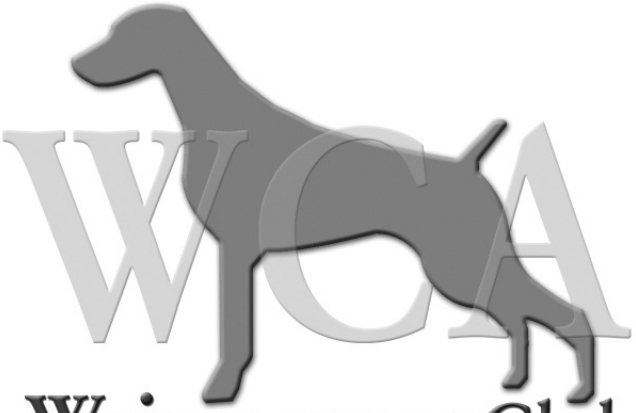

Standards for Shooting Dog, Retrieving Dog, Versatile and Versatile Excellent Ratings

Members Only
Revised March 2022
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Standards for Shooting Dog, Retrieving Dog, Versatile & Versatile Excellent Ratings

The following standards for shooting dog and retrieving dog ratings are for use in rating the hunting and field ability of individual Weimaraners and determining the degree of training the dog has achieved. After confirmation from the Weimaraner Club of America (WCA), the ratings will be a permanent record for purposes of breeding, advertising, etc.

The ratings are divided into two separate classifications: one covering pointing and upland bird field work, and the other covering retrieving. The two classifications are completely independent from, and not related to each other. However, a dog showing outstanding ability by obtaining degrees in both classifications is greatly desired.

The ratings are not successive; any dog can be entered in any test, provided he meets the eligibility requirements as stated in Section II.

At the test, the chairman shall announce those dogs who have qualified and are being recommended to WCA for approval and issuance of a certificate. Ratings are not considered official, and shall not be used until confirmed by the WCA National Office.

Each dog being recommended for a rating will be awarded an official WCA qualifying ribbon. The sponsoring club will purchase the ribbons from the National Office and provide them to exhibitors with qualifying dogs. Note: This ribbon only acknowledges the performance qualifications and is not to be considered confirmation from the WCA.

After the WCA National Office confirms the test results, a dog earning a rating will be issued the appropriate certificate by the Executive Secretary and signed by an Officer of the Club.

Entries must include the registered name of dog, call name, AKC registration number or AKC-recognized foreign registration number, whelping date, sire, dam, breeder, stake in which entered, name and address of owner, name of handler. The WCA Disqualifying Fault (DQF) Number (certification of spay/neuter) must be given if applicable.

A public drawing, at a time and place previously announced, shall be held no later than the evening prior to the test to establish the running order of the dogs in the test. No entry or substitution can be made after the draw. The required information on each dog entered in the test must be recorded on forms supplied by the National Office. Within

seven days after the completion of the test, the sponsoring club must forward the results to the National Office for review, approval, and issuance of certificates.

PLEASE NOTE: Throughout this rulebook terms defined in the **DEFINITIONS** Section are in **BOLD** PRINT.

Rating Standards

SECTION I

The Ratings offered by the Weimaraner Club of America are the following:

Novice Shooting Dog	NSD
Novice Retrieving Dog	NRD
Shooting Dog	SD
Retrieving Dog	RD
Shooting Dog Excellent	SDX
Retrieving Dog Excellent	RDX
Versatile	V
Versatile Excellent	VX
Versatile Excellent 2	VX2
Versatile Excellent 3	VX3
Versatile Excellent 4	VX4
Versatile Excellent 5	VX5
Versatile Excellent 6	VX6
Versatile Excellent 7	VX7

SECTION II—Eligibility of Dogs

A. Any Weimaraner with an individual AKC number, including an AKC Limited Registration, a Purebred Alternate Listing/Indefinite Listing Privilege (PAL/ILP), or is registered with an AKC recognized foreign registry who has obtained the age of six months on the first day of the tests may compete for any or all of the ratings offered.

B. Ratings Tests are open to all Weimaraners whose owners and co-owners are all members of the WCA in good standing. No dog owned by a member with an outstanding balance owed to the WCA may compete in any WCA event until the balance is paid in full.

C. Spayed bitches or neutered males may compete for and receive ratings.

D. Weimaraners that have disqualifying faults (as listed in the current standard for the breed) shall be eligible to compete for and receive ratings provided they are spayed or neutered. Weimaraners with disqualifying faults must be certified by the National Office as being spayed or neutered and receive a DQF Number ***PRIOR*** to being

entered in a ratings test. All Weimaraners with AKC PAL/ILP numbers are allowed to participate without applying to the National Office.

