

Field Governors Meeting Minutes

Friday April 24, 2015 Phoenix, AZ Noon to 5pm (in attendance: Field Governors Mark Haglin, Jan Johnson, Mike Leonetti, Bev Matthews, Don Mock, Kathy Nestor, Dave Sanford, and Greg Wharton and Field Governor Nominees Peter Renwick and Elaine Vanderslice. On the phone were Field Governors Barb Granatir and Cathy Iversen. Additional Attendees: Dean Reinke, Bob Beauchamp, Connie Kieckefer, Dick Burgess, Sue Burgess, Randy Capsel

1. Pro to Amateur Survey Status – still working on capturing all comments and ensuring no duplicates as names not always on forwarded email surveys. When complete will go to Rules Committee (chair Steve Beyer)
2. Video of a National for use by Chairmen to obtain land/show Chamber of Commerce- received pictures from Mary Kemper, will have two power point files created by August 2015 to post to ESSFTA for use by NAC and NOC Chairs
3. Parent Club Field Trials (New York and Tennessee)
NY trial to be closer to Poughkeepsie area –Dan Lussen – approved (Bev to talk to Dan to ensure Banquet still being held and suggest Alternating Series. With trial moving south to the eastern New York area, it is thought it might be bigger than the past and might still need to be started on Friday afternoon)
Tenn HOF Trial to be chaired by Mark Hairfield - approved
4. Interclub Chair consolidation/clarification of responsibilities- Committee to convene and complete before September 2015. Final output will be posted on ESSFTA (Bev to Chair, Daryl Johnson, Barb Granatir and Robert Clayton)
5. Exploratory Committee for Disciplinary Action – **Mhari Peschel, Chair** (Report given by Jan) Decision was made to accept proposal of using tools we currently have available (example: withholding FT date of offending club, AKC Misconduct process, ESSFTA complaint process) Withholding date ability to be confirmed with AKC by Bev. Dean suggested if we make an example of a club that does something wrong, it would help to solve the problem. IC chair should be responsible to disseminate information to and from the parent club hierarchy. “An infraction may result in disciplinary action, including the possible loss of future trial approvals.” IC chairs need to better monitor club behavior. They should require clubs to write an explanation of what happened when deciding to report an infraction. Communication should be in writing
6. Update on Gunning Committee – **Mark Haglin, Chair** – Currently 879 gunners and 162 qualified as Gun Captains. Seminars held as needed in US and Canada. Noted that the Gunning program has been very effective and many young people are showing interest in being qualified to gun Field Trials. Mark to encourage Gun Captains to become members of ESSFTA in hopes of also encouraging gunners to follow.
7. On Line Apprentice Test capabilities – **Barb Boettcher** – Barb to work on creating an on line test in addition to the one that can be printed and sent to Apprentice coordinator.

8. Blue Book reprint – ready, just need budget approval. Would like to borrow money from Pro Plan funds – approx. \$900, to be paid back as books are sold. The book will be sent to ESSFTA and essft.com as pdf file for download by the end of April 2015. If the Budget is approved, Bev will contact printer to have 200 copies of Blue Book printed and sent to ESSFTA Store. As books are sold, Pro Plan funds will be reimbursed.
9. Status of Judges Directory – Jan Johnson – over the past two years, have moved from an excel download AKC judges, to a report kept by Jan Johnson with judge, contact information, number Springer trials they have judged and the date of their latest assignment. Special reports can be requested from Jan if a person wants in excel format to sort but will be published twice a year, in June and December, on essft.com.
10. Suggestions for HOF Patron Nomination? Requested budget approval for 2016 and yearly going forward. \$1200 - from Pro Plan Fund (Pro Plan Committee chair Elaine Vanderslice) If approved, the field governors have nominated Mary Kemper for recipient of this award in February 2016
11. HOF Selection Committee Update – updated current members, including the latest member (Bob Bullard who replaced Bob Child) – current members are Kerm Gillund (whose tenure ends in 2015) Jeff Brooks, John Hall, Mike Wallace, Bob Mueller and Bob Bullard
12. NAC Resolutions – after conversations with Dave Hopkins it was determined we did NOT need to modify resolutions, but changes to processes covered by resolutions that had been voted on my NAC delegates, would be added to NAC resolutions in the form of addendums and posted on ESSFTA website
13. Standard National Judges Seminar (including Apprentice Program) – **Mike Wallace, Chair** – the committee input and field governors' initial changes are quite extensive and are covered on a separate page at the end. A new committee has been established; Chairman Greg Wharton, Bob Iversen and John Meyer, with the charter to create an implementation plan to be presented to the BOG for final approval.
14. Judging Limitation Rule – after much discussion and considerable input from clubs and field trial individuals, we agreed to modify the rule as follows:

