



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™

## Performance Events Department

November 2018

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Hold Pointing Breed Field Trials**

Subject: **Changes Regarding Walking Handlers – Effective December 1, 2018**

This is to inform your club of two recent changes to the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*. These changes are a result of feedback received from a survey conducted in June. There was strong support for both these changes.

The first change pertains to All-Age stakes which must allow both horseback and walking handlers. All-Age stakes will no longer be allowed for walking handlers only. Most clubs will not be affected by this change as few clubs restrict their All-Age stakes to walking handlers only.

The exact wording of this change will appear in the next printing of the rules as shown:

### **Procedure 1. Standards of Performance**

#### **1-D. All-Age —Limited All-Age Stakes – Grand Limited All-Age. (last 2 sentences of section)**

At least 30 minutes shall be allowed for each brace of an All-Age or Limited All-Age stake. At least 60 minutes shall be allowed for each brace of a Grand Limited All-Age stake.

Championship points will be withheld if a dog has not run for the required time.

**An All-Age stake of any type must allow both horseback and walking handlers. An All-Age stake cannot be designated for walking handlers only.**

The second change requires walking handlers to be braced together with other walking handlers during a horseback stake whenever possible, provided the event secretary is aware of the walking handler prior to the drawing. This will allow handlers to move more comfortably and at a more uniform pace during a brace. Walking handlers must indicate on their entry form that they will be walking. If during the random draw, the last walking handler drawn has no other walking handler to be braced with, they will be braced with a horseback handler.

The exact wording of this change will appear in the next printing of the rules as shown:

### **Procedure 4. Drawing and Bracing**

#### **4-G. Bracing Walking Handlers Together. (new section)**

**In horseback handling stakes, walking handlers shall be braced together if possible provided the event secretary is aware of the walking handler prior to the draw. Walking handlers must indicate on their entry form that they will be walking. When the first walking handler is selected during the random draw, another walking handler shall be selected randomly as the brace mate. This process shall continue until all walking handlers have been braced.**

This rule update is available online and being sent to the email addresses on file for all Presidents and Secretaries of clubs licensed to hold Pointing Breed Field Trials and all Pointing Breed Field Trial Judges. Please be sure your email address is current in our records. Comments can be e-mailed to the AKC at [Fieldtrials@akc.org](mailto:Fieldtrials@akc.org).