Note: To receive a DQF Number owners must present a copy of the dog's AKC Registration Certificate or AKC recognized foreign registration certificate, and a copy of the dog's spay or neuter verification from their veterinarian to the WCA National Office, 562 S State Hwy 123 Bypass #446, Seguin, TX 78155, Phone # 830-624-9699

SECTION III—Eligibility of Club and Procedure

A. Any Weimaraner club recognized by the Weimaraner Club of America shall be eligible to conduct rating tests provided that the club complies fully with all portions of these rating standards. All tests shall be witnessed by a WCA representative. The WCA reserves the right to appoint a representative of their choice to observe any test sponsored by any club.

1. The WCA representative shall be responsible to review all rules with the judges and rating test committee to ensure all points are fully understood prior to the test.
2. The WCA representative shall ensure that the test is conducted in accordance with the rules. The rating test chairperson of the sponsoring club shall be responsible to the WCA representative.
3. Results for all competitors, both pass and fail, must be returned within seven days of the event; the local club shall retain a completely and correctly filled out copy. A $3.00 per entry donation to the WCA will be required from local clubs sponsoring rating tests. This donation must be received before result forms can be processed.
4. Failure to comply with administrative or timeliness requirements will result in the host club being fined $5 per day for every day beginning the 10th day after completion of the event. (The three intervening days allow for postal delivery and should not be interpreted as allowing the required results to be mailed during that period.)

B. Requirements

1. Rating chairperson and secretary (two people) must be members of the WCA.
2. The rating secretary of each Weimaraner club desiring to conduct such Rating Tests shall make a written request to the WCA Executive Secretary on official forms from the National Office.

3. Each request will be delivered to the National Office a minimum of sixty days prior to the first day of the proposed tests.
4. The local club shall recommend at least one individual to represent WCA for the purpose of witnessing the tests. Neither the chairman nor the secretary may represent the WCA.
5. Each request shall include:
    a. Date or dates with the starting time of first event.
    b. Exact location.
    c. Names of judges and brief qualifications.
    d. Types of birds to be used.
    e. Names of club rating test chairperson, rating test secretary, and WCA representative.
6. The host club may schedule two rating tests in the same day if entries in the first test allow time for the second test. Entries for both tests must close simultaneously. Immediately after entries close, the host club will announce if there will be a second test (if not, entry money will be returned).
7. No dog is permitted to practice on the rating test grounds on the day of the rating test.
8. Rating tests are stand-alone events. Though a dog may compete for more than one rating at the same test, no dog may be judged for a rating while under judgment in any other event (i.e. hunt test, field trial, etc.)
9. Shotguns must be break-open. Calibers of guns used in all tests shall be 20 gauge or larger shotguns or .22 caliber **BLANK GUN** cartridges (.22 caliber crimp not allowed).
10. In all ratings tests requiring the shooting of a bird; official guns shall be used. Blaze Orange will be worn by all participants in vicinity (handlers, gunners, judges, etc.).
11. In Shooting Dog and Shooting Dog Excellent ratings, sponsoring clubs shall use two official gunners (two only). Gunners should use extreme caution when the dog is chasing a bird. Any participant (gunner, handler, or judge) can call a safety.
12. In any brace where a dog aggressively intimidates or hampers its bracemate's performance, and reasonable attempts to keep the dogs separated are unsuccessful, the judges should order up the interfering dog, which may not be re-tested during the rating test. The dog that has been interfered with may

be rerun at the end of the event if the judges feel its performance was affected by the above occurrence.

13. In a rating where a retrieve is required, if a bird is lost for the retrieve, (e.g. if gunners miss a shot) a hand released bird may be shot at the judges' discretion so that the dog may be evaluated on a retrieve.
14. Only a leather or nylon collar and/or a red, yellow or green reflective collar can be worn by dogs participating in ratings tests. Tracking collars as approved by AKC may be used in Shooting Ratings. Judges may inspect tracking collars and receivers and/or carry receivers while the dog is under judgment. AKC Hunt Test/Field Trial (HT/FT) rules will be followed for tracking collars. No training aids (i.e., check cords; pinch, spike, or choke collars; weighted collars; electronic or dummy devices; flushing whips, etc.) are permitted.
15. Owner/handlers are responsible for complete knowledge of and compliance with all rules.
16. Bitches in season may or may not be tested at the discretion of the local ratings test committee. The club's decision shall be included in the premium list.
17. Where not specifically addressed in the WCA Rating Rules, rules applying to AKC events will apply.

