



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

December 2019

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Host Pointing Breed Field Trials**

Subject: **Determining a Dog's Ability to Retrieve**

This is to inform you of an upcoming change to the Pointing Breed Field Trial Rules that impacts how a dog's ability to retrieve is determined for the purpose of earning the FC and AFC title.

A survey conducted in June 2018 by the Performance Events Department indicated that, by a two to one margin, owners of the four retrieving breeds (GSP, GWP, Vizsla and Weimaraner) felt the current system of determining a dog's ability to retrieve was unfair and alternative methods should be explored. The complaint was that determining a dog's ability to retrieve should not be limited to dogs that place high enough to earn Championship points since all placements in a retrieving stake are required to retrieve.

The Performance Events Department contacted the Parent Clubs of the four retrieving breeds to obtain their input on possible alternatives. With this input, the AKC Board approved a modification of the Rules regarding determining a dog's ability to retrieve. Specifically, a dog from the retrieving breeds must earn four "retrieving credits" to become a FC or AFC. Retrieving credits are earned by placing in retrieving stakes depending on the number of starters in the stake.

This change introduces the term "retrieving credits", which are separate from championship points. A dog must still earn 10 championship points from the point schedules as they currently exist. In addition, a dog from the retrieving breeds must earn 4 retrieving credits from the retrieving credit schedules as shown below. The Rules regarding retrieving will be amended as follows:

Chapter 14. Field Championship

Paragraph 3. *Except that a German Shorthaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer, Vizsla, or Weimaraner, shall not be recorded a Field Champion unless it has earned at least 4 retrieving credits in retrieving stakes at licensed or member club field trials.*

Chapter 14. Amateur Field Championship

Paragraph 3. *Except that a German Shorthaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer, Vizsla, or Weimaraner, shall not be recorded an Amateur Field Champion unless it has earned at least 4 retrieving credits in amateur retrieving stakes at licensed or member club field trials.*

New paragraph 7.

Open Retrieving Credits. Dogs from the four retrieving breeds must earn a minimum of four retrieving credits according to the following schedule to be awarded the FC title:

# of Starters	<u>Placement</u>			
	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>
<u>4 to 7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>8 to 12</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>13 to 17</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>18 to 24</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>25 or more</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Retrieving credits earned in amateur stakes may count toward a dog's Open Retrieving Credits provided the credits were earned by winning first place in an amateur retrieving stake.

New paragraph 9.

Amateur Retrieving Credits. Dogs from the four retrieving breeds must earn a minimum of four retrieving credits according to the following schedule to be awarded the AFC title:

# of Starters	<u>Placement</u>			
	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>
<u>4 to 7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>8 to 12</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>13 to 17</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>18 to 24</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>25 or more</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

This change will become effective **January 1, 2020**. The change will not be applied retroactively. The new/additional wording will appear in the Rule book upon its next reprinting.

This email is being sent to all field trial judges, clubs licensed to hold Pointing Breed Field Trials and the primary owner of a retrieving breed dog that has placed in a field trial in the last 3 years. (2017 - 2019).

Please email fieldtrials@akc.org should you have additional questions.