

## Berkshire Downs & Chilterns Golden Retriever Club Health and Safety Policy for Field Trials

**General Policy.** To provide adequate control of the health and safety risks involved in our activities.

The aim is to reduce the risk of accidents, and ensure the safe handling and use of equipment. Those attending a field trial should be aware of the nature of the activity and informed about any potential hazards.

**Responsibilities.** Overall responsibility for health and safety is that of the Field Trial Committee and

Officers of the BD&CGRC. All those involved should be responsible to take care of the health and safety of themselves and others, and to follow instructions with regard to procedures and safety. Anyone present who perceives a potential risk should report this to the officials.

At each Field Trial the following will have specific responsibilities:-

**Chief Steward:** Make announcements before the trial commences, including any particular risks or safety issues. During the trial to oversee the organisation and any relevant safety matters, with regard to the guns, helpers, competitors and spectators.

**Steward of the Beat:** (Gamekeeper or Host) To assist in conducting the trial, and make all present aware of any particular hazards. Jointly with the Shoot Captain he will ensure the guns are aware of good safety practices, and will oversee the placing of the guns.

**Judges:** To be aware of any hazards and conduct the trial with regard to safe practices, for handlers and their dogs, and any helpers or spectators.

**Flagman:** To carry a flag which indicates the safe location of spectators and competitors not in line.

Guns should be aware of the location of the flag, and spectators should stay close to the flag.

**Risk Assessments.** Any risks for a particular ground on that date, or in the pertaining weather conditions, will be assessed by the relevant official.

In general Field Trials involve the following areas of risk:-

**Transport:** Persons are responsible for their own transport arrangements to the trial. On the trial ground it may be necessary to share vehicles or use shoot transport. The BD&CGRC cannot accept responsibility for injury, loss or damage to persons or property.

**Dogs:** The handlers are responsible for the control of their dogs and ensuring they do not cause injury or accidents.

**Ground:** Persons should be aware that Field Trials take place in the countryside. Walking may be over rough ground, in crops or woodland, and there may be obstacles such as ditches, fences, streams etc.

Strong footwear and appropriate outdoor clothing is required, and persons should be aware of their own state of health and level of fitness in relation to the nature of the particular ground.

**Weather:** Field Trials take place in all kinds of weather and participants should be dressed appropriately for the conditions.

**Guns:** The health and safety policy and rules for each shoot will apply, and it is expected that each gun is an experienced and safe shot. In addition the health and safety protocols of the BD&CGRC will apply.

The BD&CGRC recommends that each gun has his own insurance cover, eg BASC Membership.

**The Public:** Participants should be aware of possible risk or disturbance to others, eg horse riders, walkers, or farm workers. Should anti-field sports demonstrators be encountered please behave calmly

and follow the instructions of officials.

***First Aid:*** A First Aid box is carried in a vehicle and can be located by contacting the Chief Steward.

The BD&CGRC does not provide qualified personnel, but such help as is requested will be provided.

Karen McCarthy  
Field Trial Secretary