

# WILD WEST SHOOTOUT GUN DOG CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES

## Safety First

1. All guns will be kept unloaded and actions open when not hunting your brace.
2. No Running during competition. You will be warned once by the Judge. The second warning will result in a 4 point penalty. The 3<sup>rd</sup> warning will be disqualification.
3. All contestants must wear **Blaze Orange Vests or Hats** during competition.
4. No bird may be shot on the ground.
5. Dogs must be leashed at all times when not competing.
6. Only 2 ¾ inch shells. No bigger than # 5 shot. 20 Gauge can use 3" shells no bigger than # 5 shot
7. All hunters must be 12 years or older. **12 -18 YEAR OLDS MUST SHOW PROOF OF HUNTER SAFETY COURSE.**
8. During competition you must not lay your gun on the ground.
9. Any violation of the safety rules can result in **IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION.**

## Points to be Awarded

1. All score sheets which are signed by the competitor are final.
2. No Points will be scored unless a bird is produced.
3. 20 points will be awarded for each bagged bird.
4. 10 points will be awarded for a 3 second, non-advancing point.
5. 10 points will be awarded for a full retrieve.
6. 5 points will be awarded for a partial retrieve.
7. 10 points will be awarded for each shell not used.
8. 2 points will be awarded for each full minute remaining of the total time limit. Time is called when the last bird is in hand.
9. A caught bird will be a **10 POINT PENALTY.**
10. Full points will be awarded for a non-performing bird or a safety if awarded by the Judge.
11. A **SAFETY** is called for any unsafe condition involving potential injury to person, dog, or property. The hunter should loudly proclaim "Safety" and the Judge will immediately confirm yes or no. Any competitor misusing the safety call as a way to assume an unfair advantage to not shoot their birds may be disqualified. Any contestant that sprays the gallery with a shot will be immediately disqualified.
12. If a **SAFETY** is called on the last bird you will get full points, however you must have your dog leashed to stop the clock.
13. The Judges decision on non-performing birds is FINAL and not subject to debate.
14. If a Judge flushes a bird, the Judge must yell bird so the hunter knows the bird has flushed. The hunter still must shoot the bird and the dog must retrieve to receive full points. Even though the Judge flushed the bird you will still get credit for the point. If the Judge forgets to yell bird and you do not get a shot at the bird you will be awarded full points.
15. **This is not a televised event there will be no cameramen in the field. However if you choose to hire a cameraman to follow you and film your hunt and the cameraman bumps a bird and you do not get a shot off. NO POINTS WILL BE AWARDED.**
16. If the cameraman does bump a bird and you shoot the bird and the dog retrieves it you will get credit for the bird and the retrieve only. **No Credit for the Point.**
17. If your run stops before you have all your birds you will not receive any Time Points.

## Three Second Point

1. The dog must establish a non-advancing, fixed position. Once the dog has established a point the competitor will declare “**POINT**”, after the Judge witnesses the dog on point this position becomes fixed for both dog and competitor, until the Judge awards “**POINT**”. If at anytime the dog or competitor should close the distance between it and the bird before 3 seconds, the Judge will begin the count over until the dog and competitor has remained steady for 3 consecutive seconds.
2. Once the competitor has declared “**POINT**”, he or she may not give a command (verbal or non-verbal) to steady the dog until the Judge has awarded the point. Should a command be given prior to the point being awarded the competitor has 3 options:
  - a. Remove the dog from the area and hunt other areas in the field for 3 minutes before returning to this bird.
  - b. Remove the dog from this area and hunt other areas. If in a period of time less than 3 minutes elapses, the competitor harvests another bird or successfully points a different bird he or she may then return to the original bird and to attempt to harvest it without penalty.
  - c. Flush this bird. Losing the 10 points for a point and resume hunting.
3. After the contestant declares a “**POINT**” and during the time the Judge is counting the 3 seconds and the bird flushes on its own with no fault of the dog or handler you will get **NO CREDIT** for the “**POINT**”. The dog and handler must stay steady for 3 seconds. If the bird flushes on its own it is just bad luck and part of the game.
4. You cannot “**Whoa**” your dog on point with either verbal or electronic commands. The dog must establish a staunch point on his own. If you “**Whoa**” your dog to point you will not receive credit for the point.

## Caught Bird – Non Performing Bird

1. Once the Judge declares a 3 second established “Point” the hunter must make an attempt to flush the bird. If the dog from that point on at any time catches the bird before the shot is fired this will be considered a caught bird and a **10 POINT PENALTY** you will receive credit for the “POINT”. If the dog has the bird in its mouth for any amount of time before the shot is fired this is a caught bird and a **10 POINT PENALTY**.
2. If your dog has not held point for 3 seconds and the dog catches the bird, you will not receive credit for the ”POINT” and you will get a **10 POINT PENALTY**.
3. If the hunter tries to flush the bird by making several bumps with his foot and the bird still does not fly the bird will be declared a non-performer. You must say non-performer to the Judge \*\*\*\*\*

## Ties

1. Ties will be broken by the following:
  - a. Time in seconds
  - b. Time you harvest your first bird.
  - c. Bird Count
  - d. Points
  - e. Shell Count (Shooting Accuracy)
  - f. Retrieves

## General Rules

1. A team will consist of 1 hunter and 1 dog.
2. You may run up to 4 different dogs however each dog may only enter once.
3. A score sheet signed by the competitor is deemed accurate and final.
4. If your dog goes out of bounds you have 1 minute to get your dog back in the field or you will be disqualified from that days hunt.
5. Absolutely no person may protest a run other than his or her own run. **CHECK AND SIGN THE SCORE SHEET WITH THE JUDGES IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR RUN.**
6. A dead bird from a previous run will not count for any points.
7. Contestants must start their run from the designated starting gate in each field.