C. Protests, conduct & rule interpretations

1. The sponsoring club's rating test committee and WCA representative shall have the authority to decide upon any rule interpretations, protests or problems arising during the testing time. These decisions must be made in accordance with the most current revision of the *Standards for Shooting Dog, Retrieving Dog, Versatile and Versatile Excellent Ratings*. In matters related to a dog's performance, the judges' decision shall prevail.
2. If a question arises about the intent of a rule, the toughest interpretation will govern.
3. Individuals who do not abide by or comply with these rules or act in an unsportsmanlike manner may have any titles withheld or rescinded.
4. In cases of misconduct and/or unsportsmanlike conduct, charges may be filed with the WCA by an individual. The procedure to bring charges is stated in the "Bylaws of the Weimaraner Club of America" Article VI - Discipline.

SECTION IV—Judges

A. Two Judges are required and shall be selected by the local club rating test committee; and both shall be in good standing with AKC or NAVHDA. Judges starting a stake must judge all dogs in that stake. It is highly desirable that both judges be persons experienced with our breed and our rating tests program. However, when impossible to arrange, the committee should ensure that at least one of the judges has these qualifications.

Sponsoring club members may judge a rating test for their club only if they have previously judged WCA rating tests, AKC field trials or AKC hunting tests, or at least one judge must qualify as above. Neither judge, nor any member of their immediate family nor any person living in the same household may either own or co-own any dog for which he will act as judge.

B. The sponsoring club shall notify the WCA National Office of any change in judging from the original application as soon as the change is known.

C. Judges' Responsibilities
   1. Honesty and complete impartiality.
   2. Undivided attention to each dog being tested and independence from the other judge.
   3. Thorough knowledge of the written rules.
   4. Dignified and courteous attitude with handler, club and fellow judges.

D. Judges' Duties
   1. The WCA National Office shall provide printed copies of the rating test standards to each judge before any test at which they officiate.
   2. Review the rules and grounds with the WCA Representative before any tests begin.
   3. Bring any problems with rules application to the attention of the WCA Representative.
   4. Witness examination of dogs for disqualifying faults.
   5. The judges shall be in charge of the event when the judging begins.
   6. The decisions of the judges shall be final in all matters relating to the performance of the dogs.
   7. Maintain an adequate view of each dog's performance and to keep notes as needed on the performances.
   8. Re-judge without bias any dog who has a **MISTEST**.
   9. Judge all dogs in any given test on the same grounds on the same day.

10. Impose no criterion not stated in the rules.
11. Accurately transfer any notes into the pass/fail system on the official result forms.
12. Give the benefit of the doubt to any dog, especially in Novice levels where the inexperience of the handler may interfere with the dog's performance.
13. Remember the intentions of the rating test program and good sportsmanship throughout the tests.

SECTION V—Shooting Ratings

The purpose of the rating test program is to evaluate the hunting, field and retrieving ability of individual Weimaraners on a common and equal basis.

General

A. The Novice Shooting Dog rating may include dogs that may not show the manners or training normally seen at field trials. Novice stakes are an introduction to field work for many handlers. Judging in these stakes should concentrate on evaluating the natural hunting aptitude of the dogs entered. However, the novice stakes are not to be taken lightly. If judges do not see what they consider to be good natural ability, dogs should be scored accordingly.

B. Horseback handling is optional at the discretion of the local club. No horseback handling is allowed in the bird field in any of the rating tests.

C. Method of scoring will be on a pass-fail basis in accordance with the judges' scoring sheets.

D. All dogs in a particular stake should be run on the same course.

E. A gun-shy dog cannot pass.

F. All dogs MUST be run for the total time allowed in each shooting event.

G. The **BACK COURSE** shall be seeded with a minimum of three birds at the start of each division. Additionally, a minimum of three birds per brace shall be used on the course or in the bird field (if used). Recognized game birds (preferred) or pigeons may be used. The flight of the bird shall not be impaired. Each hosting club should take into consideration that the **BACK COURSE** should be reseeded if all **BACK COURSE** birds have been worked.

H. 22 caliber blanks, or larger, shall be fired on contact with birds in the **BACK COURSE** (no .22 caliber crimps allowed).

I. In SD and SDX ratings, the retrieved bird must be "fit for table." Serious **HARD MOUTHING** will disqualify the dog if the bird is examined and found seriously damaged by both judges.

J. Dogs will be run in braces, if possible, for all shooting ratings. Dogs who fail to appear at the line within five minutes of being called will not be tested; entry fee shall be forfeited.

NSD—Novice Shooting Dog

The purpose of this classification is to determine whether young or inexperienced dogs have field and hunting aptitude.

