

# Match Regulations

**Regulations for  
Sanctioned Show Matches,  
Sanctioned Obedience Matches,  
Sanctioned Tracking Tests and  
Sanctioned Agility Matches  
Sanctioned Rally Matches**

**Effective August 1, 2022**

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**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®**



## The AKC® Mission Statement

The American Kennel Club® is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

The variety and scope of The American Kennel Club's programs make it a powerful source of information and guidance devoted to purebred dogs.

## Contact Information

### CLUB RELATIONS

#### New Clubs

Match applications/approvals for Sanctioned A & B Clubs

Phone ..... (212) 696-8211

Fax ..... (212) 696-8309

E-Mail ..... ClubRelations@akc.org

### EVENT PLANS

Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Agility, Tracking Match, CGC, applications/approvals for Licensed & Member

Phone ..... (919) 816-3579

Fax ..... (919) 816-4220

E-Mail ..... EventPlans@akc.org

### COMPANION EVENTS

Obedience, Agility, Rally & Tracking

Phone ..... (919) 816-3575

Fax ..... (919) 816-4204

E-Mail ..... Obedience@akc.org

### FOUNDATION STOCK SERVICE

Miscellaneous Class & Rare Breeds

Phone ..... (919) 816-3813

Fax ..... (919) 816-3770

E-Mail ..... fss@akc.org

### CUSTOMER SERVICE, ORDER DESK & REGISTRATION

Phone ..... (919) 233-9767

E-Mail ..... Info@akc.org

E-Mail ..... OrderDesk@akc.org

## The AKC at a Glance

The American Kennel Club was established in 1884 with the objective of forming a club that would consider all matters relating to the advancement, study, breeding, exhibiting, and maintenance of purebred dogs. As such, the AKC is one of the oldest sports governing organizations in the nation.

Today, the AKC is a not-for-profit organization that maintains the largest purebred dog registry in the world. The AKC currently recognizes over 160 breeds; licenses more than 16,000 dog events annually; supports canine health efforts through the Canine Health Foundation; supervises AKC Companion Animal Recovery, the first all-encompassing animal recovery program; and promotes responsible dog ownership through its many public education programs.

The AKC is a “club of clubs,” consisting of more than 600 member clubs and more than 4,400 affiliated clubs. Every AKC member club is eligible to be represented by a Delegate. These Delegates collectively serve as the AKC’s legislative body.

AKC offices are located in New York, New York and Raleigh, North Carolina. The AKC employs more than 400 people in these two offices. The AKC also employs 75 people around the country who serve as executive field staff for dog events and inspections.

Dogs with full AKC registration may have their offspring registered and may also compete in AKC events. Dogs with limited or PAL registration or FSS or AKC Canine Partners listing numbers are allowed to compete in many designated AKC events, except conformation shows. The AKC’s information and education services are available to all owners of AKC registered or listed dogs and to the general public.

The Foundation Stock Service (FSS) was created in 1995 by The American Kennel Club to answer the needs of today’s rare breed fanciers. The FSS is an optional record-keeping service for all purebred breeds not currently registerable with the American Kennel Club. A list of the eligible breeds currently enrolled with the FSS is located on [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) or may be requested from AKC customer service.

Classes for dogs listed with the AKC Canine Partners may be eligible to compete in Obedience, Rally, or Agility trials or at approved educational events or special attractions.

The AKC’s role in protecting and preserving purebred dogs and promoting the well-being of all dogs by supporting public education, competitive events, assistance in combating anti-dog legislation, enforcement actions against the inappropriate treatment of animals, registry fraud and unsportsmanlike conduct.

## CHAPTER 1 GENERAL EXPLANATIONS

**Section 1. Sanctioned Matches Defined.** A sanctioned match is an informal event at which neither Championship points nor credit toward an Agility, Rally, Obedience, or Tracking title are awarded. They are events at which dog clubs, judges, stewards, and exhibitors and their dogs gain experience needed for licensed events.

**Section 2. Rules Applying To Dog Shows And Obedience Regulations.** All of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, and the Agility, Tracking, and Obedience/Rally Regulations will apply to sanctioned matches, except those which specifically make reference to licensed and member events and except where otherwise stated in these Regulations.

**Section 3. Fun Matches.** A fun match is an informal dog event that does not require American Kennel Club approval. AKC clubs are encouraged to hold fun matches open to the public in order to introduce new dog owners to their club and the sports. Fun matches may be held in conjunction with a licensed event (on the same day and location), or they may be an independent event. If held in conjunction with an event, the fun match must abide by the Regulations, policies and procedure that apply to that sport. In addition, caution must be taken so the fun match does not disrupt the licensed event.

Any AKC class may be offered. In addition, “run-throughs” may be offered where the exhibitor may do all or part of the exercises from a class, or a specific amount of “ring time” may be provided. AKC clubs holding fun matches should follow the basic structure of the class in order to familiarize exhibitors with the AKC sport.

