

# **SOUTHERN BIRD HUNTERS ASSOCIATION**

**ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 2020**



***Making Field Trials Great Again***

**ORGANIZATION BY-LAWS & RULES FOR PARTICIPATION**

UPDATED 2021, JULY 24TH

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**CHAPTER 1**  
**FIRST AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OF**  
**THE SOUTHERN BIRD HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

This Certificate of Incorporation dated February 19, 2020, has been duly executed and is filed as an agreement with the Secretary of State of the State of Georgia for the formation and maintenance of a corporation under the Georgia General Corporation Act (the "Act").

Section 1. *Name.* The name of the corporation ("Corporation") is: SOUTHERN BIRD HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Section 2. *Registered Office and Agent.* Originally, the address of the registered office of the Corporation in the State of Georgia is 670 Bear Creek Rd, Carrollton, GA 30117. Originally, the name of its registered agent at such address is Marty Robinson.

Section 3. *Purposes.* The purposes of the Corporation are: The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 4. *Issuance of Stock.* This corporation is not organized for profit and does not have the authority to issue capital stock and shall pay no dividends or salary to its incorporators or Board of Directors.

Section 5. *Incorporators.* The name and mailing address of the incorporators are Marty Robinson, 670 Bear Creek Rd, Carrollton, GA 30117; Bruce Mercer, 1153 Antioch Rd, Fayetteville, Georgia 30215; Georgia Casey, 5164 Stanton Ridge Rd, Belknap, IL 62908.

Section 6. *Directors.* The number of directors to be elected at the first meeting of the corporation is NINETEEN (19). The Board of Directors shall consist of a Director from each state or states that have a minimum of two (2) trials ran during a field trial season. The National Executive Officers shall also serve as voting members of the Board of Directors.

Election of Directors. The election of directors shall be accomplished at each member state's annual meeting of the members by a majority vote of the active club's present; voting in person or by proxy. Each state will hold its' annual meeting before the corporation's annual meeting, as provided in the By-Laws.

Section 7. *Limitation of Director Liability.* No director shall be personally liable to the Corporation or its members for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duty by such director as a director. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, a director shall be liable to the extent provided by applicable law (i) for breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Corporation or its members, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) pursuant to Section 1053 of the Act or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. No amendment to or repeal of this Section 7 shall apply to or have any effect on the liability or alleged liability of any director for or with respect to any acts or omissions of such director occurring prior to such amendment.

Section 8. *Authority of Directors.* In furtherance and not in limitation of the rights, powers, privileges and discretionary authority granted or conferred by the General Corporation Act of the State of Georgia or other statutes or laws of the State of Georgia, the Board of Directors is expressly authorized:

- a. To make, amend, alter, or repeal the By-Laws according to the Procedures set out therein;
- b. To adopt from time to time By-Laws provisions with respect to indemnification of directors, officers, agents, and other persons as it shall deem expedient and in the best interests of the Corporation and extent permitted by law.

Section 9. *Dissolution Clause.* Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of the Common Pleas of the County in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Section 10. *Reservation of Right to Amend.* The Corporation reserves the right to amend, alter, change, or repeal any provisions of this Certificate of Incorporation, in the manner now or later prescribed by statute. All rights, powers, privileges, and discretionary authority granted or conferred upon directors are granted subject to this reservation.

Executed the date first written.  
By: Marty Robinson, Incorporator  
By: Bruce Mercer, Incorporator  
By: Georgie Casey, Incorporator

**CHAPTER 2**  
**BY-LAWS OF SOUTHERN BIRD HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Georgia shall be Southern Bird Hunters Association, Inc. The purpose of the organization shall be as set out in its charter.

**ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. There shall be the following classifications of membership in the corporation, via:

- a. ACTIVE MEMBERS are those clubs that advertise in the American Field and carry the SBHA logo on their club trial ad, and by doing so have pledged to pay a fee of three and no/100 dollars (\$3.00) per dog, per stake or field trial to the association or corporation. Active Member Clubs should advertise one trial with a SBHA logo in the American Field each trial season and engaged in fostering and increasing interest in and by promoting, regulating, controlling, supervising, and conducting field trials on Upland Game Birds.
- b. MEMBERSHIP of this corporation shall be unlimited in number and any person, partnership, corporation or association of good character and standing shall be eligible for membership upon compliance with the requirements set forth by the Board of Directors and agreeing to be bound by the Regulations and By-Laws of this corporation. Club membership in the amount of \$100.00 per year is due at the annual business meeting of the SBHA for the upcoming season. SBHA Individual membership in the amount of \$25.00 per year runs with each field trial season.
  - i. HONORARY MEMBERS, or those entitled Directors at Large shall be persons deemed by the membership of the corporation to be of great national or international renown in the field of ornithology or particularly interested in the restoration and perpetuation of wild Upland Game Birds on the North American Continent or in the field trials. Generally, honorary members may be elected posthumously. All honorary members of the corporation shall be elected by a vote of the membership of the Directors and shall not be entitled to vote as honorary members of the corporation. But may advise or serve on committees.

**ARTICLE III – EXPELLING OR SUSPENDING MEMBERS**

Section 1. Any member of this corporation or individual associated with such member or anyone in attendance at an event sponsored by a member club may be expelled, or penalized by a majority vote of the Board of Directors for any cause deemed sufficient by them, provided:

- a. The Executive Board, by a majority vote, has the authority to impose immediate suspension up to twelve months on handlers, owners or spectators for unacceptable conduct. Any disciplinary recommendations exceeding twelve months will need a majority vote from the Board of Directors (Executive Board and active State Directors); and may be administered by a special called meeting with a majority quorum.
- b. Such member or individual be furnished in writing a specification of charges against him at least ten days before a hearing thereon.
- c. A hearing be had upon such charges, the member charged be notified of the time and place thereof and given an opportunity to be present and present evidence thereon.

- d. The Board of Directors may delegate the right to hear evidence upon such charges and report said evidence to said Board for action.

## **ARTICLE IV – ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. The annual meeting of the members of this corporation shall be held at a place and date designated by the Board of Directors. The calendar year for the Southern Bird Hunters Association is June 1st through May 31st.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee of this corporation may be held upon the call of the President, or by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors. Such call or notice shall be in writing and at least twenty days prior to such meeting, and the Secretary shall immediately send a notice in writing to each Director, by certified mail, at his last known address giving the time, place, and purpose of the meeting as provided in the call or notice.

Section 3. At all meetings of the Board of Directors of this corporation, a majority of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Unless this regulation is suspended by a majority of the members the order of business of all meetings of the members shall be as follows:

- a. Call to order
- b. Seating of new Directors
- c. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting
- d. Reading of financial and committee reports and statements
- e. Election of officers
- f. Unfinished business and old business
- g. New and miscellaneous business
- h. Adjournment

Section 5. At all annual and special meetings of the Board of Directors of this corporation, each Executive Board Member shall be entitled to one vote; and each State Director in a State that has ran two (2) trials in the current season are entitled to one vote and may be represented by it selected representative or by a proxy in writing executed by the elected representative or state President of such active state. All proxies must be mailed or emailed to the National Association Secretary one week prior to annual meeting. These proxies should indicate the person to vote the proxy and, if the state desires, the choice of nominee. The proxies are to be tabulated and verified by the Secretary and turned over to the President of the Southern Bird Hunters Association, Inc., twenty-four hours prior to the annual meeting. Any proxies received after the date of one week prior to the annual meeting will be null and void. The Futurity Director will be allowed to vote at the National Meeting. All votes shall be made by in public. A roll call of the directors and officers will be used when necessary. Should there be an even number or qualified votes, the residing President will place an additional vote during the initial voting procedure to assure the voting results do not end in a tie.

## ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President, (Two-year term); in addition to the other powers conferred upon him in these By-Laws shall:

- a. Be the executive officer of this corporation.
- b. Preside at all annual and special meetings of the Board of Directors.
- c. Appoint a committee to audit the Treasurer's records, and such committee shall report at and to the annual meeting of members. Said committee shall be appointed at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting.
- d. Appoint finance, rule, and general committees and delegate such power and authority to such committees, as he may deem expedient.
- e. Interpret the By-Laws and Running Rules when requested to do so, or deems expedient.
- f. Be an ex-official member of all committees.
- g. Have such other and further powers and duties as may be conferred on him from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The First Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President in case of the absence or disability of the latter. If both the President and the First Vice-President are absent or disabled, the Second Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President. Should the President and both the First and the Second Vice-President be absent or disabled the Third Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President. Should the President and the First, Second and Third Vice-President be absent or disabled the Forth Vice-President shall perform all the duties. The Vice-Presidents shall severally have such other and further duties and powers as may be conferred upon them by the President and the Board of Directors.

- a. The First Vice-President shall be responsible to assist in the overall operation and planning of SBHA's future and organizational direction. In addition, shall be the Chairperson to guide and development of SBHA's Youth Program. (Two-year term)
- b. The Second Vice-President shall be responsible for recruiting new members, media marketing, and assisting the secretary in managing the SBHA website. (Two-year term)
- c. The Third Vice-President shall be responsible for recruiting new horseback members, managing and coordinating SBHA horseback events. (Two-year term)
- d. The Forth Vice-President shall be responsible for providing coordination and leadership assisting club officials plan and manage the National Open Championship or Classic and the National Amateur Championship or Classic. (Two-year term)

Section 3. The Secretary, (Two-year term); in addition to such other duties and further powers conferred upon him by the Board of Directors shall:

- a. Perform his or her duties under the direction of the President and assist the President in administering the affairs of this corporation.
- b. Keep the President informed of the activities of the Secretary's office.
- c. Refer matters to the President for his decision when such matters entail corporation policy and activities.
- d. Attend and keep minutes of all annual and special meetings of the Board of Directors.
- e. Attend such trials and events as directed by the President.
- f. Keep a record of all member clubs including the name and address of the President and Secretary and preserve all letters and other documents of interest.

- g. Carry on the general correspondence of the corporation, and notify members of their election, suspension, expulsion or other penalty that may be provided for by the Board of Directors.
- h. Send copies of the By-Laws and Running Rules to the newly formed clubs, and to each newly elected Director of the Board of Directors.
- i. Have general charge of the records, certificates of eligibility and books of the corporation, and upon the election of his or her successor, deliver all of the same to his or her successor.
- j. Perform such other acts incident to the position of Secretary as may be delegated to him by the President and the Board of Directors.
- k. Make all of his books, records, correspondence and similar materials pertaining to the corporation at any and all reasonable times, open to the inspection and examination by the President and Vice-President, and members of the Board of Directors of the corporation.
- l. Submit a list of proposed rule changes to all officers and directors at least 30 days before the annual meeting for consideration by their respective clubs.

Section 4: The Treasurer (Two “2” year term); has custody of all the funds and securities of the corporation which shall come into his or her hands, and have power to endorse on behalf of the corporation all checks, drafts, and other commercial paper to the credit of the corporation in a bank approved by a majority of the Board of Directors, which bank must be a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or may, with the consent of a majority of the Board of Directors, invest surplus funds of the corporation in United States Government or other satisfactory Securities.

- a. Sign all receipts and vouchers on behalf of the corporation, and sign all checks or drafts for the payment of bills or expenses of the corporation, or for the disbursement of its funds.
- b. Give bond for the faithful discharge of his or her duties, and account for the funds that shall come into his or her possession, in such sum and condition if and as the Board of Directors may require.
- c. Keep a full and accurate account of all monies received or paid out by him or her on behalf of the corporation, and upon the election of his or her successor, deliver all records, books, or accounts and funds to his or her successor.
- d. Oversee preparation and timely filing of required federal tax returns for the corporation.
- e. Ensure the corporation maintains its active status with the State of Georgia “Secretary of State”.
- f. Maintain status as 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization with IRS

Section 5. The Board of Directors may pay the Secretary an allowance for legitimate expenses, for maintenance of office, clerical and stenographic help in such amount, as it deems proper.

Section 6. The election of officers will be by the officers and Board of Directors from the general membership of Southern Bird Hunters Association.

Section 7. At the Board of Director meeting's, the Past-President will have the same voting privileges as the Directors for one year after leaving office, and shall cast a valid vote until the conclusion of the following years business meeting.

Section 8. As part of the executive committee, the Futurity Director will have a vote at all meetings of this corporation. The Futurity Director's position has no term limit. Duties of the Futurity Director's will consist of.

- a. Attending the annual meeting and provide a report on the activity of the Futurity.
- b. Keeping records of all SBHA Futurity nominated litters.

- c. Chairing and organizing the Futurity, Puppy Classic, and Championship trial. (Ad, judges, grounds, awards, etc.)
- d. Promoting the Futurity program throughout the year.
- e. Fundraising as necessary and managing the SBHA Futurity banking account.
- f. It should be the Futurity Director's main goal, to manage the Futurity trial, and all companion stakes in such a way to encourage increased participation, while soliciting increased litter enrollment.

## **ARTICLE VI – REGIONS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS**

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall divide the country geographically into designated regions. The boundaries of these regions may be changed from time to time at the discretion of the Board of Directors. These regions will be made up of one or more state associations.

Section 2. The following procedures are set up:

- a. Where a state has fewer than two trials ran in a trial season, the clubs of that state may align themselves with the closest state organization that they choose to join until such time as their state may qualify having ran two trials, subject to the Board of Directors approval.
- b. Any state or states may petition the Board of Directors for realignment into a different region than they are now allocated to, providing the majority of clubs in said state or states express the desire for realignment.
- c. When any new region is duly constituted by action of the Directors, the President shall appoint a committee of three to be responsible for organizing the said new region. He shall do the same in the case of reactivating any region.

Section 3. The regions as constituted by the Board of Directors shall be organized by the active states within that region. It is the intent of this corporation that after a region has been organized, the members shall, so far as possible, and consistent with the regulation, assume all direction and responsibility in the management and holding of stakes and other business affairs within said respective regions.

- a. The securing of sanction, supervision, and general overseeing of these regional events shall be under the direction of a President or Chairman, to be selected annually in each region at a meeting called within said region for said purpose.
- b. At the annual meeting of the members of each region, or as soon thereafter as possible, the date and location for the Regional Classic or Championship will be chosen. All Regional Classics or Championships shall be sanctioned by this corporation when applied for by said organization.
- c. The respective Regional President or Chairman and the member, or members, of the Board of Directors resident in any one of the respective regions shall be responsible for seeing that the annual meeting of the region is properly called and held, and that the operation of the region is consistent with the By-Laws and Running Rules of the corporation.
- d. It shall be the duty of the President or Chairman of the respective regions and a Director residing in the respective regions to be present personally at each Classic or Championship event within their region, for the purpose of seeing that the rules of this corporation are complied with and the stakes run on a basis consistent with an event of this caliber. In the event said President, Chairman or Director is unable to attend the running of the Regional Classic or

Championship, the President or Chairman shall have the power to appoint in writing, a qualified person to act in his place.

- e. It shall be the duty of the President or Secretary of the region to see that the list of officers, dates for trials, and any other pertinent information about the region be sent to the officer of the Secretary of the corporation.

## **ARTICLE VII – AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT FIELD TRIALS**

In order to foster and increase interest in and knowledge of Upland Game Birds and their conservation and restoration, the Board of Directors of this corporation may promote and conduct field trials and may adopt rules and regulations for the control and supervision of field trials.

This association reserves unto itself the right to withdraw from any member, club, state or regional organization the privilege of awarding any championship for good cause.

Club Officials have the authority to refuse entries from handlers or owners who have in the past harassed Club Officials or field trial judges in an unacceptable manor.

