

Boykin Spaniel Society Upland Hunt Test

General Rules and Regulations

2010 revision (6-10-10)

I. Purpose

The purpose of a Boykin Spaniel in an Upland Hunt (UH) is to find game, flush and retrieve birds in a pleasant manner. The objective of the UH is to help the handler develop a useful hunting companion by providing a means to gauge a Boykin Spaniel's ability in the Novice, Intermediate and Open stakes. Dogs in all stakes must hunt enthusiastically and retrieve. Dogs should show no fear in questing or entering cover and must be under reasonable control. They must work at a reasonable distance from their handlers, neither too close (which is dangerous and inefficient) nor too far (which presents a difficulty for gunners in bringing down birds). Dogs are rated highest for a bold flush; however a soft flush or momentary stopping is acceptable if the dog, within a very brief period, forces the bird into flight. The BSS Upland Hunt Test shall be held to primarily judge the ability and style of the Boykin spaniel to find and flush upland game. The Boykin Spaniel is prized due to its versatility so the incorporated water work is also important and should be judged accordingly.

II. Eligibility

- (A.) Any Boykin Spaniel Society (BSS) registered dog may compete.
- (B.) All handlers must be a member in good standing with the Boykin Spaniel Society.
- (C.) New Clubs must apply for admission to the BSS Upland Hunt

Test

program. Forms are available online or from the BSS.

- (D.) Dogs may be entered in only one (1) stake.
- (E.) Minors (under 18) handling dogs in the Intermediate or Open stake are required to submit a copy of their Hunter Safety Certificate with their entry form.
- (F.) The BSS will maintain records of each dog's achievements passes, Titles and points earned).

Novice:

Five (5) achievement points per hunt shall be earned for those dogs that pass a Novice Hunt. A pass in the Novice class shall be referred to as a Novice Pass.

Four (4) Novice passes (20 points) are required to earn the Upland Novice (UN) title. Once a dog has achieved his UN title it may continue to run in the Novice Class, but additional points will not be awarded.

Intermediate:

Ten (10) achievement points per hunt may be earned for those dogs that pass an Intermediate Hunt. A pass in the Intermediate class shall be referred to as a Intermediate Pass.

Four (4) Intermediate passes (40 points) are required to earn an Upland Intermediate (UI) title. Once a dog has achieved its UI title it may continue to run in the Intermediate Class but additional points will not be awarded.

Open:

Twenty (20) achievement points per hunt may be earned for those dogs that pass an Open Hunt. A pass in the Open class shall be referred to as an Open Pass.

Four (4) Open passes (80 points) are required for the Upland Open (UO) title. Once a dog has achieved its UO title it may continue to run in the Open class and accrue additional points.

BSS National Upland Field Trial:

Dogs that have earned an Upland Open (UO) title will be eligible to obtain additional achievement points at the BSS Upland National Field Trial. Upland Open (UO) titled dogs, that earn a placement in the open stake, at the BSS Upland National Field Trial shall be awarded points as follows: First Place 40 points, Second place 30 points, Third place 20 points and Fourth place 10 points.

BSS Upland Grand Champion:

The title of BSS Upland Grand Champion (UGCH) shall be awarded to any Boykin earning 500 or more points.

III. Hunt Test Committee

The Upland Hunt Test Committee (UHTC) is a sub committee of the BSS Field Trail Committee. The UHTC is charged with recommending a Boykin Spaniel Club to the Boykin Spaniel Society Board of Directors for approval to hold an Upland Hunt Test. The UH shall be planned and conducted by an approved Boykin Spaniel club with initial guidance from the UHTC. The UHTC shall be comprised of no fewer than five members of the Boykin

