



## **RUNNING RULES**

OF THE

**NATIONAL LURE COURSING CLUB**

### **Rule 1 Safety and well-being of the dogs**

The safety and well-being of the dogs running in competition shall be paramount in all National Lure Coursing Club-sanctioned meetings and in the interpretation and enforcement of the Running Rules.

### **Rule 2 Eligible breeds and cross-breeds**

- (a) The following breeds and cross-breeds are eligible to compete in lure coursing meetings sanctioned by the National Lure Coursing Club (NLCC): Afghan Hound, Azawakh, Bakhmull, Basenji, Borzoi, Caravan or Karwani Hound, Chart Polski, Chortai or Chortaj, Cirneco dell'Etna, Galgo Español, Greyhound, Ibizan Hound, Irish Wolfhound, Italian Greyhound, Longdog, Lurcher, Magyar Agar, Mudhol or Pashmi Hound, Pharaoh Hound, Rampur Hound, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Russian Steppe Borzoi, Saluki, Scottish Deerhound, Silken Windhound, Sloughi, Taigan, Tazi, and Whippet.
- (b) For purposes of these rules, a "lurcher" is the offspring of a sighthound and a sighthound cross or a non-sighthound (usually, but not limited to, a herding dog or a working terrier) bred specifically for hunting or coursing. A "longdog" is the offspring of two parents of different sighthound breeds, bred specifically for hunting or coursing.
- (c) All dogs competing in NLCC-sanctioned lure coursing meetings shall be individually registered with the American Kennel Club, the United Kennel Club, the National Greyhound Association, the National Coursing Club, the Irish Coursing Club, the Federation Cynologique Internationale, the Society for the Perpetuation of the Desert-Bred Saluki, the International Silken Windhound Society, the North American Lurcher & Longdog Association (NALLA), or other NLCC-approved registry. Owners of first time entered lurchers and longdogs not previously registered with the NALLA or other approved registry shall pay a nominal fee and provide registration information to the host club, which shall forward the fee and information to the NALLA.
- (d) Clubs hosting NLCC-sanctioned lure coursing meetings may, at their option, include or exclude any of the breeds or cross-breeds set forth in paragraph (a) above for competition in a meeting.

### **Rule 3 Running formats**

The host club shall have the option to use the following running formats: brace elimination, scored braces, or scored trios. Within a meeting, the host club shall have the option of using different formats for different breeds as it deems necessary, but must use the same format across a breed.

### **Rule 4 Scoring formats**

The host club shall have the option to use the following scoring formats: category scoring or point tally scoring. Within a meeting, the host club shall have the option of using different formats for different breeds as it deems necessary, but must use the same format across a breed.

### **Rule 5 Stakes and Divisions**

- (a) OPEN STAKE: There shall be one Open stake for each breed, except as otherwise provided in these Rules. This Open stake shall consist of dogs which have attained the age of 1 year or older as of the date of the meeting and which have met certification requirements as set forth in these Rules within one year preceding the meeting.
- (b) SENIOR STAKE: To provide an opportunity for older dogs to compete without the necessity of running against younger dogs, the host club shall have the option of offering a Senior stake. The Senior stake shall consist of dogs which have attained the age of 6 years or older as of the date of the meeting, except Irish Wolfhounds which have attained the age of 5 years or older, and Whippets and Rhodesian Ridgebacks which have attained the age of 7 years or older. Dogs entered in the Senior stake must have met certification requirements as set forth in these Rules within one year preceding the meeting, and may not be entered in the Open or any other stake in the same meeting. Meetings in which a dog is entered in the Senior stake will not be included in the meetings counted in determining whether the dog earns any title.
- (c) SPECIAL STAKES: The host club shall have the option of offering the following special stakes: Puppies Stake (for dogs who are between the age of 1 and 2 years as of the date of the meeting); Bitches Stake (females, all age) and Dog Stake (males, all age). Dogs entered in Special stakes must have met certification

requirements as set forth in these Rules within one year preceding the meeting. A host club offering these Special stakes may, at its option, offer Special stakes in lieu of offering an Open Stake. Meetings in which a dog is entered in a Special stake will be included in the meetings counted in determining whether the dog earns any title, so long as the requisite number of dogs is entered in that stake.