Corrections shall be limited to verbal corrections or gently guiding the dog. At the option of the sponsoring club, food and/or toys may be allowed in the ring.

Clubs should not schedule fun matches to conflict with sanctioned or licensed events of the same sport as defined by the mileage restriction that applies for that sport. AKC may take action against a club should this occur.

**Section 4. Eligibility Of Clubs To Hold Sanctioned Matches.** The Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club may, at its discretion, grant permission to dog clubs to hold sanctioned matches, which shall be governed by these Regulations. Any dog club approved to hold a licensed or member dog show, agility or obedience/rally trial is eligible to hold sanctioned matches. A club that is not approved to hold a licensed or member dog show, agility or obedience/ rally trial cannot be granted permission to hold a sanctioned match until the club's eligibility to hold these events has been established by The American Kennel Club. Any inquiries regarding a club's eligibility should be directed to The American Kennel Club, Attention: Club Relations.

**Section 5. Types Of Sanctioned Matches.** There are nine basic types of sanctioned matches:

- All-Breed Match Shows
- Group Match Shows
- Specialty Match Shows
- All-Breed Obedience Matches
- Group All-Breed Obedience Matches
- Specialty Obedience Matches
- Agility Matches
- Rally Matches
- Tracking Matches

Each type of match has two plans: A and B (Obedience/Rally clubs may also offer plan C matches).

Clubs that have been sanctioned by the American Kennel Club but are not yet approved to hold licensed shows may hold Sanctioned B and/or Sanctioned OB (obedience matches). After the Club Relations department determines the club has demonstrated the ability to hold successful B or OB matches they will be approved to hold sanctioned A or OA match(s) in order to be approved for licensing.

Obedience clubs that have been sanctioned by the American Kennel Club, but are not yet approved to hold licensed obedience trials, may be approved to hold sanctioned A or OA match(es) in order to be approved for licensing.

Licensed and member clubs may offer Sanctioned B or OB matches to educate exhibitors and judges and provide an experience for handlers, puppies and/or inexperienced dogs. Group and Specialty clubs may give obedience matches with their dog show matches but obedience clubs may not give dog show matches.

**Section 6. Making Application.** An eligible club may hold a sanctioned match by making application, along with the appropriate application fee, to The American Kennel Club on a form supplied by AKC. Applications for B and/or OB sanctioned matches must be submitted to the AKC at least four weeks prior to the date of the event. The American Kennel Club will not process applications for A and/or OA sanctioned matches earlier than three months prior to the event.

## **CHAPTER 2 GENERAL INFORMATION**

**SECTION 1. Entry Requirements.** All-Breed clubs for breed, obedience, rally, agility, and tracking may offer classes for all registrable breeds and varieties and for purebred dogs of any breed eligible for entry in the Miscellaneous class and all FSS recordable breeds. While The American Kennel Club does not require that a dog entered in a sanctioned match be registered, the club itself may, at its discretion, add this requirement.

Group and Specialty clubs may offer classes for:

- the breeds they were formed to serve

- the breeds in their group, including breed competition for any appropriate Miscellaneous Class breeds.
- all AKC registerable breeds and all FSS recordable breeds.

Obedience and rally matches may be open to all AKC registerable breeds and all FSS recordable breeds. Dogs that are listed with the AKC Canine Partners may at the club's option, be permitted to compete in approved Companion events open to all breeds.

Dogs must be of an age that they are eligible to compete to be on the grounds of sanctioned match events. At sanctioned A matches dogs must be at least 4 months of age on the date of the event. At Sanctioned OA and OB obedience matches, dogs must be at least 6 months of age on the date of the event. At sanctioned B matches, dogs must be at least 3 months of age.

No dog that is a champion of record may be entered in a conformation match (except that champions may be entered in any junior showmanship classes). A champion may be present, as an added attraction, provided special permission has been granted by The American Kennel Club. Entry of major pointed and pointed dogs may be restricted at the club's discretion; however, notice must appear in all advertising.

No dog with the CDX or equivalent title may compete in any regular class at an OA or OB sanctioned match except Utility. Such dogs may be entered and participate in the Open B class, but may not compete for any awards in that class.

No dog with the UD or equivalent title may compete in any regular class at an OA or OB sanctioned match. Dogs with the UD title may be entered and participate in the Open B or Utility classes, but may not compete for any awards in these classes.

Any person acting in the capacity of Match Secretary at a match, or any member of his immediate household or immediate family (as defined in Chapter 11, Section 13 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows), shall not exhibit, act as agent or handler at the match, and dogs owned wholly or in part by him or by any member of his immediate household or immediate family shall be ineligible to be entered at that match.

No judge or any person residing in the same household with a judge shall exhibit or act as agent or handler at a match at which he is officiating as judge and dogs owned wholly or in part by such judge or any member of his household shall be ineligible to be entered at such match. Subject to the foregoing, members of a judge's immediate family who no longer reside in the same household may enter or handle a dog at a match if the judge is not officiating over any competition, including a group class or best in match, for which the dog is entered or may become eligible.

