



## **By-Laws & Running Rules**

Updated 2024-7-27

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**CHAPTER 1**  
**FIRST AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OF**  
**THE NATIONAL BIRD HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

This Certificate of Incorporation dated August 15, 2001, has been duly executed and is filed as an agreement with the Secretary of State of the State of Oklahoma for the formation and maintenance of a corporation under the Oklahoma General Corporation Act (the "Act").

Section 1. *Name.* The name of the corporation ("Corporation") is:  
THE NATIONAL BIRD HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Section 2. *Registered Office and Agent.* Originally, the address of the registered office of the Corporation in the State of Oklahoma is 816 S. Jamestown Ave., Tulsa, Oklahoma 74112. Originally, the name of its registered agent at such address is Shane Bevel.

Section 3. *Purposes.* The purposes of the Corporation are: The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 4. *Issuance of Stock.* This corporation is not organized for profit and does not have the authority to issue capital stock and shall pay no dividends or salary to its incorporators or Board of Directors.

Section 5. *Incorporators.* The name and mailing address of the incorporators are Ken Sauer, 2092 Parker Dairy Rd., Alvord, TX 76225; Tim Penn 50578 State Hwy 6, Edina, MO 63537; Ray Brown, 6500 Old Lucile Road, Blakely, GA 39823.

Section 6. *Directors.* The number of directors to be elected at the first meeting of the corporation is ELEVEN (11). The Board of Directors shall consist of a Director from each state or states that have a minimum of two (2) trials ran during a field trial season. The National Executive Officers shall also serve as voting members of the Board of Directors.

Election of Directors. The election of directors shall be accomplished at each member state's annual meeting of the members by a majority vote of the active club's present; voting in person or by proxy. Each state will hold its' annual meeting before the corporation's annual meeting, as provided in the By-Laws.

Section 7. *Limitation of Director Liability.* No director shall be personally liable to the Corporation or its members for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duty by such director as a director. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, a director shall be liable to the extent provided by applicable law (i) for breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Corporation or its members, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) pursuant to Section 1053 of the Act or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. No amendment to or repeal of this Section 7 shall apply to or have any effect on the liability or alleged liability of any director for or with respect to any acts or omissions of such director occurring prior to such amendment.

Section 8. *Authority of Directors.* In furtherance and not in limitation of the rights, powers, privileges and discretionary authority granted or conferred by the General Corporation Act of the State of Oklahoma or other statutes or laws of the State of Oklahoma, the Board of Directors is expressly authorized:

- (a) To make, amend, alter, or repeal the By-Laws according to the Procedures set out therein;
- (b) To adopt from time to time By-Laws provisions with respect to indemnification of directors, officers, agents, and other persons as it shall deem expedient and in the best interests of the Corporation and extent permitted by law.

Section 9. *Dissolution Clause.* Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of the Common Pleas of the County in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Section 10. *Reservation of Right to Amend.* The Corporation reserves the right to amend, alter, change, or repeal any provisions of this Certificate of Incorporation, in the manner now or later prescribed by statute. All rights, powers, privileges, and discretionary authority granted or conferred upon directors are granted subject to this reservation.

Executed the date first written.

By: Ken Sauer, Incorporator

By: Tim Penn, Incorporator

By: Ray Brown, Incorporator

## **CHAPTER 2 BY-LAWS OF NATIONAL BIRD HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

### **ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Oklahoma shall be The National Bird Hunters Association, Inc. The purpose of the organization shall be as set out in its charter.

### **ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. There shall be the following classifications of membership in the corporation, via:

- a. **ACTIVE MEMBERS** are those clubs that advertise in the UKC American Field and carry the NBHA logo on their club trial ad, and by doing so have pledged to pay a fee of three and no/100 dollars (\$3.00) per dog, per stake or field trial to the association or corporation. Active Member Clubs must advertise one trial with a NBHA logo in the UKC American Field each trial season to be in good standing. And engaged in fostering and increasing interest in and by promoting, regulating, controlling, supervising, and conducting field trials on Upland Game Birds.
- b. **MEMBERSHIP** of this corporation shall be unlimited in number and any person, partnership, corporation or association of good character and standing shall be eligible for membership upon compliance with the requirements set forth by the Board of Directors and agreeing to be bound by the Regulations and By-Laws of this corporation.
- c. **HONORARY MEMBERS**, or those entitled Directors at Large shall be persons deemed by the membership of the corporation to be of great national or international renown in the field of ornithology or particularly interested in the restoration and perpetuation of wild Upland Game Birds on the North American Continent or in the field trials. Generally, honorary members may be elected posthumously. All honorary members of the corporation shall be elected by a vote of the membership of the Directors and shall not be entitled to vote as honorary members of the corporation. But may advise or serve on committees.

### **ARTICLE III – EXPELLING OR SUSPENDING MEMBERS**

Section 1. Any member of this corporation or individual associated with such member or anyone in attendance at an event sponsored by a member club may be expelled, or penalized by a majority vote of the Board of Directors for any cause deemed sufficient by them, provided:

- a. Such member or individual be furnished in writing a specification of charges against him at least ten days before a hearing thereon.
- b. A hearing be had upon such charges, the member charged be notified of the time and place thereof, and given an opportunity to be present and present evidence thereon.
- c. The Board of Directors may delegate the right to hear evidence upon such charges and report said evidence to said Board for action.

### **ARTICLE IV – ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. The annual meeting of the members of this corporation shall be held at a place designated by the Board of Directors on the final full weekend of July of each year. The calendar year for the National Bird Hunters Association is June 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee of this corporation may be held upon the call of the President, or by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors. Such call or notice shall be in writing and at least twenty days prior to such meeting, and the Secretary shall immediately send a notice in writing to each Director, by certified mail, at his last known address giving the time, place, and purpose of the meeting as provided in the call or notice. For Special meetings, the use of current technologies (such as group video conferencing) would be allowed, without requiring physical attendance.

Section 3. At all meetings of the Board of Directors of this corporation, a majority of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Unless this regulation is suspended by a majority of the members the order of business of all meetings of the members shall be as follows:

- a. Call to order
- b. Seating of new Directors
- c. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting
- d. Reading of financial and committee reports and statements
- e. Election of officers
- f. Unfinished business and old business
- g. New and miscellaneous business
- h. Adjournment

Section 5. At all annual and special meetings of the Board of Directors of this corporation, each Director and officer shall be entitled to one vote and may be represented by its elected representative or by a proxy in writing executed by the elected representative or state President of such active state. All proxies must be mailed to the National Association Secretary one week prior to annual meeting. These proxies should indicate the person to vote the proxy and, if the state desires, the choice of nominee. The proxies are to be tabulated and verified by the Secretary and turned over to the President of the National Bird Hunters Association, Inc., twenty-four hours prior to the annual meeting. Any proxies received after the date of one week prior to the annual meeting will be null and void. The Futurity Director will be allowed to vote at the National Meeting. All votes shall be made by in public. A roll call of the directors and officers will be used when necessary.

- a) Each Executive Officer and State Director that makes up the NBHA Board of Directors has one (1) vote, and can have up to, two (2) Proxy votes. In the case that a State Director is also an Executive Officer, he or she would then have two (2) votes and then could only have one proxy vote. A Board member may not have more than three (3) votes total. An individual who is not serving on the board as an Executive Officer or State Director, may be allowed to vote, with no more than two (2) proxies assigned to them.

## **ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. The President, (Two “2” year term); in addition to the other powers conferred upon him in these By-Laws shall:

- a. Be the executive officer of this corporation.
- b. Preside at all annual and special meetings of the Board of Directors.
- c. Appoint a committee to audit the Treasurer’s records, and such committee shall report at and to the annual meeting of members. Said committee shall be appointed at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting.
- d. Appoint finance, rule, and general committees and delegate such power and authority to such committees, as he may deem expedient.
- e. Interpret the By-Laws and Running Rules when requested to do so, or deems expedient.
- f. Be an ex-official member of all committees.
- g. Have such other and further powers and duties as may be conferred on him from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The First Vice-President (Two “2” year term) shall perform all the duties of the President in case of the absence or disability of the latter. If both the President and the First Vice-President are absent or disabled, the Second Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President. Should the President and both the First and the Second Vice-President be absent or disabled the Third Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President. The Vice-Presidents shall severally have such other and further duties and powers as may be conferred upon them by the President and the Board of Directors.