## Electric Collars

1. The use of e-collars will be permitted. Any misuse of collars to cause the dog distress could result in disqualification. You do not have to run with a collar if you choose.

## Disqualifications

1. If you dog runs into another field and disrupts another hunt you will be immediately disqualified from your run. However any points that you earned to that point of your run will count with the exception of left over time.
2. If you are disqualified for safety, over argumentative, verbal abuse, animal abuse you will receive no points for the day and depending on the severity you may be disqualified from the entire tournament with **NO REFUNDS.**
3. If any Spectator or contestant is caught giving signals or helping the hunter in the field in any way to find his birds, everybody involved in the incident will be immediately ejected from the property with **NO REFUNDS.**
4. Any contestant that is disqualified from the hunt for any reason will not receive a refund.

## Interference

1. If another dog comes into your field and bumps one of your birds. The Judge will immediately tell you to leash your dog. Once the dog is on the leash the Judge will stop the clock. You will remain in the same spot until your bird is planted. The Judge will then notify the bird planter to replant a bird in the general area of where the bird was bumped. The Judge will have you turn your back to the bird planter as your bird is planted. Once the bird is planted the Judge will start the clock again.
2. If another dog comes into your field and bumps 2 or more birds you will get a rerun if you choose.

## Harvested Birds

1. You are responsible for your bagged birds. Birds thrown into the garbage can will not be tolerated. If you do not want your birds we will have a donation area. Even if your birds are badly shot please bring them to the donation area. There may be TV and reporters at this event and we do not want them to witness the waste of birds.

## Everybody Needs to Be Ready to Hunt

1. The hunt will start at **7:30AM EACH DAY. The first contestant must be in the blind at 7:15AM.** You must be ready to go to the blind when the Field Marshal calls your name. If you do not respond after your name has been called you will be moved to last in your field with a 5 point penalty. If you are already running last in your field and you do not respond you will still receive a 5 point penalty. And if you do not respond after 5 minutes you will be disqualified from that days hunt. Official time will be the Field Marshals watch.
2. Exceptions – If you are running more than 1 dog and you are in field #1 at the same time you are supposed to run in another field. The person that is in the running order behind you in the other field will be moved up to your position. When you are done with your run in field # 1 you will go to the Field Marshal and he will put you back in order in the other field with no penalty.
3. You must be ready to hunt at all times in case the hunter ahead of you is running a dog in another field, you will be moved up to his or her position.

## Retrieving

1. To get points for the **“RETRIEVE”** your dog must bring the bird back to you within 1 step. You may make 1 step toward the dog without moving your pivot foot.
2. **Partial Retrieve** – If you move your pivot foot during the retrieve, or your dog just doesn't retrieve the bird all the way you will get a partial retrieve. **5 POINTS.**
3. After you shoot a bird and your dog is going or returning from the retrieve and the dog goes on POINT again before the retrieve is completed. You must wait 3 seconds and if the dog has the first bird in his mouth you may walk to the dog and get the bird then you may attempt to flush the bird. If the dog is on the way to retrieve and the dog goes on point you must wait 3 seconds and then you may move in to flush the bird. Wherever you flush the second bird will be your new starting point. You cannot move from that point until your dog has made both retrieves.
4. If your dog goes on point on another bird during a retrieve and you move in to flush the second bird you must produce a second bird. If you do not produce a second bird and your dog retrieves the first bird you will only get credit for a partial retrieve. If you do produce a second bird and you get both retrieves you will get full points for both retrieves.
5. When your dog is making a retrieve and the dog bumps a second bird on the way or on the way back you will get credit for the **Point** on the second bird, **but only if you harvest the second bird.**
6. If the allotted amount of time for a brace has elapsed and a bird has been shot, the competitor has a 30 second grace period to complete the retrieve. If this grace period elapses and the bird is not yet retrieved, no points will be awarded for a bagged bird or retrieve.

## Dogs in Season

1. If your dog comes into season before the event starts you will have two choices: #1 – you can get a refund for all runs that the dog has entered. #2 – You can still compete, however you will automatically be placed in the last position.
2. To receive a refund for a dog in season, the dog must be brought to the event and inspected by a official.
3. All dogs in season shall be kenneled and well away from any other contesting dog until her run time.
4. If you choose to run your dog that is in season and it IS NOT brought to the attention of the Field Marshal or Tournament Director your dog will be disqualified immediately upon discovery from any and all runs she is entered without refund.

## Boundaries

1. A bird flushed within the boundary of the course but dropped out of bounds must be retrieved by the dog only and returned in bounds to be counted. You have all the time you need for the retrieve as long as there is still time left on the clock.
2. If your dog goes on point in another field you must immediately go get your dog and leash the dog and get your dog back into your field. You have 1 minute to do this. If your dog interferes with the other hunt or take longer than 1 minute you will be disqualified from your run.
3. If Your dog goes out of bounds and goes on point you must call or leash your dog off the bird and get your dog back in bounds. You have 1 minute to do this or you will be disqualified from your run. You **CANNOT PURSUE ANY BIRD THAT YOUR DOG FINDS OUT OF BOUNDS.**
4. If your dog is in bounds on the border and goes on point and the bird is clearly out of bounds, you cannot pursue that bird.

**Any rules not covered in this document will be referred to the BDC Rules Book.**