Spaniel Society and may include the Hunt Test Secretary from the approved club, but said secretary shall not be designated as the LHTC (Local Hunt Test Committee) Chairman. At least one member of the UHTC must be present during a clubs initial Upland hunt test, however in the event a member is unavailable ; the Chairman of the UHTC shall appoint a BSS member in order to comply with this section. The UHTC and LHTC Chairman shall be responsible for ensuring compliance by the approved club with all applicable rules, regulations and guidelines for the Upland Hunt test except for those under the sole jurisdiction of the judges. The UHTC shall rely upon the approved club to hold an Upland hunt test in accordance with all rules and regulations as approved by the Boykin Spaniel Society. The approved club's initial Upland hunt test shall be run under the guidance and supervision of the UHTC and such committee shall have the authority to decide upon any matter arising during the initial Upland hunt test except for those matters under the jurisdiction of the judges. After the approved club's initial Upland hunt test is completed the UHTC shall report its conclusion and recommendation to fully sanction the host club with the BSS. Once a club is fully sanctioned by the BSS, such sanctioned club shall be able to hold Upland hunt test's without the representation and involvement of the BSS UHTC, except in an advisory capacity, which representation shall be at least one member of the BSS UHTC.

IV. Judges

(A.) Each stake shall be judged by two (2) judges.

(B) The BSS UHTC must approve all judges at least 30 days prior to the scheduled event. The UHTC will give consideration to any experienced upland judges to score an event. Priority will be given to judges with Upland and or spaniel flushing experience, such as the

HRC Upland program, or other Spaniel judging experience.

Beginning in 2011 a list of approved judges will be maintained on the BSS Upland hunt test web site.

- (C.) One (1) apprentice judge per stake may be appointed by the BSS Hunt test committee. The primary function of the apprentice judge is to learn and gain experience from the experienced judges. Apprentice judges must have trained and handled a dog to a Pass in the class they are requesting to apprentice in. Earning a ribbon at a BSS Upland national field trial would also qualify an individual for apprentice judging. An apprentice judge will be considered fully trained after judging 4 events with at least two different judges. All individuals applying to apprentice, must have passed and possess a state certified Hunters Safety Course and be a member in good standing of the Boykin Spaniel Society.

- (D.) Judges are representatives of the BSS and shall abide by the rules, regulations and guidelines as set forth herein.

- (E.) Prior to the start of each stake, judges shall be required to go over all safety measures with handlers, marshals, gunners, bird planters,
Etc.

- (F.) Judges decisions are final.

V. Courses

All courses shall consist of sufficient cover to hold birds and be of adequate size to permit a dog to hunt naturally. Courses should be fairly level or moderately undulating. Cover should be natural and the judges should be able to see the dogs the majority of the time. Courses may be staked/flagged only to indicate the perimeter of the field and must be utilized just as they would be in hunting. At no time should the handlers be aware of where birds are planted. Only one dog shall be permitted to run at a time, but stakes may be run simultaneously provided that there is no interference. Mechanical vehicles, not to include ATVs that may be used by bird planters, should be kept off of marked courses.

VI. Safety

Safety is to always be at the forefront of any and all Boykin Spaniel Society Field events. An item of blaze orange must be worn by judges, marshals, handlers, gunners, bird planters and gallery. Bird planters and gunners should use protective eye wear. The use of hearing protection is suggested.

VII. Guns/Gunners

(A.) Dogs shall be shot over by official gunners appointed by the LHTC. The official gunners should shoot their game in a sportsman like manner, as they would in a day=s shoot. The official gunners represent the handler up to the time the game is shot, and may not interfere in any manner with his work (handler) or the working of the dog. The gunners, if possible, or unless otherwise directed by the judges, are to down cleanly, efficiently and consistently the game flushed by the dog, at a point most advantageously to a fair and natural test of the dog=s abilities, with due regard to the judges, handlers, marshals, bird planters, gallery and other contingencies.

(B.) Care should be taken not to shoot so that game falls too close to the dog. If this is done it does not afford a chance for the dog to show any good retrieving ability and could result in a bird being destroyed. The gunners should stand perfectly quiet after the shot or otherwise they may interfere with the dog and/or handler. When a dog makes a retrieve, no other birds or game should be shot unless ordered by the judges for special reasons. The gunners must also keep themselves in the correct position relative to the handlers and/or others.

(C.) Official gunners MUST utilize double guns (over/under or side by side) no smaller than 20 gauge in the upland portion of the trial.

(D.) Judges shall have complete authority over the official gunners.

