DOGS VICTORIA

REG. NO. A0023882W

REGULATIONS

PART 10 - RETRIEVING AND FIELD

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To be read in conjunction with DOGS AUSTRALIA Regulations, Codes & Policies

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10 – RETRIEVING AND FIELD

10.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

10.1.1 All Field and Retrieving Trials, are to be held under the Rules of the Australian National Kennel Council for that discipline.

10.1.2 In each year there shall be held not more than one Championship Field or Retrieving Stake for the following groupings of dogs:

- Pointers and Setters
- Spaniels and Retrievers
- Utility Gundogs
- Retrieving (Group 3)

10.1.3 - Submission of draft fixture schedules and judges' contracts - deleted (duplication) refer to regulation 3.4.12 (15/01/26)

10.1.4 Where a contracted Judge does not attend within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time for that judge, the organising affiliate is to appoint a suitably qualified replacement judge.

10.1.5 In any case where a judge does not attend as contracted, the organising Affiliate is to provide a written report to Dogs Victoria Office within seven (7) days, providing all known details to the reason for the non-attendance of the contracted Judge and the reason for selecting the substitute Judge.

10.1.6 Catalogue

At any fixture where entries close on a prior date, a catalogue evidencing the following must be prepared:

10.1.6.1 The name of the exhibitor/registered owner.
10.1.6.2 The name and registered number of the exhibit.
10.1.6.3 The event in which the exhibit is entered.
10.1.6.4 The name of the Judges officiating.
10.1.6.5 The name of Dogs Victoria Representative.

10.1.7 No member of a judge's immediate family or household, including a person who resides at the same address, shall exhibit or handle any dog in a retrieving and field trial stake or field trial stake at which the judge officiates as a judge. (Amended 15/06/24, 15/11/22)

10.1.8 No person shall enter any exhibit or handle in any Show or other exhibition under any judge who has, or has had, a proprietary interest in a dog or dogs whether solely or in partnership with such person, within a period of twelve months prior to such Show or exhibition.

10.1.9 No person shall exhibit or handle under a Judge, if that Judge has handled any dog owned or part owned, leased or part leased by such person within a period of 12 months prior to such event or exhibition. This Regulation applies to approved and sanctioned events, with the exception of members competitions and dog matches, and does not apply where an exhibitor who, due to a judging decision on the day, is required to compete with two or more exhibits at the same time.

10.1.10 No person shall exhibit or handle under a Judge, if that person has handled any dog owned or part owned, leased or part leased by such Judge within a period of 12 months prior to such event or exhibition. This regulation applies to all approved and sanctioned events, with the exception of members competitions and dog matches, and does not apply where an exhibitor assists another exhibitor who, due to a judging decision on the day, is required to compete with two or more exhibits at the same time.

10.2 CONDUCT OF TRIALS

10.2.1 Clubs to advise Dogs Victoria Representatives of Trial details. i.e. Commencement times, venue etc., in adequate time prior to the fixture.

10.2.2 Clubs must provide "Judging Sheets" for use at all Trials. Such sheets must be as shown in the Rules. However, a Judge may provide and use "Work Sheets" drawn up to suit their own purposes, which may include a further breakdown of points within the category shown, provided that the total of points in each category is the same as shown in the Rules. Judges shall retain the "Judging Sheets" without alteration for at least six (6) weeks from the conclusion of the Trial.

10.2.3 When a Trial is cancelled or abandoned, a replacement Trial date will not be granted, except under exceptional circumstances.

10.2.4 Game must be prepared as close as possible to the commencement of the Trial.

10.2.5 Where game is mentioned in the Trial Rules, the word "Quail" refers to "Stubble Quail" only. The State Game Laws must be strictly adhered to at all times.

10.2.6 The value of trophies for Field and Retrieving Trials must be of a minimum value of $15.00 for "Best in Trial" and $10.00 for "Second or Runner Up in Trial".

10.2.7 A Victorian "Game Licence" must be obtained by all competitors (including Interstate competitors) where gazetted game is intended to be shot.