Competition at B or OB matches held by All-Breed or Obedience clubs may be offered for purebred dogs that are neither AKC registerable nor eligible for the Miscellaneous class. Such competition would be limited to breeds listed with the American Kennel Club Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Competition for such breeds would include both breed and obedience. Obedience, Rally, or Agility classes for dogs listed with the AKC Canine Partners may also be offered.

Conformation competition is for breeds which are registrable, eligible for Miscellaneous Class, or FSS breeds. Such dogs would be eligible to compete in the respective group competition and eligible for Best in Match level. FSS breeds and dogs with an AKC Canine Partners listing number are permitted to compete, at any level for which they meet the necessary requirements at Obedience, Rally, or Agility trials if such classes are offered.

A club wishing to accept entries for FSS breeds would be required to indicate that at the time that the match application is submitted to The American Kennel Club for approval. The club will be required to have a breed standard for FSS breeds, approved by a foreign registry or a national breed club in the United States, available at the match on paper or viewed digitally.

**Section 2. Special Attractions.** Special attractions such as canine demonstrations, drill teams, team competitions, etc., may be held at any match provided permission has been granted by The American Kennel Club. A complete description of the attraction must accompany the application to hold the match.

**Section 3. Non-Regular Classes.** Non-Regular classes may be offered at sanctioned matches, provided permission has been granted by The American Kennel Club. A complete description of the Non-Regular classes as well as the entry requirements of each class must accompany the application to hold the match.

**Section 4. Judges' Eligibility.** Anyone in good standing with The American Kennel Club may be approved to judge at a sanctioned match.

The following individuals are ineligible to judge at a sanctioned match:

- Any individual whose AKC privileges have been suspended;
- Any individual whose AKC judging privileges have been rescinded;
- The Match Secretary.

**Section 5. Judges' Responsibility.** It is strongly recommended that clubs select individuals with extensive background in breeding or exhibiting. A judge



of a sanctioned show or Obedience match shall be totally familiar with all rules, regulations, and procedures pertaining to the type of event being judged. Conformation match judges shall also be thoroughly familiar with the applicable breed standard or standards.

**Section 6. Veterinarian.** Any club holding an A or OA sanctioned match shall be required to have a veterinarian either in attendance or “on call” during the entire progress of the match. A club holding a B or OB sanctioned match is not required to provide such veterinary service, although it is strongly recommended.

For A or OA sanctioned matches, the name, address and telephone number for the veterinarian on call or on site, and the name, address and telephone number for the closest 24-hour Animal Emergency Clinic, if available, or the most convenient veterinarian’s office must be available to all exhibitors as well as accurate written directions to the veterinarian’s location. The information should also be included in any handouts, flyers or other advertising prepared for the match.

**Section 7. Ribbons.** If ribbons are given at sanctioned matches, they shall be of the following colors:

- First Prize — Rose
- Second Prize — Brown
- Third Prize — Light Green
- Fourth Prize — Gray
- Special Prize — Green with Pink Edges  
(includes qualifying obedience score)
- Best of Opposite Sex — Lavender
- Best of Breed — Orange
- Best of Match — Pink and Green

If a ribbon is offered at a Plan OA or OB sanctioned match for the Highest Scoring Dog in the regular classes, it shall be Pink and Green.

If a Plan A or Plan OA match, each ribbon or rosette, if offered, shall be at least two inches wide and approximately eight inches long and bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of The American Kennel Club, the name of the prize, the name of the match-giving club, and the words “Sanctioned Match”. Ribbons and rosettes used for regular and non-regular class placements may, but are not required, to bear the date and location of the match on the face, at the option of the club.

**Section 8. Prizes.** When prizes are offered, they must be offered for outright award.

**Section 9. Junior Showmanship Competition.** Junior Showmanship classes are permitted at dog show matches and are open only to boys and girls at least 8 years of age and under 18 years of age on the date of the match. While champions may not be entered in the breed classes at a dog show match, they may be handled in the Junior Showmanship classes.

**Section 10. AKC Publications.** All-Breed and Group clubs holding A or B matches must have the latest edition of the *Complete Dog Book* or the most recent set of applicable breed standards electronically or in hard copy at their match. Specialty clubs holding A or B matches are only required to have available a copy of their current breed standard electronically or in hard copy. All clubs holding a sanctioned match are required to have copies of the latest editions of these regulations, the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* and the *Obedience Regulations* if Obedience classes are being offered, and the most recent regulations for any other type of competition offered.

**Section 11. Professional Handlers.** A club may limit participation of professional handlers in its match by so indicating on its application for the match. The extent of the limitation must be indicated on the application and made clear in any advertising for the match.

Such a restriction shall apply to any persons who distribute rate cards or otherwise advertise themselves as handling dogs in the show ring for pay.