(E.) Every effort should be made to find gunners with valid Hunters Safety Certificates

VIII. Birds

- (A.) Pigeons, chukar, quail, or pheasants may be used in the land series of the Novice upland stake.
- (B.) Only pheasant, quail or chukar may be used in the land series of the Intermediate and Open upland stakes.
- (C.) Mallard ducks or upland game birds shall be used in the water series of all stakes. Pigeons may be used in the water in the Novice class

only if fresh Mallards are not available. If pigeons or game birds are used, a fresh bird will be used for each mark for each individual dog.

(D.) No live bird shall be used in any stake while under any form of restraint or physical impairment during the trial. Live flushes must be used for all stakes. **Baskets, boxes and other means of simulating an artificial flush may not be utilized.**

(E.) The LHTC shall appoint one or more Game Stewards to care for all live birds and to arrange for the proper disposal of all harvested game. Game birds should be cleaned and packaged during the UH, so that no bird is wasted. Each club shall be required to provide a game cleaning station that will include the following as a minimum: Cleaning table, game shears, access to clean water, trash receptacle and a cooler with ice for the clean birds. Handlers should be encouraged to clean their own birds, and the host club must clean all remaining game birds. The proper handling, processing and disposal of harvested game birds will be a major determinant in the BSS UH club approval process.

IX. Marshals

The LHTC shall appoint a marshal for each stake whose duty it shall be to assist the judges and to carry out their instructions, including regulating and controlling the gallery, and seeing that the gallery is kept separate from and behind the judges and that no one converses or interferes with the judges, handler, dog or gunners while a dog is working. The marshal shall also advise the handlers and judges as to the boundaries of the course. The marshal has the authority to control the gallery and may excuse anyone who does not comply with his/her instructions.

X. Additional Guidelines

- (A.) At the handler=s option, in any stake, a dog may run with a flat collar only. Choke, pinch, prong, spike collars and electric or dummy collars shall not be worn by a dog on the Upland hunt test grounds.
- (B.) In all stakes on land, if flushed birds are missed or cannot be shot safely, dead birds should be thrown and a shotgun fired for the dog to make its retrieve(s) in order that retrieving ability may be judged.
- (C.) Bitches in season shall not be eligible for entry and shall not be allowed on the grounds. Entry fees paid for a bitch withdrawn because of coming into season, or for a dog withdrawn because of illness or injury, or for a dog that dies, shall be refunded in full provided such a request is received by the LUHT Secretary within five (5) days of the completion of the trial. All refund requests must be accompanied by a written veterinarian certification.
- (D.) The LHTC will designate an exercise/airing area. Tossing of “happy bumpers” is permitted in this designated area only. No training, severe correction or disciplining of dogs is permitted on any part of the field trial grounds. If such serious training is observed by another competitor or attendee at the event then a complaint must be filed immediately with the LHTC for review and dissemination for appropriate action. Such action could be expulsion of the offending party from the Upland hunt test.
- (E.) Handlers are responsible for controlling their dogs at all times. Any dog or handler interfering with the testing of another dog may be subject to disqualification at the judge=s discretion.
- (F.) All persons participating in or observing any event are expected to maintain reasonable silence and display good manners. Persons who

- interfere with the orderly process of any stake may be instructed by the judges, marshal or LHTC to leave the Upland hunt test grounds.
- (G.) Unless otherwise instructed by the judges, dogs are being tested from the time that they are called to the line until they have left the same line and are behind the judges and on leash/lead.
 - (H.) Unless otherwise instructed, a dog is to be released by the handler on the judge=s command.
 - (I.) Handlers must not allow their dog to view the water series test of the class in which they are entered. Violation of this section is grounds for elimination.
 - (J.) All water series in all stakes should allow the dog to be cast from as close to the water=s edge as feasible.
 - (K.) Dogs that require help from bird boys/bird throwers will be disqualified; Stone or object throwing is not permissible.
 - (L.) Dogs will be eliminated for unprovoked fighting or attacking handlers, spectators, judges, etc. Dogs that are disqualified under this section must immediately be confined. It shall be the duty of the marshal and/or judges to immediately report to the LHTC the expulsion of a dog under this section. The LHTC Secretary shall submit to the Board of Directors of the BSS a complete report of any action taken under this section.
 - (M.) A re-run may be granted if, in the opinion of the judges an unfair or unforeseen circumstance occurs during the trial. It shall be the option of the handler to immediately re-run the dog or to wait three (3) dogs, if that number remains, down the line.
 - (N.) Additional re-casts may be awarded by the judges without penalty if in the judges opinion the dog has been distracted by outside interference.
 - (O.) Dogs shall be worked singly in all field stakes with the order of