- (d) SINGLES STAKE: The host club shall have the option of offering a Singles stake. Dogs entered in this stake shall run the course alone, and need not have met certification requirements, but must have attained the age of 1 year or older as of the date of the meeting. Singles Stake entries from all breeds shall run in one combined Singles Stake and be judged by the same judge(s), with placements being awarded across breeds. Dogs entered in the Singles stake are not eligible to run in any course with other dogs for that meeting. Meetings in which a dog is entered in the Singles stake will not be included in the meetings counted in determining whether the dog earns any title.
- (e) BREEDER/KENNEL STAKE: The host club shall have the option of offering a Kennel and/or Breeder Stake. These shall be “virtual” or “paper” stakes, eligibility requirements and placement protocols for which shall be set by the host clubs offering them.
- (f) DIVISIONS: For meetings in which the brace elimination format is being used, when the entry in any stake (for the breeds being run in that format) reaches 9 dogs or more, the stake will be split into divisions, as evenly as possible, by random draw. There shall be a minimum of 4 dogs in each such division unless the entry is lower than 4. For meetings in which the scored braces or scored trios format is being used, when the entry in any stake (for the breeds being run in those formats) reaches 20 or more, the stake will be split into divisions, as evenly as possible, by random draw. There shall be a minimum of 10 dogs in each such division.

### **Rule 6 Brace Elimination format**

- (a) GENERALLY: In the brace elimination format, the dogs are run in braces, or singly if running a bye. Generally, the brace elimination format is a single elimination, double-bracket format in which each dog is judged only against the dog running in its course, and it must be adjudged to have won its each successive course to continue on in the A Bracket until completed. A dog adjudged to have lost its first course in the A Bracket shall continue on in the B Bracket until it is

defeated a second or subsequent time as the entry may require to complete the bracket.

- (b) **THE DRAW:** The dogs entered in a breed and in a stake and/or division within that breed, and which have passed inspection, shall be publicly and randomly drawn evenly and in braces whenever possible into the A Bracket in that breed. All dogs shall run at least their first course in the A Bracket. Where there is more than one Division in a breed, all dogs assigned to each Division shall be randomly drawn evenly and in braces whenever possible into the A Bracket in that Division.
- (c) **BYES:** In a stake or Division with an odd number of entries, the last dog drawn therein shall be assigned a natural bye. A dog so assigned a natural bye shall run alone unless a “bye dog” is supplied by the owner. The slip and the course in a bye shall be the same as in a course in which a decision is required. The Judge shall decide whether enough has been done by the dog assigned a bye to constitute a course, or whether it must be run again.

In the second round, if an odd number of entries remains, the dog in the lowest bracket of the B Bracket shall be assigned a natural bye. No dog shall be assigned a second natural bye in any stake or round, unless it is unavoidable.

Two dogs assigned a bye may be run together with the permission of the owners, provided that no dog shall run a bye earlier than his position in the brackets entitles him to do.

- (d) **SEPARATION OF DOGS:** Owners who have entered more than one dog in a breed/stake/division may request that those dogs be separated when possible, and the Committee shall honor this request when possible. However, no dog shall be deprived of a natural bye to meet such a request.
- (e) **IDENTIFICATION OF DOGS ON COURSE:** Where the brace elimination format is used, the host club shall at its option require that each dog shall be brought to slips wearing a colored cloth collar of red or white not less than 2 inches in width and which shall fit snugly around the dog’s neck OR shall require that each dog shall be brought to slips wearing a yellow or blue coursing blanket. Collars or blankets requirements may be varied from breed to breed depending on coat length and other visibility considerations. In the event that colored collars are chosen, the dog assigned to the upper bracket shall be assigned the red collar and shall stand on the slipper’s or slip steward’s left, while the dog assigned to the lower bracket shall be assigned the white collar and shall stand on the slipper’s or slip

steward’s right. In the event that colored blankets are chosen, the dog assigned to the upper bracket shall be assigned the yellow blanket and shall stand on the slipper’s or slip steward’s left, while the dog assigned the lower bracket shall be assigned to the lower bracket shall be assigned the blue blanket and shall stand on the slipper’s or slip steward’s right.

