



Poodle Club of America, Inc

Rules and Guidelines for WC/ WCX Tests

For Judges and Participants

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Rules and Guidelines for WC/ WCX Tests

Table of Contents

Rules	
Working Certificate.....	3
Working Certificate Excellent.....	3
Practice Days & Seminars.....	3
WC/WCX Guidelines	
PCA Approval.....	4
PCA Application.....	4
Other Retriever Breeds.....	4
Purpose.....	4
Philosophy.....	4
Handler Knowledge and Dog Work.....	5
Judges.....	5
Setting Up the Test.....	5
Touching the Dog Between Birds.....	6
Delivery of the Bird.....	6
Birds.....	6
Controlled Breaks, Recasting and other Problems....	7
Limited Entries.....	7
Record Keeping.....	7
Consideration to Qualifiers.....	7
Collars and the WC/WCX Test.....	7
After the Test.....	7
The Committee.....	8
Complaints.....	8
WC/WCX Rules Summary Chart.....	9

Rules and Guidelines for WC/ WCX Tests

Poodle Club of America, Inc
Rules and Guidelines for WC/ WCX Tests

RULES: The Poodle Club of America, Inc. allows any registered Poodle over six months of age which meets the performance requirements to receive the Working Certificate and the Working Certificate Excellent. The purpose of the WC/WCX tests is to evaluate:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural Working Ability• Marking Skills• Willingness to enter and re-enter water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interest in birds• Trainability
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These tests are designed to enable most Poodles with a natural working instinct to pass the Working Certificate Test and with modest training to pass the Working Certificate Excellent Test. These programs provide an avenue for Poodle owners to enjoy and develop an appreciation and understanding of the natural working abilities of their dogs and to engage in early training as a working retriever.

It is imperative that the handler be familiar with the *Regulations and Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers* and (chapter 4) the *Standards for Junior and Senior Hunting Tests*.

All WC/WCX tests shall be pass/fail.

Working Certificate

All WC tests shall be run in accordance with the Regulations and Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers, Junior Hunting with the following exceptions:

1. Retrieval of two single birds not to exceed 50 yards on land in light cover.
2. Retrieval of two single birds not to exceed 25 yards on open water.
3. The dog may be held at the line as steadiness is not required.
4. Delivery to hand is NOT required. The bird must be brought across a line designated by the judges.
5. The dog must be able to see the marks hit the ground/water
6. No decoys
7. Handling your dog to a mark is not allowed

Working Certificate Excellent

All WCX tests shall be run in accordance with the Regulations and Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers, Senior Hunting with the following exceptions:

1. Retrieval of a double mark not to exceed 75 yards on land in light to medium cover, with an honor.
2. Retrieval of a double mark not to exceed 40 yards on water.
3. No diversion birds or shots
4. No blinds
5. No walkups
6. Dogs should have a clear view of the fall.
7. No Decoys

Practice days and seminars

Although not desirable, practice days may be held the day prior to the test on the same land/water on which the test will be conducted.

Rules and Guidelines for WC/ WCX Tests

WC/WCX Guidelines

1. PCA Approval

The Poodle Club of America grants permission to member and non-member clubs to hold Working Certificate and Working Certificate Excellent Tests under the PCA Rules and Guidelines. Poodles meeting the requirements set forward in the Rules and Guidelines and which complete the designated tests at one of these events are eligible to receive a PCA WC or WCX Certificate. The club holding the test is the sponsor, not PCA. There is no limit to the number of tests a given club may hold as long as they are conducted properly.

2. PCA Application

Clubs applying for permission to hold a PCA Working Certificate or Working Certificate Excellent Test must do so on the official PCA application. Applications may be obtained from the PCA website under the performance tab.

All applications must be received by the PCA Working Poodle Program Director at least 120 days prior to the test date. To avoid a delay in approval, make sure the applications are filled out properly. When filling in the judge's qualifications (see #7 below), be sure to be specific. Fax completed application to Dana Stewart 704-483-6988.