10.2.8 Handlers of dogs in competition at Field or Retrieving Trials must produce their Shooters Licence at vetting. Handlers that do not have a current Shooters Licence will not be permitted to compete. However, in Retrieving at Beginners Tests and Novice Water Tests a Steward may be appointed to handle the gun and shoot for a competitor who does not possess a Shooters Licence so that the Handler is not required to carry a gun.

10.2.9 If at the completion of a Trial a run-off is required to separate two or more dogs tied on the same score for any placing, then the performances in the run-off relate only to the run-off.

E.g. Where at the completion of the Trial, two dogs are equal on points for first place, they must be separated in a run-off to determine first and second places. The dogs have completed the work specified for the Trial and all that remains is for them to be separated. If one of them is eliminated for a misdemeanour then the other is obviously the winner and the dog eliminated in the run-off is second in the Trial. The elimination only applies to the run-off.

10.2.10 Definition of Trial Site and Storage of Pigeons

10.2.10.1 Trial site: The site where the trial activity takes place and includes camping and administration areas.

10.2.10.2 Pigeons: All Pigeons must be cared for in a humane manner. Pigeons may only be despatched using the current RSPCA approved method. Live Pigeons are not to be stored within sight of trailing activity or administration area or public area.

10.2.11 Retrieving Trials

Mechanical Throwers must be used at all Retrieving Trials, where possible.

10.2.12 Assembly Stewards are responsible to the Trial Manager for ensuring -

10.2.12.1 Suitable pegs or methods of restraining dogs in the hide are used.

10.2.12.2 Excessively long leads shall not be permitted in the hide, maximum length 1.5 metres.

10.2.12.3 Dogs are not left in the hide without at least one (1) persons to act, if necessary, in controlling the dogs and when the handlers are called for the Judge's instructions, then the Assembly Steward shall remain with the dogs in the hide.

10.2.12.4 The handlers ensure that dogs are quiet in the hide at all times.

10.2.13 Game must not be overused. It is the responsibility of Judges to examine all game prior to each run to ensure game is in good condition.

10.2.14 When an entry in excess of the numbers quoted below is received for a Retrieving Trial, a second Judge may be appointed by the Trial Committee after consultation with the officiating Judge.

10.2.14.1	Beginners and Water Tests	50 entries
10.2.14.2	Puppy, Derby, Novice and Restricted Stakes	35 entries
10.2.14.3	All Age Stakes	25 entries
10.2.14.4	Championship Trial	20 entries

10.2.15 When a handler has multiple entries in more than one stake at a Trial, the catalogue order for that handler will be in alternate numbers from the first number drawn in the ballot. E.g. if the first number drawn is 7, then the handler's other dogs will automatically be 9, 11 etc. Common sense should prevail when problems arise.

10.2.16 Game at the recovery point and casting point (Game Steward and Gun Steward) must be kept in sealable containers, with the recommendation that plastic garbage bins be used.

10.2.17 Field Trials

If a competitor in a Field Trial shoots a bird other than "Game Species" for which an open season has been declared, that competitor and dog shall be eliminated from the Trial.

10.2.18 Live game that is picked up by a dog and is immediately released on command or of the dog's own accord, shall be treated in accordance with the Rules for the conduct of Field Trials.

Subject to this, any dog that picks up live game before it has been shot shall deliver it to the handler. The game shall then be immediately despatched by the handler. After delivery to the handler, live game must not be released and shot for the purpose of a retrieve.

10.2.19 Clubs should conduct Utility Field Trials using the benefits provided by the Eligibility Clauses. Where possible, All Age Stakes should be conducted in lieu of Open Stakes to reduce the field and improve the quality of dogs engaged in the Stake. Judges be advised that in Utility Gundog Field Trials, special attention should be made to eliminating dogs which are lacking general working ability. Under no circumstances should a dog be run in the second round if it has provided any grounds for elimination.

10.2.20 The Water Test conducted in Utility Gundog Field Trials must be of a similar standard to water runs conducted at corresponding Retrieving Trials. Refer Utility Gundog Field Trial Rules.