running decided by lot at the draw for all stakes. Such draw shall be determined by the LHTC in advance of the event. Dogs worked by the same handler shall be separated when possible. Dogs may be run in an order different from the order in which they are drawn when, in the opinion of the judges and the LHTC such running order change will result is a reasonable and desirable saving of time in the conduct of the event.

(P.) Trapped birds shall not count as flushed birds. Birds are considered flushed when they take wing and are no longer within reach of the dog . Trapping birds shall not be considered a fault.

(Q.) All birds retrieved shall be examined by one of the judges. A dog that renders a bird unfit for consumption shall be disqualified, but the judges must agree that the dog alone was responsible for the damage.

(R.) Open, Intermediate and Novice dogs should be sent on all reasonable retrieves as long as they are safe (no fences, roads, etc.). On long falls the handler may, after sending the dog,

move

up to within reasonable proximity of the fall in order to handle

the

dog. The judges shall determine what is reasonable based on site conditions such as cover, terrain, and weather during the Hunt.

(S.) Disqualifying traits

- (1.) Refusal to hunt
- (2.) Blinking birds
- (3.) Consistent failure to find birds
- (4.) Viciousness, gun shyness, out of control
- (5.) Hard mouth

- (6.) Retrieve refusal
- (7.) A dog discarding game for other interests

(T.) Mechanical wingers may be used in the series involving retrieving .

(U.) Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- (1.) It shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct if a person during the running of, or in conjunction with an event abuses or harasses a judge, official, or any other person present in any capacity at the.
- (2.) Any person who displays unsportsmanlike conduct or is seen to kick, strike, or otherwise roughly treat a dog while on the grounds of the Hunt Test at any time during the running of such event, may be expelled from the hunt by the LHTC.
- (3.) The judges shall also have the authority to expel a person if they observe unsportsmanlike conduct, or see a person kicking, striking, or otherwise roughly treating a dog while the event is in progress. It will be the duty of the judges to promptly report such expulsion to the LHTC.
- 4) The LHTC shall investigate at once any instance of alleged unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of any person or handler, or any report that a person or handler has been observed kicking, striking or otherwise roughly treating a dog. Improper behavior such as excessive alcohol consumption which leads to belligerence with others in attendance or to physical confrontations with others will not be tolerated and will

lead to immediate dismissal from the event and immediate expulsion from the hunt test and disqualification of all dogs receiving a pass run by that handler, trainer or owner involved. If the LHTC, after investigation, determines that a person or handler is in violation of this section and that the incident, if proven, would constitute conduct prejudicial to the sport or the Boykin Spaniel Society, then said UHTC shall within thirty (30) days file a report with the Board of Directors of the Boykin Spaniel Society for review with further possible disciplinary action from the BSS.

Regulations and Field Procedures for the Novice Class

Sec. 1.

The Novice Dog Upland stake shall consist of a minimum of Two (2) tests, which

shall include the following:

One upland test to give each dog the opportunity to flush and retrieve three (3) birds.

A single marked water retrieve not to exceed 30 yards and not less than 20 yards. Time and weather permitting all dogs should be allowed to run all series, regardless of performance.

Sec. 2.

Novice dogs must find and have an opportunity to flush and retrieve three (3) birds in each of the land series. Time, weather or other constraints may affect this section. The judges will have the final say on number of bird contacts and retrieves.

Sec. 3.

A Novice dog must demonstrate a desire to hunt in an enthusiastic manner and demonstrate the ability to retrieve. The Novice dog should show no fear of cover, exhibit a reasonable response to commands (Whistle, hand or verbal), and maintain a reasonable working distance from its handler. (The Novice dog does not need to be steady to wing and /or shot).

