	9	8	6
22								10	8	7
23								10	9	7
24								10	9	8
25									10	8
26									10	9
27									10	9
28										10
29										10
30										10

8.2.2. Bark output (1–5 points)

The purpose of barking is to inform the hunter that the dog has found a bird in a tree and to prevent the bird from hearing the approaching hunter. Barking may also have an effect on how soon the bird stops. It must however be remembered that bark output and stopping the bird are assessed separately. Long bark as such does not always require good points for output.

Scoring instruction

Bark output is assessed based on the average impression, mainly paying attention to long standing barks with accurate marking. Bark output can be scored if bark frequency can be measured over a period of at least 15 seconds. Bark output is excellent when the frequency is high enough and the bark is audible, steady and sonorous. If the dog obviously and purposefully adapts its barking to the game it is barking at, this increases the value of its performance. If the dog makes a short pause in between long, steady barking periods, it should not be penalised for this. Terrain and weather must be taken into account when assessing the audibility of the bark. Infrequent, pausing and weak barking is not desired, nor is barking that is coarse, aggressive, dull, shrill or howling.

The judge scores the bark output as a whole as he hears it. Each deduction in the scores shall deduct one point in the overall bark output points. The dog shall however be given at least one (1) point for bark output if the judge has been able to assess its barking.

Bark frequency

Bark frequency is measured as barks per minute during one or several periods when the dog is barking properly. The barks are counted during a shorter time (e.g. 15 seconds) and then converted into barks per minute. Bark frequency is excellent if it is at least 100 barks per minute.

8.2.3. Stopping birds (0–20 points)

The ability of the dog to keep the bird in place while it is barking.

Instruction

If a bird is to stay in place while the dog is barking, it should not be conscious of the group. Therefore the group must exercise great caution when approaching a barking dog.

At each standing bark the dog must be given the chance to bark for 10 minutes.

In order not to upset the situation, the group must approach a barking dog only so close that they are able to verify the marking by listening to it. The group then stays at this spot until 10 minutes is up. After this the group attempts to get closer, and when the judge has verified the marking the dog handler is given permission to flush the bird to flight. While the dog is barking at the dog, the dog handler has the right to move slightly or make some sound within sight of the judge to make the dog conscious of his presence.

Scoring instruction

Stopping birds is assessed solely based on verified times. The durations of the three longest standing barks, renewed barks included, are combined and then divided by three, so as to obtain the average barking time. The points are then obtained from the scoring table based on the average barking time. Standing barks shorter than one minute are not taken into account when calculating the barking time. For one standing bark the dog shall get maximum 10 minutes of barking time. If the dog only has one or two standing barks longer

than 1 minute, the divider used in calculating shall be one or two, respectively. When using the scoring table it must be remembered that the average barking time shall be at least the number used to determine the points. The time shall not be rounded up mathematically.

STOPPING BIRDS

Average barking time	3 standing barks	2 standing barks	1 standing barks
1.0 minutes	3	2	1
1.5 minutes	4	3	1
2.0 minutes	5	4	2
2.5 minutes	6	4	2
3.0 minutes	7	5	3
3.5 minutes	8	6	3
4.0 minutes	9	7	4
4.5 minutes	10	8	4
5.0 minutes	11	9	5
5.5 minutes	12	10	5
6.0 minutes	13	10	6
6.5 minutes	14	11	6
7.0 minutes	15	11	7
7.5 minutes	16	12	7
8.0 minutes	17	13	8
8.5 minutes	18	13	8
9.0 minutes	19	14	9
10.0 minutes	20	15	10

8.3. First standing barks from finds (0–10 points)

The ability of the dog to start standing bark when it finds birds in trees or on the ground; in other words, how efficiently the dog is able to work the birds it finds in the trial area.

Scoring instruction

Points are determined according to the number of first standing barks and finds as shown in the table.

