

# Beagle Field Trial Rules

## And Standard Procedures For Large Pack Field Trials

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AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

## AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB'S 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.

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## FOREWORD

The American Kennel Club was formed principally for the protection and advancement of purebred dogs.

The State of New York by Special Act of its Legislature incorporated The American Kennel Club and granted it a charter in Section 2 of which the objects of the corporation are described to be “to adopt and enforce uniform rules regulating and governing dog shows and field trials, to regulate the conduct of persons interested in exhibiting, running, breeding, registering, purchasing and selling dogs, to detect, prevent and punish frauds in connection therewith, to protect the interests of its members, to maintain and publish an official stud book and an official kennel gazette, and generally to do everything to advance the study, breeding, exhibiting, running and maintenance of the purity of thoroughbred dogs.”

Section 2 of this charter further states that “for these purposes it,” The American Kennel Club, “shall have power to adopt a constitution, bylaws, rules and regulations, and enforce the same by fines and penalties, which it shall have the right to collect and enforce by suit, or by suspension or expulsion from membership, or by a suspension or denial of any or all of the privileges of said corporation.”

Competition in conformation and performance events can best demonstrate the progress that has been made in breeding for type and quality, and/or for practical use, stamina and obedience. The American Kennel Club has therefore adopted bylaws, rules and regulations by which to govern and administrate these events; the clubs that wish to hold them; and the individuals who exhibit, compete or take part in them. This book contains such bylaws, rules and regulations as affect the above.

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **GENERAL EXPLANATIONS**

SECTION 1. The word “dog” wherever used in these Field Trial Rules and Regulations includes both sexes.

SECTION 2. The words “United States of America” wherever used in these Rules and Regulations shall be construed to include all territories and possessions of the United States of America and all vessels sailing under the American Flag.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **FIELD TRIALS DEFINED**

SECTION 1. A MEMBER FIELD TRIAL is a field trial at which championship points may be awarded, held by a club which is a member of The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 2. A LICENSED FIELD TRIAL is a field trial at which championship points may be awarded, held by a club which is not a member of The American Kennel Club but which has been licensed by The American Kennel Club to hold the specific field trial designated in the license.

SECTION 3. A SANCTIONED FIELD TRIAL is a field trial at which dogs may compete but not for championship points, held by a club, whether or not a member of The American Kennel Club, or by a Beagle Association, by obtaining the sanction of The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 4. A BEAGLE FIELD TRIAL SEASON is a period of twelve months starting July 1.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **MAKING APPLICATION TO HOLD A FIELD TRIAL**

SECTION 1. A club, association or federation which wishes to hold a licensed or member field trial must apply to The American Kennel Club on a form which will be supplied on request to clubs which meet the requirements of The American Kennel Club. This application will be referred to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club, which will consider it and notify the club of its approval or disapproval.

A club which has been approved by the American Kennel Club may hold no more than two licensed field trials per calendar year. A club’s field trails must be at least 30 days apart.

A Beagle Association or Federation which has been approved by the American Kennel Club may hold one licensed field trial and one licensed two-couple pack event per calendar year.

*Applications must be submitted no later than three months prior to the starting date of the trial. Clubs submitting late applications will be subject to a fine.*

*The AKC® has adopted a policy that considers a club applying for its first licensed trial, or a club applying to change the dates of its licensed or member club trial, as conflicting with an established licensed or member club trials(s) of the same type when the new dates coincide or overlap and the distance between the events is 100 miles or less (200 miles or less for Large Pack Trials) based upon straight line measurement between locations. This policy may be waived in those cases where a club has received clearance(s) from the club(s) holding the established licensed or member club trial(s).*

SECTION 2. A non-member club shall submit with its application a check or money order in payment of the license fee, the amount of which shall be fixed and determined by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. If the Board of Directors shall disapprove the application, the license fee will be returned to the club.

*At present, the license fee for a Beagle field trial is \$35.00.*

SECTION 3. If a club fails to hold its event at the time and place which has been approved, the club's license fee shall not be refunded.

SECTION 4. **Advertising.** Clubs may only advertise corresponding dates, locations and stakes, plus club contact information, prior to an event receiving AKC approval. Clubs may not advertise and event prior to AKC approval if the dates or location differ from the previous year's corresponding event. Premium lists cannot be made available nor can entries be accepted until the event and judges panel have been approved by the AKC.

SECTION 5. A member or non-member club or Beagle Association which wishes to hold a sanctioned field trial must apply to The American Kennel Club on a form which will be supplied upon request; provided, however, that the secretary of a Beagle Association may file a blanket application for the regular Spring Derby sanctioned field trials of all of the clubs belonging to that Association. An application for a sanctioned Beagle field trial will be referred to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club, which will consider it and notify the club or association of its approval or disapproval. No fee is required to be paid for approval of an application for a sanctioned field trial.

SECTION 6. All of these Rules and Procedures shall apply to sanctioned field trials as well as to licensed or member field trials, except for those Rules and Procedures that state specifically that they apply to licensed or member trials only. Such Rules will not apply to Plan B-sanctioned trials unless the club specifies in the announcement for the event that a particular Rule or Procedure will apply.

SECTION 7. The use of a club's name for field trial purposes cannot be transferred.

SECTION 8. **Application to Hold Two Couple Pack Event.** A member Beagle club or club licensed to hold Beagle Field Trials may apply to hold two (2) Two Couple Pack Hunting Tests per calendar year, subject to current date and distance conflict policy. Applications shall be made on the forms provided by AKC. A recording fee of \$3.00 shall be required for every dog entered. The recording fee is to help defray expenses involved in maintaining the records and applies to all entries, regardless of whether they participate. *At present the licensing fee for a Two Couple Pack Hunting Test is \$35.00.*

#### CHAPTER 4 RIBBONS, MONEY PRIZES, AND SPECIAL PRIZES

SECTION 1. A club holding a licensed or member field trial shall offer prize ribbons or rosettes of the following colors in the four regular classes:

- First prize—Blue.
- Second prize—Red.
- Third prize—Yellow.
- Fourth prize—White.
- N.B.Q.—Dark Green.

For additional non-regular classes, a club holding a licensed or member trial shall offer ribbons or rosettes of the following colors:

- First prize—Rose.
- Second prize—Brown.
- Third prize—Light Green.
- Fourth prize—Gray.
- N.B.Q.—Orange.

SECTION 2. Each ribbon or rosette at a licensed or member field trial shall be at least 2 inches wide and approximately 8 inches long and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of The American Kennel Club, the words Field Trial, the name of the prize, the name of the field trial-giving club, and the date of the trial.

SECTION 3. If ribbons or rosettes are given at sanctioned field trials they shall be of the following colors, and shall bear the words Field Trial, but may be of any design or size:

- First prize—Rose.
- Second prize—Brown.
- Third prize —Light Green.
- Fourth prize—Gray.
- N.B.Q.—Orange.

SECTION 4. If money prizes are offered, a fixed amount or percentage of the entry fee for each prize shall be stated.

SECTION 5. All special prizes not money which may be offered shall be accurately described or the value stated. Stud services shall not be accepted as special prizes.

## CHAPTER 5 JUDGES AND THEIR DECISIONS

SECTION 1. Persons judging field trials are not required to obtain licenses, and a field trial club may submit the name of any reputable person who is in good standing with The American Kennel Club for approval to judge at its field trial. Such approved Judges may run hounds in any classes which they are not judging and for which they are not advertised as Judges.