Sec. 4

The Novice dog should be a pleasurable hunting companion. Running out of control and clearing a field of birds is not a preferred ability. The Novice dog does not need to be steady to wing and /or shot. However the Novice dog should show a degree of control that allows the handler to call the dog off of a flyaway, so as not to clear the field of other birds.

Sec. 5.

If the dog has been unable to demonstrate its ability to retrieve on land by the third bird contact, the judges will set up a single marked retrieve test from a

distance of no more than forty, (40) yards. The dog is required to be steady at the point of origin, however, it may have a leash line or slip lead around its neck and/or may be held by gently placing a hand on the chest of the dog to achieve steadiness. A designated gunner shall fire a shot when the bird is thrown, but only after receiving full instruction from a judge. Completion of this test will satisfy the requirement that the dog completes at least one marked land retrieve.

Sec. 6.

If the Novice dog finds and flushes three birds and the gunners miss all birds then that will be considered A **No-bird** series and the judges will set up a single marked retrieve test. *See Section 5.*

Sec. 7.

A Novice dog may be restrained gently on line at the Water series by means of a slip lead or a finger under the collar as long as the dog is not leaping into the air and/or pulling strenuously against the handler.

Sec. 8.

Novice dogs are not required to deliver to hand, however retrieves must be completed to close proximity (generally within two (2) steps) of the handler. Excessive shouting, whistling or signaling shall be considered a moderate fault and evaluated accordingly.

Sec. 9.

During the Water series bird boys can be in clear view of the dog. Bird boys shall use an attention- getting device (duck or game bird call) prior to the bird being thrown. In addition, when the bird reaches the top of its arc; a designated gunner will fire a shot from the line.

A. Should the handler opt not to restrain the dog, a controlled break

shall not fail a dog but shall result in a lower appraisal. If a dog is immediately steadied by non-excessive voice or whistle, a controlled break is a minor infraction.

B. Bank running, while not preferred, is permitted. Tests should be set up so as to make bank running as uninviting as possible.

C. A novice dog may be cast two (2) times from the line.

Regulations and Field Procedures for the Intermediate Class:

Sec. 1.

The Intermediate Dog Upland Field stake shall consist of four (4) parts, which shall include the following:

One land test to give each dog the opportunity to flush and retrieve three (3) birds.

One walk up test.

A land blind not to exceed 30 yards.

Two single marked water retrieves at a distance no more than 40 yards and no less than 25 yards in open water. A diversionary mark may be thrown during the dog's return of the final water retrieve.

Sec. 2.

Intermediate dogs must find, and have an opportunity to flush and retrieve to hand at least three (3) birds in the land test. Time, weather or other constraints may affect this section. The judges will have the final say on number of bird contacts and retrieves.

Sec. 3.

The Intermediate dog must show true boldness to cover, a pattern addressing the course objectives and an intense desire to hunt. A proper working distance and independent hunting sense should be maintained. An Intermediate dog should not constantly look to the handler for directions and should not give the appearance of being led to the birds.

Sec. 4.

Intermediate dogs are required to be steady to flush, shot and fall. Controlled breaks are allowed, but shall be marked down. The Intermediate dog is not expected to be a polished performer and moderate voice and whistle commands are acceptable to gain compliance.

Sec 5.

The walk up test is to simulate a jump shooting opportunity. The Dog should walk quietly at heel with minimal reminders to heel. Loud and repetitive commands from the handler, which would disturb the hunt would be grounds for failure. Intermediate

dogs are required to be steady on the walk up portion of the testing. A controlled break would not disqualify the dog, but should be marked down. The walk up bird may be hand thrown or mechanically launched by the bird boy. Handlers must fire a popper at the walk up mark.

Sec. 6.

If the dog is unable to demonstrate its ability to mark and retrieve on land following the third bird contact, the judges will set up a single marked retrieve test. The dog is required to be line steady. This test shall consist of one retrieve from a distance of no more than forty yards. A designated gunner shall fire a shot when the dead bird is thrown, but only after receiving full instruction from a judge. Completion of this test will satisfy the requirement that the dog completes at least one marked land retrieve.