- a. The First Vice-President shall be responsible for the National Open Championship.
- b. The Second Vice-President shall be responsible for sponsorship and fund raising. (Two “2” year term)
- c. The Third Vice-President shall be responsible for recruiting new members, along with assisting the secretary in managing the NBHA website. (Two “2” year term)

Section 3. The Secretary, (Two "2" year term); in addition to such other duties and further powers conferred upon him by the Board of Directors shall:

- a. Perform his or her duties under the direction of the President and assist the President in administering the affairs of this corporation.
- b. Keep the President informed of the activities of the Secretary's office.
- c. Refer matters to the President for his decision when such matters entail corporation policy and activities.
- d. Attend and keep minutes of all annual and special meetings of the Board of Directors.
- e. Attend such trials and events as directed by the President.
- f. Keep a record of all member clubs including the name and address of the President and Secretary and preserve all letters and other documents of interest.
- g. Carry on the general correspondence of the corporation, and notify members of their election, suspension, expulsion or other penalty that may be provided for by the Board of Directors.
- h. Send copies of the By-Laws and Running Rules to the newly formed clubs, and to each newly elected Director of the Board of Directors.
- i. Have general charge of the records, certificates of eligibility and books of the corporation, and upon the election of his or her successor, deliver all of the same to his or her successor.
- j. Perform such other acts incident to the position of Secretary as may be delegated to him by the President and the Board of Directors.
- k. Make all of his books, records, correspondence and similar materials pertaining to the corporation at any and similar materials pertaining to the corporation at any and all reasonable times, open to the inspection and examination by the President and Vice-President, and members of the Board of Directors of the corporation.
- l. Submit a list of proposed rule changes to all officers and directors at least 30 days before the annual meeting for consideration by their respective clubs.

Section 3. The Treasurer (Two "2" year term); has custody of all the funds and securities of the corporation which shall come into his or her hands, and have power to endorse on behalf of the corporation all checks, drafts, and other commercial paper to the credit of the corporation in a bank approved by a majority of the Board of Directors, which bank must be a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or may, with the consent of a majority of the Board of Directors, invest surplus funds of the corporation in United States Government or other satisfactory Securities.

- a. Sign all receipts and vouchers on behalf of the corporation, and sign all checks or drafts for the payment of bills or expenses of the corporation, or for the disbursement of its funds.
- b. Give bond for the faithful discharge of his or her duties, and account for the funds that shall come into his or her possession, in such sum and condition if and as the Board of Directors may require.
- c. Keep a full and accurate account of all monies received or paid out by him or her on behalf of the corporation, and upon the election of his or her successor, deliver all records, books, or accounts and funds to his or her successor.
- d. Oversee preparation and timely filing of required federal tax returns for the corporation.
- e. Ensure the corporation maintains its active status with the State of Oklahoma "Secretary of State".

Section 4. The Board of Directors may pay the Secretary an allowance for legitimate expenses, for maintenance of office, clerical and stenographic help in such amount, as it deems proper.

Section 5. The election of officers will be by the officers and Board of Directors from the general membership of National Bird Hunters Association.

Section 6. At the Board of Director meeting's, the Past-President will have the same voting privileges as the Directors for one year after leaving office.

Section 7. As part of the executive committee, the Futurity Director will have a vote at all meetings of this corporation. Six (6) year term, Futurity Director will consist of.

- a. Attending the annual meeting and provide a report on the activity of the Futurity.
- b. Keeping records of all NBHA Futurity nominated litters.
- c. Chairing and organizing the Futurity, Puppy Classic, and Championship trial.  
(Ad, judges, grounds, awards, and etc.)
- d. Promoting the Futurity program throughout the year.
- e. It should be the Futurity Director's main goal, to manage the Futurity trial, and all companion stakes in such a way to encourage increased participation, while soliciting increased litter enrollment
- f. Report all income and expenses to the NBHA Treasurer no less often than quarterly.

## **ARTICLE VI – REGIONS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS**

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall divide the country geographically into designated regions. The boundaries of these regions may be changed from time to time at the discretion of the Board of Directors. These regions will be made up of one or more state associations.

Section 2. The following procedures are set up:

- a. Where a state has fewer than three trials advertised in a trial season, the clubs of that state may align themselves with the closest state organization that they choose to join until such time as their state may qualify having advertised three trials, subject to the Board of Directors approval.
- b. Any state or states may petition the Board of Directors for realignment into a different region than they are now allocated to, providing the majority of clubs in said state or states express the desire for realignment.
- c. When any new region is duly constituted by action of the Directors, the President shall appoint a committee of three to be responsible for organizing the said new region. He shall do the same in the case of reactivating any region.

Section 3. The regions as constituted by the Board of Directors shall be organized by the active states within that region. It is the intent of this corporation that after a region has been organized, the members shall, so far as possible, and consistent with the regulation, assume all direction and responsibility in the management and holding of stakes and other business affairs within said respective regions.

- a. The securing of sanction, supervision, and general overseeing of these regional events shall be under the direction of a President or Chairman, to be selected annually in each region at a meeting called within said region for said purpose.
- b. At the annual meeting of the members of each region, or as soon thereafter as possible, the date and location for the Regional Championship will be chosen. All Regional Championships shall be sanctioned by this corporation when applied for by said organization.
- c. The respective Regional President or Chairman and the member, or members, of the Board of Directors resident in any one of the respective regions shall be responsible for seeing that the annual meeting of the region is properly called and held, and that the operation of the region is consistent with the By-Laws and Running Rules of the corporation.
- d. It shall be the duty of the President or Chairman of the respective regions and a Director residing in the respective regions to be present personally at each championship event within their region, for the purpose of seeing that the rules of this corporation are complied with and the stakes run on a basis consistent with an event of this caliber. In the event said President, Chairman or Director is unable to attend the running of the Regional Championship, the President or Chairman shall have the power to appoint in writing, a qualified person to act in his place.
- e. It shall be the duty of the President or Secretary of the region to see that the list of officers, dates for trials, and any other pertinent information about the region be sent to the officer of the Secretary of the corporation.



## **ARTICLE VII – AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT FIELD TRIALS**

In order to foster and increase interest in and knowledge of Upland Game Birds and their conservation and restoration, the Board of Directors of this corporation may promote and conduct field trials and may adopt rules and regulations for the control and supervision of field trials.

This association reserves unto itself the right to withdraw from any member, club, state or regional organization the privilege of awarding any championship for good cause.

## **ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS**

(a) The By-Laws of this corporation may be amended, altered, changed, or repealed only by a 2/3's vote of the Board at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors, or at any special meeting called for that purpose, or by a vote taken of the members of the Board of Directors by mail or Email herein elsewhere provided. In the notice of the meeting to the members, it shall be stated that the amendment, alteration, change or repeal may be acted upon. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, all proposed rule changes submitted to the secretary for consideration at the national annual meeting shall be decided by a majority vote. All rule changes brought up from the floor at the national annual meeting will have to be passed by a 2/3's vote.

(b) These By-Laws shall be effective from and after the 27th day of July 2024, and all existing previous By-Laws shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

Attest:

ss: Ken Sauer, President

ss: Tim Penn, Secretary

## **RUNNING RULES**

### **CHAPTER 3**

### **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FIELD TRIALS FOR ALL POINTING BREEDS**

#### **ARTICLE I – MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

Section 1. Wins will not be recognized and recorded unless the trial and/or each stake in which such win is made conforms to the following conditions as adopted by the National Bird Hunters Association, Inc., the UKC American Field, and the Field Dog Stud Book.

- a. AFTCA membership is required by all clubs hosting amateur stakes and they must be an AFTCA club member in order to receive reimbursement check for ad.

Section 2. The name of the club, place, and date of the trial, and Secretary's name and address must be announced in an issue of the UKC American Field bearing a publication date of at least fourteen (14) days before the trials are to be run, and entry blanks, with complete description of each stake, be available to owners and handlers at least six (6) days before the date of the drawing.