- (f) **COMMUNICATION OF JUDGE(S)’ DECISIONS:** As soon as practicable after the conclusion of a course, the judge(s) shall communicate his/her decision as to which dog won the course by holding aloft and/or waiving a cloth that is the same color as the collar or blanket worn by the winning dog in the course.

The judge(s) shall signify a “no course” by waiving his/her right arm while keeping his/her arm below the level of the shoulder. The judge(s) shall signify an “undecided course” by holding his/her right arm above the shoulder.
- (g) **NO-COURSE:** A “no-course” is when, by accident or by the shortness of the course, the dogs are not tried together. In the event of a no-course, the judge shall have the option of ordering the course re-run, either from slips or from the point in the course at which the accident occurred, and either immediately or after the running of the next two courses. If it is the last course of the day, twenty minutes shall be allowed after both dogs are retrieved.
- (h) **UNDECIDED COURSE:** An “undecided course” is one in which the Judge(s) consider the merits of the dogs in a course equal. An undecided course shall be re-run after the running of the next two courses, but in no event shall an undecided course be re-run less than twenty minutes after both dogs are retrieved.
- (i) **WITHDRAWAL AFTER NO-COURSE OR UNDECIDED COURSE:** If one dog be withdrawn after a no-course is declared, the remaining dog must run a bye, unless the Judge, on being appealed to, shall decide that it has done enough work to merit exemption. If a dog is withdrawn after an undecided course is declared, the remaining dog shall be adjudged the winner of the course.
- (j) **EFFECT OF EXCUSAL, DISMISSAL OR DISQUALIFICATION:** If, during or after the conclusion of a course, one of the dogs in the course is excused, dismissed or disqualified, the remaining dog shall be adjudged the winner of the course. The dog against which the excused, dismissed or disqualified dog would have run in the next round shall be assigned a bye, but only in the event that a re-draw of the next round is not practicable.

## **Rule 7 Point Tally Scoring Format**

- (a) **GENERALLY:** Under the point tally scoring format, the Judge(s) shall decide all courses upon one uniform principle that the dog which scores the greater number of points during the continuance of the course is to be declared the winner. The principle is to be carried out by estimating the value of the work done by each dog, as seen by the Judge(s), upon a balance of points according to the scale set forth in this Rule 6.
- (b) **THE RUN-UP:** Where in the run-up a clear lead is gained by one of the dogs before the first turn, 2 or 3 points may be awarded to the leading dog, depending on whether the length of the run-up is more or less than 100 yards.
- (c) **THE TURNS:** The dog which is first to and closest in honest pursuit to each successive turn shall be awarded 1 point for that turn.
- (d) **THE GO-BY:** Where a dog is a clear length behind his opponent and yet passes him in a straight run then gets a clear length ahead of him before the next turn, he shall be awarded 2 points.
- (e) **THE FINISH:** The dog which gets honestly from the final turn to the stopped lures first shall be awarded 1 or 2 points, depending on whether the length of the finish leg is more or less than 100 yards.

