

HEAD MARSHAL – JOB DESCRIPTION

The Head Marshal is usually a member of the Hunt Test Committee. They should plan to participate in the set-up of the event the day prior to the event itself. In the case of a weekend event, this would mean being available on the test grounds the Friday before the tests begin. The Head Marshal assists Stake Chairs, Headquarters activities, Judges Dinner and other duties as needed.

The Head Marshal is responsible for securing the marshals for each stake (Junior, Senior and Master) well in advance of the test. It is best to have a lead marshal and a back-up marshal if possible for each stake.

The Head Marshal recruits marshals from the pool of individuals who have entered a particular stake. If possible, select a marshal who is experienced and pair that marshal with someone who is less experienced in order to grow the “Pool” of marshals available. Other members of the Hunt Test Committee may be helpful in suggesting both marshal candidates and test dog candidates.

It is important to distribute the “Marshal Job Description” to each marshal and determine if there are any questions. The “Marshal Job Description” may be updated for any particular event or circumstances.

The Head Marshal recruits the “Test Dog” for each stake. This dog should be able to do the test at the level selected but not be “overqualified”. For example, do not recruit a Master Hunter titled dog to serve as a test dog at the Junior Level.

It is important for the Head Marshal to explain the duties of the test dog to their handler. These duties include running the first series, acting as pick-up dog in the case of a no bird and as a bye dog when there is an honor at Senior or Master levels. Stake marshals should be aware that it is their prerogative to keep the same test dog throughout the test or allow a contestant who has been eliminated to use their dog as the test dog in a following series as long as the original test dog/handler agrees to the change. An exception to this rule is when the original test dog is determined to be not skilled/qualified to demonstrate the test for that stake.

The Head Marshal is responsible for the radios used at each stake. This includes:

- Charging of the radios prior to the event.
- Making sure the communication channels are set appropriately.
- Distributing the radios to the appropriate stakes.
- Re-charging the radios (if necessary) during the middle of the event.
- Ensuring all radios are turned in at the end of each stake.

The Head Marshal coordinates with the test committee who will prepare the Stake Marshal Boxes. Sometimes this is a joint endeavor with the Test Secretary.



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The STAKE MARSHAL BOXES should contain:

- Catalogs for handlers, if available (but not one for every entry because the pros and people with multiple dogs only need one)
- Clip board with running order
- AKC Hunt Test rule book –this is important, often needed if someone contests the rules
- AKC Guidelines for Misconduct
- Pencils and pencil sharpener
- Erasers
- Dry erase pen for white board
- Dry eraser
- Judge's books/folders
- Magnetic Running Order strips
- White Board for Magnetic Running Order strips
- Radios
- Extra Duck Calls
- White towels

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Please pass this information along to your apprentice or the next person who will fill this position. Current Job Descriptions are posted on the Rainier Hunting Retriever Website: <https://rainierhrc.com/>

