

NATIONAL FIELD TRIAL CHAMPION ASSOCIATION (NFTCA), INC

Standards of Qualifications for the 127th Running of the National Championship beginning February 9, 2026

— Check #4 to make sure the event you attend is listed as a “Qualifying Trial” —

1. A maximum of 42 dogs will be accepted for the running of the 2026 National Championship. Past National Champions are qualified for life and will take precedence for entry into the event. Preference will be given to dogs with a first-place win in a qualifying event in their lifetime and that appear on the Joe Hurdle Award List. If more than 42 dogs meet this criterion, they will be chosen in descending order of points. If fewer than 42 dogs meet this criterion, the NFTCA will extend an invitation to dogs on the Joe Hurdle Award List in descending order until the field is full.

2. All entries qualified as of December 31, 2025, must be submitted in writing with full particulars, accompanied by the nominating fee, DNA, and Registration Certificate to the Ames Office by February 1, 2026. Dogs qualifying after the

December 31, 2025, deadline must have their entries in before the Drawing, February 6, 2026. There is no provision for a dog that is qualified by the December 31, 2025, deadline to “re-qualify” for the 2026 National between January 1, 2026, and February 6, 2026.

3. All entries must be registered in the **UKC/American Field Dog Stud Book** and all wins entered in the permanent files of **UKC/American Field**. Entries may be made only in the name of the owner(s) of record in the **UKC/American Field Dog Stud Book** and a copy of the **Registration Certificate** must be submitted with all entries, as well as, an approved and accepted **DNA Certificate** on file with **UKC/American Field** and a photocopy of the same **DNA Certificate** and **Registration Certificate** must be submitted with the official nomination form.

4. The following trials, when conducted on a minimum of three individual 1-hour courses for a minimum scheduled period of 1 hour per brace in either first or second series, are designated as Qualifying Trials for the 2026 National Championship:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| • Alabama Open All-Age Championship | • Hell Creek (MS) Open All-Age | • Pacific Coast Derby Championship |
| • Alberta Classic | • Hobart Ames Memorial Open All-Age Classic | • Pacific Coast Open Championship |
| • All-America Derby Championship | • International Pheasant Championship | • Pelican State Open All-Age |
| • All-America Prairie Championship | • Kansas Prairie Open All-Age Classic (Jayhawk OA-A) | • Prairie Open All-Age |
| • All-America Quail Championship | • Kentucky Lake Open All-Age | • Quail Championship Invitational |
| • American Derby Invitational Championship | • Kentucky Open All-Age Championship | • Region 8 Preston Trimble Memorial Open All-Age Championship |
| • American Quail Classic Open All-Age | • Kentucky Quail Classic | • Rend Lake Open All-Age |
| • Benton County (MS) Open All-Age | • Lee County (GA) FTA Open All-Age | • Robin Gates Quail Classic (formerly Bluegrass Quail Classic) |
| • Bill Andrews Open All-Age (Central Carolina FTC) | • Lynn Taylor Open All-Age (Carroll County FTC [TN]) | • Southeastern Quail Championship |
| • Black Belt (AL) Open All-Age Classic | • Manitoba Open All-Age Classic | • Southern Field Trial Championship |
| • Broomhill Open All-Age Classic | • Masters Open Quail Championship* | • Southland Open All-Age Championship |
| • Buck-Tuck Open All-Age Classic | • Mid-America Open All-Age Championship | • Southwestern Championship (Central Arkansas FTA) |
| • Cajun Classic | • Mississippi Open All-Age Championship | • Stillwater Open All-Age |
| • California Chukar Championship | • Missouri Open All-Age | • Sunshine (FL) FTC Open All-Age Classic |
| • California Open Championship | • Missouri Open Championship | • Tar Heel Open Championship |
| • California Pheasant Championship | • National Chukar All-Age Championship | • United States Chicken Championship (Northern States) |
| • California Quail Championship | • National Derby Championship | • United States Open Championship |
| • Cascade Open All-Age Championship | • National Free-For-All Championship | • West Tennessee Open All-Age |
| • Cecil Proctor Open All-Age | • National Pheasant Championship | • Western Open All-Age Championship |
| • Continental Derby Championship | • North Carolina FTA Open All-Age | • Win Ingersoll Memorial Inola Open All-Age |
| • Continental Open All-Age Championship | • North Carolina Open Quail Championship | |
| • D. E. Hawthorne Open All-Age Border Classic | • North Dakota Open All-Age Classic | |
| • Dixie Open All-Age | • Northwest Chukar Open All-Age Championship | |
| • Georgia Derby Championship | • Oklahoma Open Championship | |
| • Georgia Quail Championship | | |
| • Larry Smith Heartland Open All-Age | | |

Entries in open events must not be restricted due to time limitations. All Qualifying Trials **MUST** include the names of the judges in their initial advertisement. **REPLACEMENT OF ANNOUNCED JUDGES MUST BE EXPLAINED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY, NFTCA, Inc. Failure to comply with this requirement will IMMEDIATELY DISQUALIFY the event as a Qualifying Stake for the National Championship.** It is **recommended** that all Qualifying Stakes have a minimum of 15 entries.

5. Qualifying Trials will be reviewed annually for eligibility.

6. Qualifying Trials as designated above that are NOT conducted, for whatever reason, during the time February 8, 2025, to February 7, 2026, must send written notification to the Secretary, NFTCA, to retain “Qualifying Status.” A copy of the “FORM FOR ESSENTIAL DATA,” recognizing the official winners and judges submitted to the **UKC/American Field**, must also be submitted to the Secretary, NFTCA.

7. Clubs sponsoring Qualifying Trials as designated above and desire to **RELOCATE** their running grounds, OR experience a substantial change in officers and directors, must formally petition the NFTCA for continuation of their qualification status prior to actual relocation or running of their event. Forms to expedite this process are available from the Secretary, NFTCA.

8. Clubs which are not included in the above and approved list of Qualifying Trials and desire to conduct a qualifying event for the 2026 National Championship may request an Application Form from the Secretary, NFTCA, Inc., P.O. Box 389, Grand Junction, TN 38039, or call (901) 878-1067.

9. “Qualifying Certificates” must be purchased before a Qualifying Trial conducts their event for the 2026 National Championship. **Cost for the 2026 “Qualifying Certificate” is \$200.00** and may be purchased from the Secretary, NFTCA, P.O. Box 389, Grand Junction, TN 38039. **Clubs not purchasing “Qualifying Certificates” may be dropped from the list of qualifying events for the 2027 National Championship.**

10. To facilitate an increase in the Purse of the National Championship and to fund the many activities that makes **THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP** the premier bird dog event in North America, All Clubs hosting National Championship qualifying events will be required to collect a “Participation Fee” of \$20/dog starting in the 2013/2014 Field Trial Year (beginning August, 2013 and forward). This “Participation Fee” is “**over and above**” each Club’s “**normal**” entry fee and is not to be included in the club’s purse. Each club will then forward a check to the Secretary of the NFTCA. Example: a 40-dog stake x \$20/dog = \$800 sent to the Secretary, NFTCA. Clubs NOT submitting their surcharge funds will immediately be disqualified.