WORKING TEST DEFINITIONS FOR 2009

Please see below re definition of "unclassified"

Puppy:
(unclassified)
From 9 to 18 months

Special Puppy:
(unclassified)
From 9 to 24 months with an award for the highest placed puppy under 18 months (optional)

Novice Dog/
Novice Handler:
(unclassified)
Neither dog nor handler to have won an award at a field trial or any working test with the exception of Puppy/Special Puppy or an award, other than 1st, in ND/NH.

*Novice:
For dogs which have not gained an award or COM at a field trial, been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an Open working test or 1st in a Novice working test.

*Open:
Open to all dogs although preference will be given to dogs which have gained an award or COM at a field trial, been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an Open working test or won a Novice working test.

*AV Open:
As per Open above but preference in the draw will be given as follows:
a) Members' qualified dogs
b) Non members' qualified dogs
c) Members' non qualified dogs
d) Non members' non qualified dogs
e) 2nd dogs following in the above order

*KC definitions and therefore carry entry qualification for all other working tests

"Unclassified":
An unclassified test is one that does not have KC recognised definitions and consequently any dog who wins an award in an unclassified test cannot use that as entry criteria for any Gundog Working Test with recognised KC definitions.

Dogs can only be entered competitively into one test per day unless the second entry is "not for competition" in another class which will then be at the Organiser's discretion and subject to that class not being over-subscribed with eligible dogs.

If a handler has two or more dogs they wish to enter in the same class, please state the order of preference in the draw.

General Information (Society Guidelines)

1. Please make a note of the entry date and send your entry off accordingly.
2. All Areas will use the same definitions.
3. A dog may only run competitively in one class per day. Entries "not for competition" in another class will be solely at the Organisers' discretion if the test is not over-subscribed with eligible dogs: to accommodate an inexperienced handler who has won a ND/NH test but would prefer to gain more experience at that introductory level rather than entering a Novice test competitively.
4. Entry fees will not be refunded after the closing date except in exceptional circumstances.
5. If you are unsure about any aspect of your entry, please contact either the FT Secretary or the relevant Organiser before submitting it.

KC Gundog Working Tests (GWT) Rules and Regulations

The following selection of current KC rules and regulations are taken from their booklet "Field Trial Regulations (including Gundog Working Tests) 2007, the full set of which can be obtained from the KC direct at a nominal charge. Competitors should be aware that by signing the Society's GWT entry form, they are stating they have read and will comply with all the rules listed in Section J (G) of that booklet and those of the Society.

GWTs are competitions which, by artificially simulating shooting day conditions, seek to assess, without game being shot, the working abilities of the various Gundog breeds and are best understood as a means to an end rather than an end in itself.

1. Dogs must be registered with the Kennel Club
2. Organisers have the power to exclude dogs from the competition and will have the right to refuse an entry.
3. Organisers may restrict the numbers in a GWT, in which case the right to compete shall be decided by ballot.
4. No person attending a GWT may allow a bitch in season to be on the Test ground or foul any ground to be used by competing dogs.
5. If, after consultation with the Judges, members of the committee present consider a dog unfit to compete by reason of contagious disease or physical condition, such a dog shall be required to be removed immediately from the ground. Any such case is liable to be reported to the Kennel Club.
6. The code of conduct expected at GWTs is the same as that for Field Trials.
   a) Those taking part shall not openly impugn the decision of the Judges, or criticise the host, ground or helpers. (*The Judges' decision is final and must not be challenged. However, if a competitor has a query relating to a particular score, it is perfectly acceptable for them, not a third party, to approach the Judge concerned at the end of the day to seek clarification of their marks).* Any cases of alleged misconduct must be reported to the Kennel Club in accordance with Regulation J11, J13 and J14.
   b) All handlers must carry out the instructions of the Judges. The Judges are empowered to remove from the Test any dog whose handler does not follow their instructions or whose handler wilfully interferes with another competitor or his dog.
   c) No person shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling at a GWT.
   d) No competitor may withdraw his dog and leave the GWT ground without informing the Chief Steward.
7. Failure to complete an individual test will result in a mark of zero. A multiple retrieve (ie: a double or more) constitutes one test. If a dog fails or commits a serious fault* in any part of a multiple exercise, this will result in a mark of zero for that exercise. Any serious fault* or failure in an individual test or tests will disqualify a dog from gaining an individual award and may lead to elimination. In Team Tests, however, one dog's serious fault or failure will not disqualify a team from the awards. If two or more teams finish on equal points, a run off will be necessary to determine the result.
8. The Judges are empowered to withhold any prize or award if in their opinion competing dogs have not shown sufficient merit.

*   Serious faults are refusing to retrieve, whining or barking, running in or chasing, out of control, failing to enter water, changing retrieve and poor heel work - J(G)6a(6)