*No person under 18 years of age will be approved to be a Judge of a licensed or member trial.*

*No member of the Field Trial Committee, or the Field Trial Secretary, will be approved to be advertised as a Judge of the club's licensed or member trial.*

*In order to be approved to be advertised as Judges or Alternate Judges of a licensed or member field trial, the proposed Judges must have a combined experience of having judged at a minimum of 10 licensed or member Beagle Field Trials. For example, if one Judge has judged at two licensed or member field trials, the other Judge must have judged at least eight licensed or member field trials. (For a period of time, this regulation may be waived for a club which runs its trial under Small Pack Option.)*

*In order to be approved to be advertised as a Judge or alternate Judge of a licensed or member club Beagle Field Trial, a person shall have a record of having attended a Beagle Field Trial Seminar and of having received a satisfactory score on the test.*

*Advanced seminars can be held if a club, federation, or association requests one.*

*Note – The Beagle seminar requirements apply to two-couple pack judges as well as field trial judges.*



SECTION 2. Substitute Judges shall be appointed by the club holding a trial if it is impossible for any advertised Judges to fulfill or complete their assignments. Additional Judges shall be appointed by the Field Trial Committee when required under the Standard Procedure and may be appointed if unforeseen circumstances would otherwise prevent completion of the trial during the days advertised in the premium list. Such substitute and additional Judges shall be persons who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club. When such Judges are used, they should, if possible, act in conjunction with one or more of the advertised Judges, provided this does not prevent an advertised Judge from completing the judging of a class which he has already started. If two such Judges have to judge together without one of the advertised Judges, at least one should be an experienced Judge of licensed or member Beagle field trials. The American Kennel Club shall be notified promptly of the reasons for appointing substitute or additional Judges.

SECTION 3. Before any advertised Judge shall be eligible to judge a licensed or member field trial, he shall first sign an agreement certifying that he has a thorough knowledge of the Rules, Regulations and Procedures, and will judge in strict accord with them.

SECTION 4. **DQ by Judge.** A dog is not eligible to be entered or to compete in any licensed or member trial if the dog has on two occasions been made the subject of the following report: If a dog, while under judgement, attacks another dog, and if the Judges are unanimously of the opinion that such an attack was without reasonable cause, the Judges shall identify the offending dog on the judging sheet, and the name of the offending dog shall be listed in the report of the trial sent to the American Kennel Club.

SECTION 5. The decisions of the Judges shall be final in all matters relating to the merits of the hounds.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE, FIELD TRIAL SECRETARY, PREMIUM LISTS**

SECTION 1. A club or Beagle association that has been granted permission by The American Kennel Club to hold a field trial must appoint a Field Trial Committee which shall have charge of the organization and management of the trial. The committee shall have at least five members, one of whom shall be designated Field Trial Committee Chairman. The committee may include the Field Trial Secretary, but the Field Trial Secretary shall not be designated Field Trial Committee Chairman.

SECTION 2. A club that has been granted permission by The American Kennel Club to hold a licensed or member field trial must appoint a Field Trial Secretary acceptable to The American Kennel Club, whose name and address must be submitted to The American Kennel Club before the premium list for the trial can be printed. Any reputable person who is in good standing with The American Kennel Club may act as Field Trial Secretary.

SECTION 3. The Field Trial Committee and Field Trial Secretary shall be held responsible for compliance with the Beagle Field Trial Rules and Procedures, and must provide themselves with copies of the latest edition of this book.

SECTION 4. A club that has been granted permission by The American Kennel Club to hold a licensed or member field trial, before its premium list and entry forms shall be printed, must send to The American Kennel Club for approval one copy of a questionnaire form supplied by The American Kennel Club which will specify the exact location of the grounds where the trial is to be run; whether the trial will be run in braces, small packs, or large packs; the classes to be run and their conditions; the place where the drawing or numbering will be done and, for a Large Pack trial, the hours during which hounds will be measured for each class; the time entries close for each class; the date each class is to start; the names and addresses of the Judges and the classes which each is to judge; a complete list of money, ribbon prizes and special prizes which the club wishes to offer; the entry fee; the names and addresses of the officers of the club and of the Field Trial Secretary; the name and address of the chairman and the names of the other members of the Field Trial Committee. The premium list and/or announcements for each licensed or member field trial shall contain all of the information set forth on the official AKC Event Application form as approved by the American Kennel Club, except the addresses need only include the city and state. The premium list and shall be the official size.

SECTION 5. Every premium list for a licensed or member field trial shall contain one or more copies of the official American Kennel Club entry form, samples of which will be supplied on request.

SECTION 6. Field Trial Committees may make such regulations or additional rules for the government of their field trials as shall be considered necessary, provided such regulations or additional rules do not conflict with any rule or procedure of The American Kennel Club. Such regulations or additional rules shall be printed in the premium list of a licensed or member field trial and violations thereof shall be considered the

same as violations of the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 7. When a dog is seriously injured or dies in connection with an event, the Event Committee must conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if negligence or the willful conduct of an individual caused the injury or death. If the preliminary investigation determines that there was no negligence or willful conduct causing the injury or death, then a written report of the findings of the preliminary investigation must be submitted to the AKC (Attn: Executive Secretary), 101 Park Avenue, Fifth Floor, New York, NY 10178 within five (5) days. If the Event Committee determines that negligence or willful conduct may have caused the death or serious injury, the Event Committee must hold an Event Hearing.

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY**

SECTION 1. Beagle Field Trials shall be open to dogs six months of age or over on the first day of the event.

SECTION 2. No hound shall be eligible to be entered in a licensed or member field trial unless it is either individually registered with the AKC or individually registered with a foreign or domestic registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration. A hound with an AKC Limited Registration shall be eligible to be entered in licensed or member Field Trials and/or Hunting Tests.

A hound that is individually registered with an acceptable foreign or domestic registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration may be entered in licensed or member field trials that are held not later than 30 days after the first licensed or member field trial in which the hound was entered, but only provided that the individual foreign registration number and the name of the country of birth are shown on the entry form, and provided further that the same name, which in the case of an imported hound must be the name on the foreign registration, is used for the hound each time.

SECTION 3. No individually registered hound with a foreign or domestic registry organization that has not been individually registered with The American Kennel Club when first entered in a licensed or member field trial shall be eligible to be entered in any licensed or member field trial class that is started more than 30 days after the first entry in a licensed or member field trial, unless the hound's individual AKC registration number is shown on the entry form, or unless the owner has received from The American Kennel Club an extension

notice authorizing further entries of the hound for a specified time with its litter number or foreign registration number. No such extension will be granted unless the owner can clearly demonstrate, in a letter addressed to the Performance Events Department of The American Kennel Club requesting such extension, that the delay in registration is due to circumstances for which he is not responsible. Any such extension notice will be void upon registration of the hound or upon expiration of the period for which extension has been granted, but upon application further extensions may be granted.

SECTION 4. Each entry in a licensed or member field trial must be made on an official American Kennel Club entry form. Each entry form must be completed in full and must be signed by the owner or his agent duly authorized to make the entry, and the information given on the form must be that which applies to the entered hound.

SECTION 5. Every hound must be entered in the name of the person who actually owned the hound at the time entries closed. The right to enter and run a hound cannot be transferred. A registered hound which has been acquired by some person other than the owner as recorded with The American Kennel Club must be entered in the name of its new owner at any field trial for which entries close after the date on which the hound was acquired, and application for transfer of ownership must be sent to The American Kennel Club by the new owner within seven days after the last day of the trial. The new owner should state on the entry form that transfer application has been mailed to The American Kennel Club or will be mailed shortly. If there is any unavoidable delay in obtaining the completed application required to record the transfer, The American Kennel Club may grant a reasonable extension of time provided the new owner notifies the Field Trial Department of The American Kennel Club by mail within seven days after the trial, of the reason for the delay. If an entry is made by a duly authorized agent of the owner, the name of the actual owner must be shown on the entry form.

SECTION 6. Owners are responsible for errors made on entry forms regardless of who may have made such errors.

SECTION 7. No entry shall be accepted from any person who stands suspended from the privileges of The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 8. No entry shall be made under a kennel name unless that name has been registered with The

American Kennel Club. All entries made under a kennel name must be signed with the kennel name followed by the word "registered." An "entrant" is the individual, or, if a partnership, all the members of the partnership, entering in a field trial. In the case of such entry by a partnership, every member of the partnership shall be in good standing with The American Kennel Club before the entry will be accepted; and in case of any infraction of these rules, all the partners shall be held equally responsible.

**SECTION 9. Communicable Diseases.** No hound shall be eligible to compete at any field trial, no hound shall be brought into the grounds or premises of any field trial, and any hound which may have been brought into the grounds or premises of a field trial shall immediately be removed, if it

(a) shows clinical symptoms of distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease, or

(b) is known to have been in contact with distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease within 30 days prior to the opening of the trial, or

(c) has been kenneled within 30 days prior to the opening of the trial on premises on which there existed distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease.

