

YOUNG HANDLER PROGRAM

Preamble:

HRC strives to provide its youth with a series of test run under standardized rules that allow our youth to showcase their talents working as a team with a retriever in true to life hunting scenarios, to educate the youth in hunter safety, sportsmanship, conservation and proper handling techniques, and to encourage our youth to be active member of the HRC family and active participants in HRC sanctioned programs.

The Young Handler Program is intended to be a supplement to, not a replacement for, puppy programs, fun hunts and the like that may be sponsored by affiliated clubs or regions.

Who Can Participate:

The HRC Young Handler Program is open to all youth between the ages of 10 and 18, who have completed an HRC approved safety course and who have yet to handle a retriever in a regular HRC/UKC sanctioned Hunt Test. Any youth between the above ages who has previously run for points due to the unavailability of a Youth Program may participate.

Titles:

YOUNG HANDLER—this title will be awarded when the handler/dog team successfully completes 3 Young Handler test of a started level.

SEASONED YOUNG HANDLER—this title will be awarded when the handler/dog team successfully completes the requirements for the Young Handler title and 3 Young Handler tests of a seasoned level.

FINISHED YOUNG HANDLER—this title will be awarded when the handler/dog team successfully completes the requirements for the Young Handler and Seasoned Young Handler titles and 3 Young Handler tests of a finished level.

Guidelines to Scheduling Young Handler Tests:

A Young Handler test may be scheduled at any time; however it is encouraged that such event be conducted in conjunction with a club's regular licensed hunt. Young Handler tests may also be scheduled on a regional basis. The HRC Administrative Secretary shall be notified of the scheduling of a Young Handler test. All Young Handler participants shall complete a premium similar to that used in a regular licensed hunt. The premium

shall be signed by the Young Handler, and his/her signature thereon shall constitute a certification that he/she has successfully completed an HRC approved safety course and that he/she has not handled a dog in a regular licensed hunt test. The Young Handler premium (or a copy thereof) shall be forwarded to the HRC Secretary and shall become a permanent part of HRC's records.

Judges:

The Young Handler tests will be judged by 2 judges licensed at any level by HRC. The Young Handler test may also have 2 shadow Youth Judges.

Fees:

Fees for entering a Young Handler test shall be no more than \$25 per handler/dog team. Recipient of a puppy through the HRC/UKC Youth Puppy Program shall pay ½ the fee amount.

Tests:

A Young Handler test will consist of a land series and a water series.

Both the land and water tests will be constructed so that up to 3 marks may be thrown, depending upon the category of the youth.

The maximum land test distance on 2 of the marks will not exceed 75 yards, but may be less. The distance of the third mark will not exceed 100 yards, but may be less.

A walk up and diversion for seasoned level handlers, and a diversion and honor for finished level handlers, must be incorporated into the land test only.

The maximum water test distance on 2 of the marks will not exceed 60 yards, but may be less. The distance of the third mark will not exceed 75 yards, but may be less.

The land and water blinds for seasoned level handlers will not exceed 40 yards and shall not exceed 75 yards for finished level handlers.

The retrieving line for the water test will be placed on a relatively flat bank, and a Young Handler will not be required to enter the water to run any aspect of the test.

The test for the Started level shall consist of 2 single land marks neither of which exceed 75 yards in distance, and 2 single water marks neither of which exceed 65 yards in distance.

The test for the Seasoned level shall consist of a double land marking test, the distance of one bird not exceeding 75 yards, and the other bird not exceeding 100 yards. A walk up and honor shall be included in this test, as well as a seasoned level blind. The water test

shall consist of a double marking test the distance of one bird not exceeding 60 yards and the other bird not exceeding 75 yards. A seasoned level blind shall be included in the water test.

The test for the Finished level shall consist of a triple land marking test, the distance of two birds not exceeding 75 yards and the distance of one bird not exceeding 100 yards. A diversion and honor shall be included in this test. The finished land blind shall not exceed 75 yards. The water test shall consist of a triple marking test the distance of two birds not exceeding 65 yards and one mark not exceeding 75 yards. The water blind shall not exceed 75 yards.

Application of HRC Rules and Guidelines for Hunting Retriever Tests:

Except as modified herein, the HRC Rules and Guidelines for Hunting Retriever Tests will apply to Young Handler Tests.