**Section 12. Advertising.** No club may advertise, in any form, a sanctioned match until after the club has received official notification from The American Kennel Club that the match has been approved.

**Section 13. Training.** There shall be no drilling nor intensive or abusive training of dogs on the grounds of an OA or OB sanctioned match.

At Plan OB sanctioned matches, while dogs in the ring may receive verbal corrections, such corrections shall be penalized. In addition, the judge of a Plan OB sanctioned match may, at his own discretion, permit a handler and dog to repeat an exercise; however, only the first performance shall be scored, unless the dog is being rejudged on the exercise because in the judge's opinion the dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar and unusual conditions.

**Section 14. Disqualification.** All of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows and Obedience Regulations applying to the disqualification of dogs shall apply at sanctioned matches, except that a dog with a disqualifying condition or behavior shall not be disqualified, but shall simply be excused for the day.

**Section 15. Bandages.** No dog is to be judged if it is brought into the ring bandaged, taped, or stitched anywhere (head, legs, body, or tail). In every instance a judge must immediately dismiss the dog from the ring. Under no circumstances should the judge agree to judge the dog if the tape or bandage is removed.

## CHAPTER 3 PLAN A SANCTIONED MATCHES

**Section 1. Approval.** Approval for Plan A sanctioned matches may be issued to All-Breed, Specialty, or Group clubs.

**Section 2. Purpose.** The primary purpose of this type of event is to give members of the clubs the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and competence in handling the details of a dog show. A club must hold at least two matches of this type, not less than six months apart, which are considered “qualifying” by The American Kennel Club, before a presentation for licensed status may be submitted.

**Section 3. Match Secretary.** Any club holding a Plan A sanctioned match must name a Match Secretary, who must be a member of the club. The Match Secretary cannot be a licensed superintendent, or an employee of a licensed superintendent, even if that person is a club member. The duties of the Match Secretary shall be the same as those of a Show Secretary as stated in the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*.

**Section 4. Premium Lists.** A premium list must be provided for Plan A sanctioned matches. It shall be of the same size as the premium list for a licensed dog show (Chapter 4, Section 3 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*), and shall be printed (any printing or copying process is acceptable). It shall bear the legends “Sanctioned by The American Kennel Club” and “Wins at sanctioned matches carry no American Kennel Club championship points.” The AKC logo must appear with the above indicated legends.

The following information must be included in the premium list for a Plan A sanctioned match:

- Name of club, location and date of the match, and type of match;
- Names of club officers;
- Names and addresses of the Club Secretary and Match Secretary;
- Name, address and daytime phone number for the Match Chairman;
- Opening and closing hours of match, time of judging, entry fees, classes offered, names and addresses of judges together with their assignments, all ribbons, prizes and trophies, date and time of closing of entries, any limitation on the participation of professional handlers, and the official AKC entry form.

Two copies of the premium list must be submitted to the AKC, Attention: Club Relations at the time of distribution to the public.

**Section 5. Closing Of Entries.** Entries may close at any time prior to the match or on the day of the match.

Under no circumstances may entries be accepted after the specified closing date and time.

**Section 6. Judges Books.** Judges books must be provided and be of the same format as used for licensed dog shows. They may be downloaded from the AKC website, purchased from a dog show Superintendent, or prepared by the club.

**Section 7. Catalogs.** A catalog must be provided. It shall be of the same size and follow the same format as the catalog for a licensed dog show (Chapter 12 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*), except that the schedule of points and AKC Certification shall be omitted. The catalog shall bear the legends “Sanctioned by The American Kennel Club” and “Wins at sanctioned matches carry no American Kennel Club championship points.” The AKC logo must appear with the legends.

**Section 8. Classes.** All of the regular classes (as defined by Chapter 3, Section 3 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*) of The American Kennel Club may be given, except Winners, but the Puppy, American Bred, and Open classes must be given. All classes must be divided by sex. Clubs may also offer any non-regular classes, subject to AKC approval. A list of all classes to be offered must be given on the application form, as well as a complete description and the entry requirements of all non-regular classes.

The requirements for eligibility to enter the various classes are the same as those stated in Chapter 3, Sections 4 through 10 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*.

Best of Breed/Variety and Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed/Variety may be given.

Group classes may be given in an all-breed match. Dogs selected Best of Breed or Best of Variety are eligible. Best of Match may be given.

**Section 9. Submission Of Records.** The Match Secretary shall, within seven days of the date of the event, forward to The American Kennel Club, Attn: Club Relations all judges books, entry forms, a catalog, marked to show all awards, and the Match Report Form provided by the AKC.

## CHAPTER 4 PLAN B SANCTIONED MATCHES

**Section 1. Approval.** Approval for Plan B sanctioned matches may be issued to an All-Breed, Specialty, or Group club. Such matches may be restricted to members of the club holding the match.

**Section 2. Match Secretary.** For a Plan B sanctioned match, the club must designate a Match Secretary, who must be a member of the club. The Match Secretary would have the same duties as a Show Secretary.

