



# North America Shed Hunting Dog Association

## **General Regulations of NASHDA Hunt Test and Qualifiers**

(Note: In these rules Shed hunt test and Qualifiers will be from here on both referred to and represented by the words hunt test.) These rules set forth will take effect March 3, 2021.)

NASHDA reserves the right to change any and all policies, fees etc. without notice.

### **Schedule of Fees:**

**Event Registration Fee - \$25.00**

**Event Recording Fee - \$3.00 per dog entered**

**Ribbons - \$10.00 each plus**

### **Eligibility of Clubs to Hold Hunting Tests and/or Qualifiers**

The Board of Directors of NASHDA may, at its discretion, grant permission to clubs or individuals to hold a NASHDA Hunt Tests. Event organizing club must confirm that the property that the event will be held on has insurance.

Neither NASHDA, the host/club, members, Judges, property owners or volunteers conducting or assisting in the event may be held liable for injury to a person, animal or property which loss occurs during or in connection with the event.

Club must register there event online at [www.sheddogtrainer.com](http://www.sheddogtrainer.com). An emailed confirmation of the event will be sent prior to event being posted on the website if a check is sent for payment.

### **Rules Applying To Registration**

All of NASHDA's Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline shall apply to all NASHDA sanctioned, licensed and member club hunt tests.

### **Making Application**

An individual or club that meets all the requirements of the NASHDA and wishes to hold a Hunt Test at which Qualifying scores toward titles may be awarded, must make application to NASHDA on the form provided for permission to hold a Hunt Test. Each club or individual holding the event is responsible to have their own Disaster and Emergency Plan for the event and insurance.

### **Entry Requirements**

Hunt Tests shall be open to dogs six months of age or over on the first day of the event. Hunt tests must be open to all breeds (including mixed) of dogs. Proof of age must be submitted immediately to judge upon request. Proof of age can be shown by AKC/UKC registration and/or official Veterinary vaccination certificate. All competitors must sign the NASHDA disclaimer at the event before competing. Participant does not need to be a member to run a hunt test.

### **No Special Inducements**

A hunt test giving club or individual which accepts an entry fee other than that published on its entry form, or in any way discriminates between entrants, shall be disciplined. No club, member of any club or individual shall give or offer to give any owner or handler any special inducements, such as reduced entry fees, allowances for board or transportation or other incentive of value for a certain number of entries or shall give or offer to give in consideration of entering a certain number of dogs, any prizes or prize money, except the officially advertised prizes or prize money, which prize money shall be for a stated sum or a portion of the entry fees.



# North America Shed Hunting Dog Association

(Exception: a club, at its discretion, may allow for a reduced entry fee for dogs handled by juniors. A junior handler is someone less than 18 years of age on the first day of the test.)

## **Problem Dog Disqualification**

A dog is not eligible to be entered or run in any NASHDA Hunt Test in any category if the dog has on two occasions been made the subject of the following report: If a dog, while under judgment at a NASHDA licensed or member club Hunting Test attacks another dog, and if the Judges are unanimously of the opinion that such attack was without reasonable cause, the Judges shall identify the offending dog on the judging sheet and the name of the offending dog shall be listed in the report of the Hunting Test sent to NASHDA.

Any dog, that in the opinion of the Hunt test organizer or NASHDA, attacks a person or a dog at a NASHDA event, resulting in injury, and is believed by that Hunt test organizer or NASHDA to present a hazard to persons or other dogs shall be disqualified. When the dog is disqualified a report shall be filed immediately with the NASHDA secretary. The disqualified dog may not again compete at any NASHDA event nor be on the grounds of an NASHDA event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to the NASHDA, the owner receives official notification in writing from the NASHDA that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated.

Any dog that presents an unprovoked and obvious threat, or an uncontrollable clear and present danger to other dogs or people, either by attacking or through continued exceedingly aggressive behavior, may be ejected from the hunt test grounds. Expulsion of dogs may be the individual act of which any assigned Judge who observes the aforementioned behavior, or by the Hunt Test Organizer, following a corroborated report. Spectators and participants should report such incidents to the Hunt Test Organizer. Any dog that is ejected by a Judge or by the Hunt Test Organizer shall forfeit the privilege to run in any test that day, and shall not receive a qualifying score at the event in which the attack occurred. While an actual attack need not be observed by an official to bring about a dog's ejection, a report alone is not sufficient proof to justify such drastic action. There shall be sufficient evidence, which may entirely include reports from reliable eyewitnesses, of an attack or aggressive behavior before officials eject any dog.