FIRST STANDING BARKS FROM FINDS

FB= First standing barks	L=Finds									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	8	7	5	4	3	3	2	2	1	1
2		9	8	6	5	4	4	3	2	2
3			10	9	7	6	5	5	4	3
4				10	9	8	7	6	5	4
5					10	9	8	7	6	6
6						10	10	8	7	7
7							10	10	9	8
8								10	10	9
9									10	10
10										10

8.4. Following and renewed standing barks (0–20 points)

8.4.1. Following (0–10 points)

The dog dashes quickly after a bird taking to flight from the ground or a tree and tries to stop it so it can bark at it (first or renewed barking).

Effect of terrain and weather

The terrain and weather have an effect on how quickly and how far the dog follows the bird. Dense undergrowth, thick snow or rough terrain make it more difficult to follow the bird.

If the conditions are clearly worse than normal, the chief judge may increase the following points by max. 2 points without changing the performance markings; any such additions by the chief judge must be indicated in the dog assessment report under "Notes".

Scoring instruction

A fast follower usually dashes with great speed and energy after a bird that takes to flight from the ground or a tree, and follows it often for several hundred meters at a high speed, depending on the terrain. Such a dog uses not only scent but also its ears to follow the bird, and after following it stops to listen. Stopping to listen shall not affect the points given for speed. A dog that starts a renewed standing bark at the same bird after following it for a long time shows great tenacity and good ability to follow the bird, and should be given good points.

Particular merit must be given to a dog that negotiates various obstacles in the terrain while following a bird, for example crossing waterways or climbing hills. Following game is assessed primarily according to the distance covered. The terrain can be assessed for example by listening to the barks that the dog may give after following a bird even if it does not find it. Snow-covered ground naturally gives an excellent opportunity to follow the dog.

Following is assessed on the basis of time only when there is no other way to judge how well the dog follows the bird, and in this case special attention must be paid to the speed and vigour of following. Following the bird must be assessed based on what it looks like on average. The following guidelines are used for judging:

Speed

- Fast: The dog dashes very quickly after a bird that is flying away. When visual contact is lost, the dog may stop for a moment to listen for any sounds that the bird may make when it sits in a tree, but then continues almost immediately at the same speed. If the dog loses contact with the bird, it quickly returns to the place where it first found the bird.
- Moderate: Follows the escaping bird in gallop, stopping every now and then to listen for any sounds from the bird, similar to a fast dog. Returns to the spot where the bird took to flight usually trotting or galloping slowly.
- Slow: Follows the escaping bird in trot. May also listen. If the dog continues after the bird, it does so in trot. Returns to the spot where the bird took to flight usually trotting slowly.

Distance

- Long: At least 250 m or 2 minutes.
- Moderate: At least 150 m or 1 minute.
- Short: Less than 150 m or less than 1 minute.

If the dog does not follow the bird at all, it shall get zero (0) points and will be barred from the trial.

Points for following game are according to the table below.

Scoring and points

FOLLOWING THE BIRD	POINTS
fast and long	9–10
moderate and long	8
fast and moderate	7
slow and long	6
moderate and moderate	5–6
fast and short	5
slow and moderate	4
moderate and short	3
slow and short	1–2

When the dog begins to follow a bird

The dog or bird must not be disturbed while the dog is following a bird. To ensure this, when the dog runs after a bird the group must at first stay in place and listen closely, and only start moving after the dog either reports back, or begins barking at the bird, or when the group is certain that the dog has lost contact with the bird it found and has started a new search.

8.4.2. Renewed bark (0–10 points)

When the dog has been barking at a bird or flock that then takes to flight and stops at a sufficient distance from the first contact, this is considered a "renewed bark".

Renewed bark or moving bark

When a dog starts barking again at the same bird or flock after it has taken to flight, an essential question is how long the bird or flock has flown. In general, even if a bird flies less than 100 m away in a heavily covered terrain the distance may be long enough to let the judge assess the dog's performance as renewed barking. On the other hand, in open terrain flights of nearly 250 m shall be considered as moves if the dog is able to maintain visual contact with the bird(s), and thus the new barking shall be considered as continuation of the previous standing bark. The flight of a hazelhen is always regarded as moving.

