



RULES FOR WORKING TEST FOR RETRIEVERS

As approved by the Retrievers Club Italiano on 3 June 2017

in force from 1 January 2018

Art. 1 INTRODUCTION

- a) A Working Test is a competition for the purpose of assessing, without game being shot, the working abilities of the various breeds of Retrievers.
- b) The retriever is the shooting man's indispensable help during a shooting day. The aim of a Working Test is to select the best dogs having good temperament, good marking, good use of nose and showing initiative.
- c) Handling is to be considered as an indispensable complement to these qualities, keeping the dog steady while walking at heel or at the stand, willing to obey the handler's instructions.

Art. 2 ORGANIZATION OF A WORKING TEST

- a) A Working Test must be designed by a person or persons with experience in organizing competitions for Retrievers. Each dog must be given, as near as possible, equal opportunity with the element of luck reduced to a minimum.
- b) On the occasion of a Working Test, the organisers must always try to simulate events that occur on a shooting day. They must also ensure the tests are designed to further good gundog work, and not inhibit dogs from marking or the natural working ability. It is most important that guns and dummy throwers are positioned with this in mind.
- c) In a Working Test the safety of the dogs is a priority.

Art. 3 CONDUCT OF A WORKING TEST

- a) The decision of the judges is final. Those taking part in the Working Test shall not openly impugn the decision of the judge or criticise the host, ground, or helpers.
- b) The organizers shall have the power to exclude dogs from the competition and / or will have the right to refuse an entry as per the Fci rules and regulations.
- c) The organizers can limit the number of competitors. In which case the right to compete will be on a first come first served criteria.
- d) The organizers of each Working Test will select the judges for their Working Test.
- e) All handlers must carry out instructions of the judges who are empowered to remove from a Working Test any dog whose handler does not obey them or whose handler wilfully interferes with another competitor or his dog.



- f) No person attending a Working Test may allow any bitch in season to be on the Working Test ground or to foul any ground to be used by competing dogs, bitches in season, aggressive dogs, handlers who have a impolite behaviour towards the organization, or towards the judges, or other handlers, or who are violent to the dogs are not allowed to compete. Any of the aforementioned conditions will give the judges and/or the organizing committee the right to ban dogs/handlers from the competition.

Art. 4 CLASSES

- a) Dogs with different levels of training will be allowed to compete in a Working Test. A Working Test will have the following classes, defined by level of training, age and titles of the dogs:

TRAINING CLASS

The Training Class is the first class in working tests. Dogs can enter the training class if they haven't had a qualification of Good/Very Good/Excellent in Field trial in Italy or abroad or a qualification of Excellent in "Prova Attitudinale di caccia".

Minimum age 9 months.

In Training Class dogs can be kept on a leash during the competition (until they are sent to retrieve). Handlers who have already handled a dog in any level of Field Trial (excluding Prova Attitudinale di Caccia) or in Open Class in a Working Test cannot handle any dog in this class.

BEGINNER CLASS

Dogs with good general obedience and good level of training.

Dogs that have been awarded Excellent in Field Trial Novice or a Good/Very Good/Excellent in an Open or International Field Trial in Italy or abroad cannot be entered in this class.

Dogs that qualified with Excellent in Beginners three times in the previous solar year cannot enter this class any more and must be entered in Novice Class.

Minimum age 12 months.

NOVICE CLASS

Dogs with a high training level.

Dogs awarded Excellent in Field Trial Open or International cannot be entered in Novice class.

Dogs that qualified Excellent in novice class three times in the previous year cannot enter this class anymore.

Minimum age 15 months.

OPEN CLASS

Dogs with top training level.

Italian or foreign FTCH, FT Oppen or International winners, winners of a test in Open class must can be entered in this class only.

Minimum age 18 months.



Art. 5 JUDGMENT

- a) When coming into line the handler must ensure the dog is on the lead, the judge will then explain what is expected. Judges must ensure that spectators are at a reasonable distance from the competitors in the line. The judgment starts from the moment the judge says “lead off” and ends in the moment the judge says “lead on”.
- b) Judges will give dogs every opportunity to work well by seeing that conditions, as far as possible, are in their favour. They will be looking for dogs which need the least handling and please them most from a shooting point of view.
- c) For all retrievers breeds good marking is essential with a quick pick-up and a fast return. When picking-up and returning, judges will not penalise a dog too heavily for putting down a retrieve to get a firmer grip, but this must not be confused with sloppy retrieving.
- d) Eliminating faults and faults which lead to zero will disqualify a dog from any awards.
- e) The judges are empowered to withhold any prize or award if in their opinion competing dogs do not show sufficient merit.
- f) Each exercise can have one or more retrieves which will be agreed upon before the test. Should a dummy fall in a different area for one competitor, the judge may have the helpers repeat the throw.
- g) Judges in a Working Test should agree on all the exercises, in order to have the maximum variety of the exercises.