3. Other Retriever Breeds

PCA has no objections to non-Poodles running in the tests. The test giving club may require that non-Poodles run after all Poodles. PCA does not award certificates to non-Poodles. Each breed club has rules and regulations and some will send certificates to the host club to give out to owners of the dogs of their breed passing the test. This should be arranged by the owners of the non-Poodles requesting to run in a Poodle test. It would also be good to remind the judges when they are making out their evaluation sheets that the PCA is only interested in the performance of the Poodles running. Other retriever breeds are allowed to run out of courtesy. The PCA does not want the performances of the breeds compared to each other.

Only Poodles shall be allowed to run at tests that are associated with a National or Regional Specialty. These are "Poodles only" events and all aspects of them should be for Poodles.

4. Purpose

The purpose of the WC test is to demonstrate the natural ability of a Poodle. The dog should be a natural retriever, not afraid of guns and able and willing to swim and to reenter water. The WCX test is also designed to demonstrate memory and trainability.

These tests are another method for breeders to select breeding stock for their natural working ability and functional capabilities.

5. Philosophy

These tests are to be judged in accordance with the *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers* with the few exceptions previously noted. The use of decoys, walk-ups, blind retrieves, and diversion shots are prohibited. These are Pass/Fail tests. Attention to fairness and an attempt to carefully answer the questions of handlers and spectators should be undertaken. It is the intent of PCA to encourage the entrance of dogs into these tests and the participation of Poodle owners and handlers in all aspects of field work. **To that end, an attitude of helping and educating those in attendance is sought from judges and committee members alike.**

Rules and Guidelines for WC/ WCX Tests

6. Handler Knowledge and Dog Work

It is the handler's responsibility to familiarize themselves with the WC/WCX Rules and Guidelines. If possible, attending several retriever hunt trial events is encouraged prior to entering a WC/WCX test. The committee can help by making copies of the Rules and Guidelines available to all participants before the running of the tests. The WC/WCX rules are available on the PCA website. (www.poodleclubofamerica.org).

It is important to remember that the WC test is set up to test the natural ability of the Poodles and the WCX test is set up to test the development of the natural ability through training. People should not enter these tests without familiarizing themselves with what is expected of themselves and their dog. A double on land with an honor, and a double in water is not an easy test.

7. Judges

PCA requires 2 judges. One judge must be **licensed** and should have judged at least one licensed AKC Senior or UKC-HRC Seasoned Hunt Test or higher or Retriever Breed Club WC **and** WCX test. The other judge must either be licensed (JH, Started or higher) **OR** must have titled a dog in Seasoned, Senior or higher **and** have earned a WCX title. In a test in which the entry is not limited, additional judges can be appointed by the club if the number of entries would otherwise prevent completion of the test during the days listed in the premium list.

It should be noted if other breeds are invited that qualified AKC judges will be required.

Judges should be receptive to the WC/WCX Committee. Any complaints from handlers will be directed to the Committee and the Committee or designated representative will approach the judges if there is a legitimate complaint, according to the majority of committee members.

Should the judges have questions prior to a judging assignment, they may contact the test committee of the club for answers.

Call back of dogs failing the first series may be allowed (and is encouraged) at the discretion of the judges. This encourages the full participation of dogs and handlers and can be used as a learning experience. Note that these dogs are to run after all qualifiers.

The decision of the judges shall be final in all matters relating to the test performance of the dogs. Full discretionary power is given to the judges to withhold any certificate award for want of merit.

8. Setting up the Test

It is generally expected that the WC will be run under AKC rules, Junior Hunter standards and the WCX under AKC rules Senior Hunter standards, with exceptions noted in these WC/WCX Rules and Guidelines.

It is the judges' job to set up the tests, not the committee's job. The committee should see that the judges receive the Poodle Club of America Inc. WC/WCX Rules and Guidelines in advance of the tests so they may familiarize themselves with PCA's intent regarding the tests. This document is also available on the PCA website www.poodleclubofamerica.org.