Sufficient verification

In order to assess the renewed or moving bark at a single bird, the judge must be able to verify that the bird the dog is barking is the same species and sex as the bird of the first standing bark, and the barking must start as soon as the dog can be expected to have covered the distance.

Working a flock shall be assessed as described in section 7.3.

Scoring instruction

Renewed barking shall be scored according to the table, and the points are determined by the number of first and renewed standing barks.

When using the table, standing barks at hazelhen shall not be included in the number of first standing barks.

RENEWED STANDING BARKS

RB= Renewed standing barks	FB=First standing barks									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	7	6	6	5	5	4	4	3	3	2
2	10	9	8	8	7	7	6	6	5	5
3		10	10	9	9	8	8	7	7	6
4				10	9	9	8	8	7	7
5					10	10	9	9	8	8
6							10	10	9	8
7									10	9
more than										10

8.5. Finding birds in trees (0–5 points)

The dog finds a bird in a tree and starts a standing bark. Renewed standing barks shall not be taken into account. The dog may find birds in trees using its sight, hearing or scent.

Scoring instruction

Depending on the conditions, an excellent dog finds birds in trees by using its scent, as this is a sign of excellent nose and ability to find game birds. Finding birds in trees by the use of ears or eyes is not as highly valued and thus cannot be scored as highly. Many factors have a significant effect on the dog's chances of detecting the scent of birds: conditions, season, time of day, direction and strength of wind, air humidity, and how long the bird has stayed in the tree. In early autumn the birds stay mostly on the ground and thus they

are more rarely found in trees than later in the season. The judge may often have difficulty observing how exactly the dog locates a bird in a tree; usually seeing the dog's actions is required to reach the correct assessment.

5–4 points

The dog uses only its scent to locate a bird that is sitting quietly in a tree. Typically the dog can be seen to suddenly change direction, turn against the wind and then proceed directly or almost directly towards the tree where the bird is sitting. The bark is usually somewhat uncertain and tentative at first, gradually getting stronger, rhythmical and more confident.

3 points

The dog starts barking at a bird and the distance is such that the group is able to hear with certainty that the bird has not been making noise or flown up to the tree just before the barking began. The bark is usually somewhat uncertain and tentative at first, gradually getting stronger, rhythmical and more confident.

2 points

The dog sees the bird in a tree or hears it making quiet noises, or the group is within sight of the bird but still too far to say with certainty that it has not been making noise.

1 point

The dog finds bird(s) that are making clearly audible noise in a tree, or the bird(s) seen in the tree(s) are so far away from the group that the barking is accepted with a weak marking.

The quality of the dog's performance is the primary criterion for scoring, not the number of times it finds birds in trees. Excellent points (5–4 points) may be given already for a single occasion when the dog shows excellent ability to find birds in trees.

In case of a flock of birds the maximum score is two (2) points.

8.6. Extra merit points (0–5 points)

Extra merits are the dog's reliability, determination and special abilities. Assessment takes into account both the dog's merits and errors, emphasis being on the overall quality of its performance.

Scoring instruction

Extra merit points may be given for qualities that make a good bird hunting dog: reliability, determination and special abilities.

Reliability 0–1 points

The dog's reliability is affected if it works other animals than the accepted game birds, including animals that are not considered unacceptable. Reliability point can be given even if no other animals than game birds are observed in the trial area. In order to get a reliability point the dog must also have been barking at birds. Excessive working on not accepted animals shall always cause deductions in extra merit points; excessive working means that the dog clearly marks and barks at such animals even though game birds have been observed in the trial area, only stops barking when the group arrives, or ignores the handler's commands and keeps chasing such animals.

Determination 0–2 points

Determination is the sum of good use of the senses, long accurately marked standing barks, staying to bark at the chosen bird in spite of other birds taking to flight nearby, adapting the bark to the marked game, the ability to start renewed standing barks, good controllability and cooperation with the handler, and the purposefulness of searching game.

Special abilities 0–2 points

Special abilities are: exceptionally good use of the senses, especially scent; the ability to behave in such a way that even a shy bird calms down; starting renewed standing barks after following the bird over a long distance; and determination, tenacity and endurance even in difficult terrain and poor weather.

