

RAFT JULY 2024 MTG - ATTACHMENT 8b

RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF RETRIEVING TRAILS

2024 RULE REVIEW - PROPOSED CHANGES

SUBMITTED BY **DOGS QUEENSLAND** RAFT SUB COMMITTEE - February 2024.

Existing Rule: 8p

8 (p) Hard Mouth – A dog is deemed to be hard-mouthed when there is unmistakable evidence of any markings or damage on game retrieved due to biting or crunching by the dog. The penalty as defined on the score sheet should be relative to the marking or damage. In the event of Extreme Hard Mouth, the Judge may apply Rule 68 and disqualify the dog. Extreme Hard Mouth is where there is deliberate squeezing of game so that bones break or the flesh is badly ripped and the Judge considers that the game is unfit for the table. Note: Game can be marked when thrown and this should be considered.

New Rule:

8 (p) Hard Mouth – A dog is deemed to be hard-mouthed when there is unmistakable evidence of any markings or damage on game retrieved due to biting or crunching by the dog. The penalty as defined on the score sheet should be relative to the marking or damage. In the event of Extreme Hard Mouth, the Judge may apply Rule 68 and disqualify the dog. Extreme Hard Mouth is where there is deliberate squeezing of game so that bones break, or the flesh is badly ripped and the Judge considers that the game is unfit for the table.

Where Replica Game is used as Game, any dog observed by the Judge to be biting, chewing or excessively mouthing the dummy during the exercise may be considered to have Hard Mouth. The penalty as defined on the score sheet should be relative to the marking or damage.

. Note: Game can be marked when thrown and this should be considered.

Rationale:

The use of Replica Game is now allowable under ANKC Rules. The Rules should now reflect any necessary alterations as such. This is an excerpt from the already approved version of Hard Mouth from the RATG Rules, so it would be most efficient to adopt this section into the Retrieving Rules.

Rationale

All Age/Championship dogs are highly trained dogs and as a blind retrieve is usually a test of handling/control, adding a Double Fall will increase the degree of difficulty for this level.

Existing Rule: 30

30. The maximum distance for any retrieve will be 150 metres. In Novice Stakes and Beginners' Tests, Runs shall not exceed 100 metres.

Proposed rule:

30. The maximum distance for any Mark retrieve will be 130 metres.
The maximum distance for a Blind Find retrieve will be 150 metres.
In Novice Stakes and Beginners Stakes runs shall not exceed 100 metres.

Rationale :

Distance from the firing point to the fall of the bird is an important factor in the ability of the dog to mark the flight and fall clearly. The colour or markings of the bird in flight are also important for a clear mark, as is the background tree line or vegetation. If the dog does not see and mark the bird clearly, the run changes from being a mark and the handler must then handle the dog as in a blind retrieve losing significant points or having to retire from the stake. Shortening the maximum distance to 130 metres will help mitigate the problem when a dog does not see the mark clearly. The maximum distance for a blind find retrieve will remain at 150 metres as the sight or fall of the bird is not relevant

Existing Rule: 94

94. The principal points to be considered by the Judge in assessing the merits of performances in competitive work shall be the ability to mark, sagacity, and use of nose, steadiness, dash, perseverance, attention, control, courage, style, retrieving and cleanness of delivery. Retrieving to which supreme importance must always be accorded, should be with tender mouth and right up to hand. The dog must not ~~injure~~ game, retrieve decoys, drop the game, or retrieve without being ordered to do so. Points should be allocated for each retrieve. (See Judging Sheet.)

New Rule:

94. The principal points to be considered by the Judge in assessing the merits of performances in competitive work shall be the ability to mark, sagacity, and use of nose, steadiness, dash, perseverance, attention, control, courage, style, retrieving and cleanness of delivery. Retrieving to which supreme importance must always be accorded, should be with tender mouth and right up to hand. The dog must not damage game, retrieve decoys, drop the game, or retrieve without being ordered to do so. Points should be allocated for each retrieve. (See Judging Sheet.)

Rationale:

The use of the word 'injure' may cause some people to think of live game, as only something alive, can be injured and we need to avoid any reference to 'live' game.
Using the word 'damage' is more appropriate to any item of game that is "not alive".

Existing Rule: 109

109. The title of Retrieving Trial Champion may be awarded to a dog that has gained at least twelve (12) Championship Points in Retrieving Trials; these may be awarded in any combination of points awarded in accordance with Rule 96.

New Rule:

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Where Replica Game is used, and 12 points have been awarded, the title of RTCH shall be followed by the letters RG. Eg. RTCH RG

Rational:

In keeping with the introduction of Replica Game as an option for Retrieving Trials in the ANKC approved rules, some members feel a necessity to differentiate between those who have gained their points on cold game VS Replica Game.

RETRIEVING TRIAL JUDGING SHEET

Existing deductions: (part thereof) Last section of Judging Sheet

Not firing from shoulder at game and/or Handler moving outside of Firing Point and/or Breaking from the Hide Up to 5 each offence

New Rule (Judging Sheet – Deductions)

Not firing from shoulder at game and/or Handler moving outside of Firing Point.

Dog Breaking from the Hide; Dog soiling the ground during judging.

Up to 5 each offence per run