

Competitive Canine Association, LLC

Retrieving Series

Rev 4-22-08

Divisions

Spaniel, Retriever, Pointing Breed, & Pro

- 5 minute per station maximum time
- One retrieve at both stations equals one run
- Pro division has additional obedience objectives, a blind retrieve, and is open to all breeds.

General Scoring

- **Retrieve-** Pass / Fail
- **Time-** Time will be kept for tie-breaking purposes.
- **Obedience-** If obedience attempts cannot be met then the retrieve will have a penalty addition made to the retrieve clock.

Awards

- All dogs that have a passing score will be awarded a ribbon.
- All dogs that ribbon will be in the running for trophies as determined by the tie-breaker formula. Trophies will be awarded to the top three dogs in each division

Required Retrieves

Spaniel, Retriever, & Pointing Breed Divisions

- One 200' visual on land
- One 100' visual in water **OR** one 250' visual on land

Pro Division

- One 200' blind on land
- One 100' visual in water minimum **OR** one 300' visual on land

Note: The class in which the dog is entered in will be determined by the registration papers or general physical characteristics of the dog. If there is confusion as to division placement then the dog will be required to compete in the Pro division. Pro division is open to all breeds of dogs but any dog competing in the pro division will not be allowed to compete in any other division. Brittany Spaniels will be allowed to run in either or both the Spaniel and/or Pointing breed divisions.

Note: At conference or higher events, facilities with water stations will be strongly suggested by the CCA. Land stations should be established on terrain/cover that requires the dog to use their nose as well as visual marking ability. Terrain will be determined by the hosting facility and posted no later than two weeks before the event.

Disclaimer

It is the goal of the CCA-Retrieving Series to develop a set of rules that gives the handler and dog a guideline by which to conduct themselves during the event. It is also realized that situations can arise that may not have been covered in the rules and in these situations a ruling will be made by the hosting official. In these cases the hosting official will make the decision to the best of their ability in a common sense manner with **quality dog work** as a governing factor in the decision. Continuous improvement is the goal of the retrieving Series and any situations encountered during a competition will be evaluated for permanent recognition in the Retrieving Series rules.

Spectators

Spectators are welcome and encouraged to ask questions of officials and inactive competitors to gain knowledge of the CCA-Retrieving Series. Spectators are encouraged not to pet and/or engage with any dogs in any way. Spectators must not pass beyond the spectator line/barrier created at each retrieving station.

Sportsmanship

All competitors are required to adhere to the rules of good sportsmanship. Intimidation motives or abusive behavior towards any staff members (judges, time keepers, etc.) will not be tolerated. Competitors who do not comply with this requirement will receive a warning which will be communicated to the managing official. Only one warning will be permitted per competitor. Upon a second offense, the competitor will suffer a run disqualification. If such actions continue then the competitor will be disqualified from the entire event.

Retrieve Sequence and Requirements

- The handler and dog report to the retrieving course/station from behind the dog blind.
- The judge, time keeper, handler, and dog prepare for the retrieve.
- The dog and handler enter the retrieving circle.
- The dog must be within the retrieving circle and the handler must be in contact with the retrieving base.
- Under mutual agreement of the judge, time keeper, and handler, a bird call is sounded and shortly after the retrieving bumper is launched while a blank is fired (exception- blind retrieves). The firing of the blank signifies the start of the retrieving clock in all divisions.
- The dog must attempt to heal for the required time, as indicated by the time keeper, in order to avoid being penalized.
- The time keeper will notify the handler that the obedience objective has been met.
- The dog is now eligible to be released by the handler to make the retrieve with no time penalties assessed.
- The bumper must be in the handler's hand to stop the clock (exception- Pro class)
- The time is verbally announced by the judge and recorded by the time keeper.
- The course/station is exited.

Note: If a dog breaks the retrieving circle boundary prior to fulfilling the obedience objective, as indicated by the judge, then the dog will be assessed a time penalty to the overall retrieve

clock (exception- see controlled break). Once the clock is started it will continue running until the retrieve is accomplished or the five-minute maximum retrieve time is used up.

Note: For water retrieves the dog must pass through the retrieving gate when leaving and returning to the handler.

Note: For blind retrieves in the Pro division, the bumper will be placed or launched while the dog is in the on-deck dog blind. The clock will start under mutual agreement of the judge and handler once the dog is in the retrieving circle and the handler is on base. The judge will fire a blank gun thus indicating the start of the retrieving clock/obedience requirement time.

Scoring

Retrieve- Pass / Fail

- A proven retrieve is one in which the dog brings the retrieving bumper to the handler. The manner in which the bumper is brought back to the handler varies by class and are as follows:
 - Spaniel, Retriever, & Pointing Breed Divisions- within the obedience circle and directly from mouth to hand. The handlers hand cannot break the plane created by the retrieving circle when accepting the retrieve
 - Pro- into the obedience circle and directly from mouth to hand without touching the ground. The clock is stopped once the dog crosses the finish line.
- In each division the handler must grasp the bumper without losing contact with the retrieving base.
- The bumper must be under physical control of the handler in order for the clock to stop in Spaniel, Retriever, & Pointing Breed Divisions.
- The handler should remain on the base during the retrieve. The only exception is moving left or right, perpendicular to the retrieve, to direct the dog during the retrieve. In this case the handler must be on the base to accept the bumper.
- The handler may use an E-collar during the retrieve. Leads or other physical means will not be allowed.

