

Thrower Job Description

Throwers should be dressed in hunting gear, camouflage, or dark clothing. The club provides dead birds, bird bags, and ear protection. If you have a comfortable field chair or folding chair, bring it along (nothing white, please).

Arrive at the test grounds at the time designated by the Chief Marshal. Report to the Chief Marshal, who will tell you where the test you are working is set up. Go to the site and report to the Stake Marshal who will show you your station and answer any questions you have.

Prior to the beginning of the test, the Judge may ask you to throw a few practice throws. Usually, the place where the bird should land is marked with a small piece of tape or ribbon.

You will be working as a team with a Popper. The location of your station, which has been determined by the Judges, is called a "mark." Before the test starts, you will be told the sequence of the various marks. If, for example, you are mark number 1, then yours will be the first blank shot fired/dead bird thrown. If you are mark number 2, another team of popper and thrower will have fired/thrown before the Judge signals your team.

Before a dog and handler come to the line to do their retriever test, you should get ready. Usually, the Judge will call out, "Guns Up." You should at that point have a bird out of the bird bag and ready to throw. Even if the Judge doesn't call out, you should be attentive to what is going on at the line, and when you see a new dog and handler approach the line, be ready. At the Judge's signal (a raised hat, hand, clipboard, or similar signal), your teammate fires the blank round ("popper" After the "pop," the thrower tosses the dead bird to the spot predesignated by the Judges. . The judge will instruct you on when the pop should occur relative to when the bird is thrown, but normally, in the WC/WCX test the blank is fired first and then the bird is thrown. In the Hunt Test, the bird is normally thrown first and then the blank is fired at the highest arc of the bird.

Once you have thrown the bird, remain still. Do not move around while the dog is working. Do not go into the bird bag until the working dog is back to the handler. Then quietly get out another bird and wait for the next dog and handler to come to the line. Other than the bird that is next to be thrown, keep all other birds in the bag, keep the bag closed, and keep the bag close to your feet. Should a working dog approach the gun station, quietly step on the bag so there is no chance of him "stealing" a bird from the bag.

Keep track of the approximate number of birds left in the bird bag. When you get down to two remaining birds, let the Judge know, "Two Birds Left!" Do this between dogs, and not when a dog and handler are at the line working. The Judge and Stake Marshal will arrange to rebird. Someone will come to your station (or you can meet them halfway) with a new bag of birds. You give them your empty bag. Remember never to

drag the bag, whether full or empty, anywhere in the field. It can leave scent which could trick a working dog's nose.

Do not have any food with you at your position. If you have water or a soft drink, keep it tucked away under your chair. . Sometimes lunch is provided in the field while the test is still going on. If this is the case, police up and secure all residual food, napkins and bags before any dog runs.

During the tests, respond to the requests and directions of the Judges.

Safety of people and dogs are paramount. If at any time for any reason, the Judge is not comfortable with the pop or throw, or there is some other unforeseen event (a loose dog, for example, runs into the test area), the Judge will call a "no bird." The test stops at this point. The bird, if already thrown, is picked up, and the dog and handler who have been at the line will get another chance, starting over. Watch the judges, not the dog.

Occasionally a dog may break before all marks are thrown. The judge will continue to call for the birds to be thrown, so be alert.

As the test location changes, make certain that the area around your station is cleaned up, and that all equipment and unused blank ammunition is accounted for and returned to the Stake Marshal. If you are working at the end of the day, make sure that all equipment and unused blank ammunition is accounted for and returned to the test headquarters area.

And if:

If you take a bird from the bird bag, and it is very torn up (bloody, "meat" exposed), put it back in the bag and take out another bird to throw. When it's time to rebird, point out the bad bird to the bird bagger, who will let the Judge decide that it should be disposed.