

GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CLUB OF AMERICA

WATER TEST RATING STANDARDS

SECTION I

The following Ratings are offered by the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America to its members to enable owners of German Shorthaired Pointers showing the ability in the following activities permanently in conjunction with the dog's name.

Any dog earning a Rating will be issued the appropriate Certificate by the Water Test Administrator and signed by an Officer of the Club.

SECTION II

The Ratings offered by the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America are the following:

Novice Retrieving Dog	NRD
Retrieving Dog	RD
Retrieving Dog Excellent	RDX

SECTION III

Eligibility of Dogs

- A. Any German Shorthaired Pointer with an individual AKC number, an AKC "Limited Registration" and/or an ILP number who has obtained the age of six (6) months on the first advertised day of the tests may compete for any or all of the ratings offered.
- B. Ratings Tests are open to all German Shorthaired Pointers whose owners and co-owners are members of the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America.
- C. Spayed bitches or neutered males may compete for and receive ratings.

SECTION IV

Eligibility of Club and Procedure

- A. Any AKC recognized German Shorthaired Pointer Club recognized by and registered with the German Shorthaired Pointer 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 GSPCA representative. The GSPCA reserves the right to appoint a representative of their choice to observe any test sponsored by any club.
 1. It shall be the responsibility of the GSPCA representative to review all rules with the judges and rating test Committee to be sure that all points are fully understood, prior to the test.
 2. It is the duty of the GSPCA representative to assure that the test is conducted in accordance with the rules. The rating test chairperson of the sponsoring club shall be responsible to the GSPCA representative.
 3. All Result forms both pass and fail, must be returned to the GSPCA Water Test Administrator and the local club shall retain second copy completely and correctly filled out. A \$3.00 per entry fee to the GSPCA will be required from local clubs sponsoring rating tests. This will go to the general fund to defray the expenses associated with sponsoring the rating test program. This donation must be received before result forms can be processed.
- B. Requirements
 1. Ratings chairperson and secretary must be members of the GSPCA.
 2. The rating secretary of each GSP Club desiring to conduct such Rating Tests shall make a written request to the GSPCA Water Test Administrator on official forms supplied by him/her.
 3. Each request will be postmarked a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the proposed tests.
 4. The local club shall recommend one or more individuals to represent the GSPCA for the purpose of witnessing the tests.
 5. Two judges are required and shall be selected by the local club rating test committee; and shall be in good standing with the AKC. 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 be sure that at least one of the judges had these qualifications.

Sponsoring club members may judge a rating test for their club only if they have previously judged GSPCA rating tests and/or AKC field trials and/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 clown any dog for which he/she will act as judge.

6. Any change in judging from the original application requires notification to the National Office.
 7. 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 GSPCA representative.
 8. No dog is permitted to practice on the rating test grounds on the day of the rating test.
 9. No dog may be judged for a rating while under judgement in a field trial. They may be judged for a rating at the same trial.
- C. Protests, appeals, mis-tests
- The sponsoring club's rating test committee and GSPCA representative shall have the authority to decide upon any problems arising during the testing time. These decisions must be made in accordance with these GSPCA Ratings Standards most current revision.
- In the case of mis-tests, the dog shall be passed over, and brought up to be retested later the same day.

SECTION V- Retrieving ratings

- A. Requirements for retrieving dog tests.
 1. Recognized game birds, ducks, or pigeons must be used for the NRD, RD, and RDX tests.

Whichever
Is selected must be used throughout the stake for all dogs entered in that stake. A freshly killed bird shall be used for each NRD entrant.
 2. Dead or shackled birds may be used for the RD and RDX test. But at least one live bird per dog must be shot in each test. Dead bird required for NRD.
 3. At each station where a live bird is shot the bird thrower should be backed by at least two gunners. The judges are to arrange the gunner's stations depending on the test. On double or triple retrieves, the birds are to be dropped from separate stations.
 4. Novice dogs may be worked upwind. In RD or RDX stakes dogs should be worked across or downwind to show ability to work and hunt.
 5. If, in a judges' discretion, a bird is declared to be out of bounds, the dog should be passed over and another dog run before the former dog returns for judgment. Bird can float out of bounds only one (1) time due to drifting and dog not entering the water to complete the retrieve in all tests.
 6. Handling is permissible in all tests, but overhandling either voice or whistle, shall be penalized at the judges' discretion.
 7. If on a water retrieve the dog reduces the time required to complete the retrieve by the intelligent use of land, he shall not be penalized. Use of land for the mere purpose of avoiding water will be penalized.
 8. Calibers of gun used in all tests shall be .20 gauge or larger shotguns or .22 caliber blank cartridges (.22 caliber crimp not allowed.) A blank gun may be used solely in the NRD test. However, at least one shotgun must be fired in the RD and RDX tests.
 9. Objects may not be thrown to encourage a dog to enter water or to direct dog. This is a disqualification in any stake.
 10. All shots to be fired AFTER bird is released or thrown and **in the air** in all retrieving tests.