## **ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS**

- a. The By-Laws of this corporation may be amended, altered, changed, or repealed only by a 2/3's vote of the Board at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors, or at any special meeting called for that purpose, or by a vote taken of the members of the Board of Directors by mail or Email herein elsewhere provided. In the notice of the meeting to the members, it shall be stated that the amendment, alteration, change or repeal may be acted upon. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, all proposed rule changes submitted to the secretary for consideration at the national annual meeting shall be decided by a majority vote. All rule changes brought up from the floor at the national annual meeting will have to be passed by a 2/3's vote.
- b. These By-Laws shall be effective from and after the 24th day of February 2020, and all existing previous By-Laws shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

Attest:

ss: Marty Robinson, President

ss: Bruce Mercer, Secretary

**RUNNING RULES**  
**CHAPTER 3**  
**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FIELD TRIALS FOR ALL POINTING BREEDS**

**ARTICLE I – MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

Section 1. Wins will not be recognized and recorded unless the trial and/or each stake in which such win is made conforms to the following conditions as adopted by the Southern Bird Hunters Association, Inc., the American Field Publishing Company, and the Field Dog Stud Book.

- a. AFTCA membership is required by all clubs hosting amateur stakes.

Section 2. The name of the club, place, and date of the trial, and Secretary's name and address must be announced in an issue of The American Field bearing a publication date of at least fourteen (14) days before the trials are to be run.

Section 3. Recognized stakes are:

- a. Puppy Stakes: from Jan. 1 to June 30 in each year for dogs whelped on or after Jan. 1 of the year preceding and from July 1 to Dec. 31 of each year for dogs whelped on or after June 1 of the year preceding.
- b. Derby Stakes: from July 1 to Dec. 31 in each year for dogs whelped on or after Jan. 1 of the year preceding, and from Jan. 1 to June 30 in each year for dogs whelped on or after Jan. 1 of two years preceding.
- c. Shooting Dog Stakes: For dogs of any age.
- d. An Open Stake is one in which there are no limitations with respect to either dogs or handlers. Open placements and Championships are recognized solely by the American Field and are run under the auspices of the SBHA Open Championship committee. The SBHA Open Championship committee establishes the guidelines for sanctioning all open events, certifies the winners of these events and assumes any and all rights and responsibilities associated with these events.
- e. An Amateur Stake is one in which all handlers are Amateurs as defined by the By-Laws of the Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America. The AFTCA Definition of Professional and Amateur reads: Any person who receives or has received, either directly or indirectly, compensation for training or handling dogs (including handling of dogs on a plantation or shooting preserve) other than his own or those of an immediate family member is not an amateur. Any amateur who handles a dog not solely owned and registered in his or in the name of a member of his immediate family, who is awarded a placement for such dog's performance shall waive payment or any division of the cash purse or shall lose his amateur status. The funds waived shall remain the property of the club. No amateur shall handle more than (2) dogs not solely owned by him or some member of his immediate family in any amateur stake. All amateur stakes are run under AFTCA rules. Only solid barrel firearms or a plugged barrel firearm, with blank shells or crimps, which prevents a projectile (of any kind) leaving the barrel may be used in an Amateur Stake by all AFTCA / SBHA member clubs. This would also be listed in all Amateur Stake advertisements in the American Field.
- f. Gun Dog Stakes (Judgment Ceases at Flush) - Is offered as a Shooting Dog Stake, and shall be judged based on Gun Dog Standards.

- g. Walking Stakes shall consist of; Amateur Puppy, Amateur Derby, Amateur Shooting Dog, Open Puppy, Open Derby, Open Shooting Dog, Open Gun Dog and Youth Stakes.
- h. Horseback Stakes shall consist of Amateur Puppy, Amateur Derby, Amateur Shooting Dog, Open Puppy, Open Derby, Open Shooting Dog, Open Gun Dog and Youth Stakes.
- i. Youth Stakes are available for youth of all ages; however SBHA Youth Handler of the Year Points will be tabulated for handlers Seven (7) years of age, to those who are seniors in high school. A Junior SBHA Handler Awards System may be created if attendance is warranted, and implementation is approved by SBHA Youth Initiative Committee.
- j. Winners in recognized SBHA stakes shall be recorded and Win Certificates made available for printing via SBHA website at [www.southernbirdhunters.org](http://www.southernbirdhunters.org)
- k. Championships, Winner's Stakes and Futurities: Wins will be recorded only in such events as are recognized by the American Field Publishing Company and the Field Dog Stud Book.

Section 4. The minimum length of heats for all stakes other than Puppy Stakes and Youth Stakes shall be thirty minutes. Minimum length of heats for Puppy Stakes and Youth Stakes shall be fifteen minutes.

Section 5. A stake must be drawn by lot and numbered in the order drawn, in a convenient and approved place open to the public not later than the night before the day the stake is due to be run.

Section 6. Dogs shall not be substituted after the draw.

Section 7. All braces shall be run as drawn except with the prior consent of the judges and handlers, which consent must not be given for the purpose of accommodating owners, handlers, or dogs that are not available when reached in the regular order of the draw.

- a. Should there be a bye in the stake, the handler may, at his discretion, run alone or with a dog selected by them for the purpose. Provided, however, that if a dog from any regularly drawn full brace should be withdrawn, fail to appear or be disqualified, the bye dog shall be moved up to fill the vacancy caused by the absent dog. In the event there is no bye, then such dog losing its brace mate, as previously contemplated, must be run in its regular order of drawing, either alone or with a dog as a running mate that is satisfactory to the judges. In the event that there be two withdrawals from different braces, the brace mates of such withdrawn dogs may be run together where the first vacancy occurs, or in their regular order, at the discretion of the judges. This same rule applies if there be four or any even number of dogs withdrawn from the stake.
- b. All stakes should be so arranged that if at all possible, no more than one bye dog is drawn or run. Except where there are an uneven number of starters in a stake, no bye should ordinarily occur. For example, in the event the drawing by lot has two dogs handled by the same person remaining as the last stake, the bracing is re arranged with the last previously available dog drawn not so handled, changing places with the first drawn of the final two dogs.

Section 8. No entry shall be accepted after the stake is drawn.

Section 9. No more than one brace of dogs shall run on a course or any part of a course at the same time irrespective of whether the dogs are in the same stake or in different stakes.

Section 10. Stakes shall be run only on recognized game birds whose flight has not been impaired by caging, hobbling, wing clipping, brailing, or in any, other manner.

Section 11. Bitches in season shall not be permitted to run in one-course trials.

Section 12. Wins will not be recorded if the dog is not registered with the American Field at the time the stake is run.

Section 13. Wins will not be recorded if the essential data is not completed correctly, in a timely manner and submitted to the SBHA Secretary.

Section 14. Wins will not be recorded, or if recorded, will be cancelled if made in a trial or in a stake not conforming to the above requirements.

Section 15. It is recommended that courses contain sufficient bird cover and suitable objectives to induce intelligent searching by the dogs.

# SBHA Youth Initiative Minimum Requirements

**Purpose:** The purpose of the SBHA Youth Initiative is to promote both walking and horseback field trials geared to attract youth participation and share the excitement that can last a lifetime. The goal during a SBHA Youth Trials is to offer ample opportunity for youth handlers to experience the thrill of flushing and firing over a pointed dog. Providing sufficient bird availability will increase that opportunity.

SBHA will award youth handlers with SBHA Youth Handler Points that will be tabulated for yearend awards. Youth handlers will be recognized at the Annual SBHA Awards Banquet and provided their achievement awards. The SBHA Youth Initiative Mission is simple: **To Encourage and Promote Youth Participation at SBHA Youth Field Trials.**

**Club Solicitation:** SBHA will partner with clubs who will commit to encourage youth participation by hosting a SBHA Youth Stake under SBHA Youth Initiative Minimum Requirements. Clubs commit to set aside specific time to promote and prioritize the Youth Stake.

**Entry Fees:** It is encouraged there be **NO CHARGE** for Youth Stake participation at SBHA Youth Stakes, however, each club shall have the final decision if fees are charged.

**Time of Day of Youth Stakes:** Clubs are requested to set aside specific time to accommodate Youth Stakes, placing priority on the value of the stake. It is recommended a club begin the Youth Stake on a Saturday morning or Saturday afternoon based on entries. Clubs may alter the time of stakes based on their youth market. At the club's discretion, a Youth Training seminar where applicable may be offered Saturday morning prior to the beginning of the Youth Stake. If other companion stakes are offered, we recommend they be postponed as necessary to assure the Youth Stake has sufficient time for completion and awardment.

