

WD/X/Q JUDGE'S GUIDELINES

Judges should be provided with the requirements for Working Dog Certificates at least two weeks prior to the test. If the WD Chairman has trouble finding qualified judges, please contact the Hunt Test Committee Chair for help and a solution.

Satisfactory completion of the tests for a WD/X/Q certification shall be determined by a minimum of two judges. Each set of two judges must meet the following prerequisites:

Prerequisites for WD Judges

1. Between the two judges, they must have judged:
 - a. Two AKC or CKC licensed Field Trials, Derby level or higher OR
 - b. Two AKC or HRC Hunting Tests = Junior/Started Level or higher OR
 - c. A combination of two WD or WDX or WDQ stakes.
 - d. Both judges must have titled and/or trained/passed a dog at the WD/JH/Derby level (or higher). To be qualified, one must have prior experience working/training dogs.

Prerequisites for WDX Judges

1. Between the two judges, they must have judged:
 - a. Two AKC or CKC licensed Field Trials, Derby level or higher, OR
 - b. Two AKC or HRC Hunting Tests = Senior/Seasoned Level or higher OR
 - c. A combination of two WDX or WDQ stakes.
 - d. Both judges must have trained and/or titled or passed a dog at the WDX/Senior/Seasoned level or successfully finished a Derby trial (or higher). To be qualified to judge, one must have experience working with/training dogs.

Prerequisites for WDQ Judges

1. Between the two judges, they must have judged:
 - a. Two AKC or CKC licensed Field Trials Qualifying or above, OR
 - b. Two AKC or HRC Hunting Tests = Senior/Seasoned Level or higher, OR
 - c. Two WDQ stakes
 - d. Both judges must have trained and/or titled a dog at the WDQ/Senior/Seasoned/Qualifying level or passed a dog at the Senior or Seasoned (or higher) or WDQ level. To be qualified, a judge must have experience working with/training dogs.

The WD, WDX, and WDQ tests are pass/fail non-competitive tests. Generally, the WD/X/Q tests should follow the rules in the AKC Standard Procedure for Retriever Field Trials and the Retriever Advisory Committee Supplement Standard Procedure for Non-Slip Retriever Trials (<https://www.akc.org/sports/retrievers/field-trials/announcements>).

WD/X/Q JUDGE'S GUIDELINES

The following would constitute automatic eliminations:

1. Repeated evidence of poor nose.
2. Reluctance of the dog to enter cover, water, mud, and/or other situations involving unpleasant or difficult going.
3. Returning to the handler without the bird.
4. Stopping the hunt.
5. Ignoring the bird when found and leaving it.
6. Unwillingness to release birds on delivery until compelled to do so by severe methods.
7. Badly damaging the game.
8. Loud and prolonged barking.
9. Anyone throwing anything into the water to persuade a dog to enter or to direct him to a fall.
10. Shouting from the field to get his attention.
11. Judges will decide, according to circumstances, whether a dog peeing near a mark or rolling on a bird should be penalized or eliminated. A dog urinating directly on a bird should be eliminated.

For the WD Test

The dog and handler team is under judgment from the time they leave the last holding blind. The dog may be brought to the line on a leash or slip cord, wearing either a flat buckle collar or a choke chain. (An English all-in-one slip lead is allowed). If a choke chain is used, it must be removed at the line. A flat buckle collar may remain on the dog. The handler may hold the dog on the line for the test by the collar, or with the leash wrapped around his/her neck, or by using a slip cord. If held by a leash or slip cord, the device will remain with the handler after the dog is sent. These must be either placed in the handler's pocket or on the ground behind the handler. This must be done before the dog returns with a bird. Before the handler calls for the birds, he/she may gently touch the dog and speak in a normal manner to the dog. Manhandling the dog or using an angry, screaming voice is not allowed. After the dog is sent, the handler must stand quietly on the line while his/her dog is working in the field. These are marking tests, not handling tests, and there should be no voice commands or hand signals while the dog is working.