10.2.21 In Victoria, Pointers and Setters and Utility Gundogs are required to be adequately tested on feather. This means quail both must be found and shot.

NOTE: .1 In the case of Utility Gundogs shot game must be retrieved.

.2 In the case of Pointers and Setters the handler shall nominate to the judge and steward at the start of the first heat whether the dog will seek dead or retrieve the shot game during the trial.

10.2.22 Utility Gundog Field Trials

At Utility Gundog Field Trials Judges are instructed to withhold points unless the dog has been adequately tested on finding and retrieving quail at an Open, All Age or Championship Stake.

10.2.23 Dogs the bona fide property of the same owner shall not be drawn together except at the conclusion of a trial when a judge may wish to see them together.

10.2.24 No member of Dogs Victoria participating, or officiating in, or observing such Trials shall revisit a Trial venue without permission of the landowner of that venue.

10.2.25 No member of Dogs Victoria participating, or officiating in, or observing such Trials shall subsequently contact the landowner for the purpose of revisiting the Trial venue without the prior approval of the person responsible for negotiating the venue for the above mentioned Trials.

10.2.26 Gundog Working Test

The use of firearms must be restricted to a starting pistol.

10.2.27 Extreme Weather Retrieving and Field (Amended 15/12/25,15/06/24), (15/06/2018)

10.2.27.1 DEFINITIONS

Refer to Regulation 3.2

10.2.27.2 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.3

10.2.27.3 AFFILIATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.4

Affiliates are to consider rescheduling the starting time to either early morning or later in the evening, if, because of the location and/or the time of the year, a trial could be affected by high temperatures

10.2.27.4 CANCELLATION OF AN EVENT

Refer to Regulations 3.5.20.4 and 3.5.20.5, excepting that:

- a trial is to be cancelled if the forecast temperature exceeds 36 degrees Celsius
- if the Trial Committee decides that the conduct of the trial is unsafe once it has commenced, the trial must be cancelled; and
- where moderate or severe flooding is forecast for the district where the trial is to be conducted the trial is to be cancelled.

10.2.27.5 'WAIT AND SEE' APPROACH – JUDGING TO BE SUSPENDED

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.6

10.2.27.6 'WAIT AND SEE' APPROACH – JUDGING MAY CONTINUE

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.7

10.2.27.7 POSTPONEMENT, RELOCATION (INCLUDES MOVE INDOORS) AND CHANGE OF COMMENCEMENT TIME

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.8, excepting that where the forecast temperature is between 30 degrees Celsius and 36 degrees Celsius trial management is to start the event at 7am and ensure in conjunction with the judge and competitors that:

- all dogs have access to shade when not competing
- all dogs have access to water for drinking and swimming when not competing; and
- dogs in the field are closely monitored and withdrawn from competition if there are signs of heat stress.

If there is inadequate access to shade and water, trial management must consider relocating the event to a more suitable site.

10.2.27.8 LIGHTNING AND THUNDER

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.9

10.2.27.9 EXTREME COLD AND ICE

Where extreme cold occurs over the site where a retrieving trial is being conducted dogs are not to be

expected to break ice on more than two retrieves of the trial

10.2.27.10 CLUSTER TRIALS

Where multiple trials are scheduled over a day or a number of days, then a case-by-case (trial-by-trial) decision shall be made

10.2.27.11 REFUNDS OF ENTRY FEES FOR EVENTS CANCELLED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.10

10.2.27.12 STATUS OF AWARDS WHEN AN EVENT IS CANCELLED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER

Should any stake be completed by ALL eligible competitors prior to a trial being cancelled then the

qualifying scores/placings for that stake will stand.

10.3 JUDGES TRAINING AND TESTING PROGRAM

10.3.1 Judges Training and Testing program as adopted by the Victorian Canine Association Inc., and effective from 1st January each year, must be set to the minimum standard as set down by the DOGS AUSTRALIA Judges Training Schemes for each discipline.

10.3.2 To qualify for the DOGS AUSTRALIA National Judges List of Retrieving and Field Trial Judges, the Judge must have completed all Dogs Victoria requirements as outlined in the Training and Testing Program.

