

North American Hunting Retriever Association (NAHRA)

UPLAND RETRIEVER PROGRAM (URP)

URP Pilot Rules

April 16, 2014

BACKGROUND

The NAHRA Board of Directors is considering expanding the NAHRA Field Test Program to add a stand-alone Upland Retriever Field test program (Upland Retriever Program or URP). The URP would include two levels of non-competitive field testing: a Working Upland Retriever test leading to the title Working Upland Retriever (WUR); and, Senior Upland Retriever test leading to the title Master Upland Retriever (MUR). The BOD rationale for considering the Upland Retriever Program can be summarized as follows:

1. For many hunters, Upland Hunting is the primary use of their Hunting Retriever- the URP would allow these teams to earn a NAHRA hunting title, while introducing them to the NAHRA program and the capabilities of a truly finished hunting retriever.
2. The URP would create an opportunity to more fully evaluate the training of specialized upland hunting skills in an extended testing format.
3. Many NAHRA Clubs have limited property available with quality field test water- especially in late winter and spring. The URP would allow clubs to host events on property without water and during cold weather months which in turn would allow clubs to host more NAHRA Events.

Upland Retriever Test will be non-competitive; dogs are evaluated against a written standard. Dogs are evaluated based on the quality of their training, hunting skill and obedience, not the speed of the hunt. The URP Pilot Rules will be in effect for all tests conducted in 2014 and until the BOD formally adopts the URP. All qualifying scores awarded during the pilot period will be counted towards titles if the URP is adopted as a formal part of the NAHRA program.

The NAHRA BOD will solicit and consider all comments related to the URP Pilot Rules before adopting the final URP rules. The NAHRA BOD reserves the right to modify the URP rules before final adoption. The NAHRA BOD reserves the right to abandon the URP without damages.

REFERENCES TO EXISTING NAHRA RULES

The NAHRA BOD wishes to make the URP as compatible as possible with the current Field Test program. Chapter and Section references contained in these URP Pilot Rules refer to the NAHRA Regulations for Testing Hunting Retrievers (March 31, 2009). The following constitutes the Official Rules during the length of the Pilot Program.

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR UPLAND RETRIEVER TEST

SECTION 1: All appropriate sections of Chapter I will apply to URP Field Test, unless modified herein.

SECTION 2: Chapter I Section D is to be modified to include all pure breed hunting retriever and sporting dog breeds registered with a NAHRA approved registry.

SECTION 3: Host Clubs are strongly encouraged to select Pilot judges with extensive upland hunting backgrounds. It is further recommended that one judge of the pair assigned to the Working URP stake have at least 5 intermediate judging points; and, that one judge of the pair assigned to the Senior URP stake have at least 5 senior judging points.

SECTION 4: All NAHRA URP Field Tests will be conducted in accordance with Chapter II unless otherwise modified in the URP Rules. Scoring of Upland Retriever Tests will be in accordance with the Chapter VII: Judging Guidelines.

FIELD TEST REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES FOR WORKING UPLAND RETRIEVER CATEGORY - SECTION 1 to 13

SECTION 5: The Working Upland Retriever Field Test will include the following five (5) tests: Two (2) Upland Hunting Tests each worth 10 points (total 20 points); one (1) Double Marked Land Retrieve from Fixed Point of Origin worth 10 points; one (1) Single Marked Land Retrieve from a Moving Point of Origin (walk-up) worth 10 points; and, either a Trailing Test or Hunt-It-Up Test worth 10 points.

SECTION 6: All components of the Upland Retriever test will be included in an upland hunting scenario in appropriate cover. All Judges, Guns, and Handlers will wear Hunter Orange. The pace of all hunts will be determined by the judges. Handlers that repeatedly exhibit hunt safety and/or poor gun safety may be eliminated.

SECTION 7: Marked Retrieves, Trailing Test, and Hunt-It-Up Test will be incorporated into the Upland Hunting Tests. Each Upland Hunting Test will be a separate series.

SECTION 8: Game birds or pigeons in good condition will be used in all tests.

SECTION 9: Dogs are off-lead at all times while under judgment.

SECTION 10: The dog must return without delay and will deliver all birds to hand.

SECTION 11: This test will include two separated (2) Upland Hunting Tests with no flush in accordance with Chapter V Section 12. Handlers will be required to carry an empty shotgun. Birdiness, Control and Obedience will be important portions of the overall Upland Hunting Test score. Dogs that repeatedly hunt beyond reasonable gun range will be penalized and eliminated when excessive or out of control. Handlers that race in front of the gun line will be eliminated. Each Upland Hunting Test is worth 10 points, scored separately (total 20 points).

SECTION 12: This test will include one (1) Double Marked Land Retrieve from a Fixed Point of Origin within the Upland Hunt in accordance with Chapter V Section 8, worth 10 points.

- a) Maximum distance of the marks will not exceed 75 yards.
- b) Test will be located in cover appropriate to evaluate the dogs marking ability.
- c) Handlers will be required to carry an empty shotgun and may be required to point the gun in a firing position when game is produced (becomes visible). The handler will not be required to fire the shotgun.
- d) Dog will be steady at the point of origin in accordance with Chapter V Section 2.
- e) Diversions may not be used.
- f) Dogs may be handled on marks in accordance with Chapter V Section 4.

SECTION 13: This test will include one (1) Single Marked Land Retrieve from a Moving Point of Origin (walk-up) within the Upland Hunt in accordance with Chapter V Section 10, worth 10 points.