**Section 3. Premium Lists.** Premium lists are not required for a Plan B sanctioned match, but any flyer or handbill should contain all of the information that a prospective exhibitor would require to enter the match.

**Section 4. Closing Of Entries.** Entries may close at any time prior to the match or on the day of the match. Under no circumstances may entries be accepted after the specified closing date and time.

**Section 5. Judges Books.** Judges books shall be provided and may be of any size but shall be the same general format as used for licensed dog shows. They may be downloaded from the AKC website, purchased from a dog show Superintendent, or prepared by the club.

**Section 6. Catalogs.** A catalog may be prepared, but is not required.

**Section 7. Classes.** Any of the regular classes (as defined by Chapter 3, Section 3 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*) except Winners, may be offered. Clubs may also offer any non-regular classes, subject to AKC approval. A list of all classes to be offered must be given on the application form, as well as a complete description and the entry requirements of all non-regular classes.

**Section 8. Submission Of Records.** Sanctioned A and B level clubs only must submit a Match Report Form following the match.

## CHAPTER 5 PLAN OA SANCTIONED MATCHES

**Section 1. Approval.** Approval for Plan OA sanctioned matches may be issued to an All-Breed, Specialty, All-Breed Obedience, Specialty Obedience, or Group Club.

**Section 2. Purpose.** The primary purpose of this type of event is to give members of clubs the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and competence in handling the details of an Obedience Trial. A club must hold at least one match of this type which is considered “qualifying” by The American Kennel Club, before a presentation for licensed status may be submitted.

**Section 3. Match Secretary.** Any club holding a Plan OA sanctioned match must name a Match Secretary, who must be a member of the club. The Match Secretary cannot be a licensed superintendent, or any employee of a licensed superintendent, even if that person is a club member. The duties of the Match Secretary shall be the same as those of an Obedience Trial Secretary. If allowed by the host club, the match secretary may enter dogs owned or co-owned by the secretary and may handle dogs in the OA match.

**Section 4. Premium Lists.** A premium list must be provided by a Plan OA sanctioned match. It shall be of the same size as the premium list for a licensed

obedience trial (Chapter 4, Section 3 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*), and shall be printed (any printing or copying process is acceptable). It shall bear the legends "Sanctioned by The American Kennel Club" and "Scores awarded at sanctioned matches do not count as credit toward any obedience title." The AKC logo must appear with the above indicated legends.

The following information shall be included in the premium list for a Plan OA sanctioned match:

- Name of club, location and date of the match, and type of match;
- Names of club officers;
- Names and addresses of the Club Secretary and Match Secretary;
- Name, address and daytime phone number for the Match Chairman;
- Opening and closing hours of match, time of judging, entry fees, classes offered, names and addresses of judges together with their assignments, all ribbons, prizes and trophies, date and time of closing of entries, any limitation on the participation of professional handlers, and the official AKC entry form.

The AKC Certification shall not be included in the Premium List.

Premium list copy will not be reviewed by The American Kennel Club prior to the event, but two finished copies shall be submitted at the time of distribution to the public.

**Section 5. Closing Of Entries.** Entries may close at any time prior to the match or on the day of the match. Under no circumstances may entries be accepted after the specified closing date and time.

**Section 6. Judges Books.** Judges books must be provided and be of the same format as used for licensed obedience trials. They may be downloaded from the AKC website, purchased from a dog show Superintendent, or prepared by the club.

**Section 7. Catalogs.** A catalog must be provided. It shall be of the same size and follow the same format as the catalog for a licensed obedience trial (Chapter 12 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*), except that the catalog need not be printed, but may be typed. It shall be of the same size and follow the same format as the catalog for a licensed obedience trial, except that the AKC Certification shall be omitted. The catalog shall bear the legends "Sanctioned by The American Kennel Club" and "Scores awarded at sanctioned matches do not count as credit towards any obedience titles." The AKC logo must appear with the legends.

**Section 8. Classes.** All of the regular obedience classes shall be given.

The requirements for eligibility to enter the various classes are the same as those stated in the *Obedience Regulations*, with the exception of dogs that have attained the CDX and UD or equivalent titles. The restrictions on the entry of dogs with the CDX and UD or equivalent titles are covered in Chapter 2, Section 1 of these Regulations.

**Section 9. Submission Of Records.** The Match Secretary shall, within seven days of the date of the event, forward to The American Kennel Club all judges books, entry forms, a catalog marked to show all awards, and the Match Report Form provided by the AKC.

## **CHAPTER 6 PLAN OB SANCTIONED MATCHES**

**Section 1. Approval.** Approval for Plan OB sanctioned matches may be issued to an All-Breed, Specialty, All-Breed Obedience, Specialty Obedience, or Group Club. Such matches may be restricted to members of the club holding the match.