Sec. 7.

An Intermediate dog must be line steady at the Water series and deliver all birds to hand.

- A. The judges are responsible for determining when the handler is to send the dog.
- B. Bank running, while permitted, should be kept to a minimum.
- C. Intermediate dog should show eagerness to enter the water. The dog may be cast two (2) times and after the second refusal to enter the water shall be disqualified
- D. Controlled breaks shall not disqualify a dog but should be marked down.

Sec.8.

Handlers will be required to fire a shotgun (loaded with poppers/blanks) at each mark during the water test. Handlers are expected to shoulder, aim, track and fire just as they would when hunting. GUN SAFETY IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE. Mishandling of a firearm will result in immediate disqualification.

Sec. 9.

Bird boys must be hidden. Prior to throwing each mark, bird boys must use an attention getting device (duck or game bird call).

Sec. 10.

The water marks must be widely separated with an angle of at least forty-five (45) degrees between the two falls.

Regulations and Field Procedures for the Open Class

Sec. 1.

The Open Dog stake shall consist of a minimum of Three (3) tests which shall include at least the following.

One Upland test to give each dog the opportunity to flush and retrieve at least three (3) birds.

One water test consisting of a double mark with an honor at a distance not more than fifty (50) yards, nor less than forty (40) yards.

One blind water retrieve at a distance not to exceed forty (40) yards. The blind retrieve may be incorporated with marked retrieves.

Sec. 2.

Open dogs must find, and have the opportunity to flush and retrieve to hand at least three (3) birds during the land test. Under reasonable conditions, not more than ten (10) minutes per series should be required to find birds.

Sec. 3.

An Open dog must show all of the attributes of the Intermediate dog, but must also give a finished performance clearly defining it as such. It must be under the control of the handler at all times and must handle kindly with an absolute minimum of noise and hacking by the handler. An Open dog must show a keen desire to hunt, must have a bold and attractive manner of running, and must demonstrate not only intelligence in seeking objectives, but also excellent ability to find game. The open dog must hunt for its handler at all times at a suitable gun range, showing a fine Spaniel pattern and experienced hunting independence. The dog must locate game, flush with intent and must be absolutely steady to wing and shot without excessive handling in both land and water portions of the test. Intelligent use of the wind and terrain in locating game, an accurate nose, and intensity are essential.

Sec. 4.

An Open dog must be steady to wing and shot and will be disqualified for the failure to demonstrate this trained ability. A controlled break, depending on circumstances, shall not necessarily fail the dog, but must be considered a serious fault. Repeated evidence of unsteadiness shall be cause for failure.

Sec. 5.

If the dog is unable to demonstrate its ability to mark and retrieve on land following the third bird contact, the judges will set up a single marked retrieve from a

distance of no more than sixty yards. The dog is required to be steady. . A designated gunner shall fire a shot when the bird is thrown, but only after receiving full instruction from a judge. Completion of this test will satisfy the requirement that the dog completes at least one marked land retrieve. This retrieve should be set up to most accurately reproduce similar retrieves observed by other dogs during the days hunt.

Sec. 6.

An Open dog must be steady at the line in the Water test and must deliver all birds to hand. The Open dog must show eagerness to enter the water. Excessive handling, including whistle and/or cast refusals, on water- marks shall be judged a moderate fault.

Sec. 7.

Handlers will be required to fire a shotgun (loaded with blanks) at each mark during the water test. Handlers are expected to shoulder, aim, track and fire just as they would if hunting. GUN SAFETY IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE. Mishandling of a firearm will result in immediate disqualification.

Sec. 8.

Bird boys must be hidden from view of the dog. Prior to throwing each mark, the bird boys must use an attention-getting device(duck or game bird call).

Sec. 9.

Upon successful completion of the water- marks each dog shall be required to honor another dogs work. Once the working dog is well on its way to the first retrieve, the judges shall excuse the honor dog. Neither the honor dog nor its handler shall interfere with the working dog.