

STAKE MARSHAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Before the Test

Plan to meet with the judges to set up the test. You will survey the potential sites with the judges, mark the gun stations, desired point of fall for the birds, and the location of the line, and list the judge's equipment requirements. Provide the equipment requirements to the Chief Marshal. If you are unable to attend, arranged for someone else who is going to present at the set up of the test to take down the pertinent information.

Line up a test dog. If your series is water, you'll also need a pickup dog and a by dog. Your test dog can also be the by dog. If you end up with a lot of pick ups you may want to recruit another dog from the gallery to help.

Day of the Test

The Stake Marshal, (those responsible for a specific WC or WCX series), is a key volunteer. He/she serves as the interface between the judges and all the other test officials, workers, and entrants.

Stake Marshals, should know basic rules and requirements for their stake. It's a good idea to read the rules a week or so before the test. For example, no training is allowed on the test grounds; no electric, pinch, or choke collars are allowed on dogs on the test grounds. No dogs can run with bandages without committee approval. Stake Marshals should report problems observed to the judges and to the Chief Marshal or Chairman.

On the morning of the test, the Stake Marshal should arrive at least an hour before the start of the test. He/she collects the equipment for the stake (radio, popper ammo, shotguns for poppers, ear protectors, bird bags, handlers' shotguns, decoys, blinds - and whatever else the Judges may have specified for the series.) Equipment will be laid out by division and series.

Pick up water and drinks from hospitality, or insure that they know where to deliver them.

Double check with the Game Steward to make sure birds are being delivered to the area where the stake is being run.

The Stake Marshal also collects the judges' books, copies of the catalog, and Marshal's clipboard from the Test Secretary if they have not already been picked up by the Judges (Some judges like to get their own book the day before). Check with the Test Secretary to determine if there have been any last minute scratches.

Along with the Chief Marshal, locate and organize stake workers to set up the series, under the direction of the judges. The Stake Marshal should stick close to the judges to

get any changes/additions to their equipment needs, make sure there are sufficient workers to set up the line and the areas of the marks (for example, blinds) as directed by the judges. If anything is needed, radio the appropriate person (such as the Chief Marshal or Equipment Steward).

Locate and alert the test dog and handler.

Arrange to have holding blinds set up - the number and location will depend on the area of the test. If they have not given directions on this, ask the judges if they have any preference as to the location of the holding blinds and the approach of the handlers.

While the test is being set up, an Assistant Marshal can be checking handlers in, and keeping them back and out of the way of the Judges.

Your goal should be to have the test set up and ready so that the briefing is called ten minutes before the scheduled test starting time. The marshal calls the handlers to the line. No dogs - except the test dog - should be in the area. As an exception, some experienced handlers who are running in the first few numbers may opt to skip the judges' briefing and get their dog set up in a holding blind. This is permitted. At this time, the marshal should make certain that the test dog and handler are present and ready to run.

After the Judges' briefing and questions, the Judges will call for the test dog.

Once the test dog has run, the Marshal and Assistant Marshal should get the first group of dogs ready to run. The first handler should be given reasonable time to collect his/her dog, and the second, third and fourth handlers, as a minimum, should be getting ready and placing themselves in the appropriate holding blinds.

After the start of the test, every effort should be made to keep the handlers coming in catalog order, and with no delays between dogs. If there is a need to run out of catalog order, make sure all affected handlers understand why. You'll need to be flexible, since some handlers may be running dogs in different stakes.

Call dogs and handlers to the line and holding blinds by number as each working dog finishes the series and is passes the last holding blind. You may have the Assistant Marshal do this. Once a handler is in a holding blind, he/she cannot be removed from that blind to let another handler run first!

As the stake progresses, the judges may have directions, such as when to re-bird, or to make an adjustment in a throwers technique. Be alert to anything the judge needs done that affects the line, the running order, or a need for equipment. Also be attentive to the judge's need for refreshment. If the judges need anything special, relay the need via radio to the Chief Marshal at test headquarters.

Marshals also control the gallery. The judges will direct where the gallery can observe the test. The marshal politely reminds anyone who strays out of the permitted area. The marshal will also remind the gallery if it gets too noisy while a dog is setting up to run. The marshal will also be alert for distractions (people wearing bright white clothing who are in the sight line of a dog being handled, for example).

If there is a need to change out workers, let the judge know so the transition can be done smoothly and with the judges' permission.

If any handler has a special need or request, he/she must come to the marshal, who will relay it to the judge. In no case is a handler permitted to approach the judges without having their permission, granted via the marshal.

Judges will report those eligible for the second series to the marshal. The marshal will provide a chit, (provided by the club), authorizing the dog to participate in the water series, to the eligible handlers

Handlers do not have a "right" to challenge the judges' decision. Usually, most Judges are willing to chat with a handler after the test, but that is the judges' call.

At the close of the series, clear the site and get the equipment back to the headquarters location. Double check to make certain all popper guns, ammo, blinds, and other equipment is accounted for. Insure that all shotguns are not loaded, and leave the breeches open or return the guns to a gun case.

After the Test

Make certain the Chief Marshal knows the name of any worker volunteer who wasn't already on the list.

Update this Job Description to add anything important that was missing or should be clarified.