

NAVHDA gun safety rules to be applied at all Hoosier Hills NAVHDA Chapter training dates and tests

Safety

- Hinged frame (break open) shotguns of conventional gauge will be used in NAVHDA tests. Autoloaders and pump action guns are strictly forbidden, whether loaded with blank ammunition or not. All guns will be carried in the open position until just before the shot.
- When blank ammunition is called for, it must be 12-gauge, professional factory manufactured, smokeless powder, blank ammunition (field trial poppers).
- Field marshals will ensure that the gallery remains at a safe distance in a position away from the line of fire. All persons in the field, while live ammunition is being used, must wear one or a combination of the following blaze orange garments: hat, vest, or jacket.

Two experienced gunners are required during the search. Gunners must be International NAVHDA members. Gunners must be at least 18 years of age and all gunners born after 1975 must have successfully completed a state/provincial firearms safety course.

The gunners will carry their guns in the open position until just before the shot. They will position themselves one to either side and just behind the handler with a reasonable distance between the gunners.

When the dog points, the gunners will move up on a general line: gunner – handler – gunner – and ready their guns for firing. No shots will be fired parallel or behind the line: gunner – handler – gunner. In other words, the gunner on the right confines his shots to the Right Safe Sector and the one on the left to the Left Safe Sector. Shots at birds that flush and fly behind the above-mentioned line or unsafe area will not be attempted.

Gunners must also be alert to the dangerous combination of a low flying bird and a dog that has broken and is chasing. If the bird cannot be shot, the gunner will fire in the air to simulate shooting the bird.

The sponsoring organization will require that gunners read the safety instructions before the start of the test and the Judging Team will verbally review the instructions with the gunners and judging group before the first dog is called to the starting line. The Judging Team will ensure that members of the gallery are in a safe position and in case of noncompliance, will suspend all test activities until safe.