The dog must have at least one determination point before it can be given special merit points. If no renewed standing barks were observed, the dog can get maximum three (3) extra merit points.

Disturbing work on hares, elks or other hooved game, squirrels or domestic animals shall cause reductions in the total extra merit points by 1–2 points, however no minus (-) points shall be given for extra merits. If the dog comes across any of these animals and reacts by barking or briefly chasing the animal, this shall not be regarded as actually working and it shall not cause any deductions in reliability points. In this case "Other working" shall be marked as "No".

The field judge should always discuss the extra merit points with an experienced chief judge, so that the dog's performance is also compared to the performance of other participating dogs.

9. PENALTY POINTS

Any penalty points must always be given only when the erroneous action has been witnessed with certainty, never based on assumptions only. The dog is penalised for errors in accordance with the rules.

If a dog is given full ten (10) penalty points for any of the reasons below, it shall be barred from the trial. Penalty points are equal in value with merit points.

9.1. Over-excitability (0–10 points)

An over-excitabile dog makes noise without visible reason, barks at the smell or tracks of birds that have stayed on the ground or in trees, or barks at a flying bird. In addition, barking at nothing and repeated wrong markings are regarded as over-excitability.

Scoring instruction

The judge should be very careful and precise when assessing over-excitability, and always try to find out the cause of barking. The main question is how repeated the superfluous noise and barks are and how much they disturb the assessment.

The first definitely marked empty standing bark shall be penalised by one (1) penalty point, each bark after that by two (2) points. Uncertain, tentative barking shall not be considered an error if it occurs

- in the direction where the bird has flown, after following it
- momentarily when the dog finds fresh scent or droppings of a bird

Even rather long tentative barking is permitted if it leads to a standing bark at a nearby bird.

9.2. Abandoning a standing bark (0–10 points)

The dog may interrupt or abandon a bird it has been barking. This may happen especially for a new, inexperienced dog after a long standing bark, especially if the bird is sitting quietly high up in the tree. It may also happen even to an experienced dog after it has followed a bird over a long distance, or when it has scented a bird in a tree and started barking at it.

If the dog barks at a correctly marked bird but then follows other birds taking to flight from the marked area, this shall not be regarded as abandoning the bark. On the other hand, if a bird takes to flight outside the correctly marked spot and the dog follows it, it is abandoning the standing bark.

If the interruptions in such a case are short, less than one minute, and the standing bark then continues, the dog shall not be penalised if it is competing in the open class. The dog may also intentionally make short pauses and then tentatively begin barking again if the birds are very shy; if this happens, such action shall be valued especially highly.

The dog shall not be penalised for abandoning a standing bark if the barking has all the time been tentative and has not resulted in a steady, standing bark, and thus does not meet the criteria for acceptable marking.

If the dog abandons a steady standing bark at a bird and leaves the spot, it shall be penalised as follows:

Winner class		Open class	
less than 1 minute	-1 point	less than 1 minute	0 points
1–2 minutes	-2 points	1–3 minutes	-1 points

2–3 minutes	-3 points	3–5 minutes	-2 points
over 3 minutes	-4 points	over 5 minutes	-3 points

If a dog in Winner Class abandons a standing bark twice or more during the same barking work, it shall be penalised more heavily; for example abandoning the bark two times for less than 1 minute shall then give -3 points. If the dog changes the bird it is barking at in a flock, this shall not be regarded as abandoning a standing bark but instead it shall cause a deduction in marking points.

9.3. Other disturbing behaviour (0–10 points)

Other behaviour that disturb the trial include aggression while barking, unwillingness to work, and disobedience.

9.3.1. Aggression while barking

Aggression while barking means that the dog scratches or bites the tree where the bird is sitting, jumps up against the tree or tries to climb to the tree. The error is severe if the dog is eagerly jumping up to the tree and tears at the lower branches with its teeth with the obvious intention of scaring the bird to flight. If this error is repeated the dog shall be given ten (10) penalty points.