ACC WD requirements allow the dog to be held on the line, but it would be a disqualification if the dog went before his/her number had been called by one of the judges. Once the dog has the bird, the handler may then call him/her with voice and/or whistle. Although hand delivery is not required, the dog must deliver the bird to within two paces of the handler at the line. Furthermore, the dog should return on a reasonably direct route, showing a willingness to return with the bird.

For the WDX Test

The dog and handler team is under judgment from the time they leave the last holding blind. The dog may be brought to the line on a leash or slip cord, wearing either a flat buckle collar or a choke chain. (An English all-in-one slip lead is allowed). If a choke chain is used, it must be removed at the line. A flat buckle collar may remain on. Choke chains, slip cords and leashes must be removed and either placed on the ground behind the handler or placed in the handler's pocket. Once this has

WD/X/Q JUDGE'S GUIDELINES

been done and the dog/handler team is ready, the handler must signal the judge for the marks. The dog is to be steady on line. The handler cannot touch the dog from this point on until the last bird is handed to the judge. The handler may then touch the dog to put on the leash/collar and quietly leave the line. In the WDX, the dog must deliver the bird to hand but not necessarily at heel position.

For the WDO Test

The dog and handler team is under judgment from the time they leave the last holding blind. The dog can be brought to the holding blind on lead or slip cord and collar or choker. (An English all-in-one slip lead is allowed). All collars/leads must be removed and put in the handler's pocket before heeling his/her dog from the holding blind to the line. The handler cannot touch the dog once he/she leaves the holding blind until he/she has given the last bird to the judge and has heeled his/her dog back behind the judges. At this point, the handler may put on the dog's leash/collar and touch the dog. The dog is to be steady on line and must deliver the bird to hand but not necessarily at heel position.

For All Tests

A dog in the WD/X/Q on a water retrieve will not be disqualified solely for returning to the line by land instead of water. He/she does, however, need to take some water on the way to the bird. In the event that strong winds or other factors would increase the probability of a memory bird (WDX/WDO) floating far enough away from where the mark should land, judges have the discretion to set their tests such that these factors are taken into consideration. For instance, it would be allowable to set a mark to fall on land instead of water if the direct line to each mark primarily involves swimming water.

Judges always have the right to either call a no bird or allow a re-run if an unfair situation occurs.

Occasionally a dog may become confused as to whether it was sent. The dog may run out a few feet, stop, and return to the handler. If, in the judge's opinion, the dog was confused or was possibly distracted or disturbed by an unforeseen occurrence or person, the judge may allow the handler to re-send the dog. A re-run is at the judge's discretion.

These are not Hunt Tests and should not resemble such. The WD/X/Q are marking and handling tests only. Gunners must not wear camouflage, and no duck calls are allowed. At least one gunner or bird boy at each station must wear a white shirt or jacket to be easily seen by the dog and handler from the line. Handlers may also wear white if they choose. There are no "retired gunners". All throwers and gunners will be in the open and clearly visible to the dog and handler. All birds must be thrown so that the dog/handler can see the bird all the way to the ground. Birds will be thrown by hand, but in some instances a winger or mechanical device may be used.

Marks, whether back-to-back singles or multiples, will be placed wide apart so there will be no confusion or temptation for the dog to switch. All blind retrieves will be well off to the side or away from marks and placed so the dog does not have to travel through any bird scent to get to the

WD/X/Q JUDGE'S GUIDELINES

blind or be distracted by gunners in white coats. The blinds are to be basic and straightforward. Handling on marks is only allowed on the water triple in the WDQ.

A “test dog” should be used before any competition starts to show the requirements of the test. Judges are to set up the WD/X/Q tests according to ACC requirements, which are clearly written as to where birds should be placed and the distances required. When setting up tests, judges should take into consideration current conditions such as wind and position of other bird stations – especially the live bird station. Judges are requested to ensure that all handlers are aware of the rules before running their dogs and to answer any questions handlers may have prior to running the tests. Often handlers are nervous, as this may be their first experience running a dog, and judges can reassure and relax the handlers.

Test Completion

Judges must mark the “Passed” or “Failed” box on the entry forms and sign each one. All entry forms must be returned (including both those marked passed and those marked failed) to the WD Chairman at the completion of the WD/X/Q tests.