



North American Sport Dog Association

**To:** Judges, Clubs, and Competitors

**Date:** February 11, 2026

**For Immediate Release**

### **Statement Regarding the Retrieve Requirement in Shed Dog III**

This statement is intended for **judges, clubs, and competitors** to provide clarification and shared understanding regarding the retrieve requirement in **Shed Dog III**. A formal addendum with additional clarification will be issued shortly.

Since the inception of the class, the **primary purpose of Shed Dog III has been to demonstrate a clean retrieve to hand**. This requirement represents a clear progression from Shed Dog II and is fundamental to the intent of the class.

As currently written in the rules:

*“The dog must retrieve the first shed located and return close enough to the handler so that the handler can easily take the shed.”*

In **judge education and mentorship**, this language has consistently been taught and interpreted to mean that the dog must **deliver the shed directly to the handler’s hand**. Any deviation from this standard—including dropping the shed during the return or placing it on the ground at the handler’s feet—has been taught as incurring penalties or faults. In most cases, repeated dropping or failure to deliver to hand should result in a **significant deduction**.

**We recognize that rule interpretation may vary slightly. The purpose of this clarification is to reduce ambiguity and minimize opportunities for differing interpretation going forward.**

“Retrieve to hand” means the dog delivers the antler from the mouth directly into the handler’s hand and maintains possession until the handler takes the antler or cues the release.

The retrieve to hand requirement applies to Shed Dog III (SD-III), Shed Dog Master Champion (SDMCH), the upcoming Shed Dog Grand Champion (SDGCH) classes, as well as all rounds of the Regional and Invitational events in which a retrieve to hand is required.

### **What Does an Ideal Shed Dog III Retrieve Look Like?**

An ideal retrieve in Shed Dog III includes the following elements:

- The dog locates the antler
- The dog picks up the antler
- The dog promptly returns to the handler

- The dog **delivers the antler directly to the handler's hand**, without dropping or playing with the antler

Additional clarifications for scoring Shed Dog III:

- The handler may give **up to two cues per shed** to encourage the retrieve.
- The handler may **not step forward** or otherwise reduce the distance to the dog. The handler **may adjust posture or lower their center of gravity** so that the handler's hand is presented at a height and position comparable to that used for a medium or large dog delivering to hand.
- A sit or formal position is **not required**.
- The dog may deliver the shed from **front, left heel, or right heel** position.
- A brief pause to safely **reposition the antler** in the dog's mouth is permitted.
- Excessive stopping, repeated repositioning, dropping, or placing the antler on the ground should be faulted.

### **Moving Forward**

It is understood that differences in interpretation can occur, particularly when rules rely on general language. This statement is **not intended to publicly admonish any individual, judge, or club**, but rather to provide clarity and support consistent judging and training standards across the sport.

An upcoming **Shed Dog III addendum** will formally clarify the retrieve requirement, including explicit language that the shed **must be delivered to hand in order to qualify**.

All **previously judged runs will remain judged as recorded**. This clarification applies prospectively.

We appreciate the continued professionalism, dedication, and good-faith efforts of our judges, clubs, and competitors as we work together to preserve consistency, fairness, and the integrity of NASDA sports.