**Section 2. Match Secretary.** For a Plan OB sanctioned match, the club should designate a Match Secretary, who must be a member of the club. The Match Secretary would have the same duties as an Obedience Trial Secretary. If allowed by the host club, the match secretary may enter dogs owned or co-owned by the secretary and may handle dogs in the match.

**Section 3. Premium Lists.** Premium lists are not required for a Plan OB sanctioned match but any flyer or handbill should contain all of the information that a prospective exhibitor would require to enter the match.

**Section 4. Closing Of Entries.** Entries may close at any time prior to the match or on the day of the match. Under no circumstances may entries be accepted after the specified closing date and time.

**Section 5. Judges Books.** Judges books shall be provided and may be of any size, but shall be the same general format as used for licensed obedience trials. They may be downloaded from the AKC website, purchased from a dog show Superintendent, or prepared by the club.

**Section 6. Catalogs.** A catalog may be prepared, but is not required.

**Section 7. Classes.** Any of the regular classes may be offered. However, if Novice competition is offered, both the Novice A and Novice B classes must be given, and if Open competition is offered, both Open A and Open B classes must be given.

A club will be approved to hold Open classes only if it also holds Novice classes, and a club will be approved to hold a Utility class, only if it also holds Novice and Open classes. Clubs may also offer any alternative,

optional or non-regular classes subject to AKC approval. If a club wishes to offer a class not provided for in the “non-regular” chapter of the *Obedience Regulations*, a complete description and the entry requirements must be submitted with the match application.

**Section 8. Submission Of Records.** Sanctioned A and B level clubs only must submit a Match Report Form following the match.

## CHAPTER 7 OC MATCHES

**Section 1. Approval.** Approval for Plan OC matches is granted to All-Breed, Specialty Obedience, or Obedience clubs. Clubs that plan to hold an “OC” match must submit a letter or email of intent to hold the match. This correspondence must be sent to the AKC Event Operations Department and received no later than 15 days prior to the event.

This correspondence must provide the following information:

- The name of the club sponsoring the “OC” match.
- The date the “OC” match will be held.
- The scheduled start time for the “OC” match.
- Contact information (name, address, phone and e-mail) for the club member(s) responsible for the event.
- Contact information (name, address, phone and e-mail) for the club member or other party responsible for collecting entries for the event.
- How the event will be advertised to the fancy.

Note: Upon supplying the AKC with the required information, the club is approved to hold the match.

Email approval will be sent to email address provided.

**Section 2. Match Secretary.** For a Plan OC match, the sponsoring club should designate a Match Secretary, who must be a member of the club and shall have similar duties to those of a Trial Secretary. If allowed by the host club, the match secretary may enter dogs owned or co-owned by the secretary and may handle dogs in the match.

**Section 3. Premium Lists.** Premium lists are not required for Plan OC matches, but any flyer or handbill should contain all the information that a prospective exhibitor would require when entering the match.

**Section 4. Closing Of Entries.** Entries may close at any time prior to the match or on the day of the match. Under no circumstances may entries be accepted after specified closing date and time.

**Section 5. Judges Books.** Judges books may be provided, but are not required.

**Section 6. Catalogs.** Due to the informal training class nature of a Plan OC match, a catalog is not required.



**Section 7. Classes.** Any of the regular, alternative, optional or non-regular classes may be offered. In addition, “run-throughs” may be offered where the exhibitor may do all or part of the total exercises from a given class, or the sponsoring club may allow a specific amount of “ring time” desired by the exhibitor. The sponsoring club may delay second “run-throughs” until all first “run-throughs” in a class have been completed. The maximum number of times to be able to repeat an exercise or to repeat a “run-through” shall be set by the sponsoring club. The fee for participation, whether it is a complete class participation including all of the exercises, or part of the exercises in a class, or additional “run-throughs” or a specified amount of “ring-time” desired by the exhibitor, shall be set by the sponsoring club. Corrections shall be limited to verbal corrections, or gently guiding the dog. At the option of the sponsoring club, food and/or toys may be allowed in the ring.

**Section 8. Match Report.** A Match Report to The American Kennel Club is only required in cases where there is a need to report unusual circumstances, such as conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the sport by anyone present at the match.

## CHAPTER 8 SANCTIONED TRACKING TESTS

**Section 1. Approval.** Approval for a sanctioned tracking match may be issued to any type of AKC Club eligible to hold licensed or member trials when such clubs can demonstrate to the AKC a membership associated with tracking and the available resources to hold a Tracking Test or sanctioned tracking match. Clubs devoted specifically to tracking will be reviewed on a case by case basis, with the number of members devoted to tracking and the club’s resources to hold tracking events being evaluated by AKC staff.

**Section 2. Purpose.** The primary purpose of this type of event is to give members of clubs the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and competence in handling the details of a Tracking Test. A club must hold at least one sanctioned tracking match, which is considered “qualifying” by The American Kennel Club, before an application for a licensed Tracking Test may be considered.