Section 3. Recognized stakes are:

- a. Puppy Stakes: from Jan. 1 to June 30 in each year for dogs whelped on or after Jan. 1 of the year preceding and from July 1 to Dec. 31 of each year for dogs whelped on or after June 1 of the year preceding.
- b. Derby Stakes: from July 1 to Dec. 31 in each year for dogs whelped on or after Jan. 1 of the year preceding, and from Jan. 1 to June 30 in each year for dogs whelped on or after Jan. 1 of two years preceding.
- c. Shooting Dog Stakes: For dogs of any age.
- d. An Open Stake is one in which there are no limitations with respect to either dogs or handlers. Open placements and Championships are recognized solely by the UKC American Field and are run under the auspices of the NBHA Open Championship committee. The NBHA Open Championship committee establishes the guidelines for sanctioning all open events, certifies the winners of these events and assumes any and all rights and responsibilities associated with these events.
- e. An Amateur Stake is one in which all handlers are Amateurs as defined by the By-Laws of the Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America. (The AFTCA Definition of Professional and Amateur reads: Any person who receives or has received, either directly or indirectly, compensation for training or handling dogs (including handling of dogs on a plantation or shooting preserve) other than his own or those of an immediate family member is not an amateur. Any amateur who handles a dog not solely owned and registered in his or in the name of a member of his immediate family, who is awarded a placement for such dog's performance shall waive payment or any division of the cash purse or shall lose his amateur status. The funds waived shall remain the property of the club. No amateur shall handle more than (2) dogs not solely owned by him or some member of his immediate family in any amateur stake. All amateur stakes are run under AFTCA rules. Only solid barrel firearms or a plugged barrel firearm, with blank shells or crimps, which prevents a projectile (of any kind) leaving the barrel may be used in an Amateur Stake by all AFTCA/NBHA member clubs. This would also be listed in all Amateur Stake advertisements in the UKC American Field.
- f. Restricted Breed Stake – A stake that is limited to and advertised as exclusive to a breed.
- g. Winners in Walking Stakes shall be recorded and win certificates issued, but winners of children's, ladies, brace and other stakes not conforming to the definitions contained under this section will not be recognized.
- h. Championships, Winner's Stakes and Futurities: Wins will be recorded only in such events as are recognized by the UKC American Field and the Field Dog Stud Book.
- i. NBHA Youth Stake – A walking stake limited to handlers under the age of 18. The stake is to be 20-minutes duration and judged based on Amateur Gun Dog standards. Youth handlers may receive assistance from other youths or adults, including professionals. Dogs entered in this stake need not be registered. Clubs are encouraged to provide dogs if needed to allow new handlers to participate. In conformance with Paragraph g, win certificates shall not be issued and winners of these stakes will not be recorded. This stake is designed as a "fun" stake to promote the growth of field trials among youth participants.

Section 4. The min. length of heats for all stakes other than Puppy Stakes shall be thirty minutes, on the basis of the time that an average brace takes to negotiate the course. In the case of one-course trials, no more than eight minutes of the thirty shall be spent in the Bird Field. Min. length of heats for Puppy Stakes shall be fifteen minutes.

Section 5. A stake must be drawn by lot and numbered in the order drawn, in a convenient and approved place open to the public not later than the night before the day the stake is due to be run.

Section 6. Dogs shall not be substituted after the draw.

Section 7. All braces shall be run as drawn except with the prior consent of the judges and handlers, which consent must not be given for the purpose of accommodating owners, handlers, or dogs that are not available when reached in the regular order of the draw.

- a. Should there be a bye in the stake, the handler may, at his discretion, run alone or with a dog selected by them for the purpose. Provided, however, that if a dog from any regularly drawn full brace should be withdrawn, fail to appear or be disqualified, the bye dog shall be moved up to fill the vacancy caused by the absent dog. In the event there is no bye, then such dog losing its brace mate, as previously contemplated, must be run in its regular order of drawing, either alone or with a dog as a running mate that is satisfactory to the judges. In the event that there be two withdrawals from different braces, the brace mates of such withdrawn dogs may be run together where the first vacancy occurs, or in their regular order, at the discretion of the judges. This same rule applies if there be four or any even number of dogs withdrawn from the stake.
- b. All stakes should be so arranged that, if at all possible, no more than one bye dog is drawn or run. Except where there are an uneven number of starters in a stake, no bye should ordinarily occur. For example, in the event the drawing by lot has two dogs handled by the same person remaining as the last stake, the bracing is rearranged with the last previously available dog drawn not so handled, changing places with the first drawn of the final two dogs.

Section 8. No entry shall be accepted after the stake is drawn.

Section 9. No more than one brace of dogs shall run on a course or any part of a course at the same time irrespective of whether the dogs are in the same stake or in different stakes.

Section 10. Stakes shall be run only on recognized game birds whose flight has not been impaired by caging, hobbling, wing clipping, brailing, or in any, other manner.

Section 11. Bitches in season shall not be permitted to run in one-course trials.

Section 12. Wins will not be recorded if the dog is not registered at the time the stake is run. The listing of all data on dogs and owners of those same dogs be listed with the NBHA for the purpose of establishing a data base.

Section 13. Wins will not be recorded if the essential data is not complete.

Section 14. Wins will not be recorded, or if recorded, will be cancelled if made in a trial or in a stake not conforming to the above requirements.

Section 15. It is recommended that courses contain sufficient bird cover and suitable objectives to induce intelligent searching by the dogs. Bird fields if used should be of adequate size to permit a dog to hunt without excessive hacking, and with cover sufficient to hold birds. A variety of cover and objectives is desirable. Five (5) acres is suggested as a minimum area for a bird field.

Section 16. NBHA Ad reimbursement guidelines.

- Weekend Trial Advertisements only need to feature the NBHA logo and the approved Purina Logo.
- Championship Advertisements will need to feature all Sponsors associated with the NBHA, and their approved logos. Sponsors can change yearly, so make sure clubs and field trial chairs are contacting the Sponsorship Director for any questions related to the current sponsors.
- NBHA Advertisements cannot have competing sponsors listed within the Ad. Nor can NBHA stakes be featured on other organizations advertisements with competing sponsors. Clubs are encouraged to contact the NBHA Board prior to placing the Ad for any perceived conflicts for approval.
- NBHA Advertisements cannot be combined with other organizations. For example, U.S. Complete, ABHA, SBHA etc.
- NBHA Advertisements can have a member affiliated organizations listed on their ads. Example AFTCA, and State organizations that recognize such trials.
- For clubs listing \*non-affiliated horseback stakes, or other stakes that are not recognized by the NBHA on their NBHA trial advertisement will void their reimbursement. Ad reimbursements will not be provided for the NBHA advertised trial and the NBHA insurance will not be in effect.
- Clubs advertising an “NBHA Youth Only” stake will be reimbursed an additional \$50 above and beyond their normal reimbursement rate for the main trial.

## CHAPTER 4

### NATIONAL BIRD HUNTERS ASSOCIATION FUTURITY

#### ARTICLE I – NOMINATING RULES

Section 1.

- LITTER:** Nominations will be accepted for females and stud dogs now registered in the **UKC - FIELD DOG STUD BOOK**. Litters nomination fees will be set accordingly by the Futurity Director. This payment to the NBHA Futurity and enrollment of the litter in the **UKC - FIELD DOG STUD BOOK** will make each puppy eligible for entry.  
The NBHA will cover the nomination fee for each stud fee and/or puppy that is part of the auction/raffle at our yearly National Banquet. This will automatically nominate the litter and/or puppy to the NBHA Futurity at no cost to the owner.
- PUPPY CLASSIC:** The owner of a Futurity Puppy has the option of entering the Puppy Classic, which is held in conjunction with the Futurity. A puppy must be registered in the **UKC - FIELD DOG STUD BOOK**. Entry in the Puppy Classic is NOT mandatory to keep the dog eligible for the Futurity.
- FUTURITY:** Dogs must be registered in the **UKC - FIELD DOG STUD BOOK**.

Section 2.