## **Rule 8 Scored Trios/Braces Format**

- (a) **GENERALLY:** In the scored trios/braces format, the dogs are run in trios or braces at the option of the host club, and the performance of each dog is judged and then scored in comparison to the performances of all the other dogs in its stake and/or division. Each dog shall run in a preliminary course and a final course unless excused, dismissed, disqualified or withdrawn. Finish placements are assigned on the basis of the combined scores of each dog in its preliminary and final courses, with the dog achieving the highest score in its stake and/or division being assigned a 1<sup>st</sup> placement, the dog achieving the second highest score being assigned a 2<sup>nd</sup> placement, and so forth.
- (b) **THE DRAW:** The dogs entered in a breed and in a stake and/or division within that breed, and which have passed inspection, shall be publicly and randomly drawn in either trios or braces whenever possible, at the option of the host club. If the host club has chosen trios, dogs may be drawn in braces as the numbers in the stake and/or division may require to prevent a dog's running alone. If the

host club has chosen braces, dogs may be drawn in trios as the numbers in the stake and/or division may require to prevent a dog's running alone. No dog shall be assigned a bye in the scored trios/braces format. The draw shall include an assignment of coursing blanket color.

- (c) **SEPARATION OF DOGS:** Owners who have entered more than one dog in a breed/stake/division may request that those dogs be separated when possible, and the Committee shall honor this request when possible.
- (d) **IDENTIFICATION OF DOGS ON COURSE:** When the scored trios/braces format is used, all dogs shall be brought to slips wearing coursing blankets in the bright colors yellow, pink, or blue in accordance with the draw. Coursing blankets shall be properly fitted and attached so as to prevent their coming loose during the course. When in slips, the dog in the yellow blanket shall be on the slip steward's left as he stands behind the dogs, the dog in the pink blanket shall be on the right or in the middle if the course is a trio, and the dog in the blue blanket shall be on the right.
- (e) **COMMUNICATION OF JUDGE(S)' SCORINGS:** As soon as practicable after the conclusion of the preliminary course and the final course of a stake and/or division, the Committee shall post for public display the scores assigned by the Judge(s) to the dogs in that stake and/or division.
- (f) **NO-COURSE:** A "no-course" is when, by accident or by the shortness of the course, the dogs are not tried together. In the event of a no-course, the judge shall have the option of ordering the course re-run, either from slips or from the point in the course at which the accident occurred, and either immediately or after the running of the next two courses. If it is the last course of the day, twenty minutes shall be allowed after both dogs are retrieved.
- (g) **TIES AND RUN-OFFS:** In the event of a tie in the scores of any dogs in a stake and/or division, that tie shall be run-off or forfeited. At the option of the host club, when there are multiple divisions in a breed, the dogs placing 1<sup>st</sup> in their respective divisions may be run-off to determine an overall 1<sup>st</sup> place winner in the breed.

## **Rule 9 Category Scoring Format**

- (a) **GENERALLY:** Under the category scoring format, the Judge(s) shall score the dogs according to the coursing attributes they display while on course, to-wit: speed, agility, stamina, honest pursuit, and desire.

- (b) POINT DISTRIBUTION: The Judge(s) shall score in whole numbers only, and shall be governed by the following distribution of maximum points in each category:

Speed.....	25 points
Agility.....	25 points
Stamina .....	20 points
Honest pursuit.....	15 points
Desire .....	15 points
Maximum .....	100 points

### **Rule 10 Penalties**

- (a) When a handler slips a dog before the signal to slip is given, the judge may at his discretion award the run-up points to the other dog or may penalize the prematurely slipped dog 1 point if the point tally scoring format is being used, or may penalize the prematurely slipped dog 1 to 10 points if the category scoring format is being used. This penalty shall not be carried over if a no-course is subsequently called during the course in progress.
- (b) A course delay by way of tardiness in presenting a dog to slips after its course is called or by way of a dog which cannot be retrieved may be penalized by a judge up to 2 points if the point tally scoring format is being used, or 1 – 10 points if the category scoring format is being used. Once assessed, the course delay penalty shall be carried over if a no-course is called during a course in progress, and shall be cumulative in the event of repeated delays.