10.3.3 A person must make application to Dogs Victoria by completing the application form for entry into the Judges Training and Testing Program and lodging it with Dogs Victoria office.

10.3.4 Reserved

10.3.5 Deleted (15/04/25)

10.3.6 A person shall not be entitled to judge a Recognised Trial unless they have been approved to judge or unless they have received the permission of the Management Committee to judge at a nominated Trial.

10.3.7 Reports and/or complaints against Judges will be dealt with in accordance with Dogs Victoria Rule 2.20 and these Regulations.

10.3.8 A member whose approval to judge has been cancelled or suspended following action in accordance with Dogs Victoria Rule 2.20 may appeal the decision in accordance with Dogs Victoria Rule 2.20.3.4 and these Regulations.

10.4 HOW TO BECOME A RETRIEVING TRIAL JUDGE

10.4.1 To be eligible to apply, a person must have -

10.4.1.1 Been a member of the canine control for a minimum of five (5) years.
(The Member Body will consider an application for a person transferring from another Sate or Territory of Australia, or overseas, who can provide evidence that their canine experience extends over a minimum period of five consecutive years as a member of the Controlling Body for the State, Territory or Country of prior residence.)

10.4.1.2 Have trained, competed and successfully placed first, second or third to at least Novice standard in Retrieving Trials.

10.4.1.3 Have officiated as Trial Manager, Judges Steward or Gun Steward at (5) DOGS AUSTRALIA recognised Trials in the preceding three (3) years.

10.4.1.4 Attended a <u>minimum</u> of three (3) lectures and /or other advertised instruction sessions provided by the Retrieving and Field Trial Committee within the last five (5) years.

10.4.1.5 Be the holder of an appropriate gun licence if required.

10.4.1.6 Been approved by the Victorian Canine Association Inc.

10.4.2 Trainee Judge

10.4.2.1 A Trainee Judge will be required to attend Lectures and Tutorials covering interpretation and application of the Rules for the conduct of Retrieving Trial and other topics relevant to judging, or have attended a minimum of three (3) lectures and /or other advertised instruction sessions provided by the Retrieving delegates of the Retrieving and Field Trial Committee within the last five (5) years.

10.4.2.2 Attend Practical Training days for setting retrieves suitable for relevant stakes with opportunity for judging practice.

10.4.2.3 Attend trials to observe and mark judging sheets at a minimum of three (3) Novice Stakes. It is recommended that a minimum of ten dogs over two runs be judged by the trainee judge. The trainee judges record card must be signed by the contracted judge, evidencing that the trainee judge has marked sheets to the judges satisfaction.

10.4.2.4 Punctual attendance at theory and practical sessions is required.

10.4.2.5 Pass a practical exam consisting of a Simulated Novice trail of at least six (6) competing dogs. Each trainee will be required to set and judge a simulated Novice Stake and may be required to make an oral report giving reasons for points awarded and/or deducted.

10.4.2.6 A pass will be awarded if the Candidate is passed by two approved examiners. Successful candidates will be recommended to the Member body to be eligible to judge up to and including Novice Stakes.

10.4.3 Written Examinations

10.4.3.1 The approved examiners will consist of a minimum of two (2) qualified Championship/all Age judges approved by the Victorian RAFT retrieving delegates.

10.4.3.2 At no time shall two or more members of one family or the same household be examiners.

10.4.3.3 All examinations shall be supervised by a person or persons appointed by the examiners.

10.4.3.4 In written examinations it will be the practice of examiners to agree on answers required before the date of the examination.

All written examination papers shall consist of “short answer questions” and/or “multi-choice questions” only. Except for “multi-choice questions” where one (1) person only is required, there shall be at least two (2) persons appointed to separately mark the papers, without conferring.

The results shall be separately forwarded to the CEO of Dogs Victoria to be then forwarded to the Victorian RAFT committee’s retrieving delegates. In the case of a split decision (equal pass and fail) an additional person shall mark the papers and that mark shall decide the result. All written examinations shall require a 75% pass mark. The DOGS AUSTRALIA Rules for the Conduct of Retrieving Trials, shall be the only basis for the written examinations. All examination papers (pass or fail) will be held by Dogs Victoria Office.

