



Grand Field Champion Titles for Pointing Breeds Start in 2014

Late last year the AKC announced the introduction of the Grand Field Champion (GFC) and Grand Amateur Field Champion (GAFC) titles starting January 1, 2014. Since then the Performance Events Department has received many inquiries. This announcement is to inform clubs they may now start applying for "Grand" stakes.

How does a dog earn a Grand title?

- A dog must earn six points under the existing point system, including one win of three points or greater, in "Grand" stakes. (*A win means first place.*)
- To be eligible to earn Grand points, the dog must have already been awarded its Field Champion title (to earn points toward the GFC title) or its Amateur Field Champion title (to earn points toward the GAFC title).
- Non-titled dogs may run in Grand stakes. If points are earned, they will count toward the FC or AFC title.
- There are no retrieving requirements to earn a Grand title.

What is a Grand stake?

- Grand stakes must be run for one hour or longer.
- There are four new Grand stakes that clubs may hold - (1) Grand Open Limited Gun Dog, (2) Grand Amateur Limited Gun Dog, (3) Grand Open Limited All-Age, and (4) Grand Amateur Limited All-Age.
- Offering these stakes is up to the discretion of the host club. Grand stakes may be held in conjunction with regular trials or they may be held as a stand-alone trial. Clubs may continue to run regular Limited stakes even if they hold Grand stakes. In other words, Grand stakes are "in addition to" the stakes a club has traditionally run.

The descriptions of these two new titles and four new stakes have already been added to the most recent edition of the rule book (pages 22-23 & 26-28), which can viewed or downloaded on-line at <http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RFTPNT.pdf>. The simple rule to remember is: grand points are earned in grand stakes. National Championship events that run for one hour will also count for grand points. Clubs

should note on the National Championship event applications the length of their championship stakes.

Several clubs jumped the gun and applied for grand stakes in the fall of 2013. The GSP Club of Atlanta has the distinction of being the first club to hold a grand stake. They will be holding both a *Grand Open Limited Gun Dog* stake and a *Grand Amateur Limited Gun Dog* stake at their trial planned for the end of January.

General questions or comments should be e-mailed to fieldtrials@akc.org. Clubs that have questions regarding applying for Grand stakes should contact Connie Thomas at CLT@akc.org.

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