### **Rule 11 Excusal**

Dogs may be excused from the competition for the day by a judge for the following reasons:

- (a) Failure to run after the starting signal is given in any course;
- (b) Being unfit to compete for any reason;
- (c) Coursing other dogs rather than the lure;
- (d) Interference or harassment by the dog's owner or handler of the judges, officials, or other competitors;
- (e) Delay of the course by the dog or its owner or handler.

### **Rule 12 Dismissal**

- (a) Dogs shall be dismissed from the competition for the day by a judge for interfering (aggressively or playfully) with the course of another dog. Growling, barking, or turning its head toward another dog does not constitute grounds for dismissal.
- (b) A dog's privilege to compete will be withdrawn upon either a disqualification or two dismissals within six lure coursing meetings. A dog's privilege to compete shall also be withdrawn upon disqualification by another lure coursing sanctioning organization whose disbarments are recognized by the NLCC.

### **Rule 13 Disqualification**

Dogs shall be disqualified by the judge or judges from further competition for being the aggressor in fighting with another dog in a course in progress. A dog which defends itself against such an aggressor or against interference by another dog shall not be disqualified. If only one of two judges scoring a course disqualifies a dog, the dog shall be dismissed pursuant to Rule 11.

### **Rule 14 Schooling Certification; Waiver**

- (a) Before a dog first runs in the Open, Senior or Special Stakes, it must have a Schooling Certification indicating that it has run before an approved judge a course of at least 500 yards, with another dog of its breed or of similar running style, and demonstrated that it will complete such a course, with no inclination or propensity to interfere with or course the other dog.
- (b) The requirement for a Schooling Certificate shall be waived for any dog previously certified in the ASFA or AKC programs and for any dog holding a title from an established coursing, lure coursing or racing organization which indicates that the dog has run multiple times in competition with other dogs without interfering. The owner of a dog which is entitled to such a waiver may be required by a Secretary to provide documentary evidence of the waiver.

### **Rule 15 Reinstatement**

The privilege to compete may be reinstated by the Board of Directors to a dog which has been disqualified once upon completion of the following:

- (a) At least one calendar month of retraining;
- (b) certification in writing, at least 30 days after the disqualification, by two approved judges for the breed being reinstated, stating that the dog has run cleanly, twice, with two other dogs who are not kennelmates of the dog being reinstated.
- (c) a letter/e-mail to the Board of Directors from the owner of the dog applying for reinstatement, with a brief explanation of how the dog was retrained.
- (d) a decision by the Board to reinstate the privilege to compete.

A second reinstatement of the privilege to compete may only be accomplished by an express vote of the Board of Directors. This decision shall not be delegated. No dog may be reinstated more than twice.

### **Rule 16 The Committee**

The Committee, which shall have charge of all matters concerning the organization and running of the lure coursing meeting, shall consist of the Chairman, the Secretary, the Inspection Stewards, the Clerks, the Slips Stewards, the Lure Operators, and, if used, the Paddock Masters.

### **Rule 17 The Chairman**

The duties of the Chairman shall include:

- (a) Chairing the Committee;
- (b) Serving as liaison with the owner of the meeting grounds;
- (c) Seeing that the appointed times of the meeting are kept;
- (d) Providing for all necessary equipment;
- (e) Providing for the policing of the meeting grounds, before, during and after the meeting, especially of anything hazardous or resembling a lure;
- (f) Seeing that the safety and well-being of the dogs is kept paramount during the running of the meeting;

- (g) Approving officially any individual who is to be allowed in the judging area and/or on the course other than actively working members of the Committee;
- (h) Excusing from the meeting grounds, at his discretion, any dog that exhibits uncontrolled aggressive behavior toward any person or dog on the meeting grounds, except dogs competing in a course in progress.
- (i) Excusing from the meeting grounds, at his discretion, any owner, handler or spectator who engages in abusive or unsportsmanlike behavior toward any other person, or who engages in any abuse or cruelty toward a dog.
- (j) Levying and collecting a penalty fee, in an amount set by the Committee, from the owner or handler of any dog that is loose on the field during a course in progress and not drawn to run in that course, and from any owner or handler who does not clean up after his dog or otherwise litters the meeting grounds.