**Age Participation:** All ages of youth participation is encouraged, however, SBHA will record points for Year End Awards for Youth Handlers who are seven (7) years of age, to those who are seniors in high school.

**Youth Stake Format:** SBHA Youth stakes are to be judged using Gun Dog Standards, where judgement ceases at flush. Clubs may elect to conduct a portion of their stakes utilizing a "bird field" environment but follow the judgment ceases at flush concept. E-collars and tracking collars are permissible for use if chosen. Tracking collars can be activated and secured by the judges. Asking the judge for assistance in locating a dog is permissible to assist the handler.

**Length of Stakes:** Youth stakes shall be 20 minutes in length.

**Handling of Dogs:** Youth handlers will handle dogs from horseback where warranted or Walking where warranted with adult permission and supervision. The use of ATV / UTV should be avoided at all costs, but permissible as last resort with property owner approval. Each youth handler may handle two dogs per stake.

**Dogs:** Dogs may be used multiple times during Youth Stakes to allow/enhance handler participation.

**American Field Ads:** SBHA logo must appear on all SBHA sanctioned Youth Trial advertisement in order for SBHA Youth Points to be recorded. If the Youth Stake is the only stake offered at the trial, then the SBHA logo will be the only logo to appear on the ad. However, it is not required to place an SBHA Youth Trial in the American Field as a standalone trial.

If the Youth Stake runs in conjunction with other stakes, the Youth Stake shall be shown in the ad as follows: SBHA Youth Stake (Saturday at 12:00 pending entries) Usable Youth Prizes... No Charge, or something similar.

**Essential Data Forms and Brace Sheets:** SBHA requires the club submit the brace sheet (drawing / running order) and List of Winners so SBHA points may be tabulated for ALL handlers and ALL winners.

**SBHA Points Factor:** Handlers placing in Youth stakes will be as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> place = 3 additional points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 2 additional points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 1 additional point. ALL handlers will receive 10 points for competing. Example: 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner receives (10+2) = 12 points. Non-placing handler = **10 points.**

**SBHA Youth Handler of the Year Awards:** SBHA will recognize the **TOP 10 Youth Handlers** at the Annual SBHA Awards Banquet. Prizes will be off the chart and plentiful.

## CHAPTER 4 SOUTHERN BIRD HUNTERS ASSOCIATION FUTURITY

### ARTICLE I - NOMINATING RULES

#### Section 1.

- a. **LITTER:** Nominations will be accepted for females and stud dogs now registered in THE FIELD DOG STUD BOOK. Litter nomination fees will be set accordingly by the Futurity Director. This payment to the SBHA Futurity and enrollment of the litter in **THE FIELD DOG STUD BOOK** will make each puppy eligible for entry. The SBHA will cover the nomination fee for each stud fee and/or puppy that is part of the auction / raffle at our yearly National Banquet. This will automatically nominate the litter and / or puppy to the SBHA Futurity at no cost to the owner.
- i. **PUPPY CLASSIC:** The owner of a Futurity Puppy has the option of entering the Puppy Classic, which is held in conjunction with the Futurity. A puppy must be registered in **THE FIELD DOG STUD BOOK**. Entry in the Puppy Classic is NOT mandatory to keep the dog eligible for the Futurity.
- ii. **FUTURITY:** Dogs must be registered in **THE FIELD DOG STUD BOOK**.

#### Section 2.

- a. **ENTRY FEE:** For the Futurity and the Puppy Classic will be set by the Futurity Director, and entry fees' must be paid for all dogs drawn for the trial.
- b. **DATES:** The drawing and starting dates of the Puppy Classic and Futurity will be listed in **THE AMERICAN FIELD** thirty (30) days prior to the running of the stake, and listed on the SBHA website.

### ARTICLE II – JUDGING STANDARDS

Section 1. **FUTURITY:** Dogs must show determination under adverse conditions, and intelligent adjustments to terrain and cover, hunt independently of brace mate with speed and be able to demonstrate endurance. Extreme range will be considered undesirable as it would be in any Shooting Dog Stake. Dogs should handle willingly and at a range adjusted to comfortable handling on foot. Dogs must display an intense desire to find birds, a keen nose to detect the presence of game, and the ability to locate that game quickly and accurately by body scent. Dogs should show staunchness, intensity, and style on point. There will be qualifying heats of thirty (30) minutes and the judges will name those dogs; that they wish to see in the final one (1) hour heat. The type of dog to be honored is one which shows the potential to go on to win the important shooting dog events in the country, such as the Southern Bird Hunters Association's Regional Classics or Championships and the Southern Bird Hunters Association's National Shooting Dog Classic or Championships.

Section 2. **PUPPY:** Puppies are judged on the natural qualities they should possess incentive to hunt, intelligence, good constitution, nervous energy, courage, good conformation, instinct to point, style and appearance. Heats are thirty minutes with no additional planted birds.

### **ARTICLE III – AWARDS**

Trophies and monies will be awarded to the owners and breeders of the first, second, third and fourth place dogs of The Southern Bird Hunters Association Futurity and Southern Bird Hunters Association Puppy Classic. The Futurity winner will receive a portrait of winning dog.

## CHAPTER 5 RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR FIELD TRIALS

### ARTICLE I – GENERAL

Section 1. This corporation shall record the winners in stakes sponsored by active members of the corporation and shall issue certificates, signed by the President and Secretary of this corporation, to owners of such winning dogs, provided however:

- a. The sponsoring club shall have paid to this corporation, membership dues for the year in which the trial is held, in the sum of three (\$3.00) dollars, per dog, per entrant.
- b. The club conforms to the minimum requirements as set out here in Chapter 3, in conducting said trial.
- c. The club appoints a stake manager to oversee the running of the trial.
- d. The sponsoring club certifies the winner or winners of its stakes to the Secretary of this corporation within thirty (30) days after the close of the trials at which said win, or wins, was made, giving such information as may be required by the Secretary of this corporation.
- e. That in stakes with three dogs competing, one-win certificate will be issued. In stakes with four or five dogs competing, two placements only will be recognized. In stakes with six or more dogs competing, three placements, with no division of any place will be recognized.
- f. Clubs have the option to give monies as awards in any stake. Amateur handlers must comply to AFTCA rules to maintain AFTCA Amateur status.

Section 2. Drawings will be for order of running only and not for any particular course.

**Section 3. Club Officials have the authority to refuse entries from handlers or owners who have in the past harassed Club Officials or field trial judges in an unacceptable manor.**

Section 4. Any owner who refused to pay an entry fee for his or her dog shall be subject to being barred from competition in member club trials. If an entry is called in by phone, and the entrant does not show up, he or she will be liable for the entry fee if he or she does not cancel before the drawing. If a female comes in season after the drawing and cannot be run, the entrant will so be charged.

Section 5. Objectionable entries will not be allowed to start if the following conditions prevail:

- a. Dogs afflicted with any disease, which the Stake Manager may regard as contagious, will not be permitted to start or to be handled in close proximity to other entries.
- b. Objections to entries will be given consideration by the Stake Manager prior to the running.

Section 6. The judges shall be in general charge of the running of the dogs and how the same shall be handed, subject only to the rules and regulations for field trials of this corporation. After the first series has been completed, if the judges shall deem a second or additional series necessary, they may call the dogs wanted in whatever manner or order and for the length of time they may deem expedient.

Section 7. HANDLER

- a. An individual handler must be designated at the time of the drawing, and such handler, if present and physically able must handle the dog as drawn.
- b. If two dogs handled by the same handler should be drawn in the same brace, the second dog so drawn shall change place with the next dog to be handled by another handler.

- c. Any person under suspension by this corporation or any person barred from competition in trials by corporation shall not be permitted to handle or enter a dog.
- d. No one other than the handler of a dog may give a dog, while in competition, any command or direction except with the permission of the judges.