**SECTION 10.** A hound is not eligible to be entered or to compete in any field trial in any class if an advertised or actual Judge of that class or any member of his immediate family or household has owned, sold, held under lease, boarded, trained, or handled the hound within one year prior to the date of the field trial. Immediate family means husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or sister.

*Transporting a hound is not considered handling.*

**SECTION 11.** A field trial-giving club shall not accept an entry fee other than that published in its premium list or entry form, or in any way discriminate between entrants. No club or member of any club shall give or offer to give any owner or handler any special inducements, such as reduced entry fees, rebates, allowances for expenses or other incentive of value for a certain number of entries. Except a club, at its discretion, may allow for a reduced entry fee for dogs handled by juniors. The reduced entry fee may only apply to specific stakes or may apply to any stake in the trial. The reduced entry fee shall be published in the premium list. A junior is defined as someone less than 18 years of age on the first day of the event. The junior must handle the dog in the event to qualify for the reduced entry fee. If the dog is entered under this

provision but the junior does not handle the dog, the owner must pay the regular entry fee as published.

**SECTION 12.** A Field Trial Committee may decline any entries or may remove any hound from its trial for cause, but in each such instance shall notify the Performance Events Department in a timely manner regarding the good and sufficient reasons for its actions.

**SECTION 13. Hounds Must Compete.** Any hound entered and present at a field trial must compete in any class in which it is entered unless it is disqualified or marked absent by the Judges, or is found to be ineligible or is excused by the Field Trial Committee after consultation with the Judges.

*SECTION 14. DQ by Event Committee. Any dog, that in the opinion of the Events Committee, or The American Kennel Club, attacks a person or a dog at an AKC event, resulting in injury, and is believed by that Event Committee or The American Kennel Club to present a hazard to persons or their dogs shall be disqualified. When the dog is disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to the section, a report shall be filed immediately with the Executive Secretary of The American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not again compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to The American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated.*

## **CHAPTER 8 CANCELLATIONS AND PROTESTS AGAINST HOUNDS**

**SECTION 1.** If at a licensed or member trial, an ineligible hound has been entered in any class, or if a hound has been entered in the name of an owner other than the actual owner at the time entries closed, or if a hound has been run in a class for which it was not entered, or if its entry form is deemed invalid by The American Kennel Club under these Rules, any resulting awards shall be cancelled by The American Kennel Club and such hound shall not be counted as a starter in determining championship ratings.

**SECTION 2.** If the win of a hound at a licensed or member trial is cancelled, the hound next in order of merit shall be moved up, if eligible, and the win of the hound moved up shall be counted the same as if it had been the original award.

**SECTION 3.** If the win of a hound is cancelled by The American Kennel Club, the owner of the hound shall return all prizes for such win to the Secretary of

the field trial-giving club within ten (10) days of receipt of notice from The American Kennel Club of said cancellation.

SECTION 4. Any person who is a member of a member club of The American Kennel Club, or who owns a hound entered in the field trial, or who handles a hound competing in the trial, may make a protest to the Field Trial Committee against any hound competing in the trial, either before or after the hound has been judged, alleging that under these Rules or Procedures it is ineligible to compete in the trial or in the class in which it is entered, or that it must be disqualified. Such a protest shall be in writing, shall identify the hound protested and specify the basis for the protest, shall bear the signature and address of the person who makes it, and shall describe his qualifications for making the protest. It shall be filed with the Field Trial Secretary or with the Chairman of the Field Trial Committee before the closing of the trial, and shall be accompanied by a deposit of \$10.00, which shall be returned if the protest is sustained, or which will be retained by the club if the protest is not sustained.

SECTION 5. If such a protest is received, the Field Trial Committee shall hold a meeting as soon as possible. In order to ensure impartiality, no person who owns or co-owns the dog being protested or a dog that will move up in the placements if the protest is sustained, or any member of their household, and no professional trainer who has trained or handled these dogs within the past year, may serve on the Committee hearing the protest. The Committee may vote to excuse anyone from the Committee if there are unique situations that cause the Committee to question an individual's ability to be impartial. The person who has made the protest must be present, and the Committee shall give all parties concerned an opportunity to be heard and to present witnesses and evidence. The Committee may call for additional evidence from other qualified persons present at the trial. After hearing all of the evidence, the Field Trial Committee shall consider the matter and shall, if possible, reach an immediate decision and inform the persons involved.

A report of the meeting, giving all of the essential evidence and the Committee's decision, together with the original written protest, must be mailed to The American Kennel Club within 7 days of the trial.

SECTION 6. A written appeal to The American Kennel Club from a decision of a Field Trial Committee on any such protest, may be made by either the owner of the hound protested or the person who made the protest. The written appeal must be received by The American Kennel Club Performance Events

Department within 30 days after the date of the Field Trial Committee's decision, and must be accompanied by a deposit of \$25.00, which shall be forfeited if the decision is sustained.

## CHAPTER 9

### DESCRIPTION OF CLASSES AND CHAMPIONSHIP REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 1. All licensed and member Beagle field trials shall be run under one of the five (5) following procedures:

- A. Braces on Wild Rabbit or Hare.
- B. Small Packs on Wild Rabbit or Hare.
- C. Small Pack Option on Wild Rabbit or Hare.
- D. Large Packs on Hare.
- E. Gun Dog Brace on Wild Rabbit or Hare.

Note: Under AKC policy clubs may apply for a second trial in the format of their choice during the calendar year. Clubs applying for a second trial during the calendar year must not schedule the second trial less than thirty (30) days from the last day of the first trial.

At a licensed or member Beagle field trial, the regular classes shall be:

- Open Dogs not exceeding 13 inches in height.
- Open Bitches not exceeding 13 inches in height.
- Open Dogs over 13 inches but not exceeding 15 inches in height.
- Open Bitches over 13 inches but not exceeding 15 inches in height.

However, if when the entries are closed, it is found that there are less than six hounds of a sex eligible to compete in any class, the Field Trial Committee shall have the option of combining that class either by gender or size into a single class.

No hound may be entered in more than one of these classes at any field trial.

A club may be approved to hold additional non-regular classes, provided a description of the eligibility requirements appears in the premium list.

SECTION 2. **Field Champion Only Stakes.** A licensed club, association or federation may, at their option, offer Field Champion only stakes. The FC only stake may be held in conjunction with a club's regular trial or may be held as a stand-alone trial. A club shall offer no more than two stand-alone FC only trials per calendar year. The FC only trial(s) can be offered in addition to the club's regular field trials. If a club chooses to hold a stand-alone FC only trial, the regular trial application fee shall apply. All rules applying to Beagle Field Trials shall apply to FC only classes unless otherwise specified in this section.



To be eligible to participate in a FC only stake, a dog must have been recorded as a FC according to AKC records.

**SECTION 3. Licensed Derby Stakes.** A Beagle association or federation may, at their option, offer one licensed derby stake per calendar year. The licensed derby stake may be held in conjunction with a licensed field trial or may be a stand-alone event. If the license derby stake is held as a stand-alone event, the normal event application fee shall apply. All rules applying to Beagle Field Trials shall apply to the Derby classes.

To be eligible to participate in a Derby class, a dog must meet the definition of a Derby dog as specified in the Standard Procedures, Sanctioned Beagle Field Trials section provided later in this book.

**SECTION 4.** Splitting of prizes or places is prohibited.

**SECTION 5. Awarding Championship Points.** Field Championship points for Beagles shall be awarded only to hounds placing in licensed or member trials in Open Classes in which there were six or more starters. The championship points shall be awarded on the following basis:

- 1 point to the winner of first place for each starter;
- $\frac{1}{2}$  point to the winner of second place for each starter;
- $\frac{1}{3}$  point to the winner of third place for each starter;
- $\frac{1}{4}$  point to the winner of fourth place for each starter.

A starter is an entered eligible hound that has not been disqualified and that is not measured out for second series or for the winners pack, and that has been cast or laid on a line with its brace mate at the start of its first series heat at a brace trial; or that has been cast at the start of its first series pack at a small pack trial; or that has been cast at the start with the rest of the pack at a large pack trial.

