

Wisconsin Championship Hunting Series Rules & Regulations

2009-2010

MODIFIED FOR SCOREKEEPERS

last updated: 8/17/2009

Pre-Run Requirements

- All competitors must arrive at the host club, check in, and give full payment at least 45 minutes prior to their first run.
- Competitors may be escorted to their field or asked to report to a staging area. If so, arrive at the host club or staging area 10 minutes prior to the run. Otherwise, competitors must arrive at the field check-in area 10 minutes prior to the run.
- Competitors will not be allowed to watch the run preceding nor the stocking of their run.
- Guns may be 12 gauge or smaller, no shells over 2 3/4". No shot larger than #5.

Dogs

- Dog owners (not the WCHS, PBHT of Wisconsin, host clubs, event employees and volunteers, and Series and event sponsors) assume 100% liability for actions of their dogs.
- Dogs shall be leashed at all times other than during runs or while in a designated exercise area.
- All dogs will be entered in the division that is the standard for the breed.
- For Challenge events, dogs in heat will not be accepted for entry unless placed last in the day. For Championship and Wisconsin State Invitational events, dogs in heat may not be allowed to enter.
- A dog competing in the Puppy division must be under the age of 24 months as of April 18, 2010 for that season.

Safety & Sportsmanship Rules

- Good sportsmanship is required at all times.
- Competitors, spectators, and their vehicles may be limited to designated areas only.
- Competitors must not communicate with the spectators while in the field.
- Firearm safety -
 - Hunters (not the WCHS, PBHT of Wisconsin, host clubs, event employees and volunteers, and Series and event sponsors) are responsible for the safe use of firearms at all times.
 - Guns will remain cased at all times, except during runs.
 - Competitors must wear blaze orange clothing.
 - Eye protection is strongly recommended for all competitors and spectators in or near competition fields for your own safety. Hunters and spectators (not the WCHS, PBHT of Wisconsin, host clubs, event employees and volunteers, and Series and event sponsors) assume 100% liability for injury.
 - Hunters may not run with firearms, loaded or unloaded, at any time. NO EXCEPTIONS! Teams will be given one warning for running, after which, at the scorekeeper's discretion, a 3-point penalty will be assessed on the second infraction. The third occurrence will result in disqualification. Scorekeepers may regulate the speed at which hunters may walk as field conditions may dictate. Not running means one foot on the ground at all times.
- Harvesting birds -
 - Upon physical examination of a shot bird, scorekeepers may assess 3 penalty points without discussion or appeal, for any bird shot at close range that is caused to explode.
 - All competitors are responsible for maintaining a positive public image. Harvested birds shall either be deposited in designated collection areas or transported to and from fields in a concealed manner. If birds are field dressed, all remains must be disposed of in proper containers.
- Competitors may be disqualified from a run, event, or the entire series due to delinquent behavior. Examples of delinquent behavior are listed below. The effect of disqualification on other teams shall be considered luck of the draw.

- careless use of firearms
- abusing a dog
- abusing event officials and/or employees
- dishonest play/failure to obey rules
- shooting any bird on the ground
- stomping or “drop kicking” birds
- improper disposal of harvested birds/remains
- shooting more than the allowed limit of birds
- an out of control dog that is out of bounds
- failure to arrive on-time thus avoiding scheduled run time (exception: the delay was due to delays in another competition field directly affecting that competitor)

Setting of Birds

- At Challenge events, all sets in the Double division will be six chukar partridge and Amateur, Puppy, and Single will be four chukar. At the Double Championship, all sets in the Main Event Double will be six chukar partridge and Pro/Am will be four chukar partridge. The Wisconsin State Invitational sets will be announced at a later date.
- Birds will be randomly set no closer than 50 feet from the edge of the competition field. The distance of the closest and the farthest birds from the starting gate will be the same for all competitors.
- First run of the day in all divisions will receive 1 extra bird per field.
- Fields will not be stocked without an on deck competitor(s).
- Any bird leaving the field after stockers have left the field shall be considered luck of the draw and will not be replaced.
- Birds accidentally released from crates or by stockers that land in bounds shall be considered part of the “set”.
- Birds entering the field from out of bounds during the run shall be legal game and considered luck of the draw.
- In the event a bird is bumped out of the field by a stocker, an additional bird will be planted to replace the bumped bird. Replacement birds will be set as quickly as possible in the approximate location of the bumped bird.
- If the run begins before the scorekeeper is notified of bumped bird(s) out of the field, the run shall stand as scored, and a re-run will not be allowed.