A. Range and Performance
   1. The dog must have the desire to hunt and the ability to range out to a practical hunting distance. He is not required to work in a systematic manner.

B. Point and Shot
   1. Dogs must point (flash point accepted) and a .22 blank will be fired by the handler on bird contact. Catching or chasing is allowed.
   2. Birds should be **PLANTED** in a manner to allow visibility of the dog for the judges (Novice Dog only). Flags, ribbons, etc. shall not be used to indicate the location of the bird.
   3. Only under extenuating circumstances, if the dog is showing a desire to hunt and conditions do not allow the dog to have bird contact, a single bird may be placed (out of sight of dog and handler) for the dog at judge's discretion. This rule is not intended to guarantee bird contact for every dog.
   4. Dogs are to be run for a minimum of 20 minutes. if a **BIRDFIELD** is used, no more or less than eight minutes is permitted in the **BIRDFIELD**.

C. Dogs must pass in all the following categories to qualify:
   1. Desire to hunt.
   2. Boldness.
   3. Initiative and search.
   4. Point.
   5. Reasonable obedience to handler's commands.
   6. Gun shy dogs cannot pass.

SD—Shooting Dog

This rating is to establish that a dog of any age has definite hunting ability, bird sense, and shows some field training.

A. Range and Performance

1. Dogs must show a keen desire to hunt, be bold and independent, have a fast and yet attractive style of running and demonstrate both intelligence in seeking objectives and the ability to find game.

B. Point and Shot

1. Shooting dogs must point and must not flush the bird before the handler makes an honest effort to flush the bird. If the dog breaks on the flush, the handler should fire their blank pistol. If the dog catches the bird and retrieves the bird, this will be deemed as an acceptable performance. If the dog has otherwise passed, the judges may have the handler **RESTRAIN** the dog (leash or collar), have a dead bird thrown at approximately 20 yards with gunfire, and allow the dog to retrieve. If the bird flushes wild (**WILD FLUSH**) due to no fault of the dog, the dog will be allowed to re-demonstrate pointing ability. Gunners should use extreme caution when the dog is chasing a bird. Any participant (gunner, handler, or judge) can call a safety.
2. A dog does not need to be **STEADY TO WING AND SHOT**; he need not **STOP TO FLUSH**.
3. A dog encountering its bracemate on point must **HONOR**. The SD dog may be whoa'd into the **HONOR**. A dog that steals its bracemate's point shall be disqualified. The dog that was interfered with will be allowed to re-demonstrate its ability.

C. Retrieve

1. The dog must make a direct retrieve of all birds. Delivery to hand is not required but the bird must be brought to within reach of the handler.
2. Dogs are to be run for a total of 30 minutes. If bird field is used, no more or less than eight (8) minutes permitted in bird field

D. Dogs must pass in all the following categories to qualify:

1. Keen desire to hunt.
2. Boldness and independence.
3. Cover ground quickly in an attractive style.
4. Seek objectives.
5. Locate and point game.
6. Retrieve.
7. Reasonable obedience to handler's commands.
8. Gun shy dogs cannot pass.

SDX—Shooting Dog Excellent

This is the top award offered under the shooting ratings and dogs qualifying must be finished, fully broken bird dogs.

A. Range and Performance
The SDX dog's field work should show the class and style expected of top Weimaraners. As some of these dogs may be field trial dogs, their range may vary, but each dog must remain under the handler's control. Each dog should be judged accordingly and on an individual basis.

B. Point and Shot
1. This stake is a retrieving stake, with all the manners associated with that type of stake.
2. The dog must find a bird and establish a staunch point.
3. A dog encountering its bracemate on point must **HONOR**. The honoring dog cannot be verbally or physically **RESTRAINED**. The SDX dog may not be whoa'd into the **HONOR**. A dog that steals its bracemate's point shall be disqualified. The dog that was interfered with on point will be allowed to re-demonstrate its ability.
4. A reasonable move of a dog to mark a bird flushed after point is acceptable; but this shall not excuse a break or a delayed chase. The dog may be **COLLARED** out of the area if applicable to the situation.
5. When encountering a bird that has flushed wild or, through no fault of the dog or handler, a dog is required to **STOP TO FLUSH**. The dog must remain in this position until **RELEASED** by the handler.

C. Retrieve
1. The dog must make a direct retrieve of all birds. **DELIVERY TO HAND** is required.
2. Dogs are to be run for a total of 30 minutes. If a **BIRDFIELD** is used, no more or less than eight minutes is permitted in the **BIRDFIELD**.
3. Dogs must have a classy and stylish performance to pass.