**SECTION 6.** The total number of wins and championship points necessary for a Beagle to be recorded a Field Champion by The American Kennel Club shall be established by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The wins and points may be acquired in both the 13 inch and 15 inch divisions.

*To be recorded a Field Champion, a hound of either sex must have won three first places and 120 points in classes with not less than six starters at licensed or member field trials. No more than one first place and 40 points earned in Derby stakes may count toward the Field Champion title.*

**SECTION 7. Grand Field Champion Title Requirements.** A dog that has been recorded as a Field Champion according to AKC records shall be eligible to earn the Grand Field Champion (GFC) title. Placements and points toward the GFC title shall be earned in stakes open to Field Champions only. To earn a GFC title, a dog must be awarded a minimum of two first placements and 90 points

from FC only stakes. Points shall be calculated in the same manner as used for the FC title. The GFC title will appear in front of the FC title on a dog's pedigree. Dogs that have earned the GFC title may continue to compete in order to earn GFC numeric titles (GFC2).

SECTION 8. A Beagle that has won the required number of classes and championship points will, when registered in the Stud Book, be recorded a Field Champion, and a championship certificate will be issued to the owner. The Field Champion certificate will reflect the format of the field trial in which the hound earns the majority of its first three wins (first place). "FC – Brace" certificates are awarded through wins in Brace and Small Pack Option trials. "FC – Gundog" certificates are awarded through wins in Gundog Brace and Small Pack Option trials. "FC – Large Pack" certificates are awarded through wins in Large Pack trials. A hound becomes a Field Champion when it is so officially recorded by The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 9. A Field Champion may be designated as "Dual Champion" if it has also been recorded as a Show Champion.

Any dog which has been awarded the titles of Champion of Record, Obedience Trial Champion and Field Champion may be designated as a "Triple Champion."

SECTION 10. A National Small Pack Option Championship Field Trial shall be held not more than once in any calendar year and shall be for hounds which by reason of qualifications previously obtained in Small Pack Option Trials under regulations submitted by the National Beagle Small Pack Option organization and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The trial shall be held by the National Beagle Small Pack Option organization which shall file an application for permission to run the trial under procedures approved in advance by The American Kennel Club. The winner of each class at this trial shall be entitled to be designated "National Beagle Small Pack Option Champion of 20\_\_" for its class.

SECTION 11. A National Large Pack Championship Field Trial shall be held not more than once in any calendar year and shall be for hounds which by reason of qualifications previously obtained in Large Pack Trials under regulations submitted by the National Beagle Large Pack organization and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The trial shall be held by the National Beagle Large Pack organization which shall file an application for permission to run the trial under procedures approved

in advance by The American Kennel Club. The winner of each class at this trial shall be entitled to be designated "National Beagle Large Pack Champion of 20\_\_" for its class.

Note: The winners of each class at a National Championship will receive credit for a win and the points available in accordance with requirements for a Beagle Field Trial Champion. (See Chapter 9, Section 5.)

## **CHAPTER 10**

### **JUDGES' BOOKS AND REPORTS**

At the conclusion of the judging of each class at a licensed or member field trial, the club shall provide for the Judges' signatures a book showing the class judged and the full particulars of each hound placed at a brace trial, or the number of each hound placed at a pack trial. The Judges shall certify the number of actual starters, which shall not include any hound that has been disqualified or measured out for second series or for the winners pack or that has been otherwise found to be ineligible. At the conclusion of the field trial, the Field Trial Secretary shall verify the Judges' signatures for the respective classes and shall also certify the number of hounds drawn for a Brace or Small Pack trial or entered for a Large Pack trial, and to the number of starters. At a trial run in Small or Large Packs, he shall also certify the identity of each hound according to its number.

The Judges' book, together with all the entry forms, and a full report of the trial, shall be sent to The American Kennel Club in time to be received by them no later than seven days after the closing date of the trial. Penalty for non-compliance twenty five (\$25.00) dollars, and five (\$5.00) dollars for each day's delay beyond the deadline, and other penalties as may be imposed by the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club. A club or association holding a licensed or member club trial shall retain the entry forms for at least 12 months. Upon request by the AKC, the original entry form(s) must be sent to the AKC within 7 days of such request.

The report shall contain a list of the names of all members of the Field Trial Committee who were present at the trial, the names and complete addresses of all of the Judges, and the name and address of the Field Trial Secretary.

AKC will collect a \$3.50 AKC Event Service Fee for each entry of a dog in all AKC-licensed and member Large Pack Beagle Field Trials. The AKC Board of Directors shall determine, from time to time, whether an event service fee shall be required and the amount of it.



**STANDARD PROCEDURES  
GENERAL PROCEDURES GOVERNING  
BEAGLE FIELD TRIALS**

## **GENERAL PROCEDURES GOVERNING BEAGLE FIELD TRIALS**

All of these Procedures shall apply to sanctioned field trials as well as to licensed or member field trials except for those Procedures that state specifically that they apply to licensed or member trials.

### **PROCEDURE 1. MANAGEMENT**

1-A The Field Trial Committee shall have full charge of the organization and management of the trial, and shall have the power subject to the Bylaws, Rules and Procedures of The American Kennel Club, to interpret any special rules published by the club holding the field trial, and to decide any matter, whether arising from an unforeseen emergency or not, which is not specifically provided for in these Rules and Procedures. Whenever such matters arise, the Field Trial Committee shall exercise the specific powers and carry out the duties described in these Rules and Procedures and submit a complete report of the incident to The American Kennel Club.

1-B Each Club holding a licensed or member field trial must have at least three members of the Field Trial Committee present on the grounds at all times during the running of the trial. If a split class or two classes are run at the same time on different running grounds there must be at least three members of the Field Trial Committee on each grounds throughout the running, unless the separate running grounds, are immediately adjacent to each other. A club which fails to comply with this requirement will not be approved for a licensed or member field trial during the next field trial season.

1-C The Field Trial Committee shall appoint a Marshal or Marshals to carry out the orders of the Judges. Marshals may advise Judges but must carry out the instructions of the Judges, whose decision is final. At a trial run in Large Packs, no person shall act as Marshal for a class in which he has a hound entered. Marshals shall be identified by badges or arm bands carrying the designation "Marshal."

1-D At a trial run in Large Packs there shall be three or more Marshals. One of the Marshals shall assist Judges in becoming acquainted with the running grounds and act as guide and liaison between the Judges, the other Marshals, the Field Trial Committee and the gallery. The other Marshals shall keep owners, handlers and spectators out of the running grounds, and report to the Judges immediately in writing any hound that has pulled out of the running pack, together with the number, time, and length of time out of the

pack. After the class is completed, one Marshal shall account for all hounds and guide the handlers from the running grounds.

1-E At a field trial run in Large Packs, there shall be at least two Judges for each class or division of a class. If substitute Judges are required, or if additional Judges are required for a split class, they may be appointed by the Field Trial Committee at the trial provided they are persons in good standing with The American Kennel Club. When such Judges are used they should, if possible, act in conjunction with one or more of the advertised Judges provided this does not prevent any advertised Judge from completing the judging of a class which he has already started. If two such Judges have to judge together without one of the advertised Judges, at least one should be an experienced Judge of American Kennel Club licensed Beagle field trials. The American Kennel Club shall be notified promptly of additional or substitute Judges officiating.

1-F No licensed or member Beagle field trial may be run on released game unless the game has been released prior to the first day of the trial.

1-G Any advertising a club decides to use for a licensed or member trial shall include the following information which must be identical to the information approved by The American Kennel Club for the premium list: Names of approved Judges and the classes they are to judge; type of trial whether Brace, Small Pack or Large Pack; location of trial; date on which each class is to start; entry fee; the place where the drawing or numbering will be done and, for a Large Pack trial, the hours during which hounds shall be measured for each class; and time entries close for each class.

1-H One person only may handle or hunt each hound, whether it be the owner, his agent or the agent's deputy. At a licensed or member club trial, all others must remain in the gallery, except that the Field Trial Committee, at their discretion, shall have the authority to allow additional persons to follow the hounds. Such provisions shall be made subject to the right of each handler to object to the following of the hounds by additional persons in any given brace, trio or small pack, except that in all cases one additional person may accompany each handler with the permission of the handler and of the Judges, but without permission of the other handler(s). All persons following the hounds shall be subject to the direction of the Marshal and/or the Judges at all times. At a sanctioned trial additional persons may follow the hounds, except when the Judges or all handlers in a given Brace, Trio or Small Pack object.

