

WCA National Field Trial

1) Purpose

- a) The WCA will hold a National Field Trial each year in December to award the titles of “National Weimaraner Field Champion of 20__” and the “National Amateur Weimaraner Field Champion of 20__”.
- b) The WCA will hold a National Walking Field Trial each year to award the title of “National Walking Gun Dog Champion of 20__”.

2) Event

- a) The National Field Trial will begin in the morning on the first Saturday in December every year at Lake Murray Field Trial Grounds, Ardmore, Oklahoma.
- b) All stakes of the National Field Trial will be **“Open to Weimaraners Only.”**
- c) A WCA Field Futurity shall be held in conjunction with the National Field Trial.
- d) All stakes run at the National Field Trial shall be AKC licensed and conducted under the latest version of the AKC Field Trial Rules and Procedures. Additional WCA rules are stated within this set of rules. (For the National Field Futurity, See Futurity Rules.)
- e) Bitches in season may compete in all stakes.
- f) The National Walking Gun Dog Championship stake may be held at an alternate time and location of the National Field Trial.

3) National Field Trial Chairperson(s) (NFTC)

- a) The Field Trial Chairperson, Secretary and all members of the Field Trial Committee shall be members of the WCA in good standing.
- b) The WCA Board will appoint the Chairperson(s) at a Board meeting for the following year.
- c) As soon as possible after their appointment(s), the NFTC will select the National Field Trial Committee; stake managers, hospitality manager and the Field Trial Secretary. Additional committee members may be added as needed.
- d) The NFTC will update the National Field Trial Procedures at the end of the event.
- e) The NFTC and Committee will consider the overall best interests of the National Field Championships and avoid decision-making based upon his/her personal views.
- f) For succession planning, it is preferred to have Co-Chairs of the event, with each serving a two-year term. Co-chairs should rotate off in alternating years.

4) Courses and Stakes

- a) Weimaraner National Grand Championship
 - i) This is a mandatory stake.
 - ii) Shall be conducted in one (1) hour braces.
 - iii) A continuous course is required.
 - iv) Dogs in contention will be called back to retrieve.
 - v) Open to any Weimaraner which, at the time entries close for this stake, is a Field Champion or an Amateur Field Champion, or has placed first, second, third or fourth in any AKC broke dog stake such as an Open or Amateur All Age stake or an Open or Amateur Gun Dog stake. The event, stake, and placement that qualified the dog to be entered shall be submitted with the entry.
 - vi) This is a money stake.
- b) WCA National Field Futurity
 - i) This is a mandatory stake.

- ii) See Futurity Rules.
- c) Weimaraner National Grand Amateur Championship
 - i) This is a mandatory stake.
 - ii) Shall be conducted in one (1) hour braces.
 - iii) Continuous course is required.
 - iv) Dogs in contention will be called back to retrieve.
 - v) Open to any Weimaraner which at the time entries close for this stake, while being owned by an amateur, has earned its Field Championship or Amateur Field Championship, or has placed first, second, third or fourth in any AKC broke dog stake such as an Open or Amateur All-Age stake or an Open or Amateur Gun Dog stake. The event, stake and placement that qualified the dog to be entered shall be submitted with the entry. Only persons who, in the judgment of the Field Trial Committee, are qualified as amateurs, as defined in Chapter 14, Section 2 of the AKC Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds may serve as a scout in the National Amateur Championship Stake.
- d) National Open Derby
 - i) This is a mandatory stake
 - ii) Conducted in thirty (30) minute braces.
 - iii) Continuous course required.
 - iv) This is a money stake.
- e) National Open Walking Puppy
 - i) This is a mandatory stake.
 - ii) Conducted in twenty (20) minute braces.
 - iii) Single course, out and back
 - iv) Blank pistols will not be used.
- f) National Walking Gun Dog Championship
 - i) This is a mandatory stake.
 - ii) Conducted in one (1) hour braces.
 - iii) While it is preferred to have this stake embedded in the AKC National Walking Gun Dog Championship, it is not required.

5) Judges

- a) The NFTC shall ask each stake manager for three names of potential judges.
- b) Judges should come from different parts of the country and have knowledge and experience judging continuous course trials.
- c) The National Field Trial Committee will present the judging slate to the WCA Board of Directors by July 1st for approval.
- d) When the National Walking Gun Dog Championship is embedded with the AKC, the responsibility of judges falls upon the AKC.

