

## **Process and Selection Criteria Document for Determining Guns for 2018 National Amateur and Gun Captain Duties**

### **Selection Process**

- 1) The Gun Captain and the Field Trial Committee members will propose guns to the Field Trial Chairman and Gun Captain utilizing the selection criteria outlined in the Selection Criteria section of this document. The Gun Captain will form a list of recommended Guns and investigate their interest and availability without issuing an invitation.
- 2) The Gun Captain will submit a list of primary candidates, which will be sanctioned by consensus of the Field Trial Committee. From this list, the Gun Captain will issue a formal letter of invitation to each gun outlining the expectations of the gun, the support the club will provide and confirming the interest and availability of the individual to participate on the team.
- 3) The Gun Captain will report back to the Field Trial Chairman and Secretary with a list of guns with their contact information for inclusion in the catalogue and premium list. The statement re alternate guns may be chosen at the discretion of the Field Trial Committee will be included in the premium list to address the potential need for substitution of a gun due to unforeseen circumstances.

### **Criteria for Selection of Guns and Process for Verification of Safety**

1. Preference will be given to guns that have shot or plan to shoot regularly at field trials in the current calendar year and are observed as fulfilling the role of a field trial gun successfully. “Regularly” is defined as 4 or more events in Canada or the USA. Successfully fulfilling the role of a field trial gun is expanded upon in this document.
2. Candidate guns must have had no verified safety issues. Safety will be verified by a National Field Trial Committee member speaking with the Gun Captain and the Field Trial Chairman of the club hosting the event that the issue is purported to have occurred at and reporting back to the National Field Trial Committee on their findings. A safety violation will be deemed to have occurred if, upon hearing the report of the National Field Trial Committee member, the majority of the Field Trial Committee votes in favor of a safety violation having occurred. These meetings of the Committee will be held in camera with only a ruling provided. The process is meant to ensure safety for National events without engaging in politics or labelling guns for other clubs. They are not meant to provide a registry of gunning or incidents; rather, they are the National Hosting Club’s best practice to ensure a quality and safe event. The length of a sanction of a gun is at the determination of the club. All sanctions of a gun should be considered carefully with the nature of the offense and its repetition weighing heavily into the decision. Our emphasis is on safety, recognizing we must educate and train Gun Team members to provide for a quality event and team and on fielding the best possible team to support the National.

3. National gun candidates must have been actively involved on a regular basis shooting over dogs and at training sessions, where regularly is defined as 5 or more sessions in a year. Preference will be given to those who routinely shoot at training sessions and demonstrate the qualities of a Field Trial gun.
4. Guns must be noted as a silent partner to the handler and dog in the field and post event, conducting themselves in a quiet and businesslike manner. They must keep in confidence their observations in the field so as not to negatively or unfairly influence or affect the event.
5. Guns must conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Ensuring their conduct at the entire event would lead to each individual gun being at the highest performance level and set a standard for others in providing an overall positive atmosphere surrounding the event.
6. Guns must be noted as striving for personal improvement in the craft of gunning.
7. Guns must shoot as a Gun Team member, displaying that they understand and can execute the craft of gunning for field trial dogs. The candidate must demonstrate a thorough understanding of team shooting and show that they can support their fellow guns. They must engage in back up shooting when safe to do so, take birds or pass on them according to what is advantageous to the dogs, and actively display faith in fellow teammates and support them. Any record of displays of an individual gun not effectively working as a gun teammate, or engaging in displays of a “shooting competition” at a field trial is to be considered as “not shooting for the dogs” and negatively impact a candidate’s selection to the Team. As a Team, we are looking for those who can kill the bird quickly and cleanly at the point most advantageous to the dog.
8. Guns must display a positive attitude towards teammates, competitors, volunteers and the dogs. They must be willing to take accountability for a job, pitching in and assisting with any of the many different aspects of the trial that require help.
9. As this is a hunting dog trial, preference will be given to Guns that own, train, trial, and hunt over Springer Spaniels. The dog is the central focus of the competition. If all other things are equal with regard to fulfillment of the abilities of a field trial gun, preference will be given to those individuals as Guns who have an investment and well-rounded interest in Spaniels that is born out of dog ownership. Well rounded competitors in the Field Trial game will be described as those who actively participate by competing in events, judging, gunning, hunting, training and owning spaniels.
- 10) All Candidates will be required to be physically fit to perform the task. Candidates should achieve a level of physical fitness that would be similar to a basic Canadian fitness test of being able to cover 5k over uneven ground in 30 mins or less. It is believed that this level of fitness is necessary to effectively manage a days shooting with field trial spaniels.