The cover on land should be light for WC and light to moderate for WCX. The direction and intensity of the wind should be taken into consideration as well as the background and horizon. The dogs must see the gunners and the horizon must not obscure the view of the falling birds. Roads and hazards should be avoided for WC tests and are to be limited in nature for WCX tests. Consider any cover changes and ditches and roads when setting up the test as they can cause a dog to hunt short. Land marks should generally not exceed 50 yards for WC and 75 yards for WCX.

In the water test the intent is to prove that a dog will go into the water, retrieve a duck and then have the courage to re-enter the water to retrieve yet another duck. Bank running temptations in tests should be

Rules and Guidelines for WC/ WCX Tests

avoided. Water marks should generally not exceed 25 yards for WC and 40 yards for WCX. For the WC, marks should generally fall into open water with no hazards, if possible. For WCX, light cover and limited hazards may be used for the marks.

The fall of the doubles should be at about 90 degrees apart.

For WC the judges should designate a line over which the dog must return with the bird, since return to hand is not required. The WC handlers must never go over this line (towards the retrieve) to recall their dogs.

Prior to each test the judges should have a handlers meeting where questions are answered, guidelines discussed and a test dog demonstrates the test.

Severe weather or dangerous conditions may be cause for delay or cancellation of a test.

Since there may be dogs which run in both tests, it is preferable the same area not be used for both tests. If the same area must be used, the WCX test should be run first.

The use of wingers is encouraged for all marks for consistency. Blinds can be used at gun stations to camouflage wingers. Field workers must, and handlers should be encouraged to dress in appropriate hunting attire (camouflage etc.) or jeans and dark colored clothing.

9. Touching the Dog between Birds

In the WC test the handler may guide the dog by the collar between birds to get his attention before sending him for the second bird. **At no time may the handler touch the dog before taking delivery of the bird. In WC the bird must be in the handler or judge's possession before touching the dog.** It is advisable to ask the judge ahead of time what he/she considers guiding, or a demonstration is best. Touching the dog between birds or during the honor in the WCX test is prohibited.

10. Delivery of the bird

In WC, the dog does not have to deliver the bird to hand but must deliver the bird across the line designated by the judges.

In WCX the bird must be delivered to hand.

11. Birds

Freshly killed birds should be used in both tests. This means birds that are either shot as fliers or are dispatched immediately before the test by the people in charge of the birds. Shot fliers are allowed, but not encouraged, for the WCX test, and are prohibited for the WC test. Frozen birds are not acceptable. In the event that a local ban is placed on the transport and acquisition of live birds, thawed frozen birds or Dokken Waterfowl Trainers can only be used with the explicit prior approval of the PCA WC/WCX Chairperson.

Upland game birds are defined as pheasant, pigeon, chukars, quail and any other species of game bird that might be unique to a specific region. Ducks must be game birds. Barnyard ducks are unacceptable due to size, color and lack of sufficient oil in their feathers to keep them afloat. Geese will not be used. **Ducks are the bird of choice for all land and water marks**, but upland birds may be used for the land portion of the tests if sufficient numbers of live ducks are unavailable. The type of bird to be used must be stated in the Premium List for the tests. If possible, dogs should be introduced to the type of bird at the test. This can be accomplished by allowing dogs to sniff or pick up and carry a bird before going to the holding blind. In order to provide for the correct number of birds for a test, the committee should figure one water bird per dog entered in WC and one water bird per dog entered in WCX. One land bird (duck or upland) per dog entered in the WC and one land bird per dog entered in the WCX. This should provide enough birds so that the dogs running last will not have to retrieve ducks that do not float or upland birds which are of poor quality. What ever type of bird is used (duck or upland) must be used by all dogs in that portion of the test.

Rules and Guidelines for WC/ WCX Tests

The humane care and treatment of birds is the responsibility of the test giving club. Crated birds must be sheltered from inclement weather, not overcrowded and have feed and water available. Shot game as it is retrieved during a test should be sacked at once and not allowed to pile on the ground. A crippled bird should be dispatched at once.