When game is raised or the hounds are away on the

trail, the gallery shall stand fast or change position only as instructed by the Judges or the Marshal.

At trials run in Large Packs everyone except Judges and Marshals must go to an advantageous point designated by the Judges or Marshal, and may change positions only at the discretion of the Judges or Marshal.

1-I If unforeseen circumstances make it impossible to complete the judging of a licensed or member field trial on the last date applied for and approved by The American Kennel Club, the Field Trial Committee may continue the judging on one or two days immediately following the last date approved. The Field Trial Secretary's report to The American Kennel Club shall include a report of the circumstances requiring the extension and a list of the classes or series judged on each additional day.

## **PROCEDURE 2. ENTRIES**

2-A If any question should arise as to a different hound having been substituted in place of the hound described on the entry form, the question shall immediately be investigated by the Field Trial Committee, which shall decide whether or not the entered hound has been run, after giving all parties an opportunity to be heard, and submit a complete report of its findings and decision to The American Kennel Club.

If the Field Trial Committee decides that a hound other than the hound entered and drawn has been run, both the entered hound that did not run and the substituted hound shall be disqualified. Entry fees and any awards shall be forfeited. However, if it can be shown that the substituted hound was run by someone other than the owner or handler and without permission of the owner or handler, this dog shall not be disqualified.

The Field Trial Committee at a licensed or member trial shall exercise its authority under Chapter 5, Section 2 of the Registration and Discipline Rules if there is any indication that the substitution was intentional.

2-B Neutered dogs and spayed bitches are eligible to participate in Beagle field trials.

2-C In a class for combined sexes, any bitch which in the opinion of the Field Trial Committee is in season, shall be ineligible to compete and shall be excluded from the running grounds and regular kennels. A separate kennel shall be provided for such bitches.

2-D All entered hounds must be present on the field trial grounds at the time entries close at a licensed or member trial when entries close on the day the class is to be run.



2-E No hound which is entered and present may be withheld from competition at any trial and no hound may be withdrawn during the running of a class, unless it is disqualified by the Judges, or is found to be ineligible, or is excused by the Field Trial Committee after consultation with the Judges. No hound will be excused by a Field Trial Committee except in the most unusual and deserving circumstances, and never to meet the convenience or caprice of its owner or his agent. If any hound should be withheld or withdrawn with or without the consent of the Field Trial Committee, that Committee shall make a full report of the incident in writing and the report shall be forwarded to The American Kennel Club by the Field Trial Secretary. At a licensed or member trial, the committee shall also use its authority under Chapter 5, Section 2 of the Registration and Discipline Rules if the evidence justifies such action.

### PROCEDURE 3. MEASURING

*To apply for a measurement card download the Three Time Beagle Measurement Form found online at: <https://www.akc.org/sports/field-events-hounds/beagle-field-trials/>. Judges who fail to measure beagles in accordance with Procedure 3-D of this rulebook will jeopardize their judging privileges.*

3-A At all Beagle Field Trials hounds shall be measured in accordance with the following Procedures; except that measurement shall not be required for any hound with whose entry form the owner or agent has submitted an official American Kennel Club measurement card; and except further that such measurement will not be required at certain sanctioned trials, the announcements for which specify that all hounds shall be measured in advance or that a hound may be entered without measurement in the class into which it was measured on some specified earlier occasion.

*Large Pack Trials.* At a Large Pack trial all hounds entered in each class shall, before they are numbered, be measured by the Field Trial Committee or by one or more measuring committees, each consisting of at least three persons appointed by the Field Trial Committee. The measuring shall be done only during the hours specified in the premium list and in any advertising the club may decide to use, except that measuring immediately before the numbering may continue after the published time if it is impossible to measure all hounds within the time advertised.

The owner or handler of a hound that is measured out of the class in which it has been entered shall have the option of having his entry fee returned or, without further measurement, of transferring the entry to a class at that trial for which the hound is eligible as measured, if the entries for such other class have not

yet closed, and the hound shall not be counted as an entry in the class from which it was measured out.

**3-B AKC Official Measurement Cards.** The actual and recorded owner of a Beagle 18 months of age or older and registered with The American Kennel Club may apply to have the hound's eligibility for the 13-inch or 15-inch class officially determined through certifications by the Judges at field trials held under either Brace, Small Pack, Small Pack Option, Large Pack, or Two-Couple Pack Standard Procedures. When such application is received, The American Kennel Club will issue to the owner three forms for certification of measurement. These forms must be presented by the owner or his authorized agent to the Field Trial Secretaries of licensed or member trials or recognized Federation Winners Stakes at the time entries are being accepted for the trials or stakes, and the Field Trial Secretaries shall present the forms to the Judges before the hound is measured. *Note: A judge may only measure the same hound once.* While the hound need not be entered in a trial where it is measured, it shall be measured in public at the place where the drawing for a class is to be held during a half-hour period prior to the closing time for entries for that class.

After the hound has been measured and the form completed and signed by the Judges, the Field Trial Secretary will also sign it and shall forward it to The American Kennel Club. If two of the three forms are completed at separate trials within three years of the date of issuance by The American Kennel Club, and if the two forms agree as to whether the hound measures 13 inches or under, or over 13 inches but not over 15 inches, The American Kennel Club will issue an official card of eligibility to the owner.

The card shall be recognized at all field trials held under American Kennel Club Rules and Procedures as establishing a hound's height eligibility, in lieu of the requirements of Procedure 3-A above, and the hound shall be ineligible to compete in a class for hounds of any other height.

**3-C Official measurement cards issued by The American Kennel Club shall be subject to revocation at any time.** The measurer under Procedure 3-B and the Judges under Procedure 3-C shall refuse to make an official measurement, and shall notify The American Kennel Club of his refusal, if the hound at the time it is presented for the measurement is in such physical condition that in his opinion it might be measured into a different division or over 15 inches if presented in good physical condition. The owner or handler of a hound on which an official measurement card has been issued who has reason to doubt the accuracy of the official measurement, must report his opinion and the reasons for it to The American Kennel Club.

3-D A measuring stand made entirely of metal and meeting the requirements of The American Kennel Club must be used for all measuring at field trials including Official Measurement. The contact bar shall have a smooth edge, and there shall be no markings or calibrations on the measuring stand or stick. Any calibrations shall be on a separate part or sleeve, so that the stick is set and locked before the measurers know the hound's height in inches. The calibrations must be checked with a gauge or rule for each class. The contact bar shall be loosely placed across the shoulder blades at the highest point, the hound standing in a naturally alert position with the head up but not stretched upward and with its feet well under it and forelegs vertical on a flat, level board with a non-slip surface, placed at floor or ground level. The contact bar must never be set in advance at a specified height, but may only be set at the height of the particular hound being measured. The hound shall be posed for measurement by the measurers, and once the reading has been made, no additional measurements shall be taken.

#### PROCEDURE 4. JUDGING

4-A All Judges prior to assuming their duties shall familiarize themselves with these Rules and Procedures and make their findings in accordance therewith. If any Judge shall fail to judge in accordance with these Procedures, the Field Trial Committee shall report the irregularity in detail to The American Kennel Club.

4-B In all classes the Judges shall award places as follows: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, and after these places have been awarded the Judges shall designate the next best qualified hound as "N.B.Q.", except that at trials held in Large Packs on Hare, the Judges shall not place a hound or designate a hound as "N.B.Q." if the hound has been ordered out of the race as required under Procedure 7-R. N.B.Q. is not a place and in case of disqualification of a placed hound at a licensed or member trial, the N.B.Q. hound shall not be moved up.

4-C No person shall make any remarks nor give any information which might affect the actions of the persons handling the hounds or the running of the hounds. Any person so offending may be expelled from the running grounds on orders from the Judges, and points of merit shall not be allowed any hound whose handler acts upon such information. The Judges must be informed of any such misconduct before the close of the race in which it occurs, and their decision shall be final.