## **Unsportsman like Conduct.**

(A) It shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct if a person during the running of or in connection with an event abuses or harasses a Judge or official or any other person present in any capacity at the event. The Hunt Test Organizer shall act in accord with paragraph (D) of this Section.

(B) Any person who displays unsportsmanlike conduct or who is seen to kick, strike, or otherwise roughly manhandle a dog while on the grounds of a Hunt Test at any time during the holding of the event, shall be expelled from the test by the Hunt Test Organizer, which shall also act in accord with paragraph (D) of this Section.

(C) The Judges shall also have the authority to expel a handler if they observe unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the handler or see the handler kicking, striking or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog while the event is in progress. It will be the duty of the Judges to promptly report to the Hunt Test Organizer the expulsion of a handler and the Hunt Test Organizer shall then proceed in accord with paragraph (D) of this Section.

(D) The Hunt Test Organizer shall investigate, at once, any instance of alleged unsportsmanlike conduct, or any report that a person has been observed kicking, striking or otherwise roughly manhandling a dog.

Updated: 3/3/21SS



# North America Shed Hunting Dog Association

If a Hunt Test Organizer, after investigation, determines that a person is in violation of this Section, and that the incident, if proven, would constitute conduct prejudicial to the sport or NASHDA. The incident must be reported to NASHDA and the person or person(s) should be asked to leave the grounds.

Foul Language, arguing with the judge, event organizer or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs are grounds for disqualification.

## **Bitches In Season.**

Bitches in season shall not be eligible for entry in any Hunt Test and shall not be allowed on the grounds. Entry fees paid for a bitch withdrawn because of coming in season or for a dog withdrawn because of an injury or illness, or for a dog that dies, shall be refunded in full by the test giving club or individual. Prior to paying such refund, the club may require an appropriate veterinary certificate. In the event a dog is withdrawn for other reasons, the test giving club is free to formulate its own policy with reference to refunds provided that said policy shall be set in advance of the test date.

## **Ribbons**

A club or individual must use and purchase the official NASHDA ribbons by using the ribbon order form by mail or online. Make sure to order ribbons at least 6 weeks in advance. If the order is not placed 6 weeks in advance there will be no guarantee that the ribbons will be received by the time the event is held.

## **Publications**

All individuals or clubs holding a hunt test are required to have copies of the latest NASHDA rules available and have entrants sign a copy of the rules on the day of the event.

## **Advertising and Banners**

NASHDA has set sponsors that supplies banners, all other banners and advertisements must be pre-approved by NASHDA. NASHDA Sponsor banners must be displayed at each event. Please submit a request to NASHDA at least 6 weeks before your event. NASHDA sponsor banners must be mailed back to NASHDA within 5 days following the event.

## **Cell Phones, Pagers, GPS and Electronic Devices**

In order to not distract the dogs, handlers and judges cell phones, pagers, GPS, Go-Pro and electronic devices are NOT allowed in or on the immediate vicinity of the test, holding blind or course. No communication about the placement of sheds is allowed with a contestant or between contestants. If event holder is notified of this order not being followed is grounds for disqualification.

## **Weather**

Weather is an important consideration for the hunt test event organizer. The safety of participants and animals is of utmost importance. Extreme weather such as lightening, strong winds, heat or cold, snow or heavy rain can create hazardous conditions. The hunt test event organizer, in consultation with the judges, has the responsibility to decide if an event should be halted due to weather and at what point the event shall resume. If a weather delay results in an entrant being unable to participate, the refund of entry fees, in whole or in part, will be at the discretion of the event organizer. If an entire event or part of an event is cancelled due to weather, the refund of entry fees, in whole or in part, will be at the discretion of the event Organizer.



# North America Shed Hunting Dog Association

## Test Set Up

When setting up your test, remember the following factors:

- Lighting and conditions over the course of a day
- Water configuration
- Terrain
- Wind
- Hillsides
- Cover and changes in cover
- Background against which sheds are seen

**Test Dogs.** Changing a hunt test after a series has been started should be avoided. One way of avoiding this, is the practice of running a test dog, in every series before any of the entered dogs are run. Use of a test dog is usual practice. Use of a test dog is very often a time-saving device. The test dog shall NOT be entered in that test, shall not be over qualified and should be able to accomplish the test.