Competition Afield

- Electronic training collars will be permitted in all divisions. Abusive use of training collars may result in disqualification.
- Boundaries -
 - Hunters and dogs may go out of bounds at the scorekeeper’s discretion provided they stay on club property and will not be permitted to hunt in other competitor’s fields.
 - In the case of two-competitor divisions, birds may be found and retrieved with full credit for find and bird, but hunters cannot shoot their guns while out of bounds.
 - In the case of one-competitor divisions and with the scorekeeper's permission, birds pointed out of bounds may be flushed, shot, and retrieved to in bounds for retrieve points.
 - Retrieve points shall be awarded only if the dog brings the bird back to the hunter in bounds. In the case of the last bird, the clock does not stop until the retrieve is received in bounds.
 - Any bird flushed out of bounds that is shot from in bounds is a legal bird.
- Shells are not interchangeable between hunters. Once the total amount of shells allotted for the run have been used, the run shall stop and full time shall be assessed. The hunter(s) must leash the dog and leave the field immediately. The effect of the run finishing early on the next run(s) shall be considered luck of the draw.
- Find points -
 - Flushers

- 15 points shall be awarded when, in the scorekeeper's opinion, the bird was trapped or caused to take flight by any action of the dog or by a hunter in close proximity to a dog making game.
 - Pointers
 - 15 points shall be awarded, when, in the scorekeeper's opinion, the dog establishes point (fixed feet) for five seconds and a bird is flushed by a competitor or flushes on its own. If, in the scorekeeper's opinion, the dog advances by way of taking a step(s) before the five seconds have been counted, the five second count may be restarted when the dog again establishes point.
 - 10 points shall be deducted, when, in the scorekeeper's opinion, the dog "traps" or "catches" the bird after a 15 point find has been awarded. A "trapped" or "caught" bird is considered a bird in the dog's mouth, even if the dog releases the bird allowing the competitor to shoot the bird.
 - A "whoa" or other command to point a bird found by competitors, but not by the dog, is not a find.
 - In the scorekeeper's opinion, if the competitor makes a honest attempt to gently foot flush the bird three times and it does not fly, it can be considered a non-performing bird with no penalty.
 - The maximum number of finds shall not exceed the number of birds in the set.
- Retrieves/Partial Retrieves
 - 12 points will be awarded for each full retrieve up to the established quota.
 - 8 points will be awarded for each partial retrieve. A partial retrieve is defined as the dog finding and picking up the bird, and making an attempt to bring the bird to the handler.
 - To receive full retrieve points, a competitor, and his/her partner, must keep one foot stationary after a bird is shot, or once the dog is released to retrieve.
 - A competitor may kneel down but not lay down to retrieve a bird.
 - A competitor may not physically assist a dog (outside the one-step distance limit) in a retrieve and receive full points.
 - Objects thrown to direct a dog toward a downed bird shall be limited to objects naturally found in that particular field (i.e. snow, dirt, small stones, etc).
 - A competitor may not use any objects (a stick, gun, jacket, etc.) to reach a bird dropped past the single-step distance limit.
 - If the time limit has elapsed and a bird has been shot, the hunter has a thirty second grace period to complete the retrieve. If the retrieve is not completed within the allotted time limit, no points will be awarded for a bagged bird or a retrieve.
 - In the event of a shot bird dropped or crash lands in another competitor's field, the retrieve will be allowed at the scorekeeper's discretion.
 - If a pointing dog goes on point or a flushing dog gets birdie while making a retrieve, the dog handler and shooter may move to flush the second bird with no penalty on the first bird. However, he must use the second flush as a stationary position for both birds, and if no bird is produced (seen by the scorekeepers) the first bird can be scored as no more than a partial retrieve.
- If a bird cannot be presented to a judge at the end of a run, zero points will be awarded for the bagged bird with one exception: an awarded safety shot. For example, birds in trees, on vehicles, crossing roads, etc. will not be considered bagged birds under any circumstances.
- A gun malfunction by either teammate shall be considered bad luck. It is the option of the individual to get another gun, and the hunter cannot appoint someone else to leave or enter the field in his/her place. The remaining gun may be shared.
- Should an errant dog from another field enter the legal field after the clock has started, all birds flushed out of the field shall be scored in full at the time of the flush. In the event a bird flushed out of the legal field is the last bird for that run, the clock shall stop and a 2-point penalty shall be assessed. If the errant dog flushes more birds than what would end the run, those birds will be replaced on the next run that day. If an errant dog enters the field before the clock starts, only those birds flushed out of the field shall be replaced.
- Should a scorekeeper cause a bird to flush during the course of the run, the bird shall be scored as a "Safety Bird" (see Calling a Safety) and all points shall be awarded in full with a shell taken from the competitor. If