4-D **Collars.** If a hound under judgment wears a collar, it shall be a well-fitting collar with nothing hanging from it and with no attachments other than tags for

identification purposes. At a Large Pack trial the hounds may wear tracking devices at the option of the host club. The premium list and event advertising must state that tracking collars are not allowed, otherwise they will be allowed. The collar surface against the dog's neck shall be flat (no protrusions). While the hounds are under judgment, hand held devices must be turned off. Hand held devices may be turned on only after the hound has been eliminated from competition by the judges or judgment has ceased. *Special Training devices that are used to control and train dogs, including but not limited to, collars with prongs, electronic collars used with transmitters, muzzles and head collars may not be used on dogs at AKC events.*

4-E The Judges shall not permit any person who is handling a hound to make any unnecessary noise, or to conduct himself in a disorderly manner, or to interfere in any way with an opponent's hound. Judges shall report promptly to the Field Trial Committee for appropriate action, any person handling a hound who, during the running of a class, fails or refuses to comply with the Judges' orders, or who uses abusive language to a Judge or otherwise conducts himself in a manner prejudicial to the best interests of Beagle field trials.

## **PROCEDURE 5. STANDARD FOR JUDGING**

### **5-A FOREWORD**

(1) The Beagle is a trailing hound whose purpose is to find game, to pursue it in an energetic and decisive manner, and to show a determination to account for it.

(2) All phases of its work should be approached eagerly, with a display of determination that indicates willingness to stay with any problem encountered until successful. Actions should appear deliberate and efficient, rather than haphazard or impulsive.

(3) To perform as desired, the Beagle must be endowed with a keen nose, a sound body, and an intelligent mind, and must have an intense enthusiasm for hunting.

(4) Beagle Field Trials are designed and conducted for the purpose of selecting those hounds that display sound quality and ability to the best advantage.

(5) This Standard of Performance contains descriptions of both desirable and faulty actions. Judges will use it as a guide in evaluating performances, and will credit or demerit performance to whatever degree their actions indicate quality or fault, and to the extent that these actions contribute to accomplishment, fail to contribute to accomplishment, or interfere with accomplishment.

(6) Judges should approach their work with the attitude that the future welfare of the breed is in their hands, and should make their findings and selections on a basis calculated toward keeping the Beagle useful for both field trials and hunting purposes.

## 5-B Definitions—Desirable Qualities

**Searching ability** is evidenced by an aptitude to recognize promising cover and eagerness to explore it, regardless of hazards or discomfort. Hounds should search independently of each other, in an industrious manner, with sufficient range. In trials run under Brace or Small Pack Procedures, hounds should remain within control distance of the handler, and should be obedient to his commands.

**Pursuing ability** is shown by a proficiency for keeping control of the trail while making the best possible progress. Game should be pursued rather than merely followed, and actions should indicate a determined effort to make forward progress in the surest, most sensible manner by adjusting speed to correspond to conditions and circumstances. Actions should be positive and controlled, portraying sound judgment and skill. Progress should be proclaimed by tonguing. No hound can be too fast, provided the trail is clearly and accurately followed. At a check, hounds should work industriously, first close to where the loss occurred, then gradually and thoroughly extending the search further afield to regain the line.

**Accuracy in trailing** is the ability to keep consistent control of the trail while making the best possible progress. An accurate trailing hound will show a marked tendency to follow the trail with a minimum of weaving on and off, and will display an aptness to turn with the trail and to determine direction of game travel in a positive manner.

**Proper use of voice** is proclaiming all finds and denoting all forward progress by giving tongue, yet keeping silent when not in contact with scent that can be progressed. True tongue is honest claiming that running mates can depend on.

**Endurance** is the ability to compete throughout the duration of the hunt and to go on as long as may be necessary.

**Adaptability** means being able to adjust quickly to changes in scenting conditions and being able to work harmoniously with a variety of running mates. An adaptable hound will pursue its quarry as fast as conditions permit or as slowly as conditions demand. At a loss, it will first work close, and then, if necessary, move out gradually to recover the line.

**Patience** is a willingness to stay with any problem encountered as long as there is a possibility of achieving success in a workmanlike manner, rather than taking a chance of making the recovery more quickly through guesswork or gambling. Patience keeps a hound from bounding off and leaving work undone, and causes it to

apply itself to the surest and safest methods in difficult situations.

**Determination** is that quality which causes a hound to succeed against severe odds. A determined hound has a purpose in mind and will overcome, through sheer perseverance, many obstacles that often frustrate less determined running mates. Determination and patience are closely related qualities and are generally found in the same hound. Determination keeps a hound at its work as long as there is a possibility of achievement and quite often long after its body has passed the peak of its endurance. Determination is desire in its most intense form.

**Independence** is the ability to be self-reliant and to refrain from becoming upset or influenced by the actions of faulty hounds. The proper degree of independence is displayed by the hound that concentrates on running its game with no undue concern for its running mates except to hark to them when they proclaim a find or indicate progress by tonguing. Tailing, or watching other hounds, is indication of lack of sufficient independence. Ignoring other hounds completely and refusing to hark to or move up with running mates is indication of too much independence.

**Cooperation** is the ability to work harmoniously with other hounds by doing as much of the work as possible in an honest, efficient manner, yet being aware of and honoring the accomplishments of running mates without jealousy or disruption of the chase.

**Competitive spirit** is the desire to outdo running mates. It is a borderline quality that is an asset only to the hound that is able to keep it under control and to concentrate on running the game rather than on beating other hounds. The overly competitive hound lacks such qualities as adaptability, patience, independence and cooperation, and in its desire to excel is seldom accurate.

**Intelligence** is that quality which influences a hound to apply its talents efficiently, in the manner of a skilled craftsman. The intelligent hound learns from experience and seldom wastes time repeating mistakes. Intelligence is indicated by ability to adapt to changes in scenting conditions, to adapt and to control its work with various types of running mates, and to apply sound working principles toward accomplishing the most under a variety of circumstances.

The hound that displays the aforementioned qualities would be considered the Ideal Beagle for all purposes afield, capable of serving as a field trial hound, a gun dog or a member of a pack, on either rabbit or hare.

## 5-C Definitions—Faulty Actions

**Quitting** is a serious fault deserving severe penalty and, in its extreme form, elimination. Quitting indicates lack of desire to hunt and succeed. It ranges from refusing to run, to such lesser forms as lack of perseverance, occasional letup of eagerness, and loafing or watching other hounds in difficult situations. Quitting is sometimes due to fatigue. Judges may temper their distaste when a hound becomes fatigued and eases off, if such a hound has been required to perform substantially longer than those with which it is running. During the running of a class, a hound may have to face several fresh competitors in succession. In such instances, a short rest period would be in order. Otherwise, Judges should expect hounds to be in condition to compete as long as necessary to prove their worthiness, and no hound that becomes unable to go on should place over any immediate running mate that is still able and willing to run.

**Backtracking** is the fault of following the trail in the wrong direction. If persisted in for any substantial time or distance it deserves elimination. However, hounds in competition sometimes take a backline momentarily, or are led into it by faulty running mates. Under these circumstances, Judges should show leniency toward the hound that becomes aware of its mistakes and makes a creditable correction. Judges should be very certain before penalizing a hound for backtracking and, if there is any doubt, take sufficient time to prove it to be either right or wrong. Backtracking indicates lack of ability to determine direction of game travel.

**Ghost trailing** is pretending to have contact with a trail and making progress where no trail exists, by going through all the actions that indicate true trailing. Some hounds are able to do this in a very convincing manner and Judges, if suspicious, should make the hound prove its claim.

**Pottering** is lack of effort or desire to make forward progress on the trail. Hesitating, listlessness, dawdling or lack of intent to make progress are marks of the potterer.

**Babbling** is excessive or unnecessary tonguing. The babbler often tongues the same trail over and over, or tongues from excitement when casting in attempting to regain the trail at losses.

**Swinging** is casting out too far and too soon from the last point of contact, without first making an attempt to regain scent near the loss. It is a gambling action, quite often indicating over-competitiveness or an attempt to gain unearned advantage over running mates.