9.3.2. Unwillingness to work

This refers to general laziness and lack of interest towards birds, as well as repeated efforts to catch small rodents so that it disturbs the trial.

The dog should not be penalised if it momentarily gets interested in small animals while it is working the birds but is not barking at the moment.

If this occurs repeatedly so much that it disturbs the trial, penalty points shall be given in accordance with how much the dog's action disrupt the trial.

If the dog starts chasing small game while it is barking, this is penalised in the same way as abandoning a standing bark. If the group repeatedly flushes up birds in the immediate vicinity of the dog but the dog pays no attention to these, the dog shall be given ten (10) penalty points.

9.3.3. Disobedience

Disobedience means that the dog shows clear indifference towards the handler's commands: during a trial period the dog disregards the handler's commands, and during or after the period it may refuse to be recalled and put on lead. However, the dog should not be penalised if it has come across some

During a trial period a disobedient dog clearly disregards the handler's commands, and during or after the period it refuses to be recalled and put on lead. However, the dog should not be penalised if the dog cannot be immediately recalled after it has come across some game animal and is chasing it at a close distance.

Penalty points shall be given if the dog's disobedience clearly disrupts the trial, and especially if it returns to bark or chase

If the dog has shown clear disregard of its handler and cannot be recalled, it shall be heavily penalised. When the dog handler is putting the dog on lead, he may go to some distance from the group so that the presence of unfamiliar people would not prevent the dog from being recalled.

If the dog cannot be recalled within one (1) hour from the end of the trial period, the dog shall be given ten (10) penalty points.

10. INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSESSMENT

10.1. Recording the dog's performance

In order to get a fuller picture of the dog's performance than just the merit and penalty points can give, the judge shall also record its performance with regard to the various aspect of working. It must be remembered

that only actions that have been observed shall be recorded. Short moments of working that the judge cannot assess with certainty should not be recorded; the general principle is to record rather too little than too much.

In addition to errors for which the dog can be penalised by penalty points, the judge shall also record any work on animals that are considered erroneous but are not grounds for penalty points. Such work includes chasing or barking at hare or other game, domestic animals, elk and squirrel. If the judge is able to see with certainty that the dog does not work on these animals even if it has the chance, this should be recorded. Game and domestic animals that shall not be recorded are: willow grouse, pheasant, waterfowl, bear, lynx, wild boar, raccoon dog, badger, fox, wolverine, pine marten, ermine, weasel, polecat, otter, beaver, mink and cat.

10.2. Connection between performance recording and points

When filling the scoring card the judge shall first record the dog's performance and then give the merit points based on his observations. The performance record and points must match, with the exception of extra points that the chief judge may choose to grant to the dog due to exceptionally difficult terrain or weather.

10.3. Final points and ranking

The final points of a dog are calculated by deducting any penalty points from the sum of merit points. If two dogs have the same final points, the dog with fewer penalty points shall take precedence. If the sum of merit points and penalty points for both dogs is the same, the chief judge shall decide the final ranking based on the overall performance of the dogs.

10.4. Using zero and dash

Correct use of zero and dash is important for ensuring that the various aspects of the dog's work are correctly assessed. This in turn ensures reliable information of the abilities of the breed, various bloodlines and individual dogs, and how these develop with time. This information is essential for breeding. It must be remembered that zero (0) is always treated as a number and thus it is automatically included when calculating average points, whereas dash (-) is not a number and has no effect on the average.

As a rule, always when the dog can be assessed (merits and errors) a number must be used; when the dog's performance cannot be assessed, a dash must be used.

Examples:

- If the dog gets a first standing bark but no renewed bark, renewed barks are indicated with 0. If the dog did not get a first standing bark, its ability to renew the bark cannot be assessed and thus renewed barks are marked with a dash (-).
- If the dog gets a standing bark and does not abandon it, abandoning the bark is zero 0; if it did not get any standing barks, abandoning the bark cannot be assessed and thus the correct mark is dash (-).

10.5. Correcting errors

Kennel districts, breed clubs and the Finnish Kennel Club are required to correct any errors they observe in the calculated points or in the use of scoring tables. The chief judge of the trial and the dog owner must be immediately informed of any such errors.