SECTION VI—Retrieving Ratings

Requirements for retrieving dog tests

A. Recognized game birds, ducks, or pigeons must be used for the NRD, RD, and RDX tests. Bird species used may be different for land and water, i.e.: quail for land, ducks for water. Whichever is selected must be used throughout the stake for all dogs entered in that stake.

B. A freshly killed bird shall be used for each NRD entrant in the land series. Dead birds may be used for the RD and RDX test; at least one **LIVE BIRD** per dog must be

shot in each land test.

C. At each station where a **LIVE BIRD** is shot, the bird thrower should be backed by two gunners. The judges are to arrange the gunners' stations depending on the test. On double or triple retrieves, the birds are to be thrown from separate stations.

D. Novice dogs may be worked upwind (i.e. into the wind). Whenever conditions allow, dogs in RD or RDX stakes dogs should be worked across or downwind in order to show their ability to work and hunt. Only when local conditions rule out all other possibilities should RD and RDX dogs be allowed to work upwind.

E. The dog must not be blocked from viewing any marked falls.

F. For land retrieves, the cover should be sufficient to completely hide the birds, but not so high and/or dense as to block the judges' view of the dog.

G. Handling is permissible in all tests, but over-handling, either by voice or whistle is prohibited.

H. For a water retrieve, if the dog reduces the time required to complete the retrieve by the intelligent use of land, he shall not be penalized. However, use of land for the mere purpose of avoiding water will be penalized.

I. Objects may not be thrown to encourage a dog to enter the water or to direct the dog. This is a disqualification in any stake.

J. In all retrieving dog tests, all shots will be fired AFTER the bird is released or thrown and is in the air.

K. In RD and RDX, birds that in the judges' opinion fall more than 20 yards beyond the approximate distance shall be considered out of bounds. Handlers shall have the option of sending their dog on a bird declared out of bounds, but they will not get a re-test if their dog does not complete the retrieve. If a handler chooses not to send their dog, they will have the option of re-testing immediately or waiting to re-test after one or more dogs have been tested.

L. Any re-test shall require the dog to do ALL of the required retrieves for that test.

M. A circle of rope, hose, or other material is to be laid out with a radius of six feet (12' diameter) clearly defining the boundaries. For water retrieves, the circle must come no closer than three feet from the water's edge. The handler must remain within the circle until the retrieve is completed. In all retrieving tests, the dog must deliver the bird to the circle with at least the dog's front

feet in the circle.

N. The following are disqualifications in all retrieving stakes. (In addition to items specific to the individual stakes).
   1. Serious **HARD MOUTHING** will disqualify the dog if the bird is examined and found seriously damaged by both judges.
   2. The handler leaves circle prior to completion of all retrieves.
   3. The dog loses interest, wanders around aimlessly, or up and down the water's edge.
   4. Excessive marking.

NRD—Novice Retrieving Dog

Requirements for dogs competing for NRD shall be as follows:

A. Overall Requirements
   1. The dog shall enter the circle on leash. Heeling to the circle is not required.
   2. Steadiness on the line is not required. The dog may be **RESTRAINED** in the following ways 1) holding the dog; 2) holding the collar; 3) both 1 and 2; and 4) leashing the dog.
   3. **DELIVERY TO HAND** is not required, but the dog must deliver the bird to the circle with at least the dog's front feet in the circle. The handler must remain within the circle until the retrieve is completed.
   4. No dog may be sent to retrieve until the bird has hit the ground/water and judges have directed the handler to send the dog.
   5. A Novice retrieving dog shall be given a time limit of five minutes for each retrieve. Five minutes on land and five minutes for the water portion.

B. Land Retrieve - Set up Details
   1. A dog is required to retrieve a freshly killed bird on land; a blank shot will be fired.
   2. The retrieve shall be a minimum of 20 yards, but shall not exceed 40 yards.

C. Water Retrieve - Set up Details
   1. A dog is required to retrieve a freshly killed bird in the water; a blank shot will be fired.
   2. The retrieve shall be a minimum swim of 20 yards,. At the judges' discretion a bird drifting to a distance requiring a swim of more than 40 yards may be declared "out of bounds" and be re thrown.

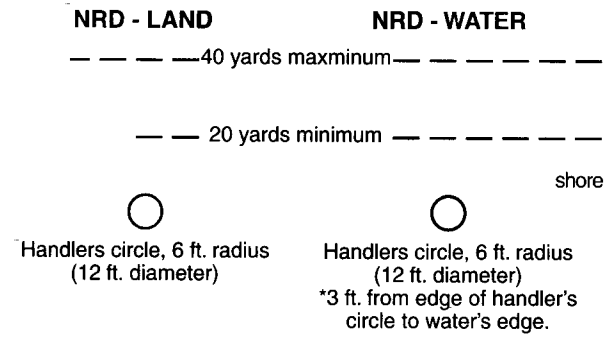
D. Scoring - All scoring is on a pass/fail basis according to

the judges' scoring sheets.