**Skirting** is purposely leaving the trail in an attempt to gain a lead or avoid hazardous cover or hard work. It is cutting out and around true trailing mates in an

attempt to intercept the trail ahead.

**Leaving checks** is failure to stay in the vicinity of a loss and attempt to work it out, bounding off in hopes of encountering the trail or new game. Leaving checks denotes lack of patience and perseverance.

**Running mute** is failure to give tongue when making progress on the line.

**Tightness of mouth** is a failure to give sufficient tongue when making progress. This will often be evidenced by the hound tightening up when pressed or when going away from a check.

**Racing** is attempting to outfoot running mates without regard for the trail. Racing hounds overshoot the turns and generally spend more time off the trail than on it.

**Running hit or miss** is attempting to make progress without maintaining continuous contact with the trail, or gambling to hit the trail ahead.

**Lack of independence** is a common fault that is shown by watching other hounds and allowing them to determine the course of action. Any action which indicates undue concern for other hounds, except when harking in, is cause for demerit.

**Bounding off** is rushing ahead when contact with scent is made, without properly determining direction of game travel.

### 5-D Credits

(1) Hounds shall be credited principally for their positive accomplishments. The extent of any credit should be governed by the magnitude of the accomplishment and the manner in which it is achieved. Credit is earned for searching ability, pursuing ability, accuracy in trailing, proper use of voice, endurance, adaptability, patience, determination, proper degree of independence, cooperation, controlled competitive spirit, intelligence displayed when searching or in solving problems encountered along the trail and success in accounting for game.

(2) When crediting hounds for working style or methods used to gain accomplishments, Judges should keep the purpose of the breed constantly in mind and be alert for hounds, deficient in ability, that make simple problems appear difficult. They also should guard against becoming impressed by fascinating actions that do not produce results. Credit for working style should be used chiefly to differentiate between successful performers, and should never be applied to a degree which might indicate that style or



method has been preferred to accomplishment, except in instances where excessive faultiness is involved. Credit for any accomplishment should be in proportion to its contribution to the performance. Mere lack of fault is not grounds for credit. While faultiness is not to be considered lightly, the slightly faulty hound that succeeds should be preferred to the stylist that fails.

### 5-E Demerits

(1) Faults, mistakes, lack of accomplishment and apparent lack of intelligence shall be considered demerits and shall be penalized to whatever extent they interfere with or fail to contribute to a performance.

(2) Faults are undesirable traits indicating lack of sound quality, and shall be penalized in proportion to the degree of commitment, the frequency of repetition, and the distractions they afford running mates, as well as for the interruptions or lack of progress they cause during the performance. Quitting, backtracking, ghost trailing and running mute are the more serious faults. Pottering, swinging, skirting, babbling, leaving checks, racing, running in hit-or-miss fashion, tightness of mouth and lack of desire or ability to find and move game shall be considered demerits.

(3) Mistakes are erratic judgments, sometimes committed under pressure of competition and prompted by a desire to excel and sometimes due to influence of faulty running mates. Where mistakes are not committed with a frequency that would indicate lack of sound quality, consideration should be shown according to the hound's aptitude for realizing its errors, and its efforts to overcome them.

(4) Lack of accomplishment is failure to get enough done to compare favorably with the competition, and is often due to lack of such qualities as determination, patience, intelligence or endurance. In instances where this is apparent, the penalty should be severe. Judgment on hounds that fail to accomplish as desired should be based on the circumstances under which the failure occurred and the determination and intelligence displayed in the effort to overcome it. Where failure is no fault of the hound, such as interference with the game or trail, or where a worthy hound encounters an especially hazardous or abnormal circumstance unlike anything the majority of contestants are expected to overcome, new game should be provided without penalty. Lack of intelligence is apparent in the hound that does not portray sound judgment and skill during its performance.

## ADDITIONAL STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR BEAGLE FIELD TRIALS RUN IN LARGE PACKS ON HARE

### PROCEDURE 6. MARKING AND DRAWING

6-A The hounds shall be numbered as entered and measured, starting with the number "1." Each hound shall have its number painted on both its sides with a durable paint, the figures to be at least 3½ inches high and clearly visible. The Field Trial Secretary and his assistant, if any, shall be the only persons to record each number against the name of the corresponding hound. These numbers shall be used in any drawing and in the running of the packs and the names of the hounds must not be used.

6-B All entries in a class shall run as a pack; except that when there are more than 25 starters the pack may, at the option of the Field Trial Committee, be split and the two Divisions run simultaneously or back-to-back (at club's option) for not less than two hours, with at least one advertised Judge with each pack if possible. If the Field Trial Committee decides to split the pack, the hounds shall be drawn so that their handlers will not have a choice of Judges or running grounds. The first half as drawn shall constitute Division A, and the remainder of the class, including any odd hounds, shall constitute Division B. An equal number of hounds from each pack will then run together for not less than one hour under all officiating Judges.

In case of an entry of over 25 hounds in a class, the Field Trial Committee shall also have the following option: if the entry in the class is over 25, the class may be split into two divisions; if the entry is over 50, the class may be split into 3 divisions; if the entry is over 75, the class may be split into 4 divisions. The divisions will be known as Qualifying Packs. The Qualifying Packs shall be drawn for, with an odd hound to go in the last pack, or, if there are two or three extra hounds, with an odd hound in each of the last two or three packs.

The Qualifying Packs will run in the order drawn, each subsequent pack to be cast as the previous Pack has been ordered up.

Judges will select from each Qualifying Pack only hounds that merit possible further consideration.

In Open Classes, Qualifying Packs shall run for not less than one (1) hour, and Derbies shall run for not less than ¾ of an hour.

Hounds selected for Winners Pack shall not be rated but shall enter Winners Pack equally rated.

Winners Pack shall run under Large Pack Procedures, but must run at least two (2) hours in Open Classes or one (1) hour for Derbies.

At trials run under this option, all packs shall be judged by the advertised Judges, if possible.

The Judges shall establish and announce a reasonable time before disqualifying a hound called for its pack.

A club is not required to advertise which option it will exercise if there are more than 25 starters.

## PROCEDURE 7. INSTRUCTIONS TO JUDGES

7-A In Open Classes the pack shall run for not less than three hours, and Derbies shall run for not less than one and one half hours, subject to the exceptions contained in Procedures 6-B, 7-O, 7-P and 7-Q.

7-B Before each class the Judges shall agree upon a uniform point system of crediting and demeriting hounds and shall inform the Chairman of the Field Trial Committee of the system they are going to use, and he in turn shall inform the handlers of this system.

*Suggested scoring systems:*

*The judges may use any uniform point system that they feel is satisfactory. However, the two following point systems that are recommended for large pack judges:*

*The 10-7 Scoring System*

*Hounds must be on the line to be given credit. The scoring credit of the hounds on a marked line for drive shall be in descending order from first hound on the line: 10 points - 7 - 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 ; and 1 point for each of the rest of the hounds that are on the line at the same time.*

*A maximum of 25 points is available for a check. The points may be divided up among any number of hounds that the judge feels deserve credit for working the check, however, no more than 25 points total may be credited for any one check.*

*The 5-4 Scoring System*

*Hounds must be on the line to be given credit. The scoring of the hounds on a marked line for drive shall be in descending order from first hound on the line: 5 points - 4 - 3 - 2 and 1 point for each of the remaining hounds that are on the line at the same time.*

*A maximum of 15 points is available for a check. The points may be divided up among any number of hounds that the judge feels deserve credit for working the check, however, no more than 15 points total may be credited for any one check.*

*Demerits*

*Demerits should be given in proportion to the degree of commitment and frequency of repetition.*

7-C All Judges must confer and agree on those hounds eligible for first place, and further must agree on all hounds to be picked up under Procedure 7-R.

7-D Should there arise at any time during the running of a class, questions bearing upon the actual running of the hounds and not provided for in these Procedures, the Judges are instructed to seek advice from the Field Trial Committee and so decide the matter as to give each hound an equal opportunity.

7-E Each class shall be conducted in the manner best calculated to give every competitor an opportunity to display the qualities under judgment. The Judges shall allow each owner or handler the right and privilege to see his entry has a fair start and is fairly started on the line of scent with the balance of the pack at the beginning of each race.

