

GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.



# WATER TEST RATING STANDARDS

## SECTION 1

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 to earn a certificate title which may be displayed permanently in conjunction with the dog's name.

## SECTION II

The ratings 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 AKC individual, "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 and 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 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 its 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 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 Secretary and the local club shall retain a second copy completely and correctly filled out. A \$3.50 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 will be processed.
- B. Requirements
  - 1. Ratings chairperson and secretary must be members of GSPCA.
  - 2. The rating secretary of each GSP club desiring to conduct rating tests shall make a written request to the GSPCA Water Test Secretary on official forms supplied by him/her or taken from the GSPCA web page. The forms may be mailed or sent electronically to the GSPCA water test secretary.

3. Each request must 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 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 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 has these qualifications.  
Sponsoring club members may judge a rating test for their club only if they have previously judged GSPCA rating tests, AKC field trials, or AKC hunt tests or at least one judge must qualify as above. Judges may not judge dogs owned or co-owned by them, owned by immediate members of their family or any member of their immediate household.
6. Any change in judging from the original application requires notification to the GSPCA Secretary or the Water Test Secretary.
7. Each request shall include:
  - a. Dates with the starting time of the first event.
  - b. Exact location.
  - c. Names of judges and brief qualifications.
  - d. Species of birds to be used.
  - e. Names of club rating test chairperson, rating test secretary, and GSCPA representative.
8. No dog is permitted to practice on the rating test grounds on the day of the test.

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 the current revision of the GSCPA

Ratings Standards. In the case of mis-tests, the dog shall be passed over and brought up to be tested later in the same day.

**SECTION V**

A. Requirements for retrieving dog tests.

1. Recognized game birds, ducks or pigeons may be used for 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 should be used in NRD tests.  
Ducks are recommended to be used in RD and RDX tests. Shackled birds are permitted but if they are used this must be stated in the premium list.  
Species of birds and their usage is left to the discretion of the sponsoring club.
2. At least one live bird per dog must be shot in each RD and RDX test.
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 thrown from separate stations.
4. Novice dogs may be worked upwind. RD or RDX dogs should be worked across or downwind to show ability to work and hunt.
5. If, in a judge's 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.  
Birds may drift out of bounds only one (1) time after which the dog must enter the water to complete the retrieve on the 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt in all tests.
6. Handling is permissible in all tests, but over handling either by 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 intelligent use of land, he shall not be penalized. Use of land for the purpose of avoiding water will be penalized.
8. .20 gauge or larger shotguns or .22 caliber blank cartridges or primers shall be used in all tests. At least one shotgun must be fired in the RD and RDX tests. A blank gun may be used solely in the NRD test. (.22 Caliber crimp not allowed)

- 9. 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.
- 10. All shots to be fired AFTER bird is thrown or released and **in the air** in all retrieving tests.
- 11. Wingers (slingshot catapults that can control the distance a duck is projected) are recommended to insure that all dogs in a stake have similar distances to retrieve.  
Wingers should be hidden behind blinds or vegetation so as not to stand out on the water's edge.

**Novice Retrieving Dog**

A. Requirements for dogs competing for NRD'S shall be as follows:

1. Water Retrieve

- a. Dog is required to retrieve a single dead bird from the water with a minimum swim of 20 yards. A shot will be fired. A bird drifting more than 40 yards from shore may be declared out of bounds and re-thrown at the judges' discretion.

Refer to #5 above.

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

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 complete. Dog must deliver the bird into the circle.

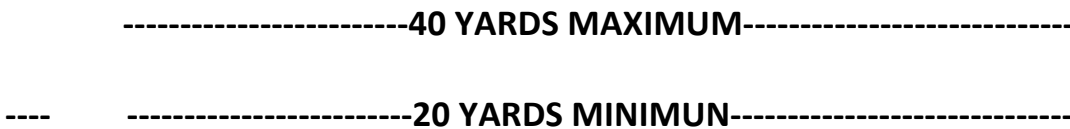
2. No dog may be sent to retrieve until the bird has hit the water and handler has been directed to send dog by the judges.

3. Steadiness on line is not required, and dog may be restrained by holding the dog, holding his collar or leashing the dog.

4. Disqualifications

- a. Hardmouthing (both judges must declare the bird unfit.)
- b. A delay of over two (2) minutes to enter the water.
- c. Loses interest, wanders around aimlessly, or up and down water's edge.
- d. Refuses handler's commands more than six (6) times.

**NRD – WATER**



**Handlers circle, 6 ft. radius  
(12 ft. diameter)  
3 ft. from edge of handler's circle to water's 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 (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 water and the handler has been directed to send dog by the judges.
3. The dog shall be steady on the line (controlled break allowed). Touch to release permitted, but restraint not permitted. Controlled break 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's commands over five (5) times.
  - e. Performance so bad, judge would not take hunting.

### RD- WATER

**(1<sup>st</sup> Bird 50 yards)**

**(2<sup>nd</sup> Bird 20 yards)**

**Handler's 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 the 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 of the dog is allowed.*
    - d. No dog may be sent to retrieve until the last bird has hit the water and handler has been directed to send the dog by judges.
    - e. Dog must enter the water immediately with eagerness.
- B. Water Retrieve
1. Dog is required to retrieve three (3) birds to hand. (triple retrieve) First fall to be 40 yards to one side, second fall to be a minimum of 60 yards through decoys, (This is the shot bird) third fall to be 20 yards to the opposite side of the first fall.  
Example: First fall, 40 yards to right; second fall, 60 yards through decoys, third fall 20 yards to left. (See diagram)
  2. Decoys (8) to be placed between 30 yards and 60 yards in water (see diagram).
  3. Dog must enter and reenter water without hesitation. Delays to be penalized and excessive delays disqualified.
- C. Blind Water Retrieve
1. The dog is to be brought to the line without seeing the fall. Handler is to be advised of location of bird.
  2. The dog must retrieve a bird to hand through (8) decoys. The bird should be approximately 50 yards from shore.
  3. No shot will be fired for this test.
  4. To be completed after the triple water retrieve.
  5. Dog must enter and reenter water without hesitation. Delays are to be penalized and excessive delays disqualify.
- D. Scoring – All scoring is on a pass/fail basis according to the official result form
- 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. A delay over two minutes entering or reentering the water.
  5. Handler cannot touch dog except tap to release.
  6. Dog loses interest, wanders aimlessly, or runs up and down water's edge.
  7. Refuses handler's commands over four (4) times.

**RDX - Water**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Bird (shot) 60 yards**

**decoys**

**decoys**

**decoys**

**1<sup>st</sup> Bird, 40 yards**

**decoys**

**decoys**

**decoys**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Bird 20 yards**

-----**Shore**-----

**Handler's 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 diameter)  
3 ft. from edge of handler's circle to water's edge.**