



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL CLUBS AND JUDGES 24th JANUARY 2024

CHANGES TO NZGTA REG.GEN.11 "FIRING OF GUN"

At the NZGTA Executive meeting held on Monday 15th January 2024, the following change was made to Reg. Gen. 11, effective immediately:

Delete *"Notwithstanding any other regulation, the club conducting any championship trial may, with the permission of the Executive, choose not to use guns, provided that a sound similar to a shot being fired is incorporated into each section of the trial. The schedule for the trial must include notice that guns are not being used."*

Replace with *"Where any regulation makes reference to the words "gun" or "guns", this is to be interpreted as being inclusive of alternative blank shot firing devices. Whether using a gun or an alternative blank shot firing device, all regulations must be complied with. If a club is using an alternative blank shot firing device, other than a modified shotgun, the schedule for the trial must include notice of this."*

Reg. Gen. 11 Firing of Gun now reads as follows:

In all trials shots shall be fired in an upright position from the shoulder in a realistic hunting-like manner in the interest of gun safety.

Where any regulation makes reference to the words "gun" or "guns", this is to be interpreted as being inclusive of alternative blank shot firing devices. Whether using a gun or an alternative blank shot firing device, all regulations must be complied with. If a club is using an alternative blank shot firing device, other than a modified shotgun, the schedule for the trial must include notice of this."

This change has been made under the authority of NZGTA constitution Rule 25. Regulations. "The Executive shall have the power to make, amend or cancel regulations for the conduct of field trials."

Reasons:

The majority of the Executive committee found that the amendment that was introduced on 14th December 2022 was unworkable in that the amendment conflicted with several regulations that were already in existence. These existing regulations stipulate that in some of our trials it is mandatory for handlers to fire the shots and to hold a gun throughout the trial. The Executive feels that it is important to retain the integrity of those existing regulations, and that important changes to our sport must be driven by the members by means of recommendations or remits presented at an AGM.

The members were given an opportunity to vote at the 2023 AGM on a proposed amendment to Ret. Reg. 8. This recommendation sought to delete the requirement for the handler to fire the shot and hold the gun throughout the trial. This was emphatically defeated with only 2 of the 23 cubs represented at the AGM voting in favour.

In making the above changes, this Executive has recognised that some clubs no longer wish to use firearms. Those clubs may use alternative blank shot firing devices; however, they must ensure that such devices are fit for purpose as all regulations must be adhered to in all Championship events.

Kind Regards

NZGTA Executive Committee

Please note: this regulation amendment will be incorporated into the next document (regulations) revision.