**Section 3. Procedures.** The procedures outlined in Chapter 3 of the *Tracking Regulations* should be followed with the following exceptions:

- A. The Certification described in Chapter 3, Section 2 of the *Tracking Regulations* would not be required for entry into a sanctioned tracking match.
- B. No Tracking Dog Title will be awarded for passing a sanctioned tracking match.

- C. Any individual with the exception of those individuals suspended from the privileges of The American Kennel Club or those persons whose approval to judge has been canceled, may be approved to judge a sanctioned tracking match.
- D. The records described in Chapter 2, Section 22 of the *Tracking Regulations* need only be submitted to The American Kennel Club if the club wishes this event to count as “qualifying” toward the holding of a licensed or member Tracking Test.

**Section 4. Certifications.** If at least one of the judges of a sanctioned tracking match is eligible to officiate at a licensed or member Tracking Test, that judge may issue the certifications such as are required for entry in a licensed or member Tracking Test.

**Section 5. Advanced Tracking.** Any club eligible to hold a licensed or member Tracking Test may be approved to hold a sanctioned Advanced Tracking match (TDX). Any inquiries concerning the eligibility and performance requirements of these tests should be directed to The American Kennel Club, Attention: Assistant Vice President, Companion Events.

**Section 6. Variable Surface Tracking (VST).** Any club eligible to hold a licensed or member Tracking Test (TD/TDU or TDX) may be approved to hold a sanctioned Variable Surface Tracking match (VST). Any inquiries concerning the eligibility and performance requirements should be directed to The American Kennel Club, Attention: Assistant Vice President, Companion Events.

## CHAPTER 9 MATCH REGULATIONS OTHER SANCTIONED EVENTS

**Section 1. Sanctioned Rally Trials** are held under the appropriate events regulations at which dogs participate but not for AKC titles.

## CHAPTER 10 PLAN A AND PLAN B AGILITY SANCTIONED MATCHES

**Section 1. Approval.** Approval for Plan A Agility sanctioned matches may be issued to all AKC recognized clubs.

**Section 2. Purpose.** The primary purpose of this type of event is to give members of the clubs the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and competence in handling the details of an Agility Trial. A club must hold a minimum of one match of this type, which is considered “qualifying” by The American Kennel Club, before a presentation for licensed status may be submitted.

**Section 3. Match Secretary.** Any club holding a Plan A sanctioned match must name a Match Secretary,

who must be a member of the club. The Match Secretary should not be a licensed superintendent, or an employee of a licensed superintendent, even if that person is a club member. The duties of the Match

Secretary shall be the same as those of a Trial Secretary as stated in the Regulations for Agility Trials.

**Section 4. Publications.** All clubs holding agility events must have the latest editions of the *Regulations for Agility Trials*, *AKC Agility Judges Guidelines*, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, and the *Dealing with Misconduct* pamphlet. It is recommended that the club also have a copy of the *Agility Trial Manual*.

**Section 5. Premium Lists.** A premium list must be provided for Plan A sanctioned matches. It shall be of the same size as the premium list for a licensed agility trial (Chapter 1, Section 9 of the *Regulations for Agility Trials*), and shall be printed (any printing or copying process is acceptable). It shall bear the legends “Sanctioned by The American Kennel Club” and “Scores awarded at sanctioned matches do not count as credit toward any agility title.” The AKC logo must appear with the above-indicated legends.

The following information must be included in the premium list for a Plan A sanctioned match:

- Name of club, exact location and date of the match, and type of match;
- Names of club officers;
- Names and addresses of the Club Secretary and Match Secretary;
- Name, address and daytime phone number for the Match Chairman;
- Opening and closing hours of match, entry method, time of judging, entry fees, entry limits, classes offered, names and addresses of judges together with their assignments, all ribbons, prizes and trophies, date and time of closing of entries, and the official AKC entry form. Four copies of the premium list must be submitted to the AKC, Attention: Companion Events at the time of distribution to the public.

**Section 6. Eligibility Requirements.** All of the eligibility requirements for Plan A or Plan B sanctioned agility matches are the same as those stated in Chapter 1 of the *Regulations for Agility Trials*.

**Section 7. Closing Of Entries.** Entries may close at any time prior to the match or on the day of the match. Under no circumstances may entries be accepted after the specified closing date and time.

**Section 8. Scribe Sheets.** Scribe sheets must be provided and be of the same format as used for licensed agility trials.

**Section 9. Catalogs.** A catalog must be provided for a Plan A sanctioned agility match. It shall be of the

same size and follow the same format as the catalog for a licensed agility trial (Chapter 1, Section 25 of the *Regulations for Agility Trials*), except that the AKC Certification shall be omitted. The catalog shall bear the legends “Sanctioned by The American Kennel Club” and “Scores awarded at sanctioned matches do not count as credit toward any agility title.” The AKC logo must appear with the legends.

