

Changes in MNRC qualifications

November 3, 2006

MNRC Board announces transition plan for the new qualification system.

At the September 30, 2006 annual meeting the MNRC clubs voted to amend Article IX, Section 2 of the bylaws as follows:

- (1) Qualifying dogs of the previous year's Master National Hunting Retriever Test shall receive credit for two qualifying scores.
- (2) All contestants shall be required to obtain qualifying scores in a minimum of five Master tests in seven attempts conducted by member clubs, plus possessing an AKC Master Hunter title, subject to (1) above or earn a total of eight Master passes. A dog qualifying at the Master National in the previous year will be credited with two passes in two attempts.

Technically, the passage of this amendment meant the qualification requirements were in effect immediately. However, the MNRC board decided that in the spirit of fairness, a transition plan should be implemented. The plan approved is as follows:

- ❖ From August 1 – December 31, 2006 all passes will count towards the 2007 event.
- ❖ From August 1 – December 31, 2006 no failures will count towards the 2007 event.
- ❖ From January 1 – July 31, 2007 all passes and failures will count towards the 2007 event.

For example: a dog runs 9 tests and passes 5 of them from August 1-December 31, 2006. This dog has qualified for the 2007 Master National event, provided it already had SH or MH title. If it did not have a SH or MH title it will need one more pass, regardless of the number of attempts to get this 6th pass.

Another example: if a dog runs 9 tests and passes 4 of them from August 1-December 31, 2006, this dog has a record on January 1, 2007 of 4 passes in 4 attempts. It will need to pass 1 more test in 3 attempts to qualify for the 2007 Master National event, provided it already has a SH or MH title. If it did not have a SH or MH title it will need one more pass, regardless of the number of attempts it requires to get this 6th pass.

Additionally a dog can qualify for the 2007 event by passing a total of 8 master tests regardless of the number of attempts.

This transition plan ends on July 31, 2007 and the 5 passes in 7 attempts or 8 total passes will be in full effect for the 2008 event.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Can I still run tests after I qualify without jeopardizing my qualification status?

A. Yes, once the dog is qualified we stop tracking passes and failures

Is it the first 7 attempts that count or is it a series of 7 attempts?

A. The 5 of 7 begins with the first seven attempts. After January 1, 2007 we will start tracking attempts.

How does my dog, that does not possess a SH title, qualify?

A. This dog must still qualify using the 5 of 7 format. If it earns the 5 passes in seven attempts, it still must pass a 6th test in order to earn the MH title from AKC. It can take as many attempts as needed to earn the 6th pass. Of course, it can also qualify by passing a total of 8 tests.

If I run in the Master National, and fail, does that count as an attempt?

A. No, it does not. The Master National will only count in the formula if you pass it. A pass at the Master National will count as two passes in two attempts.

What if my dog becomes injured after it has started a test?

A. If the dog became injured after the test began, it would be proper to list the dog as a scratch, provided that the hunt test secretary and/or committee was satisfied of the legitimacy of the scratch. A handler attempting to scratch a dog after the test begins, because they did not think they could complete the test, and feigned an injury to the dog could face possible misconduct charges. It will VERY important now for the hunt test secretary to mark all scratches in the catalog. This is something that has not been required in the past.

What if I do not see my dog on the qualified list, but I know it is qualified?

A. Contact Master National Secretary, Frank Barton at fbarton@bartonagcenter.com Give him the clubs and dates where the passes occurred. He in turn will contact Retriever Field Trial News that does our tracking, and will find out what happened. In most cases a catalog was not marked correctly or was not received at all by RFTN.

For any further questions or clarifications, please contact MNRC secretary, Frank Barton at fbarton@bartonagcenter.com

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