Art. 6 SCORES AND QUALIFICATIONS

- a) Points are awarded for all exercises.
- b) All the exercises in a WT must have the same points.
- c) In the case of more than one dummy to be retrieved during a exercise, a zero on one dummy does not mean a zero for the whole of that exercise when the order in which the dummies should be retrieved is respected. The judge can make the decision, and he should explain his judgment criteria before the exercise. The organizing committee should require the judges to search for uniformity of judgments in this matter.
- d) The following formula helps to standardise the results:

$$\text{Punteggio Normalizzato} = \frac{100 * \text{Punteggio ottenuto}}{\text{Punti totali in palio}}$$

To the scores is associated a qualification:

da 100% a 85%	ECCELLENTE
da 84% a 75%	MOLTO BUONO
da 74% a 64%	BUONO
≤ 63% e senza 0 (zero)	PASSATO

The judge will immediately tell the handler the points only when the competitor gets a zero.

- e) In Beginner, Novice, Open class is possible to enter a dog in “Non competitive class”, in which case the dog can get a judgment but no points. Relatives of the judges or handlers who handle



a judge's dog will only be allowed in "Non competitive class".

- f) Dogs competing in "Training Class" will be allowed to be on a lead until they are sent for the retrieve without any loss of points.
- g) In Beginner, Novice, Open class dogs will not have any lead.
- h) The sum of all the points of all the exercises gives the final result of the Working Test. The dog that has the highest result wins. Should there be "equal" results, a run-off is foreseen for the first/second/third place. The points of the run-off will not be added to the final score.

Art. 7 SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

- a) At the start of a Working Test, judges must ensure they have the correct dogs with their correct numbers in line.
- b) During a Working Test only green standard dummies (500 gr) will be used. Exceptionally launcher dummies for a dummy launcher can be used, but only in Novice or Open class.
- c) Judges should check the dummies before the test to make sure they are not damaged.
- d) When dummies are thrown, and gunfire is used, the shot must always precede the thrown dummy, With unseen retrieves gunfire is at the discretion of the judges.
- e) If possible shotguns should be used instead of pistols.
- f) A dog should not be asked to pass too close to a dummy when retrieving another dummy.
- g) In Beginners class blind retrieves are allowed only in places where the dog has already been, and always with a shot.
- h) A Working Test must include at least four exercises.

Art. 8 CREDITS AND FAULTS

- a) CREDIT POINTS (alphabetical order)
A retriever must be steady to shot and fall and retrieve on command. A dog must walk steady at heel.
 - control
 - delivery
 - drive
 - marking
 - node
 - quiet handling
 - style
 - speed in gathering a retrieve
- b) MAJOR FAULTS (alphabetical order)
 - bad control
 - disturbing the ground unnecessarily
 - bad heeling
 - bad marking and/or bad memory of the fall
 - being over dependent on the handler
 - being restless and asking the handler's attention at the post



- noisy handling
 - sloppy retrieving
 - working slowly and/or without much initiative
- c) **FAULTS THAT LEAD TO ZERO**
- chasing
 - hunting with a dummy in the mouth
 - swopping the dummy
 - failing to enter water
 - failing to retrieve
 - gunshy
 - out of control
 - running-in
 - whining
 - barking
 - damage the dummy

Art. 9 FINALE WORKING TEST (Art 9 refers to the Italian Finale and it is not translated here)

- a) Con l'ufficializzazione del calendario annuale, sarà indicata la data in cui si svolgerà la Finale Working Test, articolata in:
- FINALE WORKING TEST BEGINNER (designerà il Miglior Soggetto classe Beginner della stagione Working Test dell'anno di riferimento)
- FINALE WORKING TEST NOVICE (designerà il Miglior Soggetto classe Novice della stagione Working Test dell'anno di riferimento)
- FINALE WORKING TEST OPEN (designerà il Miglior Soggetto classe Open della stagione Working Test dell'anno di riferimento)
- b) La Finale Working Test sarà organizzata da Retrievers Club Italiano entro il 30 settembre dell'anno solare di riferimento.
- c) Alla Finale Working Test si qualificano tutti i soggetti classificati eccellenti e/o tutti i soggetti classificati ai primi tre posti di ciascuna classe in ogni Working Test organizzato in Italia che applica questo regolamento e relative Linee Guida nel periodo compreso tra una Finale e quella successiva.
- d) E' compito dei comitati organizzatori trasmettere per ogni evento a Retrievers Club Italiano l'elenco degli aventi diritto a partecipare alla Finale Working Test.

Art. 10

- a) For everything that is not mentioned in these regulations please refer to the ENCI "Regolamento speciale per le Prove di Lavoro" and "Regolamento Generale delle Manifestazioni Canine" and to the FCI Rules for International Working Tests.