



AFFILIATED WITH
UNITED KENNEL CLUB, INC.
Conceived by Hunters for Hunters"

HUNTING RETRIEVER CLUB, INC.

RUNNING RULES CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM

DATE: 2/6/2024

SUBMITTED/SPONSORED BY: Michael Bullen - Club President - BOD Member

CLUB NAME: Green Country Retriever Club

REGION: 9A

*(Submitted and Sponsored by - Please include Club or Home club if individual) *1*

CURRENT RULE - REFERENCE - PAGE AND PARAGRAPH NUMBER IN THE CURRENT HRC RULEBOOK:

SECTION III, Page 60, STARTED HUNT TESTS / HUNTING TEST

CURRENT RULE WORDING:

The hunting test must duplicate actual hunting conditions. Practical hunting distances must be used in all Started hunting retriever tests. Dead pheasants, pigeons, ducks or other game birds must be used for all hunting tests to gain championship points. Shot flyers shall not be used in the Started class.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

The hunting test must duplicate actual hunting conditions. Practical hunting distances must be used in all Started hunting retriever tests. Dead pheasants, pigeons, ducks, other game birds, OR SIMULATED MALLARD DRAKE (size/color specific) must be used for all hunting tests to gain championship points. Shot flyers shall not be used in the Started class.

JUSTIFICATION: *Game Bird Availability / Game Bird Cost / Longevity of the Sport*

This proposal is an opportunity to get out in front of a growing problem and plan for the continuation of our sport, our clubs and ensure the health / wellness of our Retrievers and our people. With implementation at the started level, HRC can watch and predict a time when it can and should be implemented at the higher stakes.

Game birds are becoming harder and harder to obtain and extremely expensive. Currently if a club plans on using Ducks, they can expect to pay \$20+ per bird. Pheasant and Chucker pricing / availability is not much better.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza

It is of no surprise that the Avian (bird) Flu continues to impact and threaten wild bird populations as well as game bird farmers and operations. In efforts to slow or stop the spread of deadly outbreaks among the wild and farm raised populations, many of the state wildlife agencies and disease control centers have begun to implement stronger requirements / regulations of the farm raised birds and the state / state transportation. These new regulations are seen as a root cause on the reduction of game bird operators as well as the cost and availability of the game birds. Clubs are already reporting availability is impacting their ability to hold hunt test. You must believe that the individual states Wildlife Departments and US Wildlife Department, Department of Agriculture and CDC are looking into mitigating the risk of spreading by imposing stringent regulations on Game Bird operations and the interstate transportation. Up to halting all interstate transportation of any live gamebirds without health clearances. A positive flu test currently requires the destruction of all live birds on the premises.

In Essence - we are 1 bird flu disaster away from losing any HT events.

¹ Running Rules proposals may be sponsored and submitted by: an HRC Club, U.K.C., Inc., Executive Committee Members, HRC/UKC Field Representatives and HRC Members in good standing.

(If additional space is needed, please attach, following the same format as above.)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: APRIL 1ST OF EACH YEAR
SUBMIT TO: LOCAL RUNNING RULES REPRESENTATIVE