## Course

The course borders need to be clearly marked with stakes and survey tape.

- Survey tape can be tied to vegetation but must be clearly visible. The course borders should be explained in the handlers meeting. Sheds placed on the course must be marked with an identify number or letter on the shed.

- Stray/Natural shed found will not count in the course total of 6 planted sheds

The course should be thoroughly walked during set up to eliminate any hazards for the dog and handler.

The course should be thoroughly cleared in advance of antlers, animal carcasses and other debris.

The holding blind must be in a location where the course cannot be viewed in advance.

Handlers are not allowed to walk the course in advance.

Course shed placement must be changed each time a handler runs an additional dog.

Only NASHDA approved Wax scent can be used.

Maximum course time length is 15 minutes.

All contestants must sign the disclaimer page before competing at an event.

In the event that a club is running a double qualifier each test must be held on different ground than the first course.

A Judge that is running his/her own dog must have a completely re-set course by another qualified judge.

*It is strongly recommended that Judges inspect the grounds with the Hunt test organizer at least one full day in advance of the event, in order to select and determine the nature and objectives of each situation, preferably for their entire assignment. The Organizer and Judges must be alert for hazardous conditions that are present on the grounds*

## Gallery Location

It is essential that all spectators attending a Hunt Test be kept far enough from the course and holding blind to enable the dog whose abilities are being evaluated to clearly discern its handler, and nothing shall be done to distract the dog's attention from its work. The spectators are also not allowed to communicate with the handler prior to or during the handler running the course. Handlers are not allowed to be in the Gallery before finishing all their runs.



# North America Shed Hunting Dog Association

## Recommend Helpers

NASHDA Approved Judge(s) required.

Registration check in staff person

2 Judge's assistants per judge. Assistants can:

- Plant sheds
- Man the holding blind
- Call the running order

## General Test Rules

- Each dog can only run each course once.
- Handlers are not allowed to spectate until all their runs are complete.
- Remote training collars are permitted as well as whistles and beeper collars. Remote collars must be used in a responsible humane manner. No GPS tracking collars or GPS devices are allowed.
- No communication is allowed with a contestant about the placement of sheds
- Handlers cannot solicit information or watch the placement of sheds.
- This is a walking event. No running by the handler is allowed. A judges warning will be followed by a disqualification for a second infraction.
- For any shed find to be legal the handler must be no closer than 15 feet to the shed when found by the dog.
- All judge's decisions are final.
- Handling or directing the dog to the shed is not allowed.
- All sheds must be delivered to hand, to be considered a retrieve.
- Course shed placement must be changed each time a handler runs an additional dog.
- Stray/Natural shed found will not count in the course total of 6 planted sheds.
- Course maximum time length is 15 minutes.
- Reminder: Handler's use of cellular or communication devices should be controlled to halt the communication or texting of shed placement to handler.
- Dogs, puppies or other animals not entered in the event should not be brought to the event grounds.
- All contestants must sign the disclaimer page before competing at an event.
- Master Titled Dogs must run 3 events each year to be considered for high point eligibility

## Judges Responsibility – MUST be a certified judge by NASHDA

Know and enforce the NASHDA rules

Judge must hold a handlers meeting to go over the course borders and rules.

⇒ Make sure all competitors signed the disclaimer page.

Judge is not allowed to run or judge a dog he owns or has partial ownership in.

Fill out score sheets in an accurate and readable manner.

Sign score sheets and turn back into Event Organizer.

Be able to communicate effectively with Event Organizer and competitors.

*It is strongly recommended that Judges inspect the grounds with the Hunt test organizer at least one full day in advance of the event, in order to select and determine the nature and objectives of each situation, preferably for their entire assignment. The Organizer and Judges must be alert for hazardous conditions that are present on the grounds*

Updated: 3/3/21SS



# North America Shed Hunting Dog Association

## Levels

**The NASHDA hunt test come in three levels Junior, Senior and Master.**

**The levels are a description of course difficulty not dog age.**

A dog must complete the Junior Title before competing in a Senior Level

A dog must complete the Junior and Senior Title before competing in a Master Level.