NRD- Novice Retrieving Dog

- A. Requirements for dogs competing for NRDs shall be as follows:
 - 1. Water Retrieve
 - a. Dog is required to retrieve a single dead bird in the water with a minimum swim of 20 yards; a shot will be fired. At judges' discretion, a bird drifting more than 40 yards from shore may be declared "out of bounds," and be re-thrown. See #6 above.
- B. Scoring- All scoring is on a pass/fail basis according to the official result forms.
- C. Procedures
 - 1. A circle of rope, hose, or other material is to be laid out with a radius of six (6') feet (12' diameter) clearly defining boundaries, circle must come no closer than three feet (3') from water's edge. Handler must remain within the circle until the retrieve is completed. Dog must deliver bird to circle.
 - 2. No dog may be sent to retrieve until the bird has hit the water and handler has been directed to send dog by judges.
 - 3. Steadiness on line is not required, and dog may be restrained by: 1) holding dog; 2) holding collar; 3) both 1 and 2; and 4) leashing dog.
 - 4. Disqualifications
 - a. Hardmouthing (both judges must declare the bird unfit)
 - b. Excessive delay of over two (2) minutes to enter water.
 - c. Loses interest, wanders around aimlessly, or up and down waters edge.
 - d. Refuses handlers commands to handle, over six (6) times.

NRD - WATER

----- 40 yards maximum -----

----- 20 yards minimum -----

**Handlers circle, 6 ft. radius
(12 ft. diameter)
"3 ft. from edge of handler's circle to waters edge.**

RD- Retrieving Dog

- A. Requirements for dogs competing for RD shall be as follows:
 - 1. Water Retrieve
 - a. The dog is required to retrieve a wide-spaced (approximately 60 degrees angle) double through eight (8) decoys, with the falls being at distances of approximately 50 yards on the first fall through decoy, and 20 yards on the second fall.
 - b. Dog must enter water promptly.
- B. Scoring- All scoring is on a pass/fail basis according to the official result forms.

C. Procedures

1. A circle of rope, hose, or other material is to be laid out with a radius of six (6') feet (12' diameter) clearly defining boundaries. Circle must come no closer than three feet (3') from water's edge. Handler must remain within the circle until all the retrieves are completed. Dog MUST retrieve TO HAND.
2. No dog may be sent to retrieve until the last bird has hit the ground/water and the handler has been directed to send dog by judges.
3. The dog shall be steady on the line (controlled break allowed). Touch to release permitted, but restraint not permitted. Controlled break allowed means "Voice and/or hand signal may be used to stop dog, however, dog must have all four feet inside the circle to be defined as being under control."
4. Disqualifications
 - a. Hardmouthing (both Judges must declare bird as unfit.)
 - b. Excessive delay of over two (2) minutes to enter or reenter the water.
 - c. Loses interest, wanders around aimlessly, or up and down water edge.
 - d. Refuses handler commands to handler, over five (5) times.
 - e. Performance so bad, judge would not take hunting.

RD - WATER

(1st Bird 50 yards)

(2nd bird 20 yards)

Handlers circle, 6 ft. radius (12 ft. diameter)
3 ft. from edge of handler's circle to water's edge.

RDX- Retrieving Dog Excellent

- A. Requirements for dogs competing for RDX shall be as follows:
1. The dog shall give a finished performance, showing both class and style while competing for this title.
 - a. Dog will be brought to and into circle off leash and under control.
 - b. Handler may elect to have dog stand, sit or be downed, but the original position must be maintained for each individual series.
 - c. A reasonable move of the dog to mark the fall of a bird is acceptable, but no other movement by the dog is allowed. Controlled break is not allowed.
 - d. No dog may be sent to retrieve until the last bird has hit the ground/water and handler has been directed to send dog by judges.
 - e. Dog must enter water immediately with eagerness.
 1. Water Retrieve
 - a. Dog is required to retrieve to hand, a triple, first fall to be at 40 yards to one side, second fall to be a minimum of 60 yards through decoys, third fall to be 20 yards landing to opposite side as the first fall.
Example: First fall, 40 yards to right; second fall, 60 yards through decoys; third fall, 20 yards to left, (see diagram)
 - b. Decoys (8) to be placed between 30 yards and 60 yards in water (see diagram).

- c. Dog must enter and reenter water without hesitation. Delays to be penalized, and excessive delays disqualified.
- 2. Blind Water Retrieve
 - a. The dog is required to be brought to the line without seeing fall. Handler is to be advised of location of bird.
 - b. Dog is required to retrieve, to hand, at a range of approximately 50 yards, through eight (8) decoys.
 - c. No shot will be fired for this test.
 - d. To be completed after triple water retrieve.
 - e. Dog must enter and reenter water without hesitation. Delays to be penalized, and excessive delays disqualified.

B. Scoring- All scoring is on a pass/fail basis according to the official result forms.

C. Disqualifications

- 1. Lack of absolute steadiness on the line.
- 2. Hardmouthing (both Judges must declare the bird unfit).
- 3. Handler must not move from the circle.
- 4. Excessive delay entering or reentering the water over two (2) minutes.
- 5. Handler cannot touch dog except tap to release.
- 6. Loses interest, wanders around aimlessly, or up and down water edge.
- 7. Refuse handler commands to handle, over four (4) times.

RDX - WATER

(2nd Bird, 60 yards)

decoys

decoys

(1st Bird, 40 yards)

(3rd Bird, 20 yards)

----- shore

Handlers circle, 6 ft. radius (12 ft. diameter)
3 ft. from edge of handler's circle to water's edge.

RDX - BLIND

_____(Bird)_____
50 yards

decoy decoy
 decoy decoy
 decoy decoy
 decoy decoy

-----shore

Handlers circle, 6 ft. radius (12 ft. diameter)
3 ft. from edge of handler's circle to water's edge.