- ENTRY FEE & PURSE:** For the Invitational Breeders Championship, Futurity, and the Puppy Classic will be set by the Futurity Director, and entry fees' must be paid for all dogs drawn for the trial.

- b. **DATES:** The drawing and starting dates of the Puppy Classic and Futurity will be listed in **THE UKC AMERICAN FIELD** thirty (30) days prior to the running of the stake, and also listed on the NBHA website.

## **ARTICLE II – JUDGING STANDARDS**

Section 1. **FUTURITY:** Dogs must show determination under adverse conditions, and intelligent adjustments to terrain and cover, hunt independently of brace mate with speed and be able to demonstrate endurance. Extreme range will be considered undesirable as it would be in any Shooting Dog Stake. Dogs should handle willingly and at a range adjusted to comfortable handling on foot. Dogs must display an intense desire to find birds, a keen nose to detect the presence of game, and the ability to locate that game quickly and accurately by body scent. Dogs should show staunchness, intensity, positiveness, and style on point. Backing and retrieving will not be mandatory as in National Bird Hunters Association's Shooting Dog Stakes. There will be qualifying heats of thirty (30) minutes and the judges will name those dogs; that they wish to see in the final one (1) hour heat. The type of dog to be honored is one which shows the potential to go on to win the important shooting dog events in the country, such as the National Bird Hunters Association's Regional Championships and the National Bird Hunters Association's National Shooting Dog Championships. A Futurity placement qualifies the dog for the next year's National Championship.

Section 2. **PUPPY:** Puppies are judged on the natural qualities they should possess: incentive to hunt, intelligence, good constitution, nervous energy, courage, good conformation, instinct to point, style and appearance. Heats are thirty (30) minutes with no birds liberated, and the puppy winners are not required to point, back or retrieve.

## **ARTICLE III – AWARDS**

Trophies and monies will be awarded to the owners and breeders of the first, second, third and fourth place dogs of The National Bird Hunters Association Futurity and National Bird Hunters Association Futurity's Puppy Classic. The Futurity winner will receive a portrait of winning dog.

## **CHAPTER 5 RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR FIELD TRIALS ARTICLE I – GENERAL**

Section 1. This corporation shall record the winners in stakes sponsored by active members of the corporation and shall issue certificates, signed by the President and Secretary of this corporation, to owners of such winning dogs, provided however:

- a. The sponsoring club shall have paid to this corporation, membership dues for the year in which the trial is held, in the sum of three (\$3.00) dollars, per dog, per entrant.
- b. The club conforms to the "minimum requirements as set out herein Chapter 3, in conducting said trial; and
- c. The club appoints a stake manager to oversee the running of the trial; and
- d. The sponsoring club certifies the winner or winners of its stakes to the Secretary of this corporation within thirty (30) days after the close of the trials at which said win, or wins, was made, giving such information as may be required by the Secretary of this corporation; and
- e. That in stakes with three dogs competing, one-win certificate will be issued. In stakes with four or five dogs competing, two placements only will be recognized. In stakes with six or more dogs competing, three placements, with no division of any place will be recognized.
- f. Clubs have the option to give monies as awards in any stake

Section 2. Drawings will be for order of running only and not for any particular course. A dog that is absent from the place at which he is to start may be disqualified at the discretion of the judges. To have a dog at the place and time where it is to start rest solely upon the owner or handler.

Section 3. Any owner who refused to pay an entry fee for his or her dog shall be subject to being barred from competition in member club trials. If an entry is called in by phone, and the entrant does not show up, he or she will be liable for the entry fee if he or she does not cancel before the drawing. If a female comes in season after the drawing and cannot be run, the entrant will so be charged.

Section 4. Objectionable entries will not be allowed to start if the following conditions prevail:

- a. Dogs afflicted with any disease, which the Stake Manager may regard as contagious, will not be permitted to start or to be handled in close proximity to other entries.
- b. Objections to entries will be given consideration by the Stake Manager prior to the running.

Section 5. The judges shall be in general charge of the running of the dogs and how the same shall be handed, subject only to the rules and regulations for field trials of this corporation. After the first series has been completed, if the judges shall deem a second or additional series necessary, they may call the dogs wanted in whatever manner or order and for the length of time they may deem expedient.

#### Section 6. HANDLER

- a. An individual handler must be designated at the time of the drawing, and such handler, if present and physically able must handle the dog as drawn.
- b. If two dogs handled by the same handler should be drawn in the same brace, the second dog so drawn shall change place with the next dog to be handled by another handler.
- c. Any person under suspension by this corporation or any person barred from competition in trials by corporation shall not be permitted to handle a dog.
- d. No one other than the handler of a dog may give a dog, while in competition, any command or direction except with the permission of the judges.

#### Section 7. HANDLING DOGS

- a. During the running of a heat, no dog in competition therein shall be removed from the ground for an appreciable length of time, placed on leash, or worked otherwise than in an accepted manner of handling by voice, whistle and/or hand signals.
- b. Handlers handling his or her dog at a running pace instead of a walking pace are prohibited.
- c. The use of any device attached to the dog for communication or which will, in any manner, influence the dog's action during the handling of a dog in competition in a field trial is forbidden.
- d. There will be no roading or working of dogs on a course or areas that conflict with a trial in progress.
- e. The Stake Manager may bar any handler violating this section from further participation in or attendance at such trial.
- f. No dog can be released with more than (2) collars.
- g. Aside from being handicapped, handlers do not have the option of walking or riding in any stake in NBHA.
- h. A dog may wear a bell (common in Cover dog stakes) while in competition, but the dog cannot be released with more than two (2) collars.

#### Section 8. TRACKING COLLARS

The sole purpose of using a tracking collar in a field trial is to assist handler in finding a dog that may be lost or which is deemed no longer in judgment. The rules for the use of a tracking collar in all recognized stakes are as follows.

- a. AFTCA approved tracking collars may be used.
- b. If a handler elects to use the transmitting collar on his or her dog, only one other Collar is permitted to be on the dog.
- c. The hand-held locating receiver shall be kept in the possession of the judges and/or their designees.

- d. The hand-held locating receiver can only be used after the dog is determined to be out of judgment.
- e. The use of the tracking collar is elective and for no reason should the running of a stake be held up due to the lack of available equipment.
- f. Each club shall inform the judges of the rules and the use to ensure uniform practice.
- g. Any person using a locating receiver to locate a dog currently in judgment, and prior to official authorization of its use by one of the judges, shall disqualify the dog in that stake and the offenders shall be disqualified from field trials.
- h. Provided the dog starts a heat with tracking collar in place, removal of tracking collar disqualifies the dog.

#### Section 9. SCOUTING

- a. Scouting in the NBHA shall reflect the NBHA Walking Dog standard. Excessive scouting in the opinion of the judge shall be penalized.
- b. No scouting is permitted in a National Bird Hunters Association Stake, except that a person, with the permission of a judge, may be designated to go locate the dog. That person shall in no way handle the dog.
- c. Lagging behind the field trial party for the purpose of locating dogs shall constitute scouting to the same extent as leaving the field party to go in any other direction.

#### Section 10. CONDUCT OF HANDLERS

- a. All handlers must conform to any and all regulations and rules and directions of the judges which do not conflict with the rules and regulations for field trials of this corporation; and should any such regulation be disregarded the judges shall have authority to disqualify such handler and/or his dogs, or they may leave the matter to the Stake Manager for his action.
- b. The judges are expected to prescribe and rigidly enforce a strict rule upon the interference of handler or dog with the brace mate's dog.
- c. Handlers shall be at liberty to inquire of the judges at any time as to any regulations within their province or of the Stake Manager concerning any rule beyond the jurisdiction of the judges.

#### Section 11. COMPLAINTS

A handler may make verbal complaint to either the judges or the Stake Manager concerning the conduct of his opponents provided that such complaint be made promptly upon the alleged commission of the offense, thus affording proper official opportunity of observing the immediate situation.

#### Section 12. IMPUGNING JUDGES

Any person who has, to the satisfaction of the Stake Manager, impugned the action of a judge officiating at any stake, or who has otherwise annoyed such official in connection with or because of his official action in connection with the trial either during or after the running of a trial, may be barred from further participation in or attendance at such trial by the Stake Manager and such disbarment may be made permanent by subsequent action of the Board of Directors.