12. Controlled Breaks, Recasting and other Problems

See the AKC Regulations and Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers PART V as a guide for dealing with some of the interpretational issues.

Scoring is Pass/Fail.

Running order will be determined by draw as described in the AKC Regulations & Guidelines for Hunt Tests. Handlers entering multiple dogs will be given time between dogs in each test.

Severe weather or dangerous conditions may be reason to cancel or delay a test. This may be decided by the judges and Committee in mutual consultation.

13. Limited Entries

It is strongly recommended that when limiting entries at a WC/WCX test, preference be given to non-titled Poodles. If any openings remain, fill them first with titled Poodles and then other breeds.

14. Record Keeping

It is recommended that all clubs use a catalog and keep a marked catalog from their WC/WCX tests. There are times when the originals are lost in the mail and a record must be available. Entry forms may be used in lieu of a catalogue. Have the Judges annotate **“PASS”** and sign the entry form for each successful dog. Mail a copy of each entry form for the successful dog and keep a copy for your records.

15. Consideration to Qualifiers

A PCA-approved WC/WCX test held by a poodle club should submit a marked and signed catalog to the PCA WC/WCX Certificate and Medallion Administrator. The catalog must be signed by both judges. This is the preferred method. Entry forms annotated with a **“PASS”** and signed by the judges for each successful dog may be submitted in lieu of a catalogue. Handlers of dogs who pass at a hunt test or WC/WCX held by a recognized retriever club may submit evidence of their pass to the PCA WC/WCX Certificate and Medallion Administrator. If neither of these apply the handler may take a filled-in copy of the WC/WCX certification to the test and have the judges sign it. A copy of the certification is available on the PCA web site.

It is a nice gesture, although not required, for the host club to give some sort of token prize, rosette, congratulatory card, etc, to the handlers of dogs passing on the test day (qualifiers). This also gives the handler additional tangible proof that their dog qualified.

16. Collars and the WC/WCX Test

If a dog runs with a collar, a flat or rolled buckle collar shall be used. Choke collars are prohibited while the dog is running because of potential danger to the dog. Electronic collars and pinch or prong collars are not allowed on the grounds at a WC/WCX test. Dogs competing in WCX must be brought to the line off-lead and in the heel position.

17. After the Test

Judges are required to submit an evaluation form to PCA within 7 days of the test. The host club is responsible for completing and submitting paperwork to PCA in the designated time period. This will assist PCA in the future development and refinement of guidelines and suggestions for test giving clubs and

Rules and Guidelines for WC/ WCX Tests

handlers. Judges are required to sign the PCA catalog or the entry forms of Poodles passing PCA WC/WCX tests so that the owners can obtain their official award certificates from the PCA WC/WCX Certificate and Medallion Administrator

18. The Committee

The WC/WCX tests are intended to be essentially self-regulating. To accomplish this, the host club shall appoint a WC/WCX committee. It is recommended that the Test Chairperson be a member of the sponsoring Club. At least three members of the committee, including the chairman, must be present during the test. The Committee shall have complete responsibility for the planning and conducting of the test. The Committee shall be held responsible for compliance with all of the rules and procedures and the authority to decide upon any matter arising during the running of the test except a matter coming within the jurisdiction of the judges. Such committee decisions must be made in accordance with the general PCA Rules and Guidelines for WC/WCX Tests and the Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers. No person should agree to serve on a WC/WCX committee unless he/she is prepared to carry out these duties creditably and exercise these powers fairly, firmly and impartially. A club member serving as a judge for a test should not serve on the committee. The committee should be familiar with the PCA Rules and Guidelines for WC/WCX Tests and the Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers. Although the judges set up the tests, it is important for the committee to know that if the judges set up a test that is contrary to the intent of the PCA rules, the committee should step in and tactfully explain the problem. In this way you can insure a proper test for those competing.

While PCA is always prepared to back up a WC/WCX Committee that properly exercises its powers as described herein, it is the duty of the committee and not the PCA to deal initially with any matter which may occur during the WC/WCX test.