E. NRD Disqualification (in addition to the general disqualifications listed in Section VI (N) above)
   1. Excessive delay of over two minutes to enter water.

RD—Retrieving Dog

Requirements for dogs competing for RD shall be as



follows:

A. Overall Requirements (land and water)
   1. The dog shall enter the circle on leash. Heeling to the circle is not required.
   2. The dog shall be steady on the line (**CONTROLLED BREAK** allowed as long as all of the dog's feet remain in the circle). Touch to **RELEASE** permitted but **RESTRAINT** not permitted.
   3. No dog may be sent to retrieve until the last bird has hit the ground/water and the judges have directed the handler to send the dog.
   4. The dog must deliver the bird to hand with at least the dog's front feet in the circle for all retrieves.
   5. Retrieving Dog shall be allowed three unobeyed commands for each land retrieve and three unobeyed commands for each water retrieve.

B. Land Retrieve - Setup Details
   1. The dog is required to retrieve to hand, a widely spaced, (approximately 60 degrees) double marked retrieve.
   2. The first fall will be at approximately 50 yards and the second fall at approximately 20 yards. Birds that fall more than 20 yards beyond the approximate distance shall be considered out of bounds.
   3. The 50 yard bird shall be live shot.
   4. A blank shall be fired for the 20 yard bird, which

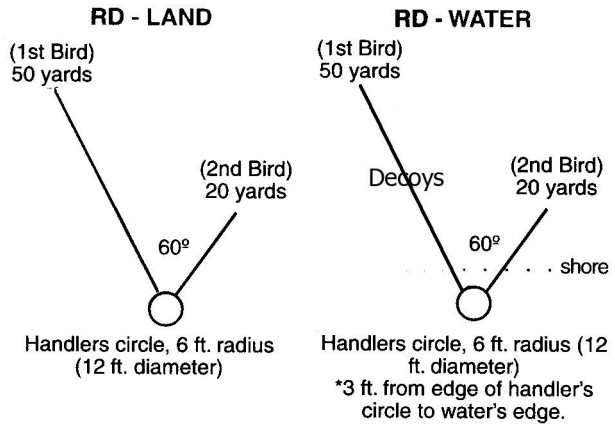
will be a freshly killed bird.

C. Water Retrieve - Setup Details
   1. The dog is required to retrieve to hand, a widely spaced, (approximately 60 degrees) double marked retrieve.
   2. The first fall will be at approximately 50 yards and the second fall at approximately 20 yards. Birds that in the judges' opinion fall or drift more than 20 yards beyond the approximate minimum/maximum distances shall be considered out of bounds. Birds that drift in for less than the required distances shall be handled at the judge's discretion. Only in extreme cases should the dog be retested more than once as a result of drifting.
   3. A blank shall be fired for each throw. No bird shall be shot for the water series.
   4. Eight decoys will be placed between 20 and 40 yards in water (see diagram). Decoys shall be separately anchored and securely set with the safety of the dogs to be considered when set.

D. Scoring - All scoring is on a pass/fail basis according to the judges' scoring sheets.

E. RD Disqualifications (in addition to the general disqualifications listed in Section VI (N) above)
   1. Lack of steadiness on the line (**CONTROLLED BREAK** allowed).
   2. Delay of over one minute to enter water.

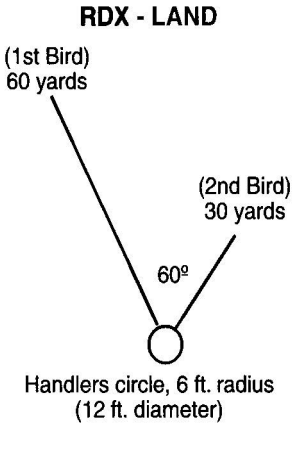
RDX—Retrieving Dog Excellent

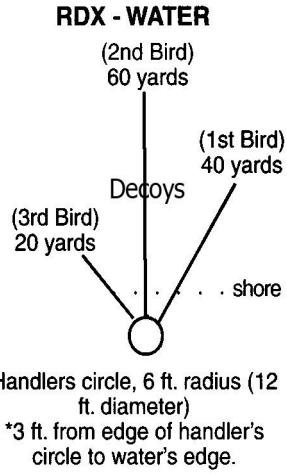


Requirements for dogs competing for RDX shall be as follows:

A. Overall Requirements (land and water). The dog shall give a finished performance, showing both class and style while competing for this title
   1. Each time the dog is brought to the line, the dog will be heeled from a distance of between 10 and 20 yards into the circle while off leash and under control.
   2. After entering the circle, the handler may elect to have dog stand, sit or down while watching the marks or waiting to be sent for the blind. It is not necessary for the dog to be sent from the same position for each retrieve.
   3. A reasonable move of the dog to mark the bird is acceptable; the dog may stand from either the sit or sit/stand from the down position. No other movement by the dog is allowed.
   4. The dog must deliver the bird to hand with at least the dog's front feet in the circle for all retrieves.
   5. **CONTROLLED BREAK** is not allowed.
   6. No dog may be sent to retrieve until the last bird has hit the ground/water and the judges have directed the handler to send the dog.
   7. The dog must enter the water immediately with eagerness.
   8. The dog must respond quickly and immediately to any handler directions.
   9. Retrieving Dog Excellent shall be allowed two unobeyed commands for each land retrieve and two unobeyed commands for each water retrieve.
   10. The handler may collar the dog out of the circle if a bird is missed or out of bounds.

B. Land Retrieve - Setup Details



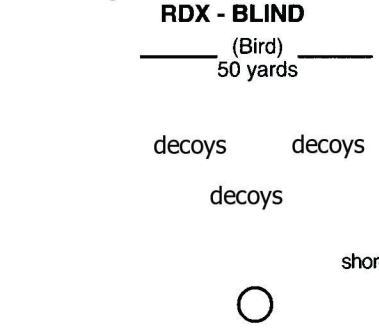


1. Dog is required to retrieve to hand, a widely spaced (approximately 60 degrees) double marked retrieve.
2. The first fall will be at approximately 60 yards and the second fall at approximately 30 yards. Birds that fall more than 20 yards beyond the approximate distance shall be declared out of bounds.
3. For the land retrieve, the 60 yard bird will be live shot.
4. A blank shall be fired for the 30 yard bird which will be a freshly killed bird.

C. Water Retrieve - Setup Details

1. The dog is required to retrieve to hand, a triple marked retrieve.
2. The first fall is to be at approximately 40 yards to one side; the second fall is to be approximately 60 yards through decoys; and the third fall approximately 20 yards, landing to the opposite side from the first fall. Example: First fall, 40 yards to right, second fall 60 yards through decoys; third fall 20 yards to left. (See diagram) Birds that in the judge's opinion fall or drift more than 20 yards beyond the approximate minimum/maximum distances shall be considered out of bounds. Birds that drift in for less than the required distances shall be handled at the judge's discretion. Only in extreme cases should the dog be re-tested more than once as a result of drifting.
3. A blank shall be fired for each throw. No **LIVE BIRDS** shall be shot for the water series.
4. Eight decoys will be placed between 20 and 40 yards in the water (see diagram). Decoys shall be separately anchored and securely set with the safety of the dogs to be considered when set.

D. Blind Water Retrieve - Setup Details



1. The dog is required to be brought to the line without seeing the fall. The handler is to be advised of the bird's location.
2. The dog is required to retrieve, to hand, a single **BLIND RETRIEVE** through eight decoys at a range of approximately 50 yards.
3. No shot will be fired for this test.
4. Will be completed after triple water retrieve.

E. Scoring - All scoring is on a pass/fail basis according to the judges' scoring sheets.

F. RDX Disqualifications (in addition to the general disqualifications listed in Section VI (N), above).
1. Lack of absolute steadiness on the line.
2. Delay in entering or reentering the water.
3. The handler cannot touch the dog except to tap to **RELEASE** for a retrieve.

SECTION VII - Definitions

BACK COURSE: An area as close as possible to natural hunting conditions, with cover conducive to game birds and large enough to permit full time requirements for each level of the shooting dog test.

BIRDFIELD: An area of land of approximately five acres, similar to the **BACK COURSE** with sufficient cover to hide and hold a **PLANTED** game bird. The **BIRDFIELD** is at the end of and is a natural continuation of the **BACK COURSE**.

BLANK GUN: A hand gun of at least .22 Caliber or larger INCAPABLE of firing live ammunition (.22 caliber crimp is not allowed).

BLIND RETRIEVE: A retrieve in which the dog is prevented from seeing and does not see the fall of a bird and where no shot is fired. The handler will be advised of the location of bird.