7-F Should the pack split, hounds going away on different hares, the Judges shall order the Marshals to order and assist the handlers to get their hounds into the largest running pack, or to pick up all hounds and get a new start on fresh game. If too many splits occur in one locality, all hounds shall be ordered up and moved to a different location for a new start.

*Judges may observe and record, for future reference, the merits and demerits of the hounds when the packs are split.*

7-G After a class has been ordered up, all handlers shall have thirty minutes in which to group their hounds. All hounds in the handlers' possession after this thirty minutes may then be cast. Handlers of missing hounds shall then be allowed thirty minutes after fresh game has been started to get their hounds back into the pack.

7-H Judges are to consider that the Beagle is primarily a hunting hound and that its object is first to find game and second to drive it in an energetic and decisive manner and show an animated desire to overtake it.

7-I Trailing game other than announced shall not be considered a demerit, nor shall any hound be demerited for failing to pack if the pack shall be proven to be on game other than announced. In the event such hound shall be ordered up under Procedure 7-R it shall be reinstated in the pack.

7-J The number of times a hound finds game shall not necessarily give it the preference, but the quality of the performance shall be given first consideration. Ability and desire to hunt are of first importance. These points are evidenced by intelligence, the method of working ground and the ambition and industry displayed whether game is found or not.

7-K When a hound gives signs of being on game, the Judges shall allow it opportunity to prove whether or not it is on true trail. Judges shall not penalize or fault a

hound without ample proof. If reasonable doubt exists, the hound shall be given the benefit of the doubt.

7-L The Judges shall give credit to the hound that is a better searcher and sticks to its work. A hound will be expected to maintain an efficient range throughout a race and to show hunting sense in its work. Hunting sense is shown by the desire to hunt for game, the selection of likely places to hunt in, the method of hunting the places, the industry in staying out at work, and the skill in handling and trailing the game after it is found.

7-M At a check all hounds should work industriously, close to where the loss occurred, before going further afield to look for the line.

7-N Undue credit shall not be given a hound with an outstanding voice, when not seen by the Judges, nor for speed nor flashy drive if the trail is not clearly followed. Accuracy in trailing, proper use of mouth, endurance, good pack qualities, should be the principal points of merit.

7-O When a hare pursued by the pack runs into the gallery, cars or trains, or any such unforeseen obstacle, and the hounds come to a complete loss, the Judges shall then have all hounds picked up and get a new start. The time the pack was down in the first race prior to the move, shall be added to the time after the second start is made, to determine when the scheduled time has elapsed. If it is necessary to order up the hounds on the first day due to unavoidable circumstances such as darkness, a severe storm, or lack of game, when the pack has run less than two and a half hours in an Open class or less than one hour in a Derby, the same hounds must be put down again to run the balance of the required time under the same Judges, either on the same day or on the following day; otherwise, there shall be no championship points awarded.

7-P If no scoring is obtained on the first day, or if different Judges shall be used on the second day, then the class shall be considered as a continuation and shall be run for the full time, but the points shall be awarded on the basis of the number of starters the first day. Any hound being withdrawn from the second day run must be reported to the Judges by the handler of the hound, but in no case shall an entry fee be refunded, as the opportunity to compete is still present. In the event that less than five hounds are on hand for the second day's class, the class shall be declared no contest.

7-Q If the Judges require more time in order to make a satisfactory decision in the class, the hounds must remain down until the Judges order them up, but in no case, unless all the hounds "quit cold," can the

scheduled time be curtailed. Time not to count if pack gets on game other than hare.

7-R The Judges must order out of the race any hound which in their opinion is found to disorganize the smooth running of the pack, such as cutting in front of a pack, backtracking, overrunning and giving tongue, stealing a line, ghost trailing, running mute, rioting, failing to pack, pulling out of the race and failing to get back in while the pack is in hearing. This Procedure must be strictly adhered to. Pottering, swinging wide, skirting, babbling, leaving checks, racing and running in hit-or-miss style shall be considered faults and demerited, or, if sufficiently serious, the hound may be ordered up.

7-S The Judges, at the conclusion of approximately two hours of running time, may, at their discretion, order up any or all hounds on which they have little or no score and continue for the final period of time judging only those hounds on which they have scored, and in no case shall a running pack be broken up to eliminate these hounds.

7-T The placings of the hounds shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the Field Trial Headquarters within one hour after the close of the race.

7-U Owners and handlers shall not talk to the Judges from the time the pack is started until the judging of the pack is completed.

7-V When hounds have been laid on a line, or have harked in to one another, the duties of the handlers shall cease until further instructions are received from the Judges or the Marshals.

7-W Immediately after the Judges have ordered the hounds up they shall consult with the Marshals, after which they shall meet and decide among themselves which hounds are the winners. The results are to be given to the Field Marshal in writing, who in turn will hand them over to the Field Trial Secretary, who will check the numbers against the names and announce the winners.

7-X The Judges shall appoint a spokesman from their number and all orders or information concerning the running of the class shall be given by him in a clear and impartial manner, so that each person handling a hound may be fully informed.

## **Sanctioned Beagle Field Trials**

Sanctioned Beagle Field Trials are trials sanctioned by and run under the Rules and Procedures of The American Kennel Club at which NO CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS ARE AWARDED (see Chapter 3, Section 5).

A PLAN B SANCTIONED BEAGLE FIELD TRIAL is any other type of sanctioned field trial held by a club or Beagle association. It may be a one-day event or may continue for two or more days. No premium list is required and the club does not have to submit records of the trial to The American Kennel Club.

Applications for sanctioned Beagle field trials should be filed with The American Kennel Club at least FOUR WEEKS before the first day of the event applied for.

### **Definition of a Beagle Derby**

A Beagle is a Derby throughout the calendar year, January 1 through December 31, if it was whelped not later than June 30 of the previous year and not earlier than July 1 of the year before that, except that at trials held in Large Packs on hare a Beagle shall be a Derby if it has not reached its second birthday on the first day of the trial.

### **Information for New Beagle Clubs**

The following information is given to assist and guide new clubs, or persons who are considering forming new clubs, with the ultimate purpose of holding Beagle Field Trials under The American Kennel Club Rules and Procedures.

The first step for any such new club to take is to contact the AKC Club Relations Department at: [ClubRelations@akc.org](mailto:ClubRelations@akc.org) for assistance. Clubs will need to provide information about the club, such as its history, plans for the future, and description of tentative or definite arrangements for grounds and facilities. The club will need to submit a copy of its constitution and bylaws (a sample one can be provided for a local specialty club upon request) and an alphabetical list of names and addresses of its members, with a brief account of each member's activity and interest in Beagles.

The American Kennel Club does not expect that a new club will come into being fully equipped with the finest running grounds and clubhouse. The American Kennel Club is willing to work along with a club starting in the simplest fashion, if it has sound and adequate plans for steady improvements that show promise of a well-equipped club within a few years, with year-round facilities for its members to meet and to train their

hounds.

Such a club is expected to have a good number of members who reside within a reasonable distance of its grounds, and a democratic set of bylaws that place control of the club in the hands of a majority of its members. Membership should be open to any person of good character residing in the area who is really interested in the sport, and the location of the club's grounds and the area in which its members reside should not conflict with those of another Beagle Field Trial Club.

Before any new club can be approved for a licensed field trial at which championship points are awarded, the club may be asked to hold a successful mentored trial.

The American Kennel Club will not grant a license unless the club is fully equipped and ready to hold a first-class trial which will be a credit to the club and to the sport.

### **Change of Running Grounds**

Any club holding Beagle field trials under the rules and procedures of The American Kennel Club, that is contemplating arrangements for new running grounds, whether for the regular activities of the club or for its licensed field trial, should consult The American Kennel Club before making any commitment on such new grounds. The American Kennel Club's approval is based in part on the location of the grounds, and it should not be assumed that The American Kennel Club will continue to grant approvals to the club at the new location. In notifying The American Kennel Club of a contemplated change, the club should give a detailed report of the old and new grounds and their locations, and of the reasons for the proposed change.



# NOTES

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## 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.

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

To order booklet(s), contact AKC at:  
The American Kennel Club Order Desk  
8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100  
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