## Junior Level

To receive a NASHDA Junior Shed Hunter title a dog must receive six (6) qualifying scores on six (6) Junior NASHDA courses.

## Junior Course

Will contain six (6) hidden sheds

NASHDA approved Rack Wax will be used.

All six (6) sheds must be delivered to hand.

No handler can advance to their dog in order to receive a retrieve. Backing up is permitted

Sheds will be of average white tail deer size and shape.

Cover will be short to med length cover. This includes: Grass, woods, and Food Plots

To be a qualifying score as six sheds must be found and delivered to hand in the allotted time for the course. All rules and regulations must be followed. Judges decisions are final.

## Senior Level

**To receive a NASHDA Senior Shed Hunter title a dog must have a NASHDA Junior Shed title and must receive six (6) qualifying scores on six (6) Senior NASHDA courses.**

Will contain six (6) hidden sheds

All six (6) sheds must be delivered to hand

NASHDA approved rack wax will be used.

Sheds will be of average white tail deer size and shape.

No handler can advance to their dog in order to receive a retrieve. **Backing up is permitted.**

Cover should be varied and include medium grass and some brush.

A minimum of two sheds will be covered in light brush or grass.

In addition, Cover should include at least one water placed shed with one exposed tine

⇒ Water can be natural or a manmade pool.

⇒ If winter weather makes water unavailable shed must be buried in snow with one exposed tine.



# North America Shed Hunting Dog Association

To be a qualifying score as six sheds must be found and delivered to hand in the allotted time for the course. All rules and regulations must be followed. Judges decisions are final.

## Master Level

**To receive a NASHDA Master Shed Hunter title a dog must have a NASHDA Junior and Senior Shed title and must receive six (6) qualifying scores on six (6) Master NASHDA courses.**

Will contain six (6) hidden sheds

All six (6) sheds must be delivered to hand

NASHDA approved rack wax will be used.

Cover should be varied and include medium grass and some brush.

A minimum of two sheds will be covered in light brush or grass.

In addition, Cover should include at least one water placed shed with one exposed tine

⇒ If winter weather makes water unavailable shed must be buried in snow with one exposed tine.

⇒ Water can be natural or manmade pool

Shed will be of various sizes and species.

Must have at least:

⇒ One Elk Antler weighing between 5 lbs. to 8 lbs. (NASHDA Approved)

○ Elk antler should not be buried in heavy cover.

○ Communication with NASHDA about acquiring Elk Antler.

⇒ One small antler from a 1 1/2 year old white tail.

No handler can advance to their dog in order to receive a retrieve and backing up in NOT permitted.

Master Dog event time will be recorded by NASHDA. Dog with the fastest times throughout the NASHDA calendar year will be rewarded High Point Master Dog of the Year.

To be a qualifying score as six sheds must be found and delivered to hand in the allotted time for the course. All rules and regulations must be followed. Judges decisions are final.

## Hunt Test marked Master Dog World

### Championship Qualifiers General Rules additions:

- Qualifiers will follow all of the above rules.
- Dogs must compete in a Qualifier at the Hunt Test level they are currently competing at.
- A dog that has 1 Master pass in the current season will be invited to World Championship. After...
- Dogs qualifying for the Master Shed Dog Championship must pass 3 Master Level passes per qualifying year. This includes dogs that are currently titled.

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**Disclaimer:** By entering a NASHDA event you agree to follow the NASHDA rules as stated in this handout and be respectful of the judge, event organizers and fellow competitors. You understand that you are entering a sporting event and you accept all responsibility for the injury to yourself and/or your dog and understand that NASHDA and its affiliates are not responsible for injuries to dogs, handlers or dog owners. You also as a participant agree to the release of your likeness for photo, video, web and sponsor related photography. Which may require participant to wear sponsor related clothing.

Updated: 3/3/21SS



# North America Shed Hunting Dog Association

## **CLUBS**

Clubs holding qualifiers. Each Club is allowed to have two (2) qualifiers bi-monthly nonconsecutive per month. It will be the clubs discretion if they would like to have a single event in a two day period or a double qualifier. Qualifiers will not exceed more than 2 in a 10 day period.