

Summary of 2019 NATE Rule Changes

Effective 7/5/19

Game Focus on Point Ball First: To clarify the focus of the game and allow training in a way that supports individual dog's styles, we have changed a number of rules. See Chapter 6.

- **Go When Ready** timing has been changed. After entering the field on leash, the handler and dog will enter the handler area and await a "Go When Ready" from the judge before removing the leash.
- **Static position** in sit, down, or stand is not required of the dog prior to the start. After receiving a "Go When Ready" and removing the leash the handler may touch the dog until the dog crosses out of the handler area the first time.
- **Initial send refusal** has been eliminated.
- **Minimum first send line** will no longer be designated so there is no requirement for the dog to stand behind it.
- **Three second hold and count** in a stationary point position has been eliminated.
- **Missing the Point Ball** faults have been increased to 20 seconds for Intermediate and NQ for Advanced and Master levels.

Balls N Order – New Game: The brand-new Balls N Order game will involve bringing balls into the goal in a designated order. This will require excellent directional skills and impulse control and is a lot of fun to play. See Chapter 8.

Point Ball Distance Changes: The point ball distance has been decreased by 5 feet for all height classes in the Intermediate through Master levels of the A and B divisions. See pages 23-24..

Veteran Class: The Veteran division will now play on the Novice field size in all levels. The point ball distance has also been decreased between 5 and 10 feet in the Novice through Master levels. See pages 23 - 24.

Height Classes Simplified: There will no longer be rounding the dog's height up or down to the nearest inch or the option to choose between two classes if within one inch of the height cutoff. Balls should be at least the same height as the dog's height at the withers, and a judge may move a dog up in height class at a trial to ensure the balls are not too small. Titles can be transferred between height classes. See page 15.

Goal Area Changes: The dog must be able to play off the goal sides without the sides moving. A bumper is permitted to keep retrieved balls in the goal area. See page 17.

Tags Allowed on Collars: Tags are now permissible on dog collars. See page 18, Dog Collars.

Handler area faults: The number of permissible handler area faults have been lowered for Advance and Master levels. Intentionally touching your dog now is a clearly stated fault. See pages 29-30.

Live Competition:

- The on-deck area must be at least 6' from any playing field boundary. Formerly, it could be touching the playing field. See page 17.
- Judges may move dogs to the next larger height class if the ball is determined to be too small. Otherwise, no switching height classes at events. See page 15.
- Dogs may continue to compete at the Master level after achieving the Master Outstanding Title. See page 14.

Other clarifications:

- Dogs may use any part of their body to push balls except biting.
- All NATE Judge information has been moved to the website.

Video titling will have a 3-month grace period for sending in runs that were taped under the past rules. If using old rules, please send an advisory email to csv@nationaltreibball.com.