COLLARED: The act of leading a dog away by the collar from an area after a shot has been fired over a dog on point or a **STOP TO FLUSH** on the **BACK COURSE** or in a **BIRDFIELD** where a retrieve is required and the bird has been missed by official guns.

CONTROLLED BREAK: A dog that moves before commanded to retrieve may be stopped by voice and/or hand signal from handler. The dog must have all four feet inside of the circle to be defined as being under control. The handler may not touch dog.

DELIVER TO HAND: A dog that has made a retrieve must stand or sit close to handler and not release the bird until commanded or the handler touches the bird.

HARD MOUTHING: A dog chews the bird during a retrieve in such a way that both judges declare it unfit for the table.

HONOR: A dog stops with or without command from the handler upon seeing its bracemate on point.

LIVE BIRD: Any bird fully capable of flight.

MISTEST: An unforeseen circumstance which, through no fault of the dog or the handler, does not allow normal testing circumstances and, in the assessment of the judges and/or event committee, merits a re-assessment.

MOVE TO MARK: A reasonable move of the dog to mark the bird is acceptable, however forward progress is not allowed.

PLANTED BIRD: Any **LIVE BIRD** that is placed in cover.

RELEASE: The handler gives a command to send the dog, and/or may touch the dog once per retrieve.

RESTRAINED: Holding the dog, holding the collar, holding the dog and collar or leashing the dog.

STEADY TO WING AND SHOT: A dog on point does not

move while its handler flushes a bird and a shot is fired, and moves only when commanded to do so.

STOP TO FLUSH: Dog stops without command when bird flushes wild (**WILD FLUSH**).

WILD FLUSH: A bird flushes through no fault of dog or handler.

SECTION VIII- Versatile Rating Standards

A. Schedule of Available Versatile Points

1. Bench Champion.....8
   - Ten Bench Points (includes major win).....6
   - Five Bench Points.....4
   - Bench Pointed.....2
2. Obedience Trial Champion.....10
   - UDX.....8
   - UD.....6
   - CDX, RAE or RM.....4
   - CD or RE.....2
3. Field Champion, AFC or MH.....10
   - Senior Hunter, SDX or 1st place in AA/GD Retrieving Stake.....6
   - Junior Hunter, SD or 4 Field Points.....4
   - NSD or 1 Field Point.....2
4. Master Hunter Retriever.....10
   - Senior Hunter Retriever or RDX.....6
   - Junior Hunter Retriever or RD.....4
   - NRD.....2
5. Champion Tracker (CT).....10
   - Variable Surface Tracking (VST).....8
   - Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX).....6
   - Tracking Dog (TD) or Tracking Dog Urban (TDU)..4
6. Master Agility Champion.....10
   - Preferred Agility Champion (PACH).....9
   - Master Agility Excellent (MX) or MXJ.....8
   - Preferred Agility Excellent (PAX).....7
   - Excellent Agility (AX) or AXJ.....6
   - Excellent Agility Preferred (AXP) or AJP.....5
   - Open Agility (OA) or OAJ.....4
   - Open Agility Preferred (OAP) or OJP.....3
   - Novice Agility (NA) or NAJ.....2
   - Novice Agility Preferred (NAP) or NJP.....1

B. Requirements for Award of Versatile "V"
   1. A minimum total of twelve versatile points.
   2. The twelve points must be obtained from at least three of the above six groups.
   3. Points are not accumulative in any one group (i.e., a UD entitles a dog to six points. His CDX and CD cannot be added.)

C. Requirements for Award of Versatile Excellent "VX"

1. A minimum total of eighteen versatile points
2. The eighteen points above may be obtained from three of the above six groups and must include a Bench Champion, Field Champion, Amateur Field Champion, Obedience Trial Champion, Master Agility Champion or Champion Tracker.

OR

The eighteen points may be obtained from at least four of the six groups.

3. Points are not accumulative in any one group.

D. Requirements for Award of Versatile Excellent 2 (VX2)

1. A minimum of twenty four points.
2. The twenty-four points must be obtained from at least four of the above six groups.
3. Points are not accumulative in any one group.

E. Requirements for Award of Versatile Excellent 3 (VX3) through Versatile Excellent 7 (VX7).

1. Must meet the requirements of VX2
2. Minimum required total points:

VX3	30 Points
VX4	36 Points
VX5	42 Points
VX6	48 Points
VX7	54 Points

F. Procedure for Awarding Versatile Titles

The National Office will automatically award V through VX7 ratings to dogs with the appropriate titles to qualify. WCA members owning dogs with field or bench points that qualify the dog for a title must contact the National Office in writing to apply. The Office will request any copies of the awards, and/or certificates needed.

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