

Proposal for a change in the By-Laws of the National English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association (NESSFTA)

The following proposal is submitted by Bill Boeckman for the Minnesota Heartland ESSC.

We would like to make a proposal on the way the Judges are selected for the National Open each year. We would the selection to be made by individuals that own qualifying dogs as opposed to a vote from a member club. This change would require several changes to the By-Laws of the NESSFTA. Listed below is the proposed new wording.

Article XI National Championship Trial

Section 3. The method for the selection of judges for the National Championship Trial shall be as follows:

- (a) The owner of a dog that has placed in an Open Stake in a member or licensed field trial and has qualified for entry in the previous year's National Open Championship shall be eligible to cast a vote in the judge selection process. However, no person shall be entitled to more than one vote irrespective of the number of dogs owned that have earned qualification. If a qualifying dog has more than one registered owner only one owner will be eligible to vote. However, if a second dog qualifies that has the same combination of registered owners, the owner not previously entitled to vote may also cast a vote.

Commentary

i.e. If Bob and Jane Doe are registered owners of Spot, Duke and Sam. Spot gets qualified for the National. Only one owner will be eligible to vote in the Judge selection process. Now Duke gets qualified. Now Jane Doe will be eligible to vote (2 dogs-2 owners). Next Sam gets qualified for the National. No additional votes may be cast by the owners. Bob Doe can vote as a result of Spot's qualification, Jane Doe can vote as a result of Duke's qualification and no vote may be cast as a result of Sam's qualification.

- (b) By May 1 of each year the National Secretary shall prepare a ballot containing the list of qualifying judges.
- (c) On or before May 31, each eligible voter shall forward to the Secretary one ballot on which he has voted for two (2) individuals. This ballot must be submitted by mail, and must include a manual signature.
- (d) The two judges receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared to be the judges of the National Championship Stake for the following year. In the event that more than two nominees tie for the highest number of votes, the nominee(s) who has judged the highest number of trials shall be selected.

- (e) The President, or his appointee, will notify those selected and advise the Secretary when their acceptance of the judging assignment has been received. In the event that one of the two judges originally elected cannot serve, the President, or his appointee, will ascertain from the Secretary the next nominee in order of selection, and extend the invitation to that nominee.
- (f) The names of the two individuals elected to judge the following National Championship Stake will be announced by internet posting not later than June 15.
- (g) All ballots will be made a part of the permanent file of the National English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association and will be available to any delegate for inspection.
- (h) Should a judge who has agreed to serve be unable to do so, a substitute judge shall be selected by the officers of the Association from the list of those names appearing on the ballot giving preference to the individual receiving the next highest number of votes following the two judges originally selected.
- (i) To be eliminated
- (j) To be eliminated

Section 4. The eligibility of prospective judges to serve as National Open Championship judges shall be determined as follows:

- (a) (i) That the prospective judge shall have judged a minimum of six A.K.C. member or licensed trials (Open all Age Stake) of which two or more have been within the last three years previous to the current trial and will include judging the National Amateur Championship Trial.
 - (ii) Additionally to be eligible a the prospective judge must have handled an English Springer Spaniel in four (4) all-age licensed field trials in the US or Canada during the three (3) year period ending on the election closing date.
 - (iii) The prospective judge shall have indicated his willingness to judge the National Open Championship Stake.
- (b) To obtain verification that a prospective judge is eligible the Secretary shall mail a Questionnaire not later than March 15 of each year to the prospective judge asking him to verify that he meets each of the requirements listed in Section 4 (a)(i), Section 4 (a) (ii) and Section 4 (a) (iii). For a prospective judge to be included on the ballot he must have answered affirmatively that he meets each of these requirements. His Questionnaire must be received by mail and include a manual signature not later than April 15 of each year.

- (c) To be eliminated
- (d) To be eliminated

Commentary:

The alignment of dates for the selection of National Amateur and National Open judges that would be in effect if this change is made would be as follows:

	National Open	National Amateur
Questionnaire mailed to prospective judge	March 15	August 1
Affirmations due back to Secretary	April 15	August 31
Ballots mailed to eligible voters	May 1	September 1
Closing for judges elections	May 31	September 30
Notification of elected judges	June 15	October 10

For the National Amateur this finalizes the judge selection process approximately 13 ½ months before the National trial and for the National Open approximately 16 ½ months before the National trial.