#### Section 13. CONDUCT UNBECOMING A GENTLEMAN

If a complaint is made by an active club of this corporation or by an individual associated with such active club, that a person entering a dog in, or attending any field trial held by an active club of this corporation itself, has acted in a manner contrary to good sportsmanship and detrimental to the best interest of the field trial generally, such complaint shall be in writing and a hearing held in the same manner as is provided in by-laws, Article III, Section 1, (a), (b), and (c). If a majority of the Board of Directors shall find and decide that the complaint is well founded and that the accused has acted in a manner contrary to good sportsmanship and detrimental to the best interest of field trials generally, the person so accused shall be barred from attending and being in any event sponsored by this corporation or by any active club of this corporation, and no certificate of win made by a dog entered or handled by such person shall be issued by this corporation. The Secretary shall notify both the accused and accusing party in writing of this decision of the Board of Directors.

#### Section 14. FIELD MARSHAL

One or more Field Marshals shall be appointed by the Stake Manager, and the Field Marshal or Field Marshals shall have the full authority to control the movement of the gallery or other spectators. The Field Marshals shall prevent interference with the judges, handlers and dogs.

#### Section 15. BACKING STANDARDS

- a. In a Shooting Dog Stake, it is mandatory that a judge order a dog up, if the dog, in the opinion of the judge, demonstrates conclusively that it refuses to back its brace mate.
- b. A handler may request permission from the judge to move a backing dog so as not to use up his allotted time, if in the judge's opinion; the pointed dog's handler is taking too much time to flush.
- c. Derby and puppy winners are not required to back.

#### Section 16. RETRIEVING STANDARDS

- a. It isn't mandatory for shooting dog, derby, or puppy winners to retrieve.

#### Section 17. SHOOTING DOG STANDARDS

A Shooting Dog should possess an intense desire to find birds and adjust to the terrain for its handler; display a keen nose to detect the presence of game, and to locate it accurately and promptly; staunchness on point, without false pointing or blinking; bird wisdom, intelligent ground work and the pace and range most effective for the work at hand; stamina; speed, industry and independence at work and intensity in searching; quickness in locating his handler and in seeing and hearing his commands, kindly handling and good manners, and backing his brace mates point; and willingness to face unflinchingly heavy cover, brier, or other handicaps; style of carriage and grace of movement, styling up well on point with head aloft and tail level or above. Open Shooting Dogs must be steady to wing and shot.

#### Section 18. DERBY STANDARDS

Derbies are judged on their demonstration of potentially becoming a Finished Shooting Dog showing some bird sense, speed and stamina, hunt to the course, locate and point quickly and accurately and be staunch. Derby winners are not required to back.

#### Section 19. PUPPY STANDARDS

Puppies are judged on natural qualities they should possess: instinct to hunt & point, intelligence, good constitution, nervous energy, courage, good conformation, style and appearance. Puppy winners are not required to point or back.

#### Section 20. AMATEUR GUN DOG STANDARDS

An Amateur Gun Dog should possess an intense desire to find birds and adjust to the terrain for its handler; display a keen nose to detect the presence of game, and to locate it accurately and promptly; staunchness on point, without false pointing or blinking; bird wisdom, intelligent ground work and the pace and range most effective for hunting behind this dog; stamina; speed and range consistent to a hunting outing, industry and independence but handle to the handlers calls or whistle and intensity in searching; quickness in locating his handler and in seeing and hearing his commands, kindly handling and good manners, backing his brace mates point if the opportunity presents itself; and willingness to face unflinchingly heavy cover, brier, or other handicaps; style of carriage and grace of movement, styling up well on point, it's preferred with head aloft and tail level or above. Amateur Gun Dog, judgement ceases at the flush. Consideration should be given to the quality of finds rather than the number of birds coupled with a good race, hunting proper objectives, and handling, should be placed over lesser overall performances with a greater number of finds.



## Section 21. COURSE GAME AND GUN LAWS AND RULES

- a. All events must be held on one course under natural conditions; Exception, allowing for any club of good standing to run their trial on continuous multiple courses as long as it is advertised in their ad with the UKC American Field.
- b. It is recommended that supplemental birds be liberated on the course, but must be liberated in widely separated area of the course to stimulate natural condition, and replaced on a put and take basis.
- c. All participants will adhere to all state gun laws, rules, and safety, according to the state in which they are participating.
- d. If the participant does fire in the direction of the judge, participant, or too close to the gallery, he will be asked to pick up his or her dog. Firing at a judge, participant, or gallery will be grounds for disqualifying the participant and his or her dog in that particular brace or stake.
- e. No dog shall be placed in a NBHA Championship Stake until shot over when birds are flushed to his point or as directed by a judge. The shot shall be fired by the handler of the pointing dog only, with a gun of not less than .32 caliber (shotgun 209 primers may be used in lieu of 32 blanks).
- f. The use of live ammunition is banned in all NBHA stakes held by members of the corporation.

## Section 22. BIRDFIELDS (If Used)

- a. All dogs must remain in the bird field for eight (8) minutes, so long as the allocated time for the brace has not expired, at which time all dogs will be picked up. This does not mean a dog cannot cross the boundaries, but must show that he will handle in a given area.

## Section 23. HANDICAP HANDLER

- a. To handle a dog at a trial from a horse or four-wheeler (where permitted) the handler must notify the trial chairman prior to the drawing and provide a State placard and/or certificate from the State identifying the handicap status. A Doctor's excuse is not acceptable. An individual must submit a request for handicap status to the NBHA President for approval prior to competition. A handicapped handler must be the owner of the dogs he/she is handling. There are no restrictions for the length of stake.
- b. A handicapped handler, riding, should respect his or her brace-mate at all times. The goal of the handicapped rule in the NBHA is to allow a handler to participate in a field trial who might otherwise be unable to compete because of physical impairment.
- c. A handicapped handler uses the horse and or a 4-wheeler only as a vehicle of transportation, and in no way should utilize the horse or the 4-wheeler to guide the dog to a specific location or to give a physical advantage over his brace mate.
- d. The average participant in a walking field trial proceeds at a pace of 3.5 to 4.0 miles per hour. The marshals shall evaluate the pace with the aid of a GPS, if necessary, and if the marshal has to warn a participant about the pace more than once, the matter will be referred to the stake manager or field trial chairman, and the participant may be asked to withdraw.
- e. In Championships, Classics, and Futurity, and their companion stakes a Handicap Handler may use a designated walker to establish his or her pace when behind. The designated walker will be established prior to the start of the brace and will walk throughout the brace. This designated walker cannot handle the dog and or correspond in any way with the handicap handler in regards to the running of the dog. As the walking handler can, the riding handicap handler may be allowed to catch up if he or she falls behind, as long as the handicap handler travels no faster than the pace established by the designated walker. This may help with both judges being able to observe both dogs for the majority of the heat.

#### Section 24. YOUTH HANDLER

A Youth Handler is recognized by the NBHA as any handler that is age 15 or younger at the start of the field trial season, June 1. Youth handlers can participate in any stake open or amateur and will be eligible for the overall Youth Handler of the Year award. Youth Handler points are not weighted in any event.

## **ARTICLE II REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, STATE CLASSIC'S, AND NATIONAL WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP**

#### Section 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee, which is made up of NBHA officers; President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, Secretary, Treasure, and the Futurity Director, who are elected by the Board of Directors (Chapter 1; section 6). Will sanction Regional, and National Championships, and make the final selection of judges for the National Walking Shooting Dog Championships, and must approve Regional Championships, National Invitational Breeders, Free-For-All, and Futurity. The Executive Committee must approve of all date changes for Classics and Championships.

#### Section 2. SANCTION OF REGIONAL & NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

- a. Title stakes (Championships) that are sanctioned by this organization shall not run on the same dates, any changes of dates requested after the annual meeting, must be approved by the executive committee.
- b. To be eligible to host a Championship, there must be at least two weekend NBHA sanctioned club trials run in the previous field trial season within that Region. Not including dual organizational sanctioned events, companion stakes or championships. If these requirements are not met, a Championship will not be awarded, and the Championship for that Region may be moved to another venue outside of the Region and voted on during the annual meeting.