**Section 10. Classes.** All of the Regular and Preferred Agility classes of The American Kennel Club must be offered. The requirements for eligibility to enter these classes are the same as those stated in Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the *Regulations for Agility Trials*. Dogs may only compete in the jump heights for which they are eligible.

**Section 11. Courses.** At Plan A sanctioned matches, courses must be submitted and approved by an AKC Agility Field Representative five weeks prior to the event date. Plan B sanctioned matches do not require prior approval but must follow agility course design guidelines. There shall be no nesting of multiple course levels set in the ring at one time for Plan A or B sanctioned agility matches.

**Section 12. Training.** There shall be no drilling nor intensive or abusive training of dogs on the grounds of a Plan A or Plan B sanctioned match.

At Plan B sanctioned matches, while dogs in the ring may receive verbal corrections, such corrections shall be penalized. Toys are allowed in the ring of a Plan B sanctioned agility match, but not food. The judge shall not allow harsh corrections in the ring. In addition, the judge of a Plan B sanctioned match may, at his own discretion, permit a handler and dog to repeat an exercise; however, only the first performance shall be scored, unless the dog is being rejudged on the exercise because in the judge’s opinion the dog’s performance was prejudiced by peculiar and unusual conditions.

Exhibitors must follow the judge’s verbal instructions.

**Section 13. Measuring Device.** All clubs that host agility events are required to have an official measuring device on the grounds. This device will be used by the Judge of record, Volunteer Measuring Officials and AKC Agility Field Representatives at all agility events.

**Section 14. Submission Of Records.** For Plan A sanctioned agility matches, the Match Secretary shall send to The American Kennel Club so as to reach its office within seven (7) days after the close of the event, a catalog, marked to show all awards, and the Match Report Forms provided by the AKC.

A catalog is not required for Plan B sanctioned agility matches. However, a report should be submitted to AKC if there are any unusual circumstances at the Plan B sanctioned agility match.

## FOUNDATION STOCK SERVICE BREEDS

For an up-to-date listing of the breeds presently in AKC's Foundation Stock Service please see [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

## CHECKLIST FOR SANCTIONED MATCHES

There are many small details that go into the conduct of a well-run sanctioned match. In planning such an event, it is easy to overlook some of these details.

Depending on the club's circumstances, particular details, such as grounds or building rental/use, local ordinances, permits, will vary from club to club and it is not possible to list them all here. There are, however, certain things in common to all AKC events. In an attempt to assist clubs with their preparation, this checklist has been prepared. It lists some of the more common, overlooked items. Reviewing the checklist before the day of the club's sanctioned match should help prevent overlooking some of the details that are so important for holding a well-organized, well-run event.

### PERSONNEL

- \_\_\_\_\_ Traffic directors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Set-up and clean-up personnel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Entry takers to accept entries and to prepare Judges Books
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stewards

### RING EQUIPMENT

- \_\_\_\_\_ Obedience Rings (if offered) should be regulation size
- \_\_\_\_\_ Obedience Jumps that meet AKC Regulations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ring Dividers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Placement Markers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mats, if necessary
- \_\_\_\_\_ Judging Tables
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chairs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Armbands (Include extra blanks and a felt tip marker.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rubber Bands
- \_\_\_\_\_ Poster boards marking ring assignments
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cash box and change
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tape Measure
- \_\_\_\_\_ Placement Ribbons for all event types
- \_\_\_\_\_ Judges Books for all event types

## MISCELLANEOUS “SHOULD HAVES”

- \_\_\_\_\_ Potable Water
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sanitation Facilities (Animal and Human)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Designated Exercise Area(s)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clean-up Equipment
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tables and Chairs for entry takers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trash Receptacles
- \_\_\_\_\_ Identification Badges for Event/Club Officials
- \_\_\_\_\_ Food Concession (if duration is more than a few hours)

## PUBLICATIONS

*(Part Numbers for ordering are in parentheses)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Show Manual (PBSHW1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* (RREGS3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Complete Dog Book* (PBCOMP)
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Obedience Regulations* (RO2999)
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Regulations for Agility Trials* (REAGIL)
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Dealing with Misconduct* (RDMSC4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Match Regulations* (RESANC)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Agility Trial Manual (PRAGL1)

*All of the above publications may be ordered from the AKC's Website at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) or you may contact Customer Service at (919) 233-9767.*

## EMERGENCY PREPARATION

- \_\_\_\_\_ Closest available veterinarian or 24-hour veterinary clinic
- \_\_\_\_\_ Closest hospital and telephone numbers for ambulance service, police and fire departments
- \_\_\_\_\_ First-Aid Kits for animals and humans
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nearest working public telephone or cellular telephone

## AKC Code of Sportsmanship

*PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.*

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

## NOTICE

The Regulations in this pamphlet apply to all Sanctioned Show Matches, Sanctioned Obedience/Rally/Agility Matches, Sanctioned Tracking Matches held on and after January 1, 2006.

Complete text of booklet available at: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

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(919) 233-9767

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