## Section 8. HANDLING DOGS

### Walking Stakes

- a. The average participant in a walking field trial should not exceed a pace of 3.5 to 4.0 miles per hour. The marshals shall evaluate the pace with the aid of a GPS, if necessary, and if the marshal, or judge has to warn a participant about the pace more than once, the matter will be referred to the stake manager or field trial chairman, and the participant may be asked to withdraw.
- b. Handlers handling his or her dog at an average running pace instead of an average walking pace is prohibited. Excessive abuse of an increased pace may lead to disqualification.
- c. A handler that falls behind is allowed to increase the pace at the judges discretion to regain the front, or may continue the described walking pace, allowing his or her dog to hunt their way to the front.
- d. Aside from being injured or handicapped, handlers do not have the option of riding in any SBHA walking stakes. See Section 22: Injured Handler, addressing approved handicap provision.

### Horseback Stakes

- a. The pace at SBHA horseback stakes shall be established by the judges, closely mimicking that of a flat-walk. This pace should not be altered to chase handlers. It is the handler's responsibility to show their dogs to the judges at the desired pace.
- b. A handler that falls behind is allowed to increase the pace at the judges discretion to regain the front, or may continue to maintain a flat-walk, allowing his or her dog to hunt their way to the front.

### Walking and Horseback Stakes

- a. During the running of a heat, no dog in competition therein shall be removed from the ground for an appreciable length of time, placed on leash, or worked otherwise than in an accepted manner of handling by voice, whistle and/or hand signals.
- b. The use of any device attached to the dog for communication or which will, in any manner, influence the dog's action during the handling of a dog in competition in a field trial is forbidden.
- c. No dog can be released with more than (2) collars.
- d. A dog that is absent for more than 10 minutes from the place at which he is to start may be disqualified at the discretion of the judges. To have a dog at the place and time where it is to start rest solely upon the owner or handler.
- e. The permission allowing dogs to wear bells during competition shall be approved by the Trial Chairman
- f. The Stake Manager may bar any handler violating this section from further participation in or attendance at such trial.
- g. Aside from being injured or handicapped, handlers do not have the option of riding in any stake in SBHA.

## Section 9. TRACKING COLLARS

The sole purpose of using a tracking collar in a field trial is to assist handler in finding a dog that may be lost or which is deemed no longer in judgment. The rules for the use of a tracking collar in all recognized stakes are as follows.

- a. AFTCA approved tracking collars may be used.
- b. If a handler elects to use the transmitting collar on his or her dog, only one other Collar is permitted to be on the dog.
- c. The hand-held locating receiver shall be kept in the possession of the judges and/or their designees, and must be turned off.
- d. The hand-held locating receiver can only be used after the dog is determined to be out of judgment.
- e. The use of the tracking collar is elective and for no reason should the running of a stake be held up due to the lack of available equipment.
- f. Each club shall inform the judges of the rules and the use to ensure uniform practice.
- g. Any person using a locating receiver to locate a dog currently in judgment, and prior to official authorization of its use by one of the judges, shall disqualify the dog in that stake and the offenders shall be disqualified from field trials.
- h. Provided the dog starts a heat with tracking collar in place, removal of tracking collar disqualifies the dog.

## Section 10. SCOUTING

### Horseback and Walking Stakes

- a. A handler may select one scout to assist during the brace and the judges should be advised of each handler's scout.
- b. Scouts should ask the judge for permission to leave the gallery in search of the dog on the initial request, additional needs to search for a dog does not constitute additional judge request.
- c. The scout should retain position within the gallery as all other gallery members unless asked to assist his handler.
- d. It is the scouts responsibility to return to the gallery once the dog is back on course. Excessive "dragging" by the scout or failing to return to the gallery may lead to disqualification of the dog.
- e. At the judge's discretion, scouts may be required to ride behind handlers and in front of the judges, returning to this position after leaving the gallery in search of a dog at the handlers request. This request may be implemented at the judge's discretion during a stake.
- f. Scouts are allowed to search for a dog as necessary, however scouts are not allowed to encroach along the course in front of judges at any time. Scout's found in front of the judge's should be penalized and may result in the dog's disqualification.
- g. Excessive scouting of a dog is the result of a dog not handling and will be viewed as unfavorable. At the judge's discretion a dog can be disqualified should this become excessive.
- h. If in the opinion of a judge; any scout that interferes with the opposing handler's dog during a brace; the dog in which the interfering scout is assisting may be subject to disqualification if the infraction is unacceptable and unsportsmanlike.
- i. It is not the scouts role to handle a dog during a brace. If in the judge's opinion a scout handles a dog beyond the judge's satisfaction, the dog being handled by the scout is subject to disqualification.

### Walking Stakes

- a. As time expires at the completion of a brace, scouts are allowed to advance forward down course at any pace to locate and return the dogs in competition. Handler's should maintain the same prescribed walking pace when retrieving dogs after time has expired.

### Horseback Stakes

- a. As time expires at the completion of a brace, both handlers and scouts are allowed to advance forward down course at any pace to locate and return the dogs in competition.

### Section 11. CONDUCT OF HANDLERS

- a. All handlers must conform to any and all regulations and rules and directions of the judges which do not conflict with the rules and regulations for field trials of this corporation; and should any such regulation be disregarded the judges shall have authority to disqualify such handler and/or his dogs, or they may leave the matter to the Stake Manager for his action.
- b. The judges are expected to prescribe and rigidly enforce a strict rule upon the interference of handler or dog with the brace mate's dog.
- c. Handlers shall be at liberty to politely inquire of the judges at any time as to any regulations within their province or of the Stake Manager concerning any rule beyond the jurisdiction of the judges.
- d. Any handler, owner or participant who verbally or physically attacks judges, Trial Chairman or Club Officials are subject to immediate suspension or banning from all SBHA events and are not welcome on property where SBHA events are being held. Such conduct will be evaluated by SBHA Executive Board members and final ruling issued to accused individual(s). Should the suggested suspension exceed twelve months, a Special Hearing with the Executive Board and State Directors will be held to determine length of suspension.
- e. If in the judge's opinion a handler conducts himself / herself in a manner that is undesirable or unsportsmanlike during a brace, the judge may disqualify the dog of such handler.

### Section 12. COMPLAINTS

A handler may make a verbal complaint to either the judges or the Stake Manager concerning the conduct of his opponents provided that such complaint be made promptly upon the alleged commission of the offense, thus affording proper official opportunity of observing the immediate situation.

### Section 13. IMPUGNING JUDGES

Any person who has, to the satisfaction of the Stake Manager, impugned the action of a judge officiating at any stake, or who has otherwise annoyed such official in connection with or because of his official action in connection with the trial either during or after the running of a trial, may be barred from further participation in or attendance at such trial by the Stake Manager and such disbarment may be made permanent by subsequent action of the Board of Directors.

### Section 14. CONDUCT UNBECOMING A GENTLEMAN

If a complaint is made by an active club of this corporation or by an individual associated with such active club, that a person entering a dog in, or attending any field trial held by an active club of this corporation itself, has acted in a manner contrary to good sportsmanship and detrimental to the best interest of the field trial generally, such complaint shall be in writing and a hearing held in the same manner as is provided in by-laws, Article III, Section 1, (a), (b), and (c). If a majority of the Board of Directors shall find and decide that the complaint is well founded and that the accused has acted in a manner contrary to good sportsmanship and detrimental to the best interest of field trials generally, the

person so accused shall be barred from attending and being in any event sponsored by this corporation or by any active club of this corporation, and no certificate of win made by a dog entered or handled by such person shall be issued by this corporation. The Secretary shall notify both the accused and accusing party in writing of this decision of the Board of Directors.

#### Section 15. FIELD MARSHAL

One or more Field Marshals shall be appointed by the Stake Manager, and the Field Marshal or Field Marshals shall have the full authority to control the movement of the gallery or other spectators. The Field Marshals shall prevent interference with the judges, handlers and dogs. Members of the gallery shall not disburse or become disjunction during the running of a brace that may attract a dog to an undesirable location.

#### Section 16. BACKING STANDARDS

- a. In a Shooting Dog Stake, it is mandatory that a judge order a dog up, if the dog, in the opinion of the judge, demonstrates conclusively that it refuses to back its brace mate.
- b. A handler may request permission from the judge to move a backing dog so as not to use up his allotted time, if in the judge's opinion; the pointed dog's handler is taking too much time to flush.
- c. Derbies and puppies are not required to back.

