

Bulletin

from the

NATIONAL FIELD TRIAL CHAMPION ASSOCIATION, INC

By R. J. Carlisle

Following intensive research into the practical and experimental use (and possible abuse) of GPS tracking devices in field trial competition (i.e. Garmin Astro 220 Receiver & DC 30 Collar) by the Officers and Directors of the National Field Trial Champion Association, Inc., the decision has been made to allow their use in “qualifying events” effective June 1, 2009. This action repeals the #12 standard, in the list of “Standards of Qualifications for the 111th Running of the National Championship, beginning February 8, 2010”, which is found on Page 2 of the March 21, 2009 issue of the American Field publication.

Each individual club sponsoring a “National Championship Qualifying Event” will be responsible for policing the use of electronic recovery devices for dogs competing in their trial. Handlers in the past have been allowed to use their own recovery units during field trial competition, unless specific units owned by the sponsoring club are specified for use. Handlers using their own units attach their collar to their dog and then give their receiver to the Judge or his designated appointee, until it is requested by the handler for a lost dog and/or at the conclusion of the hour. It is suggested by the NFTCA that Judges in “qualifying events” pick the frequency for a dog utilizing a Garmin Astro 220 Receiver with a DC 30 Transmitter Collar, without allowing the handler to know that particular frequency during the competition. If the handler needs the receiver to recover this lost competitor, then and only then would the Judge give the handler the receiver and the frequency number for said handler to track and recover the lost dog. This would be a small gesture giving sponsor clubs “a little peace of mind”, knowing that they are doing all that they can do to conduct a fair and honest event.

Clubs sponsoring “National Championship Qualifying Events” should take appropriate action against anyone caught using ANY electronic device (tracking devices or cell phones) dishonestly and immediately notify the Secretary of the NFTCA where appropriate action will be taken. Individuals caught misusing ANY electronic devices in “qualifying” field trials might find themselves permanently barred from National Championship competition and /or participation in future events.