GUIDELINES FOR PEOPLE WORKING IN BIRD HUNTING TRIALS

1. FILLING THE REPORTS

Models and filling instructions for the scoring card, dog assessment report and trial report can be found at the web address XXX.

2. GUIDELINES FOR CHIEF JUDGE

2.1. Special instructions

1. The chief judge must be an accredited chief judge for bird hunting trials, with a valid judging licence, and a member of the Finnish Kennel Club and a member of the breed club for either Finnish Spitz or Laikas.
2. The chief judge is responsible for ensuring that the approved trial rules and instructions are followed in the trial, and for ensuring that all dogs get a correct, equal and fair assessment.
3. To fulfil this task the chief judge is required to:
 - Ensure that the field judges are appropriately authorised, and ensure that they are divided into groups so that each group only includes one field judge, possibly a trainee field judge, and also a guide if needed.
 - Supervise the allotment of trial areas for each dog.
 - Call the field judges and dog handlers to a briefing at the beginning of the trial; in this briefing the chief judge gives a summary of the trial rules, gives instructions to the field judges to ensure uniform work and to ensure that the scoring cards are correctly filled.
 - Ensure that the performance of each participating dog is assessed in accordance with the rules and guidelines.
4. If the chief judge also acts as field judge at the same trial, he has the right to choose the dog he will assess.
5. Chief judge receives the trial report of the field judge, checks the scoring card and confirms the field judge's assessment and points. If the chief judge after hearing the field judge's report is convinced that the assessment does not match the events during the trial, the chief judge shall change the assessment by the field judge. The chief judge checks the dog performance reports and trial report to make sure that data entered by the secretary is correct and complete. At the end of the trial the chief judge confirms the reports with his signature, tells his observations during the trial to the dog handlers and field judges, publishes the results and hands copies of the dog performance reports to the dog owners.
6. Chief judge receives any protests made during the trial and processes them in accordance with the approved procedure in force at the time of the trial.

2.2. Guidelines

1. Agree with the organising committee on the timetable of the opening briefing and the actual trial.
2. Prepare for the briefing to be held before the trial begins, and remember that it should not take more than max. 20 minutes. In the briefing, explain the most important factors related to the trial, such as the possible effect of weather on judging. Require the field judges to be present at the briefing; only an insurmountable hindrance shall be considered grounds for absence.
3. Be at the trial place in time.
4. Remember that each and every trial is a valuable dog sport event as well as an important training opportunity.
5. With the assistance of the organising committee, check the ID markings and vaccinations of the participating dogs. Make sure that dogs without the required vaccinations are not included in the allotment of areas.
6. With the assistance of the organising committee, check that all field judges meet the rules with regard to authorisation and membership.
7. Supervise the distribution of judges to groups before the allotment of areas. Pay attention to their familiarity with the areas and terrain, and use a guide when necessary.
8. Give the briefing to the participants, and give them time for questions. This ensures that the field judges and dog handlers have the chance to ensure that no unclear questions remain. If any of the field judges has not been able to be present at the briefing due to some insurmountable obstacle, repeat the main points of the briefing to the judge in person before sending him to the trial area.

9. Supervise the allotment of areas. Before publishing the results of allotment ensure that no judges are biased, and ask if anyone has any objections to how the judges are allotted to the areas. Remember that the bias of a judge is dependent on the dog.
10. If possible, watch or listen to the work of the groups at work. When moving in the areas, make sure not to cause unnecessary disturbance to the dogs.
11. After the trial, receive the field judge's report of the trial, and read the scoring card to see the events during the trial, the recorded events, points, and other data. Also remember that the dog handler has the right to be present at the field judge's report. Make sure that judging is done in accordance with the rules and scoring instructions, and never deviate from the spirit of the rules, based on actual game bird hunting with dogs. Guide and instruct any trainee judges present, and if the trainee's original assessment deviates from the final result, give grounds for the result.
12. If disputes arise, do your best to quickly reach an agreement that satisfies all parties involved.
13. Check the trial reports and scoring cards. Ensure that the trial judge signs the dog performance report.
14. Prepare a truthful chief judge's report of the event, including the positive things about the trial as well as any shortcomings or mistakes you have observed.
15. Before signing the dog performance reports and trial report, make sure that all information recorded in them is correct.
16. In the closing ceremony, give a constructive summary of the trial events and the performance of the dogs. Remember to thank the field judges, guides, and all other people who have contributed to the success of the trial.
17. If the trial date has to be changed due to some compelling reason, negotiate with the organising committee to find a new date that the committee shall then suggest to the party that granted the trial.