10.4.3.5 A candidate who has failed a written examination (other than multi choice questions) may request a remark of their paper. Such request to be in writing and within 14 days of advice of the result of the examination. The re-marking of the paper shall be conducted by three (3) persons appointed to separately re-mark the paper without conferring. Such persons shall not be the original markers of the paper concerned.

10.4.3.6 No names shall be used on examination papers. Only the candidate’s examination number shall appear on the examination paper.

10.4.3.7 The key to Candidate’s names and examination numbers shall be held in the sealed envelope by the Executive Officer of the Member Body until marks have been awarded.

10.4.3.8 All Examiners are to be present at Practical Examinations. In the case of illness or other exigency, a Deputy will be co-opted to the Panel.

10.4.4 Upgrading of Novice Judges Aspiring to Judge Restricted Stakes and Restricted Judges aspiring to Judge All Age Stakes.

10.4.4.1 Have successfully, trained competed and finished in stakes at the level for which he/she is applying for upgrade.

10.4.4.2 Attend Lectures and tutorials covering setting and judging relevant stakes for upgrading.

10.4.4.3 Attend Practical Field days for setting retrievers suitable for relevant stakes with opportunity for judging practice.

10.4.4.4 Attend trials to observe and mark judging sheets at a minimum of three (3) relevant stakes. The aspiring judges record card must be signed by the contracted judge, evidencing that the trainee judge has marked sheets to the judges satisfaction.

10.4.4.5 Satisfactory completion of the requisite number of judging appointments in accordance with the Retrieving Trial Rules, an Examiner to be appointed by the Retrieving Committee for each Trial at which the Aspirant elects to be considered for elevation in judging status, to observe, guide and report to the Member Body, and, where sufficient reports favourably on balance are received from at least two different examiners, and any other requirement has been met the Aspirant may make application to the Member Body for elevation in judging status.

Note: Every effort will be made to appoint Examiners who are not competing in the Trial at which assessment for elevation is carried out.
Relevant Stakes means Stakes at the level at which the Judge is aspiring.

10.4.4.6 Examination; Set and judge a mock relevant Stake with at least six (6) competing dogs. A pass will be awarded if the Candidate satisfies the Examiners as to his/her knowledge and ability.

Successful Candidates will be recommended to the Member Body to be eligible to judge at the level for which they have applied.

10.4.5 All Age Judges aspiring to judge Championship Stakes.

10.4.5.1 Practical: Satisfactory completion of at least four (4) All Age Judging appointments in accordance with the Retrieving Trial Rules; an examiner to be appointed by the Member Body for each trial at which the Aspirant elects to be considered for elevation in judging status, to observe, guide and report to the Member Body and, where sufficient reports favourable on balance are received from at least two different Examiners, and any other requirement has been met, the Aspirant may make application to the Member Body for elevation in status.

Successful Candidates will be recommended to the Member Body to be eligible to judge Championship Stakes.

Note: Any Judge who fails to renew their Judging Licence for two (2) consecutive years for any reason and at a later date wishes to apply for return to the Judges Licence, must automatically go back to the Novice Level of judging.

Any Judge who fails to renew their Judging Licence for a period exceeding two (2) years must apply to re-enter the Scheme.

10.4.6 Examiners

10.4.6.1 Examiners for elevation in Judging status must have been qualified for the judging status to which the examinee is aspiring for at least three (3) years.

Note: Every effort will be made to appoint Examiners who are not competing in the Trial at which the assessment for elevation is carried out.

10.4.7 The maintenance of a list of judging appointments and other assignments, complete with exact dates and other relevant details, is the responsibility of each Judge. Such detail must be furnished when applying for elevation of status.

10.4.8 No judging appointments may be accepted for any class until the relevant status has been granted by the Member body.

10.4.9 Judges may not accept appointments outside of their home State/Territory to judge classes for which they have not been approved by their State/Territory Member Body.