#### Section 17. SHOOTING DOG (ADULT DOG) STANDARDS

##### Walking and Horseback

A Shooting Dog (Adult Dog) should possess an intense desire to find birds and adjust to the terrain for its handler when called upon; display a keen nose to detect the presence of game, and to locate it accurately and promptly; staunchness on point, without false pointing or blinking; bird wisdom, intelligent ground work and the pace and range most effective for the work at hand; stamina, speed, industry and independence while working; intensity during his searching; quickness in locating his handler and responding to commands; good manners while backing his brace mates point; willingness to face unflinchingly heavy cover, brier, or other handicaps; style of carriage and grace of movement; styling up well on point with head aloft and tail above level. Open and Amateur Shooting Dogs must be steady to wing and shot (excluding Gun Dog Stakes and Youth Stakes).

In addition to the requirements a dog should possess; the following are the most sought-after attributes SBHA dogs should be judged upon when awarding placement:

- a. Dogs should be responsive to commands from handler, willing to swing forward when called upon. Dogs ignoring handlers' commands, requiring assistance from scout for redirection should not be favored.
- b. Dogs with excessive range and limited natural comeback, not willing to work with handler should be less desirable. A dog should utilize the terrain at a suitable distance returning to sight of handler throughout the brace.
- c. Dogs should possess snappy, quick, classy animation displaying excitement during ground race.
- d. Dogs should wisely utilize terrain, advancing to logical birdie objectives with quality application.
- e. Dogs should be polished when on point, possessing high tail, lofty head, staunch and intense, locating game accurately with poise.

## Section 18. DERBY STANDARDS

Derbies are judged on their demonstration of potentially becoming a Finished Shooting Dog showing some bird sense, speed and stamina, hunt to the course, locate and point quickly and accurately and be staunch. Derbies are not required to back.

## Section 19. PUPPY STANDARDS

Puppies are judged on natural qualities they should possess: instinct to hunt & point, intelligence, good constitution, nervous energy, courage, good conformation, style and appearance. Puppies are not required to point or back.

## Section 20. GUN DOG STAKES (Judgment Ceases at Flush)

Dogs are expected to possess class and animation on the ground with an intense desire to locate and point body scent accurately. Dogs should possess style on point with a high tail and lofty head. Handling and responsiveness of the dogs is more critical during Gun Dog Stakes, as it would be true hunting situations. The range of a dog competing in a Gun Dog stake may be less than that in Open and Amateur Shooting Dog Stakes, desirable for true hunting application.

## Section 21. COURSE GAME AND GUN LAWS AND RULES

- a. All events must be held on one course under natural conditions; Exception for special cases would be with approval of the Executive Committee, for a club to have a multiple course trial, and is advertised as such.
- b. It is recommended that supplemental birds be liberated on the course but must be liberated in widely separated area of the course to stimulate natural condition, and replaced on a put and take basis.
- c. All participants will adhere to all state gun laws, rules, and safety, according to the state in which they are participating.
- d. If the participant does fire in the direction of the judge, participant, or too close to the gallery, he will be asked to pick up his or her dog. Firing at a judge, participant, or gallery will be grounds for disqualifying the participant and his or her dog in that particular brace or stake.
- e. No dog shall be placed in a SBHA Championship Stake until shot over when birds are flushed to his point or as directed by a judge. The shot shall be fired by the handler of the pointing dog only, with a gun of not less than .32 caliber (shotgun 209 primers may be used in lieu of 32blanks).
- f. The use of live ammunition is banned in all SBHA stakes held by members of the corporation.

## Section 22. INJURED OR HANDICAP HANDLER

### Walking Stakes Only

- a. An individual must submit a handicap application to the SBHA Secretary for approval before the handler is authorized to utilize handicap privileges. Approved handicap handlers will be provided an SBHA Handicap wallet placard and will be required to present to Trial Chairmen upon request.
- b. To handle a dog at a trial from a horse or four-wheeler (where permitted) the handler must notify the trial chairman prior to the drawing. A Doctor's excuse is not acceptable.
- c. A handicapped handler must be the sole owner of the dogs he/she is handling to utilize handicap privileges.

- d. A handicapped handler, riding, should respect his or her brace-mate at all times. The intent of the handicapped rule in the SBHA is to allow a handler to participate in a field trial who might otherwise be unable to compete because of physical impairment. Handicap handlers should travel behind a walking handler during a brace, allowing the pace to be set by the walking handler, or modified as necessary by the judges.
- e. A handicapped handler should use the horse and or a 4-wheeler only as a vehicle of transportation, and in no way should utilize the horse or the 4-wheeler to guide the dog to a specific location or to give a physical advantage over his brace mate.
- f. All participants in a walking field trial should not exceed a pace of 3.5 to 4.0 miles per hour. The marshals shall evaluate the pace with the aid of a GPS, if necessary, and if the marshal or judge has to warn a participant about the pace more than once, the matter may lead to disqualification of the dog for continued pace abuse.
- g. Handicap handlers should be respectful of dogs on point or backing, stopping an ATV or horse at a distance as to not interfere with either dog. If in the judge's opinion interference is caused, the dog of the interfering handler may be disqualified.
- h. Handicap handlers should maintain the same prescribed walking pace when retrieving dogs after time has expired. Their scouts may advance at any pace to retrieve the dog.

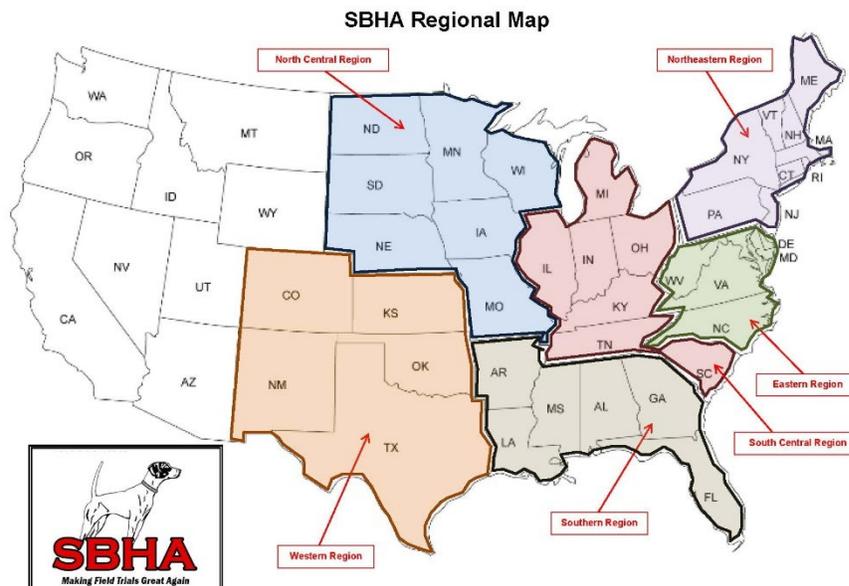
**ARTICLE II**  
**REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, STATE CLASSIC'S, AND NATIONAL**  
**WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Section 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee, which is made up of SBHA officers; President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, 4th Vice President, Secretary, Treasure, and the Futurity Director, who are elected by the Board of Directors (Chapter 1; Section 6) will sanction all SBHA Regional Walking Championships, and National Walking Championships, and make the final selection of judges for National Walking Shooting Dog Championships, National Walking Invitational Championships, National Open Walking Free-For-All Championship, Walking Futurity and all Regional Walking Championships. The Executive Committee must approve of all date changes for Classics and Championships.

**Section 2. SANCTION OF NATIONAL & REGIONAL WALKING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- a. Title stakes (Championships) that are sanctioned by this organization shall not run on the same dates, any changes of dates requested after the annual meeting, must be approved by the executive committee.
- b. Regional Shooting Dog Championships may be sanctioned by the Executive Committee of this corporation in such sections of the country as the Executive Committee may, in its discretion, deem advisable.
  - i. Eastern Regional - North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia,
  - ii. South Central Region - South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan
  - iii. Southern Regional - Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas
  - iv. Western Regional - Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado
  - v. North Central Regional - Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota
  - vi. Northeastern Regional - Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine



- c. The title awarded the dog winning these regional events shall be descriptive of the region in which the stake was held.
- d. National Open Championship will be held in conjunction with the SBHA Futurity and Puppy Classic each year.
- e. National Amateur Walking Championship, National Amateur Walking Invitational Championship, and the National Open Walking Free-For-All Championship and or Classic, will be rotated and awarded each year at the annual meeting. Should a club elect not to host one of these National events, the trial may be awarded again to the club hosting the previous year if no other clubs elect to host.
- f. Open Invitational Championship (The Mega Invitational) will be ran by the Futurity Directors at a date approved during the Annual Business Meeting.
- g. The SBHA, as far as possible, selects a date and place for its National Amateur Championship so as not to pose conflict with the AFTCA National Walking Shooting Dog Championship.