- c. Regional Shooting Dog Championships may be sanctioned by the Executive Committee of this corporation in such sections of the country as the Executive Committee may, in its discretion, deem advisable.

**Western Regional-** Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona

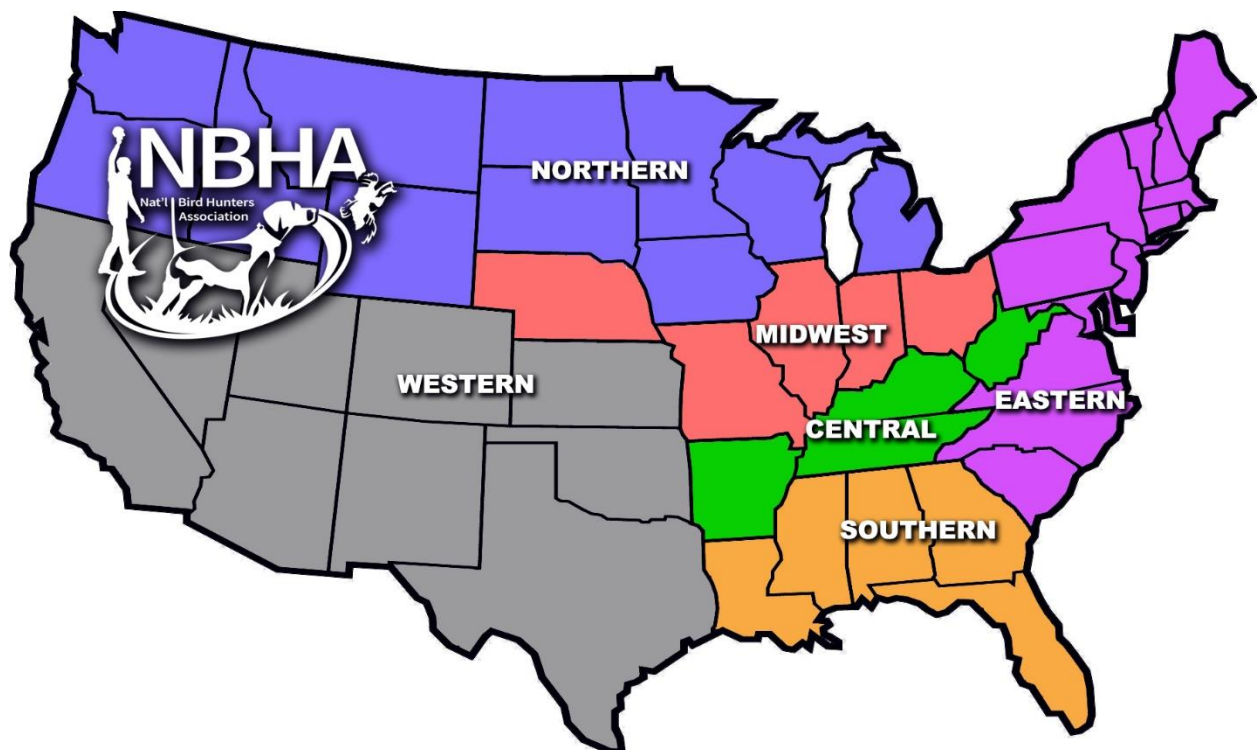
**Southern Regional-** Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida

**Midwest Regional-** Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, Ohio

**Central Regional-** Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, West Virginia

**Eastern Regional-** South Carolina, North Carolina, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, New England, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania

**Northern Regional-** Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, South Dakota, North Dakota, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming



- d. The title awarded the dog winning these regional events shall be descriptive of the region in which the stake was held.
- e. National Open Championship will be awarded two years in advanced at the annual business meeting.
- f. National Amateur Championship, Amateur Invitational Championship, and the Free-For-All Championship, will be rotated and awarded each year at the annual meeting.
- g. Open Invitational Breeders Championship will be held in conjunction with the NBHA Futurity and Puppy Classic.
- h. The NBHA, as far as possible, selects a date and place for its National Amateur Championship so as not to pose conflict with the AFTCA National Walking Shooting Dog Championship.
- i. All ads for the National events will be paid for the NBHA. The painting of the Amateur Invitational winner will also be paid for by the NBHA.

Section 3. CLASSICS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a. These will be held at state, regional and national levels. A copy of the running order or program must be submitted to the National Secretary with the essential data forms at the completion of the field trial. Clubs hosting the National Free-For-All, National Open Invitational Breeders, National Amateur Invitational, and National Amateur Championships will also provide an itemized list of expenditures to the National Secretary.
- b. Dates for State Classics should ideally be decided during the annual meeting. In the event a state would like to host a State Classic after the conclusion of the annual meeting, requests should be made through the State Director for approval through the executive committee.
- c. Classic advertisements must meet the below criteria to be eligible for dog of the year points, as well any advertising reimbursements provided by the NBHA.
  - a. ¼ Page Standalone Advertisement in the UKC American Field
  - b. Premier headline will feature “NBHA (recognized state) State Classic”. Hosted by, or name of recognized event or person will be secondary in smaller font.
  - c. The NBHA Banner and Purina are the only required logos that need to be listed on the Advertisement.
  - d. Only stakes with the prescribed classic running times will be recognized for classic points. (Reference Article II, Sections 4 &5)
  - e. Sample Advertisement:



# NBHA ALASKA STATE CLASSIC

Hosted by Alaska Bird Dog Club

*Member NBHA & AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!*

**March 27th, 2024 • Starts 7:00 a.m.**

**Longtail Ranch - Dexter, Alaska**

<b>BOB SMITH OPEN SHOOTING DOG MEMORIAL (1 HR).....</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (1 HOUR) .....</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG JC@F (1 HOUR).....</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>OPEN DERBY (30 Min.).....</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.).....</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.) .....</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>

**Judges:** Frank Schoeny, Wichita, KS; Greg Gibbs, Goddard, KS

**Grounds:** Located on the first road approximately ¼ mile west of Any Town USA 123456.

**Drawing:** Tuesday, March 26th, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Tim Smith, Dexter, AK.

**Entries to: Tim Smith • Phone: (316) 123-4567**

**Email: NBHA@gmail.com**

*An entry is accepted as a waiver of any claim or demand for any loss or damage incurred from the sponsoring club, NBHA, AFTCA, Inc., their employees, agents, and office.*



- d. Trophies and or monies may be awarded to the winner and runner-up, and 3rd place in Open Stakes at a State Classic, Regional Championship, and the National Open Walking Shooting Dog Championship.
- e. It is not mandatory that a champion or runner-up be named, but is left to the discretion of the judges.
- f. Any state may hold a Restricted Breed Stake at the State Classic level and classic points will be awarded for those stakes.
- g. Motorized vehicles shall not be used by judges to perform judicial duties at State Classics, Regional, and National Championships.

#### Section 4. LENGTH OF HEATS

- a. Open Shooting Dog Stake at a State Classic and/or Regional Championship must be at least one hour in length to receive weighted points; there may be as many additional series and for as long a time the judges may deem necessary.
- b. The Amateur Shooting Dog Stake must be at least one (1) hour in length at; State Classics and/or Regional Championships to receive weighted points
- c. Restricted Breed Shooting Dog stakes and the Amateur Gun Dog stakes will need to run one (1) hour to receive weighted points otherwise they will receive points at the local trial scale.
- d. The National Open Shooting Dog Championship will be a two series stake with the first series consisting of a one (1) hour heat, and a second call back series of a one (1) hour heat (6 dogs). The second series dogs shall be braced by the judges or redrawn – judge’s discretion. A Champion and /or Runner Up Champion will be awarded based on its performance in the second series alone. If no champion is named, the judges may revert the overall stake to a Classic based on the performance from the first series alone. Classic placements may be 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> – that is at the judge’s discretion.
- e. National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship will be one (1) hour
- f. Free-For-All Championship will be one (1) hour, with a call back of one (1) hour, (6 dogs). The dogs called back will be redrawn.
- g. Open Invitational Breeders Championship will be one hour in length
- h. Amateur Invitational Championship will accept only 12 amateur shooting dogs with the top amateur points from the previous field trial season. The initial first round will be one hour in length and the callback braces will also be an hour. Number of dogs for the callback be determined by judges - 4 being the maximum (it is recommended to have 2 on standby).