6) Retrieving Call Backs

- a) Mature flight-conditioned pheasants shall be used in the callbacks.
- b) Birds shall be planted as the judges shall direct.
- c) Birds should be planted a sufficient distance from the gallery/spectators so as to minimize interference with the dog's performance and to maximize gunner safety.
- d) Gunners shall use only double-barreled shotguns of at least .20 gauge; semi-automatic and pump shotguns are prohibited.
- e) During callbacks blaze orange shall be worn by all judges, handlers, gunners and the game steward.

7) Scribe/Photographer

- a) The scribe(s) will prepare a brace-by-brace write up for each of the stakes.
- b) Photographs of all placements should be taken. The photos should include the dogs, handlers, judges and owners, if available.
- c) The write up and photos shall be submitted to *The Weimaraner Magazine* editor within 30 days after the trial.
- d) To have the highest picture quality and the least number of errors in the text, the photos and articles should be submitted in accordance with the current magazine policy.

8) AKC Application and Premium List

- a) The application information for the National Field Trial is sent to the WCA Executive Secretary by August 1st. The Executive Secretary will fill out the AKC forms and send them to AKC for approval. The Executive Secretary will coordinate with the NFTC to ensure that the Premium List is prepared and submitted to the AKC.
- b) Any WCA rule that supplements or modifies AKC rules shall be included within the premium. Also, any options that the AKC rules allow shall be stated in the premium. The topics for inclusion include:
 - i) Bitches in Season.
 - ii) Training on the grounds (any specific rules or policies for use of the grounds).
 - iii) Tracking Collars.
 - iv) All prizes, trophies (includes rotating trophies), and rosettes.
 - v) Stakes and Courses.
 - vi) Retrieve.
 - vii) Birds.

9) Prizes

- a) Rosettes shall be given to all placed dogs and also to those that receive a Judges Award of Merit.
- b) All of the rotating trophies associated with the National Field Trial shall be presented to the winners. If no winner is selected, the trophy/s will remain with last year's winner. Refer to the WCA Perpetual Trophy Policy for more information.
- c) Non-rotating trophies shall be given to all placed dogs.
- d) All non-rotating trophies and rosettes should be of a quality that is commensurate with a WCA National Championship.
- e) In a money stake, prize money will be paid to first, second, third and fourth placed dogs. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the entry fee (net of grounds use fees, if any) for the stake will be used as the prize money. If four placements are given, the split is 40%, 30%, 20%, 10%. If three placements are given, the split is 50%, 30%, 20%. If two placements are given, the split is 70%, 30%. If one placement is given, that placement receives 100%. In the event that no placements are given, the prize money will be placed in the WCA National Field Trial account to help with expenses for the next year's NFT event.

10) Additional Rules

- a) All stakes shall be horseback stakes with the exception of the Puppy Stake.
- b) Per AKC rules, walking handlers, are allowed and every effort will be made to brace with another walking handler when available.
- c) The current version of the AKC Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure For Pointing Breeds shall be used to conduct all stakes, except the WCA Field Futurity.
- d) The WCA National Field Trial shall have only one continuous course in use at

- any time.
- e) A .22 caliber or larger blank pistol shall be used for all stakes. Small crimp .22 blanks and shotguns are not permitted.
- f) Any dog competing in the National Field Trial must not have had any training on the same grounds during the seven days prior to the start of the National Field Trial. Being entered in a field trial on the grounds during the seven-day period does not constitute training.
- g) "Bitches in Season" must be allowed to compete.
- h) Tracking collars shall be allowed in all stakes. AKC's rules and procedures shall apply.
- i) The drawing for braces and the running order shall take place no later than the day before the start of the National Field Trial.

11) Field Trial Closeout

- a) Submit all required documents and payments to AKC within their time limits.
- b) Submit the write-up, photos and placements to the editor of *The Weimaraner Magazine* within 30 days after the trial.
- c) The Field Futurity placements and number of dogs that ran in the stake must be sent to the Futurity Administrator within ten (10) days of the event.
- d) Futurity trophy and rotating trophy receipts must be submitted within ten (10) days of the event.
- e) Submit all financial statements to the WCA Treasurer within 60 days of the event.
- f) The secretary for the National Field Trial will submit separate profit and loss statements to the WCA Treasurer for the National Field Championship and the Embedded National Walking Gun Dog Championship.