Time-

- Time will be kept in the form of a retrieve clock and will be used for tie-breaking purposes for all dogs that pass the retrieve. The maximum allowable retrieve time per station will be 5 minutes. All dogs competing will have their retrieve time documented for both retrieving stations. All dogs that have a passing retrieve at each station will be in the running for placement. The dog with the lowest accumulative retrieve clock time will win. If a dog is entered more than once in a particular class then the times will be kept by attempt meaning that the first retrieve time from station one will be added to the first retrieve time from station two etc.

Obedience-

- There must be an attempt at obedience (five second heal), prior to the release of the dog onto the retrieving course, to avoid a time penalty. This objective must be attempted using

commands only and no direct physical contact. The retrieve clock will be running during the obedience attempt. If a retrieve is made without fulfilling the obedience requirement then that retrieve will be assessed a time penalty of 30 seconds.

- **Controlled Break-** If a dog breaks the obedience circle, prior to the five second requirement being met, the handler can command the dog to return to the obedience circle and reattempt the requirement. If the dog returns to the obedience circle and satisfies the requirement, while the clock is running, the thirty second penalty will not be assessed.
- **Pro class dogs** must retrieve the bumper to the handler and hold/present the bumper for five seconds, heeling or sitting, prior to the handler taking the bumper. This requirement will happen while the retrieve clock is stopped due to the fact that the dog had crossed the Pro division finish line. If the dog drops the bumper at any time between the finish line and the handler taking the bumper then the attempt will be given a failing score.

General Rules

Stocking:

- Stocking shall include one retrieving bumper at each station.
- One retrieving bumper will be launched or placed into each designated set area with as much consistency as possible. A mechanical means of stocking will be strongly recommended by the CCA for all stations other than blind retrieve stations.

Courses: The courses will consist of a handler base, obedience circle, fairway, and set area.

- **Handler Base-** A predetermined object by which the handler must stay in contact with for the dog to be able to complete the retrieve.
- **Obedience Circle-** A 5' diameter circle in which the dog must bring the bumper back to and also must remain within to satisfy the obedience objective.
- **Fairway-** The area, land or water, between the obedience circle and set area.
- **Set Area-** The predetermined area in which the retrieving bumper is placed or launched.

Note: Land stations should be established on terrain/cover that requires the dog to use their nose as well as visual marking ability.

Water Course Retrieving Gate- Two posts will be placed approximately 2 feet into the water line and 30 feet apart to create a gate which the dog must pass through when leaving and returning to the handler.

Pro Class Finish Line- A line created 10' in front of the retrieving circle which is used by the judge to stop the clock once the dog crosses it. The dog must have the bumper in their mouth when crossing the line.

On Deck Blind (Dog Blind) - A barrier created 30' behind the designated retrieving station in which the dogs must be prior to their turn on the retrieving station. The blind should be located such that the on deck dog cannot see the active retrieve in process. All other waiting teams

should be positioned in such a way that the dogs cannot see the active area of the retrieving course.

Run Completion- Following all competitions the dog should be brought to lead and the handler should promptly leave the station.

Ties- If a tie remains on the scoreboard after the time tie-breaker has been utilized, then another trophy will be purchased by the sponsoring club and any monetary winnings will be split between the two dogs. If the tying runs end up being the last place for advancement to the next level of competition then both dogs will advance to the next competitive level.

A Dog Entering Another Course- If a dog leaves its designated course and moves into another active course, it is the responsibility of the handler with his voice, whistle, or E-collar to regain control of the dog. If the handler cannot gain control of the dog, they can physically go onto the course, only with permission of the judge in the invaded course, and lead or carry the dog out.

Training Aids- E-collars are permissible but any other devices are not.

Disqualification-

- Handlers who receive a run disqualification are not entitled to reimbursement of their entry fees, and reruns are not permitted. In addition, times will not be posted and prizes will not be awarded for that run. A run disqualification will be assessed for any of the following reasons:
 - Continually disregarding judge's warnings concerning competition rules.
 - Being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
 - Misuse / abuse of an E-collar

Scheduling Guidelines

Run- A run will consist of one cycle of attempts, or one attempt at each of the two individual retrieving stations per class. The maximum number of runs for any dog in any class is three.

Run Scheduling- No back-to-back retrieves will be allowed by any dog or handler at any station. A dog must report to the end of the retrieving cycle if multiple attempts are required for some reason. If only one dog is on the course at a given time then sufficient time must elapse prior to another qualifying attempt.

Dog in Heat- The promoter may accept dog in heat entries provided they are placed at the end of the event so as to not affect other dogs in the competition. In this case an individual dog would be allowed back to back attempts as long as sufficient time had elapsed.

Pulling of entries- If a competitor pulls an entry for any reason, other than serious injury or family emergencies, all fees will still be assessed.

Definitions

Judge- The individual that operates the retrieve clock and makes official rulings during the competition. The judge should also notify/assist handlers that are doing something that could jeopardize their dog receiving a passing score.

Scorekeeper- The individual that documents the overall retrieve time by filling out the score sheet at the end of that particular retrieve. The scorekeeper will also act as a judge's consultant.