3. GUIDELINES FOR FIELD JUDGES

3.1. Duties of field judge

A field judge, named by the chief judge, leads the work of a trial group and is responsible for ensuring that the assessment of the dog's performance is carried out in accordance with the trial rules and guidelines.

3.2. Starting and ending a trial period

The field judge decides when the dog is released and when it is recalled and put on a lead. The field judge must inform the dog handler clearly when the trial period starts and ends, as well as possible breaks during the period.

3.3. Order of procession

The field judge ensures that the group moves in such an order that the dog handler always goes first and the field judge follows immediately after the dog handler. If other people are present, they shall follow the group at such a distance as to cause minimum disturbance.

3.4. Direction of procession

The field judge decides the general direction of the group's movement, however paying attention to information provided by the guide and to reasonable requests from the dog handler. The group should always avoid moving along the wind. Especially if the group has to momentarily move in the direction of the wind and the wind is very strong, make sure that the dog is upwind from the group.

3.5. Actions in trial area

Field judge gives instructions on how the group is to proceed during the trial period. Unnecessary discussion and the use of telephones must be avoided.

3.6. Evaluating the dog's performance

The field judge must assess the dog's performance impartially and fairly, based only on the dog's performance on that day, without letting hearsay or the dog's earlier achievements influence the assessment. The field judge only gives points on what he is able to see and hear; however, the field judge may choose to take into account reliable observations by the guide and trainee judge. The field judge must always do his best to do justice to the dog and give it the chance to show its abilities during the entire trial period, without disturbing its work.

Too hasty conclusions must be avoided, as these may result in overly positive or negative assessments. If the field judge notices that he has made a mistake, this must be corrected immediately and the dog handler

be informed of this.

3.7. Filling the field report

The points for each dog are marked in the approved scoring card. Before the trial period begins the following information shall be written in the card:

- name of dog
- name and address of dog owner
- the time when the dog was released
- whether or not hazelhen are to be taken into account when assessing the dog's performance

During the trial period, all events shall be written in the scoring card in the order they occur, and if the group has to make a transition, also the times when the dog was recalled and released again due to the transition must be recorded.

3.8. Explaining the events to dog handler

During a trial period the field judge should explain his interpretation of each event to the dog handler. After the trial period the field judge must go through the entire trial and his interpretation of these events, however without mentioning the points or score. The dog handler signs the field report to indicate that he has approved the report.

3.9. Marking the scores

After the trial period the field judge fills in the field report, marks the merit and penalty points under each scoring category, and writes a short description of the dog's performance.

3.10. Reporting to chief judge

The field judge is required to hand over the carefully filled scoring card and to give an oral description of the trial events to the chief judge. At the discretion of the chief judge, the dog handler may be allowed to be present to hear the field judge's report. Finally the field judge confirms with his signature the verified results written in the dog performance report. After hearing the field judge's report and negotiating with the field judge, the chief judge has the right and duty to change the field judge's assessment and thus also the points given if he considers it necessary, as specified in these rules and guidelines. The chief judge also has the right to change the points in order to ensure that all dogs in the trial are assessed in a uniform manner. If the chief judge considerably changes the field judge's interpretation of the events during the trial, he must immediately inform the dog handler of this.

3.11. Disagreements during trial

The field judge is authorised to make decisions in disagreements that come up while the group is working, but he must report all disagreements and unclear situations to the chief judge who has the final power of decision. The dog handler must be informed of the final decision before the results are published.