### Section 3. CHAMPIONSHIPS & CLASSICS

- a. Such trials will be held at the State, Regional and National levels. A copy of the essential data forms and appropriate dog tax must be submitted to the National Secretary upon the completion of trial.
- b. Trophies and or monies may be awarded to the winner and runner-up, and 3rd place in Open Stakes at a State Classic, Regional Championship, and the National Open Walking Shooting Dog Championship.
- c. It is not mandatory that a Champion or Runner-Up be named, but is left to the discretion of the judges.
- d. Motorized vehicles shall not be used by judges to perform judicial duties at Walking State Classics, Walking Regional, and Walking National Championships.
- e. Motorized vehicles shall not be used by judges to perform judicial duties at any horseback stakes.

### Section 4. LENGTH OF HEATS

- a. Open Shooting Dog Stake at a State Classic and/or Regional Championship must be at least one hour in length, for Walking Stakes and Horseback Stakes. There may be as many additional series and for as long a time the judges may deem necessary.
- b. The Amateur Shooting Dog Stake must be at least one hour in length for Walking Stakes and Horseback Stakes at; State Classics and/or Regional Championships. There may be as many additional series and for as long a time the judges may deem necessary.
- c. National Open Walking Shooting Dog Championship / Classic will be one hour in length.
- d. The National Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship / Classic will be one hour in length.
- e. The National Open Walking Free-For-All Championship / Classic will be a 30-minute initial series, open to dogs with or without placement; with a call back of one hour. Judges should call back a minimum of eight (8) dogs, or more based on the judges / Chairman's direction for the final series. The dogs called back will be redrawn or paired at the discretion of the judges.
- f. National Open Walking Invitational Championship will be one hour in length.
- g. National Amateur Walking Invitational Championship will accept only 12 Amateur Walking Shooting Dogs with the top amateur points from the previous field trial season. The running will consist of two series to name a Champion and Runner-Up. The first series will consist of a one-hour stake, awarding advancement to the second series. Judges should call back a minimum of

six (6) dogs to compete in the final series. The dogs called back will be redrawn or paired at the discretion of the judges. The second series will be one-hour. Awardment of placements shall be from the second series only. A Champion and or Runner-Up should be named as determined by the judges. Should the judges decide the dogs that completed the second series were not Championship caliber, the stake may be awarded as a Classic, recognizing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placements as necessary. If no dogs completed the second series, awardment for all placements for this stake are withheld.

#### Section 5. ENTRY ELIGIBILITY

- a. Dogs to be eligible for an Open Championship Stake, shall have a winner's certificate recognized by the American Field from a placement in a Open Derby or Open Shooting Dog stake.
- b. Dogs to be eligible for an Amateur Championship Stake, shall have a winner's certificate recognized by the AFTCA and the American Field from a placement in a Amateur Derby or Amateur Shooting Dog stake. Amateur handler must be a member of the AFTCA and possess a current AFTCA membership to enter.
- c. National Amateur Walking Invitational Championship; dogs eligible must have qualified by placing in an SBHA Amateur Walking field trial the previous field trial season. Order of invitations will go to the Amateur Walking Shooting Dog followed by the Amateur Walking Derby. All dogs must be handled by an amateur handler. Trial is limited to 12 dogs entered. Amateur handler must be a member of the AFTCA.
- d. National Open Walking Championship, eligible dogs shall have a winner's certificate recognized by the American Field from a placement in an SBHA Open Walking Shooting Dog Stake from the previous field trial season.

#### Section 6. CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGES

- a. Two or more Shooting Dog Judges shall judge each Championship Stake.
- b. The host club or clubs shall submit a list of proposed judges to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall make the final selection of judges.
- c. The names of the judges for all championships shall, if possible, be announced at least thirty (30) days prior to the running of the stake. If any judge so announced becomes unable to serve or fails to appear, the substitute judge shall also be approved by the Executive Committee.
- d. It is recommended that a judge not be used to judge more than one National Walking level field trial (National Open Walking & National Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championships and National Open Walking & National Amateur Walking Invitational Shooting Dog Championships and National Open Walking Free-for-All Championships) during the SBHA calendar year. (June 1st –May31st).

#### Section 7. STAKE MANAGER

- a. The entire conduct of the running of each Championship Stake, subject to the Rules and Regulations for Field Trials of the corporation, and subject also to the jurisdiction of the judges, shall be vested in the Stake Manager. All questions arising, not determined by the Rules and Regulations for Field Trials of the corporation and not within the jurisdiction of the judges, shall be determined by the Stake Manager, and his decision shall be final unless reviewed by the Executive Committee. In such event, the decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

- b. The Stake Manager is empowered to order any person in attendance at the trial removed from the Field Trial grounds and to prevent his return during the attendance of the stake if in his judgment, such person has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a gentlemen or has in any manner interfered with the running of the stake, and any such person may be permanently barred from attending future trials of this corporation by subsequent action of the National Board of Directors.

#### Section 8. ENTRY FEES AND STARTING FEES

The host club or host clubs shall fix the Nominating, Starting, and Post Entry Fees in all stakes run by this corporation.

### **ARTICLE III – JUDGING**

#### Section 1. JUDGING GUIDELINES

- a. Dogs who do not make game and show no sign of smelling game birds, such as flushing birds in a downwind situation, will not be credited with a flush if in the judge's opinion this holds true, however, the dog is not to be penalized for giving chase under these conditions anymore than had he stopped to flush unless he deliberately chases. If a dog should give indication of game scent, and then flushes the birds, whether he stops or chases, this will be credited as a flush.
- b. Consideration should be given to the quality of finds rather than the number of birds coupled with a good race, hunting proper objectives, and handling, should be placed over lesser overall performances with a greater number of finds.
- c. The course should be judged so as to prove a dog's natural covey finding ability by adjusting to all types of terrain and hunting the birdie objectives. Dogs, who hunt wide and do not work the objectives, should not be placed over medium dog that hunts all the objectives. However, should the other dog hunt all the same objective in a quicker manner, we must assume that at the end of the day, this dog will find more birds and it should handle to foot and respond to his handler.

#### Section 2. FIELD TRIAL JUDGES

Judges should first, be honest, fearless and absolutely impartial; wholly without prejudice for or against any particular breed, dog style or type of performance or individual. Secondly, they should have the mental ability to quickly analyze a situation and properly interpret it. Third, they should be calm and dispassionate in temperament, not easily ruffled and not willing to risk snap judgment. Fourth, they should be physically able to withstand long hours in the saddle without impairment to physical or mental alertness.

These are not mysteriously magical qualities. Most sportsmen possess some or all of them in some degree. But to find a judge who possesses all in high degree is not as easy as it may seem. Things sometimes happen fast in field trials and the ability to quickly analyze and properly interpret a rapid-fire action is generally born of considerable experience. It is not necessary to have years of experience in the judicial saddle before becoming a capable judge: on the other hand, knowledge of true bird dog performance values can be obtained through caring for, hunting behind, handling, and better training their own bird dogs. When done they are better equipped to recognize and more fully appreciate quality in bird dog performance. Such experience makes it less difficult to understand the mental processes and reactions of a bird dog and makes obvious those time nuances in performance which are so often

important but so frequently overlooked by the less experienced. No persons should accept an invitation to act as a judge unless they are willing and able, regardless of the time required, and in fact, determined to run each stake to its logical conclusion. Although they receive no remuneration for work, they should recognize the fact that each contesting dog is exceedingly important to its owner or handler and merits the full attention regardless of the quality of its performance. No judging assignment, no matter how relatively unimportant it might be, should be taken lightly.