### **Rule 18 The Secretary**

The duties of the Secretary shall include:

- (a) Receiving and accepting entries properly made;
- (b) Preparing a list of the dogs entered for the use of the Inspection Stewards;
- (c) Conducting the draw of those dogs which were properly entered and which passed inspection;
- (d) Supervising the work of the Clerks and insuring that all results records from them are in proper form and order;
- (e) Compiling all meeting/results records after the conclusion of the meeting and forwarding them with per capita fees to the designated official of the NLCC within 14 days of the meeting;
- (f) Declining any late, incomplete, unsigned, unpaid or conditional entries.
- (g) Declining, at the discretion of the Committee, any entry for cause, which declination shall be timely made known to the entrant and to the designated official of the NLCC.

## **Rule 19 Inspection Stewards**

There shall be two or more Inspection Stewards, whose duties shall be:

- (a) Conducting at the appointed hour an inspection of all dogs entered in the meeting, for lameness and bitches in season only;
- (b) "Lameness" for the purposes of these Running Rules shall be defined as an unbalanced or uneven gait exhibited at the trot;
- (c) "In season" for purposes of these Running Rules shall be defined as a bitch which is in estrus or is showing a vaginal discharge which is characteristic of being in estrus.
- (d) The Inspection Stewards need not examine spayed bitches for being in season, and may require such evidence of a bitch's being spayed as they deem appropriate;
- (e) Upon completion of their inspection, the Stewards shall advise the Secretary of the names of the dogs found to be absent, lame or in season, and those dogs shall be withdrawn by the owners or scratched by the Secretary before the draw.
- (f) The Inspection Stewards shall, if requested by the Chairman, re-inspect a dog during the meeting for lameness and report their findings to the Chairman. Dogs found to be lame upon such re-inspection shall be withdrawn by the owner or scratched by the Secretary.

## **Rule 20 Lure Operator**

The duties of the Lure Operator shall be:

- (a) Making at least one test run of the lure over the established course, preferably with a dog in pursuit, before the first official course of the meeting and upon reversing the direction of travel of the lure;
- (b) Starting the lure at the signal of the slipper or the slips steward;
- (c) Keeping the lure 10 to 30 yards ahead of the lead dog which is in honest pursuit of the lure. In accordance with this duty, the lure operator shall not "give" the lure or otherwise run the lure for a dog which is cutting the course or is otherwise not in honest pursuit of the lure, unless such dog is in imminent danger of injury;
- (d) Stopping the lure on a signal or command from the slips steward or the judge(s), or upon his/her own determination that a dog is injured or may be in imminent danger of injury;

- (e) Stopping the lure at the end of the course a safe distance from any equipment or other obstacle;
- (f) Notifying the judge(s) of any occurrence at the beginning or end of a course which may be grounds for excusal, dismissal or disqualification.

## **Rule 21 Slipper and Slips Steward**

The host club at its option may use a single slipper, or may use a slips steward to start and oversee the course. Standing starts or walking starts may be used at the option of the host club. A handler may slip more than one dog at a time.

The duties of the slips steward, if used, shall be:

- (a) Insuring that collars or blankets are properly secured and that slipleads are in proper position for release
- (b) Explaining to the handlers, if necessary or requested, release and retrieval procedures;
- (c) Asking, in the following order, the judge(s), the lure operator and the handlers, "Are you ready?" Upon affirmative answers from all, the course is begun for purposes of determining a premature slip.
- (d) Giving a hand signal or verbal command to the lure operator to start the lure;
- (e) Giving the command "Tally ho" or other verbal command to the handlers to slip the dogs;
- (f) Ordering the retrieval of a dog that fails to run at the commencement of the course, or returns to its handler while the course is in progress. The slips steward shall notify the judge(s) of such an ordered retrieval at the conclusion of the course.
- (g) Ordering that the course be stopped immediately if a dog appears to be injured or is in imminent danger of injury
- (h) Ordering the retrieval of the dogs by the handlers at the end of the course after the dogs have stopped at the lures
- (i) Notifying the judge(s) and the handler involved after the end of the course of a premature slip. If the slips steward does not so notify the judge(s) of a premature slip, then no penalty for such may be assessed.
- (j) Inspecting the lures before every course and replacing any lures as necessary;
- (k) Notifying the Chairman if any of the dogs coming to slips appear lame or otherwise unfit to run;

