

**RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED TO THE FIELD TRIALS
COMMITTEE FROM THE FIELD TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL HELD AT THE
KENNEL CLUB ON 06 MAY 2026**

PROPOSALS

Proposed amendment to Regulation K2.c.(3) - Drive Certificates at Novice Driven
Trials
Cheshire, North Wales and Shropshire Spaniel and Retriever Society

The Council proposed that Regulation K2.c.(3) be amended to allow Drive Certificates to be awarded at Novice or All Aged driven trials to alleviate the pressure on judges at Open trials.

The Committee agreed that the proposed amendment would allow more dogs the opportunity to be awarded a Drive Certificate. Following a review of the proposed wording, the Committee **approved** the following amended proposal.

Regulation K2.c.(3)

TO:

(3) Proviso for all Retrievers

Before any Retriever is entitled to be described as a Field Trial Champion it must also have a Water and Drive Certificate. **These must have been conducted before two Panel judges, one of whom must be an A Panel.** The Water Certificate must have been conducted ~~before two Panel judges, one of whom must be an A Panel, at one of the following:~~ **at** the Retriever Championship, a Field Trial Open Stake, or at a subsequent special test. (J(A)2 refers.) The Drive Certificate must be conducted ~~before two Panel judges, one of whom must be an A Panel, at the Retriever Championship, or a Field Trial Open Stake, or~~ **at any other Field Trial Stake if the dog has been awarded 1st, 2nd or 3rd.**

(Insertion in Bold. Deletion struck through)

(Effective 2 February 2027)

Proposed amendment to Regulation J(E)1 - Water Tests at HPR Trials
German Wirehaired Pointer Club, Worcestershire Gundog Society, and the German Longhaired Pointer Club

The Council proposed that Regulation J(E)1 be amended to reinstate the Water Test at HPR Field Trials. The Committee was in favour of reinstating the Water Test at HPR Field Trials. Following a lengthy discussion the Committee agreed that the

proposed wording for the regulation amendment warranted further review between the HPR representatives and the office and would be discussed further at the Field Trials Committee's meeting in September.

Proposed amendment to Regulation J(A)3.n - Judges' evaluations on all judges
East Anglian Labrador Retriever Club

The Council proposed that regulation J(A)3.n be amended to allow all judges to provide feedback on all co-judges at the trial.

The Committee noted that there was already a procedure in place for concerns raised at trials regarding an A panel or senior judge, whereby a Non-Panel or B panel judge should report any concerns through the incident book which would be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club.

Therefore, the Committee agreed that as there was already a procedure, it did not recommend the proposal for approval.

Proposed amendment to Regulation J4.c.(1)(viii), J6.(a)(ii) and J6.(c) - Closing dates
for entries
Mrs Carpenter

The Council proposed that regulations J4.c.(1)(viii), J6.(a)(ii) and J6.(c) be amended to ensure that the requirements relating to the closing dates for entries were located in the appropriate sections of the J regulations, providing greater clarity for secretaries and competitors.

Following a discussion to ensure that the amendment was as concise as possible, the following amendment was suggested.

Regulation J4.c.(1)(viii)

TO:

(viii) The latest date for receiving applications for entry **must be a minimum of 14 days prior to the stake.**

(Insertion in Bold)

(Effective from 2 February 2027)

The Committee **approved** the regulation amendment to J4.c.(1)(viii).

The Committee did not approve the addition of regulation J6.(a)(ii) as the Committee was of the opinion that it did not fit under Entries and repeated what was stated in J4.c.(1)(viii).

The Committee did not recommend the Council's amendment to J6.(c) as the Committee was of the opinion that the amendment did not fit under Entries and the amendment to J4.c.(1)(viii) was sufficient.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Reducing the length of two-day Open Retriever stakes Cheshire, North Wales and Shropshire Spaniel and Retriever Society

The Council discussed whether a two-day open retriever trial could be finished in one day under certain circumstances. The Council was of the opinion that it did not warrant further consideration and that Societies holding two-day retriever trials were not permitted to reduce the stake to one day.

The Committee queried whether exceptional circumstances should be considered and agreed that in those circumstances the field trial secretary should consult with the Royal Kennel Club office and Field Trials Committee.

The Committee agreed with the Liaison Council's discussion, that any dog competing in a two day stake should be tested over two days, under all conditions wherever possible.

Correct procedure in a run off at a driven trial Utility Gundog Society

The Council requested guidance be added to the Field Trials Newsletter regarding an inexperienced non-panel judge being left unattended.

The Committee agreed to add the following guidance to the newsletter:

Panel judges should be careful in delegating too much responsibility or leaving less experienced judges unsupervised, which may result in procedural errors or jeopardise the outcome of the trial. It is advisable to use radios to retain communication if there is a situation where less experienced judges would be left unsupervised.

Talking to your dog or touching your dog during a trial or working test East Anglian Labrador Retriever Club

The Council requested guidance be added to the Field Trials Newsletter regarding handlers talking to their dog or touching their dog during a trial or working test.

The Committee agreed to add the following guidance to the newsletter:

The handler must not speak to the dog, except to instruct it to retrieve nor may the handler touch the dog if, in doing so, they are effectively restraining it. From time to time a handler may reassure their dog but should not do so when the dog is at a drive nor do so in a way which could be calculated to prevent the dog from running in.

It was noted it would be for the judges to assess the given situation on the day.

Toileting during a trial East Anglian Labrador Retriever Club

The Council requested guidance be added to the Field Trials Newsletter regarding rules around a dog toileting during a trial.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed that it was the judge's discretion and did not warrant further discussion.

IGL Retriever Championship Qualifications Utility Gundog Club

The Council discussed whether a dog placed second in the Retriever Championship should receive formal recognition equivalent to a B qualification.

The Committee agreed with the Liaison Councils discussion. It was noted that at a recent meeting the International Gundog League (Retrievers) Committee had voted unanimously to award a B qualification for the following year to the competitor coming second at the Championship each year.

Any Other Business

Novice Dog/Novice Handler

The Council reviewed the amended wording to regulation J(G)2.b.(4) regarding the GWT Novice Dog/Novice Handler. The Council discussed the amends and was of the view that Novice Dog/Novice Handler should not be listed in the regulations and recommended to the Field Trials Committee that the Novice Dog/Novice Handler regulation be removed altogether and instead fall under the Unclassified category.



The Committee noted the Councils discussion and agreed to remove regulation J(G)2(4).