The WC/WCX Test Chairperson should also have a copy of the *AKC Regulations and Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers* available if needed.

19. Complaints

Each participant is expected to do his part to keep up the standards of the WC/WCX tests and to report to the Committee any incident which may be detrimental to the purpose or the rules of the WC/WCX. No person shall make complaints directly to the judges, but shall work through the Committee which is held directly responsible for the conduct of the tests.

Upon receipt of a complaint or suggestion, the member or members of the Committee is expected to take appropriate action. If the complaint is of a serious nature which may be detrimental to the purpose of the rules of the WC/WCX test, the entire Committee should convene immediately to hear the complaint. After duly hearing the evidence in a fair, orderly and impartial manner, the WC/WCX committee may decide to withhold the issuance of any WC/WCX Certificate provided that the Committee did determine that the WC/WCX Rules and Regulations had been violated.

If the Committee does withhold a WC/WCX Certificate on the basis of a detrimental incident, then the reasons for withholding must be submitted to the PCA Working Poodle Program Director within 30 days.

A participant who is dissatisfied with the action taken by the WC/WCX Committee of the host club may submit an appeal in writing to the PCA Working Poodle Program Director within 30 days. Such appeal should describe the nature of the incident and set forth the grounds on which the appeal is made.

Upon receipt of a written appeal involving the WC/WCX test, the written records from the WC/WCX Committee of the host club and from the complainant will be submitted to the PCA Working Poodle Program Director, who will investigate the incident and submit a recommendation to the PCA Working Poodle Committee. The Working Poodle Program Director will then take the Working Poodle Committee's recommendation to the PCA Board of Directors for final action. The PCA Board of Directors shall have the power to withhold or rescind any or all WC/WCX Certificates.

Rules and Guidelines for WC/ WCX Tests

If the WC/WCX Committee of a host club fails to fulfill its obligation with respect to the planning and conduct of the WC/WCX test, the question may arise as to whether the club will be entrusted with future PCA events.

Rules and Guidelines for WC/ WCX Tests

PERFORMANCE	WC	WCX
Land Retrieves	2 single birds at appx. 50 yards	a double bird mark at appx. 75 yards with an honor
Water Retrieves	2 single birds on water at appx. 25 yards	a double bird mark on water at appx. 40 yards
Line Steadiness	not required—dog may be held at the line	required—dog must be steady at the line and must come to the line off-leash and in heel position
Noise Tolerance	must show no fear of guns	must show no fear of guns
Delivery of Bird	bird must be delivered over the line but does <i>not</i> have to be delivered to hand	bird must be delivered to hand
Cover	light cover	Light to moderate cover
Water	at least one is preferred in swimming water--angled entries and excessive distances in the water and the line to the water are discouraged	at least one is preferred in swimming water--angled entries and excessive distances in the water and the line to the water are discouraged
Touching the Dog Between Birds	handler may guide the dog between birds but excessive physical control of the dog between marks is discouraged	handler may not touch the dog between birds or during the honor
Touching the Dog Before the Bird	See AKC Hunt Test for Retrievers	See AKC Hunt Test for Retrievers
Sending the Dog Before the Judge Calls Your Number	See AKC Hunt Test for Retrievers	See AKC Hunt Test for Retrievers
Handling to Help the Dog Locate the Mark	Handling is NOT allowed	Handling on more than one mark is an elimination
Blind Retrieves	none	None
Diversion shots or walk-ups	none	None
Recasting	not applicable	See AKC Hunt Test for Retrievers
Controlled Breaks	see AKC Hunt Test for Retrievers PART V	see AKC Hunt Test for Retrievers PART V
Switching	not applicable	See AKC Hunt Test for Retrievers
Collars	flat or rolled buckle collars—choke collars are not permitted while the dog is running-- pinch, prong, and electronic collars are not allowed on the grounds	flat or rolled buckle collars—choke collars are not permitted while the dog is running-- pinch, prong, and electronic collars are not allowed on the grounds