

Beagle Advisory Committee Recommendations

The Beagle Advisory Committee (BAC) met on August 29, 2007 in Raleigh, NC. The BAC has a long history as it was the first Advisory Committee created by AKC. Today almost all Performance Events have an Advisory Committee comprised of long term participants selected by their peers. This was the 70th annual meeting for the BAC. There are 13 members – one from the National Beagle Club and 12 members selected from regional Beagle Federations representing over 500 local Beagle Clubs. Beagle Field Trials are the largest AKC Performance Event with approximately 60,000 entries annually. About 40% of this total is run in the Brace / Small Pack format.

Recommendations Regarding Future Brace / Small Pack Field Trials

The BAC feels the Field Trial Rules are sound. Problems occur when judges over emphasize specific aspects of a performance. There was agreement that most Brace and Small Pack judges over emphasize tracking accuracy. The BAC felt there are many brace Beaglers that, while agreeing that accuracy is important, would like to balance accuracy with the ability to purse and account for game. Other formats in specific regions have also over emphasized specific performance characteristics. Proper judging requires a comprehensive and balanced application of the Rules. “Accomplishment” is the bottom line and all actions should be evaluated toward that end. The BAC felt that quality judging was the key to correcting current shortcomings and minimizing the chances of this occurring in the future. Training and breeding programs would follow the direction set by judging.

By a vote of 12 to 1 the Committee voted to adopt the following Recommendations. These Recommendations would apply to all Beagle Field Trial formats.

1. **Judges Education** – All prospective Beagle Field Trial judges must currently attend a seminar prior to judging. After the first seminar, judges must attend additional seminars once every six years.
 - A. The first seminar would review the Rules and standard procedures that govern Field Trials.
 - B. Subsequent seminars would be considered “advanced” seminars where greater emphasis would be given to judging specific aspects of performance in light of the desirable qualities and faulty actions explained in the Rules. Group discussions would be encouraged.
 - C. Three seminar limit – After attending 3 seminars, no further seminars would be required.
2. **Differentiate the FC title by type of Beagle event** - The Beagle FC title would be followed by a designation that specified the event type: Brace (B); Small Pack (SP); Small Pack Option (SPO); Gun Dog Brace (GDB); Large Pack (LP).
3. **Two Strikes and You’re Out** - The AKC field staff should become slightly more active in observing the performance of judges. If the Field Staff notes significant deviation from the Field Trial Rules, they should discreetly discuss their concerns with the judge. The judge’s record will be marked for future observation. If issues continue, a second judge / field staff discussion will occur and judging privileges will be suspended pending remedial action.