- a) The distance of the mark will be not less than 30 yards and maximum distance of the mark will not exceed 50 yards. *The NAHRA BOD wishes to introduce this “short walk-up mark” as a developmental transition towards steady to flush.*
- b) Test will be located in cover appropriate to evaluate the dogs marking ability.
- c) Handlers will be required to carry an empty shotgun and may be required to point the gun in a firing position when game is produced (becomes visible). The handler will not be required to fire the shotgun.
- d) Dog will be steady at the point of origin in accordance with Chapter V Sections 2 & 10.
- e) Diversions may not be used.
- f) Dogs may be handled on marks in accordance with Chapter V Section 4.

SECTION 14: This test will include a Trailing Test in accordance with Chapter V Section 13, worth 10 points **or** Hunt-It-Up Test, within the Upland Hunt. *Dog and handler will be directed to an area where a bird has been downed (placed) and ask to search the areas, find the bird and deliver it to hand), worth 10 points. The Hunt-It-Up test is provided as an alternate should weather or site conditions not favor the use of a NAHRA style trail. At this point the NAHRA BOD favors the use of a Trailing Test if at all possible, but will evaluate pilot period comments related to the Hunt-It-Up test.*

FIELD TEST REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES FOR SENIOR UPLAND RETRIEVER CATEGORY - SECTION 1 to 3 & SECTIONS 15 to 22

SECTION 15: The Senior Upland Retriever Field Test will include the following five (5) tests: Two (2) Upland Hunting Tests each worth 10 points (total 20 points); two (2) Land Blind Retrieves each worth 10 points (total 20 points); and, either a Trailing Test or Hunt-It-Up Test worth 10 points.

SECTION 16: All components of the Upland Retriever test will be included in an upland hunting scenario in appropriate cover. All Judges, Guns, and Handlers will wear Hunter Orange. The pace of all hunts will be determined by the judges. Handlers that repeatedly exhibit hunt safety and/or poor gun safety may be eliminated.

SECTION 17: Blind Retrieves, Trailing Test, and Hunt-It-Up Test will be incorporated into the Upland Hunting Tests. Each Upland Hunting Test will be a separate series.

SECTION 18: Game birds or pigeons in good condition will be used in all tests.

SECTION 19: Dogs are off-lead at all times while under judgment.

SECTION 20: The dog must return without delay and will deliver all birds to hand.

SECTION 21: This test will include two separated (2) Upland Hunting Test with a flush in each test in accordance with Chapter VI Section 12, modifies as follows:

- a) Handlers will be required to carry an empty shotgun and may be required to point the gun in a firing position when the flushed bird becomes visible. The handler will not be required to fire the shotgun.
- b) A dog may be required to Hunt with and/or Honor another dog.
- c) One flush is required in each Upland Hunting Test.
- d) If a trap or other mechanical flushing devices is used, the Judges will determine the time of flush.
- e) Judges should not allow dogs to come closer than approximately 10 yards from the flushing device before releasing the flush. *The NAHRA BOD suggests 10 yards to stress dog safety and error on the side of caution. Judges that repeatedly endangered dogs will be subject to disciplinary action.*
- f) Dogs that point the bird before the bird is flushed by the judges (beyond 10 yards) may be released by the handler to flush the bird, or hold point while the gunners walk in and flush the bird.
- g) The Senior Upland Retriever will be steady to flush, shot and fall.

Birdiness, Control and Obedience will be important portions of the overall Upland Hunting Test score. Dogs that repeatedly hunt beyond reasonable gun range will be penalized and eliminated when excessive or out of control. Handlers that race in front of the gun line will be eliminated. Each Upland Hunting Test is worth 10 points, scored separately (total 20 points).

SECTION 22: This test will include two (2) Land Blind Retrieves within the Upland Hunts in accordance with Chapter VI Section 11, each worth 10 points, each scored separately (20 points total).

- a. Test will be located in cover appropriate to evaluate the dogs handling ability.
- b. Handlers will be required to carry an empty shotgun during the Upland Hunt and may be required to carry an empty shotgun while completing the blind retrieve. The handler will not be required to fire the shotgun.
- c. Maximum distance of each Blind Retrieve will not exceed 100 yards.
- d. Both Blind Retrieves may be included in a single Upland Hunt.
- e. If two Blind Retrieves share the same general Point of Origin (line) each blind bird will be planted for each dog (no piles).

- f. Judges will determine the Point of Origin. Judges may allow, but cannot require, dogs to be initially sent or cast from a remote location.
- g. Diversions may be thrown at anytime during the blind retrieve, including as the dogs is attempting to complete the blind retrieve. *The NAHRA BOD trust that judges will not make in-route diversions unrealistic.*

SECTION 23: This test will include a Trailing Test in accordance with Chapter VI Section 13, worth 10 points **or** Hunt-It-Up Test within the Upland Hunt. *Dog and handler will be directed to an area where a bird has been downed (placed) and ask to search the areas, find the bird and deliver it to hand), worth 10 points. The Hunt-It-Up test is provided as an alternate should weather or site conditions not favor the use of a NAHRA style trail. At this point the NAHRA BOD favor the use of a Trailing Test if at all possible, but will evaluate pilot period comments related to the Hunt-It-Up test.*

TITLES

SECTION 24: Dogs qualifying in four (4) Licensed Working Upland Retriever Tests will receive the Title or Certification of Working Upland Retriever (WUR).

SECTION 25: Dog with a WUR Title qualifying in four (4) Licensed Senior UR Tests will receive the Title or Certification Master Upland Retriever (MUR). Dogs qualifying in five (5) Licensed Senior UR Tests will receive the Title or Certification Master Upland Retriever (MUR). Dogs qualifying in 15 Licensed Senior UR Tests will receive the Title or Certification Grand Master Upland Retriever (GMUR).