Field trial judges, though their task be a thankless one, should not become incensed at honest and sincere criticism, provided it does not impugn their integrity. Seldom is it that any one person can see everything that happens at a field trial and seldom is it that two people see or interpret a single situation exactly alike. Field trial judges have a better opportunity to see more of what transpires than any member of the gallery. Before any spectator, owner or handler criticizes any decision; they should first ask for an honest answer to the following question: "Did I see all of the running of all the dogs? Did I see everything that transpired? How would I have evaluated certain work which was apparently penalized and other work which was apparently highly valued?" Such self-interrogation may put the decision in a different light.

Field trial judges do not like to be treated as "untouchable". Club officials should, however, make every effort to ease their task through the provision of every possible comfort and convenience. Every spectator and contestant alike should accord them full respect and courtesy which the dignity of their position and their unselfish devotion to the sport commands. New and younger judging talent is sorely needed in field trials. Field trial committees should give serious consideration to the inviting of young and enthusiastic field trial devotees to act as judges, giving them the benefit of serving with older individuals with seasoned experience. Without field trial judges, there can be no field trials.

## **ARTICLE IV – DOG AND HANDLER OF THE YEAR**

Section 1. The calendar year for tabulating points for the high point dog of each stake starts June 1st and ends on May 31st of the following year. Any trial held in May has a two-week grace period.

Section 2. To receive points for dog of the year award a dog must be registered, with complete information on the essential data form, and the owner must be a SBHA individual member.

Section 3.

- a. SBHA Dog of the Year, minimum requirements in each category. Dogs will need to have placed a minimum of two (2) times per stake to be eligible to be recognized as a SBHA Dog of the Year, with two (2) or more placements the dog with the highest point total will become the Dog of the Year winner, the second highest point total will be the runner-up Dog of the Year.
- b. SBHA Handler of the Year, minimum requirements in each category. Handlers will need to have placed a minimum of two (2) times per stake to be eligible to be recognized as a SBHA Handler of the Year, with two (3) or more placements the handler with the highest point total will become the Handler of the Year winner, the second highest point total will be the runner-up SBHA Handler of the Year.



## Southern Bird Hunters Association

WALKING STAKES								HORSEBACK STAKES					
Amateur Puppy	Amateur Derby	Amateur Shooting Dog	Open Puppy	Open Derby	Open Shooting Dog	Open Gun Dog	Amateur Puppy	Amateur Derby	Amateur Shooting Dog	Open Puppy	Open Derby	Open Shooting Dog	Open Gun Dog

### 2021 - 2022 Dog Point System (Based on number of dogs competing)

<b>National Championships</b>															
Champion or 1st Place	10X														
RU- Champion or 2nd Place	7X														
3rd Place	5X														
<b>Regional Championships</b>															
Champion or 1st Place	7X														
RU- Champion or 2nd Place	5X														
3rd Place	3X														
<b>State Classics</b>															
1st Place	7X														
2nd Place	5X														
3rd Place	3X														
<b>Club (weekend) Trials</b>															
1st Place	3X														
2nd Place	2X														
3rd Place	1X														
<b>SBHA Futurity &amp; Puppy Classic</b>															
1st Place				10X	10X										
2nd Place				7X	7X										
3rd Place				5X	5X										
4th Place				4X	4X										

### 2021 - 2022 Handler Point System (Based on number of dogs competing)

<b>National Championships</b>															
Champion or 1st Place	10X														
RU- Champion or 2nd Place	7X														
3rd Place	5X														
<b>Regional Championships</b>															
Champion or 1st Place	7X														
RU- Champion or 2nd Place	5X														
3rd Place	3X														
<b>State Classics</b>															
1st Place	7X														
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<b>Club (weekend) Trials</b>															
1st Place	3X														
2nd Place	2X														
3rd Place	1X														
<b>SBHA Futurity &amp; Puppy Classic</b>															
1st Place				10X	10X										
2nd Place				7X	7X										
3rd Place				5X	5X										
4th Place				4X	4X										

### SBHA Youth Initiative Points System

<b>SBHA Youth Handler Points (All Trials)</b>	
1st Place	3 Additional Points
2nd Place	2 Additional Points
3rd Place	1 Additional Point
All Participants	10 Points for Entering

Handlers Are Awarded Points Per Youth Event, Not Per Dog Entered. If Two Events are Offered, Points for Two Events Will Be Generated

## ARTICLE V - SBHA HALL OF FAME

The SBHA Hall of Fame is designed to recognize outstanding individuals and animals that have made a major contribution to the SBHA.

### Summarized Qualifications

#### People

The person can be living or deceased. The listing of qualifications is in order of importance and at least three of the top eight should be met for people.

- a. Breeder of champions and important winners
- b. Trainer of own dogs
- c. Handler of own dogs to important SBHA wins
- d. Provider of grounds
- e. SBHA National, State, and / or Club Officer
- f. Longevity in SBHA trialing
- g. Judging in SBHA Classic and Championship trials and other important events at a national level
- h. A mentor to new SBHA trialers and clubs
- i. Sportsmanship and Integrity
- j. Supporter of Professionals
- k. Amateur and Professionals qualify equally

#### Dogs

All dogs nominated must be deceased. Eligible dogs should have been trialed extensively in major SBHA events. Significant SBHA winners who also won other important stakes outside of SBHA may have their overall record considered. Dogs that have sired or whelped multiple significant SBHA winners may be considered for HOF induction despite an otherwise limited trial record in SBHA events. All qualifications for dogs below should be given substantially equal weight.

- a. Performance / wins in SBHA competition
- b. Importance of wins, e.g. Regional and National Championship placements
- c. Dogs only occasionally competed in SBHA stakes must have an otherwise exceptional record along with a significant placement in an SBHA event to be considered. This dog may be better nominated to the National Field Trial Hall of Fame rather than the SBHA
- d. Longevity at a high-performance level
- e. Male breeding impact on SBHA trialing at a local, regional or national level including the SBHA Futurity
- f. Female production with impact in SBHA trials at a local, regional or national level including the SBHA Futurity.

Nominations should be submitted in writing\* to the SBHA National President with a copy to the SBHA National Secretary (to be forwarded to the Hall of Fame Nomination Committee) no less than 14 days prior to the Annual Summer meeting. Nominations received after said deadline, or from the floor at the current year's meeting, will be reviewed by the Nomination Committee for the following year's vote. The SBHA officers and State Directors each have a vote (and can vote on up to 2 dogs or persons) with a majority in attendance required for election to the SBHA Hall of Fame. Electees' to the Hall of Fame will be honored at the SBHA National Banquet the following summer. Appropriate pictures and plaque of each Hall of Fame honoree will be placed at the National Bird Dog Museum at Grand Junction, TN.

*\*In the written documentation please consider addressing the applicable qualification criteria.*

## ARTICLE VI – UNDERSIGNED

The undersigned, President and Secretary of this corporation hereby certify that the above and foregoing Running Rules and Regulations for the Field Trials of the Southern Bird Hunters Association, Inc., were duly adopted by unanimous vote at a meeting of said corporation on July 24, 2021 and that at said time and place all the existing Running Rules and Regulations now constitute the accepted Running Rules and Regulations for Field Trials of this corporation.

Recent revision witnesses our hand this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021

ss: Marty Robinson, President

ss: Bruce Mercer, Secretary

### **Executive Officers / Board Members**

President: Marty Robinson

Secretary: Bruce Mercer

Treasurer: Georgie Casey

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Warren Parrott

2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Daryl Thomas

3<sup>rd</sup> VP:

4th VP: CW Bud Moore

Futurity Directors: Brian Casey and Bruce Mercer

Alabama: Harold Boyett

Arkansas:

Florida: Tyler Greene

Georgia: Daryl Thomas Jr.

Illinois: Georgie Casey

Kansas: Bud Moore

Kentucky:

North Carolina: Cliff Monroe

Oklahoma:

Pennsylvania: Ernie Saniga

South Carolina: Warren Parrott

Texas:

Virginia: Chad Wheeler