#### Section 5. ENTRY ELIGIBILITY

- a. Dogs to be eligible for an Open Championship Stake, shall have a winner’s certificate recognized by the UKC American Field from a placement in a Derby or Shooting dog, Open stake.
- b. Dogs to be eligible for an Amateur Championship Stake, shall have a winner’s certificate recognized by the AFTCA and the UKC American Field from a placement in a Derby or Shooting dog, Amateur Stake. Amateur handler must be a member of the AFTCA.
- c. Amateur Invitational Championship, dogs eligible must have qualified by placing in an NBHA trial in the previous trial season, in a NBHA shooting dog or derby stake. Order of invitations will go to the Amateur Shooting Dog followed by the Amateur Derby. All dogs must be handled by an amateur handler. Trial is limited to 12 dogs entered. Amateur handler must be a member of the AFTCA.
- d. Open Invitational Breeders Championship, eligible dogs (first requirement is as per paragraph (a.) above) must also qualify in one of the following ways. (1) placing in an NBHA trial the previous season, with a NBHA placement Open or Amateur, Shooting dog or Derby stake. Or (2) any dog that is from an NBHA Futurity nominated litter, that has a qualifying Open placement, recognized by the UKC American Field from a Derby or Shooting dog stake
- e. Eligibility requirements in items a and b in this section do not apply to companion stakes associated with a Classic or Championship events.

- f. Points for companion stakes, Derby and Puppy, at National Championships, Regional Championships, and State Classic's will be awarded based on the headlining stake advertised. These companion stakes will not be dependent on length of time of the stakes, just that they are advertised. Any other stakes will be awarded points independently based on length of stake.

#### Section 6. CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGES

- a. Two or more Shooting Dog Judges shall judge each Championship Stake.
- b. The host club or clubs shall submit a list of proposed judges to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall make the final selection of judges. It is suggested that the judging assignments be rotated, i.e. that one or more judges be carried over from the previous year, to maintain continuity of judging standards.
- c. The names of the judges for all championships shall, if possible, be announced at least thirty (30) days prior to the running of the stake. If any judge so announced becomes unable to serve or fails to appear, a substitute judge shall be named by the Executive Committee.
- d. A judge cannot be used to judge more than one national level field trial (National Open & Amateur Shooting Dog Championships and National Open & Amateur Invitational Walking Shooting Dog Championships and National Free-for-All Championships) during the NBHA calendar year. (June 1st –May 31st).
- e. If possible, Judges from the same region should not judge together at a national level field trial.

#### Section 7. STAKE MANAGER

- a. The entire conduct of the running of each Championship Stake, subject to the Rules and Regulations for Field Trials of the corporation, and subject also to the jurisdiction of the judges, shall be vested in the Stake Manager. All questions arising, not determined by the Rules and Regulations for Field Trials of the corporation and not within the jurisdiction of the judges, shall be determined by the Stake Manager, and his decision shall be final unless reviewed by the Executive Committee. In such event, the decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.
- b. The Stake Manager is empowered to order any person in attendance at the trial removed from the Field Trial grounds and to prevent his return during the attendance of the stake if in his judgment, such person has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a gentleman or has in any manner interfered with the running of the stake, and any such person may be permanently barred from attending future trials of this corporation by subsequent action of the National Board of Directors.

#### Section 8. ENTRY FEES AND STARTING FEES

The host club or host clubs shall fix the Nominating, Starting, and Post Entry Fees in all stakes run by this corporation.

#### Section 9. ENTRY BLANKS

- a. The Secretary shall send entry blanks in advance to all owners who the Secretary anticipates may enter a dog in the respective Championships sponsored by this corporation.
- b. The owner of any and all dogs to be entered in any Championship Stake sponsored by this corporation must have the entries in the hands of the Secretary of that stake on or before the advertised closing date.
- c. All entries in Championship Stakes are required to show the serial number of the win certificate of the dog entered; the dog entered must be described by name, breed, age, color markings, sex, and the name of the owner and handler of the entry, and such other information as may be required by the Secretary of this corporation.
- d. The Secretaries of the host club or host clubs are authorized to refuse to accept the entry of any dog in any Championship Stake sponsored by this corporation, unless and until the information herein specified in supplied to him or her.

### **ARTICLE III – JUDGING**

#### Section 1. JUDGING GUIDELINES

- a. All judges will use the spotting system. Dogs who do not make game and show no sign of smelling game birds, such as flushing birds in a downwind situation, will not be credited with a flush if in the judge's opinion this holds true, however, the dog is not to be penalized for giving chase under these conditions any more than had he stopped to flush unless he deliberately chases. If a dog should give indication of game scent, and then flushes the birds, whether he stops or chases, this will be credited as a flush.
- b. Consideration should be given to the quality of finds rather than the number of birds coupled with a good race, hunting proper objectives, and handling, should be placed over lesser overall performances with a greater number of finds.
- c. The back course should be judged so as to prove a dog's natural covey finding ability by adjusting to all types of terrain and hunting the bird's objectives. Dogs, who hunt wide and do not work the objectives, should not be placed over medium dog that hunts all the objectives. However, should the other dog hunt all the same objective in a quicker manner, we must assume that at the end of the day, this dog will find more birds and it should handle to foot and respond to his handler.

## Section 2. FIELD TRIAL JUDGES

The judging of field trials is an inexact science. The men who perform this frequent arduous and often thankless task are not endowed with any special powers bordering on the supernatural. They are ordinary human beings honestly endeavoring to bestow field trial honors where they justly belong. They are, of course, capable of making errors, and sometimes do, for they have no particular gift of infallibility. This is not to say that any conscientious sportsman would make a good field judge, for there are certain attributes, which every capable arbitrator should possess.

They should first, be honest, fearless and absolutely impartial; wholly without prejudice for or against any particular breed, dog style or type of performance or individual. Secondly, they should have the mental ability to quickly analyze a situation and properly interpret it. Third, they should be calm and dispassionate in temperament, not easily ruffled and not willing to risk snap judgment. Fourth, they should be physically able to withstand long hours in the saddle without impairment to physical or mental alertness.

These are not mysteriously magical qualities. Most sportsmen possess some or all of them in some degree. But to find a judge who possesses all in high degree is not as easy as it may seem. Things sometimes happen fast in field trials and the ability to quickly analyze and properly interpret a rapid-fire action is generally born of considerable experience. It is not necessary to have years of experience in the judicial saddle before becoming a capable judge: on the other hand, knowledge of true bird dog performance values can be obtained through caring for, hunting behind, handling, and better training their own bird dogs. When done they are better equipped to recognize and more fully appreciate quality in bird dog performance. Such experience makes it less difficult to understand the mental processes and reactions of a bird dog and makes obvious those time nuances in performance which are so often important but so frequently overlooked by the less experienced. No person should accept an invitation to act as a judge unless they are willing and able, regardless of the time required, and in fact, determined to run each stake to its logical conclusion. Although they receive no remuneration for work, they should recognize the fact that each contesting dog is exceedingly important to its owner or handler and merits the full attention regardless of the quality of its performance. No judging assignment, no matter how relatively unimportant it might be, should be taken lightly.

Field trial judges, though their task be a thankless one, should not become incensed at honest and sincere criticism, provided it does not impugn their integrity. Seldom is it that any one person can see everything that happens at a field trial and seldom is it that two people see or interpret a single situation exactly alike. Field trial judges have a better opportunity to see more of what transpires than any member of the gallery. Before any spectator, owner or handler criticizes any decision they should first ask for an honest answer to the following question: "Did I see all of the running of all the dogs? Did I see everything that transpired? How would I have evaluated certain work which was apparently penalized and other work which was apparently highly valued?" Such self-interrogation may put the decision in a different light.