3.12. Behaviour towards dog handler and guide

The field judge must behave in a friendly, polite manner towards the dog handler and guide, but he must also remember that he has the right and duty to give them orders and instructions when necessary.

3.13. Participation in briefing

The field judge is required to be present at the briefing given by the chief judge before the trial, unless he has got special dispensation from the chief judge, and to follow the instructions given by the chief judge and organising committee.

4. GUIDELINES FOR DOG HANDLER

4.1. Following instructions

Dog handler is required to follow closely all instructions and orders given by the chief judge.

4.2. Putting the dog on lead

Dog handler is only allowed to put the dog on lead without a judge's order if he wishes to withdraw from the trial, or if the dog has gone outside the designated trial area, or in case of imminent danger. The field judge must be immediately informed of the reason this.

4.3. Right to express wishes

Dog handler has the right to give reasonable suggestions and wishes regarding matters such as for example the direction in which the group will move, but he must not disrupt the trial with repeated suggestions.

4.4. Right to guide the dog and correct it

Dog handler has the right to give directions to his dog by whistles, hand signs and moderate commands and to prevent it from erroneous action, but this must happen without violence.

4.5. Disqualifying

If the dog handler disregards the judges' instructions, breaches the trial rules, disrupts the operation of the group or otherwise behaves in an inappropriate manner, the field judge must disqualify the dog. The chief judge must be immediately informed of the disqualification and the grounds thereof.

4.6. Behaviour towards field judge and guide

Dog handler is required to behave in a friendly and polite manner towards the field judge and guide, and remember that it is not appropriate to discuss the dog's earlier prizes or achievements with the field judge before the final assessment has been given.

4.7. Participation in briefing

Dog handler is required to be present at the briefing given by the chief judge before the trial, and to follow the instructions given by the chief judge, field judge and organising committee.

5. GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The organising club appoints an organising committee. Usually the committee includes a chairman, a secretary, and 1...5 members.

1. The committee agrees on the distribution of tasks and responsibilities.
2. The committee prepares the trial application, unless the organising club decides otherwise. The committee makes a proposal for the chief judge and deputy chief judge, makes decisions on the entry fee and how the entries will be handled. The goal is always to require entries in writing.
3. The committee reserves a suitable trial centre, the necessary accommodation and meals, and facilities where the participants have the chance to wash or bathe and change gear as needed.
4. The committee decides in good time how many dogs may be allowed to participate in the trial.
5. The committee contacts the chief judge in good time to agree when the opening briefing of the trial will be held.
6. The committee reserves the necessary trial areas and agrees with the landowners on keeping the area clear at the time of the trial. The committee also makes sure that extra areas, guides and judges are available in case something surprising happens.
7. The committee makes sure that they have all the necessary equipment (field reports, report forms, rulebooks etc.) for the trial, and any prizes that will be given.
8. The committee reserves a competent trial secretary who will work together with the chief judge, unless the committee secretary is able to do this.
9. The committee should have its final meeting 1...2 hours before the opening briefing by the chief judge and the allotment of trial areas.
10. The committee checks the dogs' papers and the judging authorisation of field judges as instructed by the chief judge.
11. The committee prepares an allotment and result board for the trial, and a map that will be displayed at the trial centre, showing the location of all trial areas and their distance from the trial centre.
12. The committee and chief judge together choose the best field judges for each area, and find out in advance if any of them may be considered biased.
13. The committee arrange the allotment of trial areas. Usually this is done after the briefing by the chief judge; in some cases (if the number of entries is very high) it may also be done prior to the opening, but in any case it must be carried out under the supervision of the chief judge.
14. The committee prepares and arranges the trial closing event, and makes sure to remember all parties that have contributed to the success of the trial when rewarding people.
15. The committee sends the results for publication.
16. The committee sends the trial report and field reports to the kennel district, and archives and keeps

the necessary paperwork for at least one year after the trial.

17. The organising committee and all its members are responsible for all arrangements throughout the trial. All members of the committee must show exemplary behaviour and create a good, constructive kennel spirit in the event.