a competitor shoots at a bird flushed by a scorekeeper, the safety is “off”, and points shall be awarded as earned. Note: If the dog was not making game at the time of the flush, and a shot is fired, find points shall not be awarded.

- Birds must show life at the beginning of the find to be scored in any way.
- In situations not specifically covered under the rules, the scorekeeper will be allowed to use common sense to arrive at a decision. Scorekeeper's decisions can be appealed to the Field Marshal(s) only after the run has been completed. The Field Marshal(s) shall have the final say in all Series matter or rules, written or not written.
- A competitor may not follow himself into the field. If a competitor must run back to back, and the first run does not harvest all the bird(s), any bird(s) left from the set must be removed from the field prior to the second run.
- Rules and scoring may vary at Championship events.

Calling a Safety

- In the event of an obstruction resulting in a safety, the appropriate points shall be awarded for all birds, including the final bird as determined by the scorekeeper. In the case of a final bird safety, the clock will not stop until the dog is leashed.
- A safety may be requested in the event of an obstruction, such as a scorekeeper, dog, vehicle, spectator, paved roadway, or building.
- Hunters intentionally flushing birds toward obstructions shall be disqualified.
- Safety points cannot be awarded on a partner.
- A safety may be awarded even though only one member of the team is in a position to shoot at the bird. Should the other member of the team be, in the scorekeeper's opinion, in a position for a clear shot and fail to do so, the request for safety shall be void.
- If at any time prior to or following the request for safety, the subject bird has been shot at, the safety is off.
- A bird for which a safety has been awarded shall be scored as appropriate and a shell forfeited by the hunter that requested a safety.
- In the event of a bird being shot at and turning toward an obstruction after being missed, it shall be considered luck of the draw.
- In the event of a request for safety where the dog has failed to establish a find, safety points shall be awarded in full less the points for the find.
- If a flush involves multiple birds flying towards an obstruction, the maximum of two birds shall be allowed as safety birds.
- All other safety requirements must apply.

Following the Run

- Immediately following the clock being stopped or time expiring, guns will be unloaded and the dog brought to leash.
- Competitors will use the least intrusive route leaving the field so as not to disturb any remaining birds. If any birds are bumped out of the field from the time the run is over until the bird stockers plant the next run, those birds shall be replaced, in addition to the set.
- Competitors must be able to produce the “birds bagged” at the end of the run. In the event bird(s) are missing from the bag, and time allows, the competitors will be returned to the field gate and the clock will resume to find or bag missing or other bird(s).
- Competitors must review the score, penalties, or other information on the score sheet. The competitor will then sign the score sheet in the appropriate space. Information on the signed score sheet shall be considered final.
- Scorekeeper's decisions can be appealed to the Field Marshal(s) only after the run has been completed. The decision of the Field Marshal(s) to support, overturn, order a re-run, or any other considerations shall be final.

Scoring

- Scoring in all divisions shall be:
 - Find - 15 points
 - Caught Bird (pointing only) - 10 point deduction
 - Shells Remaining - 10 points
 - Full Retrieve - 12 points
 - Partial Retrieve - 8 points
 - Bird in Bag - 30 points
 - Penalty Points - 3 point deduction (Penalty points may be issued for bird explosion, competitor running, etc.)
 - Remaining Time - 3 points per minute and 0.05 points per second (Clock stops when the last bird in hand, with the exception a final bird safety.)
- Amateur, Ladies, Master, Single, and Youth division runs will last 15 minutes. Double, Mixed Double, and Puppy division runs will last 20 minutes.
- Amateur, Ladies, Master, Single, and Youth division competitors will be allowed 8 shells per run. Mixed Double and Puppy division competitors will be allowed 8 shells per run, 4 shells per competitor. Double division competitors will be allowed 12 shells per run, 6 shells per competitor.
- Rules and scoring may vary at Championship events.