Field trial judges do not like to be treated as "untouchable". Club officials should, however, make every effort to ease their task through the provision of every possible comfort and convenience. Every spectator and contestant alike should accord them full respect and courtesy which the dignity of their position and their unselfish devotion to the sport commands. New and younger judging talent is sorely needed in field trials. Field trial committees should give serious consideration to the inviting of young and enthusiastic field trial devotees to act as judges, giving them the benefit of serving with older individuals with seasoned experience. Without field trial judges, there can be no field trials.



## ARTICLE IV – DOG AND HANDLER OF THE YEAR

Section 1. The calendar year for tabulating points for the high point dog of each stake starts June 1st and ends on May 31st of the following year. Any trial held in May has a two-week grace period.

Section 2. To receive points for dog of the year award a dog must be registered, with complete information on the essential data form.

Section 3.

a. NBHA Dog of the Year, minimum requirements in each category. Dogs will need to have placed a minimum of three (3) times to be eligible to be recognized as a NBHA Dog of the Year, with three (3) or more placements the dog with the highest point total will become the Dog of the Year winner, the second highest point total will be the runner-up Dog of the Year.

b. NBHA Handler of the Year, minimum requirements in each category. Handlers will need to have place a minimum of three (3) times to be eligible to be recognized as a NBHA Handler of the Year, with three (3) or more placements the handler with the highest point total will become the Handler of the Year winner, the second highest point total will be the runner-up NBHA Handler of the Year.

c. NBHA Youth Handler of the Year, is the accumulation of points earned in all stakes Open and Amateur. There are no weighted points, all events are three (3) points for first place, two (2) points for second place, one (1) point for third place, and 1 point if a stake has a fourth place. At the end of the field trial season the Youth handler with the highest point total will receive the Youth Handler of the Year Award. The Youth Handler with the second highest point total will receive the Runner-up Youth Handler of the Year award.

Section 4. **DOG POINT SYSTEM**

### **OPEN STAKES and AMATEUR STAKES**

Futurity (Open Derby) / Jerry D. Kilgore Puppy Classic (Open Puppy)

1<sup>st</sup> place = 10 x dogs run

2<sup>nd</sup> place = 7 x dogs run

3<sup>rd</sup> place = 5 x dogs run

4<sup>th</sup> place = 4 x dogs run

Club Trials

1<sup>st</sup> place = 3 x dogs run

2<sup>nd</sup> place = 2 x dogs run

3<sup>rd</sup> place = 1 x dogs run

State Classics & Regional Championships

1<sup>st</sup> place = 7 x dogs run

2<sup>nd</sup> place = 5 x dogs run

3<sup>rd</sup> place = 3 x dogs run

National Championships

1<sup>st</sup> place or Champion = 10 x dogs run

2<sup>nd</sup> place or runner-up = 7 x dogs run

3<sup>rd</sup> place = 5 x dogs run

Section 5. **HANDLER POINT SYSTEM** (Open and Amateur)

**Club Trial**

Shooting Dog, Derby, and Puppy

1<sup>st</sup> - 3 points

2<sup>nd</sup> - 2 points

3<sup>rd</sup> - 1 points

**State Classic**

Shooting Dog and Derby

1<sup>st</sup> - 5 points

2<sup>nd</sup> - 3 points

3<sup>rd</sup> - 2 points

Puppy

1<sup>st</sup> - 3 points

2<sup>nd</sup> - 2 points

3<sup>rd</sup> - 1 points

**Regional Championships**

Shooting Dog and Derby

1<sup>st</sup> - 7 points

2<sup>nd</sup> - 5 points

3<sup>rd</sup> - 3 points

Puppy

1<sup>st</sup> - 3 points

2<sup>nd</sup> - 2 points

3<sup>rd</sup> - 1 points

**National Championships**

Shooting Dog and Derby

1<sup>st</sup> - 10 points

2<sup>nd</sup> - 7 points

3<sup>rd</sup> - 5 points

Puppy

1<sup>st</sup> - 3 points

2<sup>nd</sup> - 2 points

3<sup>rd</sup> - 1 points

**NBHA Futurity (Open Derby) -**

1<sup>st</sup> - 7 points

2<sup>nd</sup> - 5 points

3<sup>rd</sup> - 4 points

2<sup>nd</sup> - 3 points

**Jerry D. Kilgore Puppy Classic (Open Puppy) -**

1<sup>st</sup> - 5 points

2<sup>nd</sup> - 4 points

3<sup>rd</sup> - 3 points

4<sup>th</sup> - 3 points

**Youth Handler** - All stakes Open and Amateur (no weighted points)

1<sup>st</sup> Place – 3 points

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 2 points

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – 1 point

4<sup>th</sup> Place – 1 point

## ARTICLE V - NBHA HALL OF FAME

The NBHA Hall of Fame is designed to recognize outstanding individuals and animals that have made a major contribution to the NBHA.

### Summarized Qualifications

#### **People**

The person can be living or deceased. The listing of qualifications is in order of importance and at least three of the top eight should be met for people.

1. Breeder of champions and important winners
2. Trainer of own dogs
3. Handler of own dogs to important NBHA wins
4. Provider of grounds
5. NBHA National, State, and / or Club officer
6. Longevity in NBHA trialing
7. Judging in NBHA Classic and Championship trials and other important events at a national level
8. A mentor to new NBHA trialers and clubs
9. Sportsmanship and Integrity
10. Supporter of Professionals
11. Amateur and Professionals qualify equally

#### **Dogs**

All dogs nominated must be deceased. Eligible dogs should have been trialed extensively in major NBHA events. Significant NBHA winners who also won other important stakes outside of NBHA may have their overall record considered. Dogs that have sired or whelped multiple significant NBHA winners may be considered for HOF induction despite an otherwise limited trial record in NBHA events. All qualifications for dogs below should be given substantially equal weight.

1. Performance / wins in NBHA competition
2. Importance of wins, e.g. Regional and National Championship placements
3. Dogs only occasionally competed in NBHA stakes must have an otherwise exceptional record along with a significant placement in an NBHA event to be considered. This dog may be better nominated to the National Field Trial Hall of Fame rather than the NBHA
4. Longevity at a high-performance level
5. Male breeding impact on NBHA trialing at a local, regional or national level including the NBHA Futurity
6. Female production with impact in NBHA trials at a local, regional or national level including the NBHA Futurity.

Nominations should be submitted in writing\* to the NBHA National President with a copy to the NBHA National Secretary (to be forwarded to the Hall of Fame Nomination Committee) no less than 14 days prior to the Annual Summer meeting. Nominations received after said deadline, or from the floor at the current year's meeting, will be reviewed by the Nomination Committee for the following year's vote. The NBHA officers and State Directors each have a vote (and can vote on up to 2 dogs or persons) with a majority in attendance required for election to the NBHA Hall of Fame. Electees' to the Hall of Fame will be honored at the NBHA National Banquet the following summer. Appropriate pictures and plaque of each Hall of Fame honoree will be placed at the National Bird Dog Museum at Grand Junction, TN.

*\*In the written documentation please consider addressing the applicable qualification criteria.*

## **ARTICLE VI - UNDERSIGNED**

The undersigned, President and Secretary of this corporation hereby certify that the above and foregoing Running Rules and Regulations for the Field Trials of the National Bird Hunters Association, Inc., were duly adopted by unanimous vote at a meeting of said corporation in July 29, 2023 and that at said time and place all the existing Running Rules and Regulations now constitute the accepted Running Rules and Regulations for Field Trials of this corporation.

Recent revision witnesses our hand this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 2024

ss: Ken Sauer, President

ss: Tim Penn, Secretary

### **Executive Officers / Board Members**

President: Ken Sauer

Secretary: Tim Penn

Treasurer: Ray Brown

1st VP: Greg Blair

2nd VP: Jacob Starnes

3rd VP: Joseph Hopkins

Futurity Director: Jim Ogle

Arkansas: Glenn Cumbie

Kansas: Jacob Starnes

Kentucky: Gary Vitali

Missouri: Jim Ogle

New Jersey: Jillian Stuhr

North Carolina: Cliff Monroe

Oklahoma: Matthew Puckett

Pennsylvania: Joseph Faggiolia

Texas: Ken Sauer

Wisconsin: Tom Waite