10.5 HOW TO BECOME A UTILITY GUNDOG FIELD TRIAL JUDGE

10.5.1 To be eligible to apply, a person must have*:*

10.5.1.1 Been a member of Dogs Victoria for a minimum of five (5) years.

10.5.1.2 Competed regularly in Utility Gundog Field Trials for a minimum of five (5) years and competed in Open/All Age stakes and qualified to compete in Championship Stakes.

10.5.1.3 Attended a minimum of three (3) lectures and/or other advertised instruction sessions provided by the canine control within the last five (5) years.

10.5.1.4 Acted as an official Steward to a Judge on at least four (4) occasions in the last five (5) years.

10.5.1.5 Been approved by the Victorian Canine Association Inc.

10.5.2 If approved the applicant will be required to:

10.5.2.1 Sit for a written examination on the Trial Rules as soon as convenient after applications close for the year. A pass of 70% is required, derived from the average of marks awarded by the examiners. The ten (10) questions will be directly applicable to the Rules and will be framed so that the applicants can answer clearly and briefly. A supplementary oral examination may be granted at the discretion of the canine control. The candidate will be notified of the result by the canine control.

NOTE: Successful applicants names will be included in the Trainee Judges and Stewards listing for the ensuing year.

10.5.3 To be eligible for a practical test, a Trainee Judge:

10.5.3.1 Must have marked Judging Sheets at a minimum of three (3) Field Trials, with and to the satisfaction of a Judge holding a relevant Open or Championship Judging Licence who has been approved by the appropriate convenor. This may be done whilst officiating as an official Judges Steward.

10.5.3.2 Shall request the appropriate convenor to arrange for the Trainee Judge to accompany a Non Slip Retrieving Trial Judge, approved by the Retrieving and Field Trial Committee; at two (2) Non Slip Retrieving Trials to gain practical experience in the setting and judging of such Trials.

10.5.3.3 Will be expected to have a basic knowledge of Non Slip Retrieving Trial Rules.

NOTE: This may be done whilst the Trainee Judge is acting as the official Judges Steward at any Non Slip Retrieving Trial.

10.5.3.4 Must have submitted on his/her behalf a brief assessment of the capacity of the Trainee Judge to set a Water Test for a Utility Gundog Field Trial. This element of Utility Gundog Field Trials must be further taken into account by the approved Judges testing the Trainee Judge in the practical test.

10.5.4 Practical Test

10.5.4.1 The Trainee Judge will be required to apply for and attend a practical test within three (3) years of being placed on the Trainee Judges List and must apply again within three (3) years, if the Trainee Judge should fail the first test.

A Trainee Judge, being eligible to be tested, shall request the appropriate convenor to arrange a practical test. The Trainee Judge must mark score sheets and answer relevant questions for all dogs at the Trial nominated by the convenor, with two members of the Judges Testing Panel officiating as examiners. (Except with the express approval of Dogs Victoria Management Committee when less than two examiners may be appointed.)

10.5.4.2 At the conclusion of the Field Trial the examiners will compare and discuss score sheets, notes and remarks made by the Trainee Judge and themselves during the course of the Field Trial. The examiners will then make a joint decision (as to pass or fail), based on the competence of the Trainee Judge.

10.5.5 Each Trainee Judge will be advised in writing of the result of both the written and practical examinations by Dogs Victoria office after approval of the result has been confirmed by Dogs Victoria Management Committee. Having passed the practical test, the Trainee Judge may apply by 24th May for a Licence to judge up to Novice in the ensuing year.

NOTE: Provided the practical test has been arranged to take place prior to 31st July, a Trainee Judge may apply by 24th May for a Licence to judge up to Novice in the ensuing year, subject to passing the test.

Trainee Judges will only be eligible to judge within the state of Victoria and at events not carrying Championship points.

10.5.6 Judges Upgrading

To be eligible:-

10.5.6.1 Before being eligible to judge an <u>OPEN/ALL AGE</u> Stake the Judge must have completed to the satisfaction of Dogs Victoria at least two (2) Novice stake judging appointments. A Judge being eligible to be upgraded from Novice to Open/All Age shall request the appropriate convenor to arrange an upgrading test, this can be done by anyone (1) of the Judges Testing Panel. This must be done whilst the Novice Judge is actually judging a Novice Field Trial.