- (l) Notifying the judge(s) of any occurrence at the beginning or the end of a course which might be grounds for excusal, dismissal or disqualification;
- (m) Notifying immediately at the end of the course the handlers of all dogs in a course that is called a no course, and the handler of any dog which has been excused, dismissed or disqualified;
- (n) The slips steward is in charge of all dogs and handlers from the time they come to slips until all dogs have been retrieved at the end of the course. All handlers shall immediately comply with the requests and commands of the slips steward.

### **Rule 22 Clerks**

The duties of the Clerks shall be:

- (a) Assisting the Secretary with entries and the draw;
- (b) Assisting the judge(s) in the judging enclosure and recording their scoring and decisions as may be required for proper record-keeping;
- (c) If the brace elimination format is used, recording the winner of each course on an appropriate chart, and advising the Secretary of the same;
- (d) If the brace elimination format is used, and the judge so requests, signaling the winner of each course at the conclusion of the course;
- (e) Carrying out such other duties as may be requested by the Chairman or the Secretary.

### **Rule 23 Paddock Master**

The duties of the Paddock Master, if used, shall be:

- (a) Calling all dogs and handlers to an area designated as the paddock in a timely manner that will assure their presence when called to slips;
- (b) Assuring that all dogs and handlers whose courses are near in time are in the paddock area and ready to proceed to slips when called;
- (c) Assuring that all dogs are in the correct color collar or blanket and that handlers know their dog's assigned course;
- (d) Sending dogs and handlers to slips upon the call of the slips steward.

### **Rule 24 Grand Field Champion**

To recognize those dogs that have demonstrated consistently excellent performance on the field, the National Lure Coursing Club shall confer the title of Grand Field Champion on those dogs that have achieved the following levels of performance:

- (a) For the first **X** meetings in which a dog has run in the Open stake and in which there is qualifying competition of a minimum of 4 dogs of its breed (including itself) running in the Open stake in that meeting, the dog under consideration shall have placed 1<sup>st</sup> in at least **X**% of those meetings or shall have placed either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in at least **Y**% of those meetings.
- (b) A dog may be qualifying competition for another dog which is a kennelmate or which is owned or co-owned by the same person until that dog has been defeated by the kennelmate more than 5 times, after which it shall no longer be qualifying competition for that dog. Example: Dog A and Dog B live in the same household or kennel or are owned or co-owned by the same person. Should Dog A defeat Dog B 6 times or more by placing higher than Dog B, Dog B thereafter shall not be considered qualifying competition for Dog A only.
- (c) The Grand Field Champion title shall be added as a suffix to the registered name of a dog on which it is conferred, and shall be abbreviated as Gr. F.Ch.
- (d) A dog on which the Grand Field Champion title has been conferred may run for additional recognition of its excellent performance by having its next **X** meetings with qualifying competition evaluated on the same basis as is set forth in (a) and (b) above. Dogs achieving the same winning percentages set forth in (a) for such **X** meetings shall be conferred the Grand Field Champion II title, and this conferral process shall continue for subsequent such **X** meeting sets, with the appropriate Roman numeral added to the Grand Field Champion title.
- (e) It is the resolution and intent of the National Lure Coursing Club that the Grand Field Champion title shall be earned only on the field, and by way of good faith and sporting compliance with the requirements set forth herein, and that it shall not be conferred as a result of arrangement, contrivance or stratagem.