The Judging Limitation “year” will be defined as a calendar year, January thru December; the judging limit will be 3 times per year, and only one assignment will be allowed per Interclub. Interclub for this purpose will be determined by the physical location of the trial. Emergency judging replacements will continue to be handled as necessary and will not affect any future confirmed judging assignments. This change will be effective January 1, 2016.

Details of Item 13: THIS IS A PRELIMINARY DRAFT FOR COMMITTEE WORK, WITH A FINAL PRESENTATION TO FOLLOW FOR BOG APPROVAL.

- 1) Change language calling for “recommendations” to “required” in the following specifics.
 - A) Required to do field assignments out of specific area or IC, as different cover and scenting conditions are very important.
 - B) Required to play an active role in field trial clubs, such as grounds layout, planting birds, chairperson, committee member, gunning etc
 - C) Required to have judged at least 6 puppy stakes.
 - D) Required to have displayed good sportsmanship throughout and in good standing with the AKC and ESSFTA.

2) Apprentice candidates will be required to have a minimum of handling experience to include running a minimum of 60 All Age Stakes. Candidates need to be able to show success in the trial game by way of making champions or at minimum placing in several of the 60 minimum stakes.

Also the candidate is required to have:

- A) Competed with at least 2 different dogs.
- B) Ran in at least 8 different club trials and locations and at least 2 different interclubs.
- C) Qualified a dog for at least 3 nationals.
- D) Served on a minimum of 5 field trial committees.

3) The Apprentice candidate must be sponsored by 2 judges that are qualified to Teach (judges who have judged a minimum of 24 stakes) in order to be eligible to enroll in Apprentice program. One of the sponsoring judges must be willing to judge with the Apprentice for the 1st apprentice assignment. The IC chair must also sign off on candidate. (This is a Bev add-on: Suggest a form be created with Apprentice’s Name, place for the 2 Sponsoring Judges names and the IC Chair’s Approval – this should be sent to the Apprentice Coordinator for his/her input for record keeping)

4) The field work is to be extended to 3 Apprentice assignments. The “Teaching” judge MUST critique and evaluate if the candidate is ready to move up to the judging list and if not approved must do a 4th assignment before approval. One of the Teaching judges for a candidate will judge with the candidate the first time out on the candidate’s first licensed assignment.

5) Any failures on written test will suspend the candidate for a minimum of 1 year and require that candidate to go to a new judging seminar and be reapproved for program before continuing.

6) ALL Apprentice candidates must attend a Judging Seminar before being considered for the program. The only format to be used for which an Apprentice will receive credit, is the standard program approved by ESSFTA. As part of the seminars field work the Apprentice candidates should be evaluated on how they handle their dogs and the decisions they make based on conditions, wind, terrain etc., in an informal setting at the end of the Seminar. A candidate does have the option to go to a seminar in any IC.

7) Some trials are historically smaller and those trials should be avoided for field apprentice assignments.

8) All judges will be reevaluated and recertified on a 5 year cycle by attending an ESSFTA approved seminar or retaking the test. In addition, for recertification, a judge must have run a Springer Spaniel in two or more stakes within the previous 5 years.

9) Teaching judges (those allowed to have an apprentice serve under them, or be a sponsor for a new apprentice) must have judged a minimum of 24 All Age Springer Spaniel Stakes.