10.5.6.2 Before being eligible to judge a <u>Championship</u> Stake the Judge must have completed to the satisfaction of Dogs Victoria at least four (4) Open/All Age Stake judging appointments.

A Judge being eligible to be upgraded from Open/All Age to Championship shall request the appropriate Convenor to arrange an upgrading test, which can be conducted by any one (1) of the Judges Testing Panel. This test must be done while the Open/All Age Judge is actually judging an Open or All Age Field Trial.

NOTE: Any Judge who fails to renew their Judging Licence for two (2) consecutive years for any reason and at a later date wishes to apply for return of a Judges Licence, must automatically go back to the Novice Level of judging.

Any Judge who fails to renew their Judging Licence for a period exceeding two (2) years must apply to re-enter the Scheme.

10.5.6.3 Utility Gundog Field Trial Judges are eligible to judge Water Tests and Beginners Tests, subject to the following criteria.

To be eligible -

10.5.6.3.1 The Judge must have reached Championship/All Age level.

10.5.6.3.2 Have a reasonable knowledge of the Non Slip Retrieving Trial Rules and a thorough knowledge of the procedures pertaining to Water Tests and Beginners Tests including the marking of sheets.

10.5.6.3.3 Have proved to a member of Dogs Victoria Judges Testing Panel via a practical test they have a clear understanding of the requirements when setting a Water Test or Beginners Test.

NOTE: Such approval to judge should not in any way be detrimental to the progress of an Aspiring Non Slip Retrieving Trial Judge.

If an Aspiring Judge is available, they should be given first option by the Club conducting the event.

Any Utility Gundog Field Trial Judge wishing to progress to a Novice Retrieving Trial Licence must comply with the procedure outlined in "How to Become a Retrieving Trial Judge".

10.5.7 Trainee Judge and Stewards Assessment Program

10.5.7.1 To be undertaken by Open or Championship Judges approved by the Retrieving and Field Trial Committee. Any Trainee Judge or Steward wishing to undertake a Stewards assessment, may do so by obtaining permission to Steward from the relevant Club and notifying the appropriate convenor and Judge of the stake at which they wish to steward.

10.5.7.2 The Judge of the Field Trial will report back to the convenor the competence of the Steward in the following categories.

- Knowledge of the Rules
- Knowledge of practical dog work
- Use and reading of Trial grounds
- Knowledge of Game being hunted
- Communication Skills
- Firearms Safety
- Management procedures of Field Trials

A score of from one (1) to ten (10) will be given in each category by the approved Judge. On an official score sheet, noting the type of Stake, Club, date and Judge's name. These score sheets will be kept strictly confidential and retained by the convenor or Dogs Victoria a copy of which will be sent to the Trainee Judge or Steward.

10.6 HOW TO BECOME A POINTER AND SETTER FIELD TRIAL JUDGE

Refer DOGS AUSTRALIA Regulations Part 3B

10.7 HOW TO BECOME A SPANIEL AND RETRIEVER FIELD TRIAL JUDGE

Refer DOGS AUSTRALIA Regulations Part 3B

10.8 HOW TO BECOME A GUNDOG WORKING TEST JUDGE

10.8.1 To be eligible to apply a person must have:

10.8.1.1 Been a member of Dogs Victoria for a minimum of five (5) years; and

10.8.1.2 Hold a current Field or Retrieving Trial Licence; or

10.8.1.3 Been active in Field or Retrieving Trials for a minimum period of three (3) years, competed in All Age/Open Stakes and qualified to compete in Championship Stakes; or

10.8.1.4 Been active in Gundog Obedience for a minimum period of three (3) years, completed three (3) passes and stewarded at three (3) Retrieving Trials.

10.8.1.5 Been approved by Dogs Victoria.

10.8.2 If approved, the applicant will be required to pass an oral examination of the Rules and a practical test.