



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

August 29, 2017

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Hold Retriever Hunting Tests**

Subject: **PROVIDING CLUBS FLEXIBILITY IN STRUCTURING THEIR EVENTS**

This communication is to inform your club of three recent changes to the *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests* for Retrievers.

1. Starting in 2018, clubs may hold up to six of each testing level per calendar year. Clubs may offer Master only tests provided the Junior and Senior tests are each offered at least two times during the year. Testing levels may be offered in any order during the year or any combination at an event provided the club fulfills the testing level requirements sometime during the calendar year. Please read the detailed Regulation below. This change is meant to provide clubs flexibility in structuring their events to best fit the demand in their area and remain within the resource limitations of the club. Clubs may start applying for events under this new structure on November 1, 2017 for events held after January 1, 2018.
2. When a series is discontinued after one or more dogs have run, Judges shall locate the new series in an area different than the original series. This will create a fairer testing situation for the dogs. This change is effective September 1, 2017.
3. During walk ups in the Senior and Master level tests, birds shall be presented at a maximum distance of 45 yards. Currently the Regulations specify 35 to 45 yards. This change is meant to provide clubs the flexibility to better utilize the terrain and cover available. This change is effective September 1, 2017.

The specific changes are underlined:

1. **Chapter 1. Section 3. Making Application.** (Starting with the 5th paragraph)

A local club is permitted to hold as many events per calendar year as it desires – but no more than six Master, six Senior, and six Junior tests – provided the following requirements for testing levels offered are met. (Note: An event is defined as an event number.)

- (a) A club holding two or less events per calendar year may offer Junior only or Junior/Senior level tests. A club holding two or less events per calendar year may not offer Master only tests.
- (b) A club holding more than two events per calendar year may offer Master only tests provided the Junior and Senior test are each offered at least two times during the year. A club holding

more than two Junior and/or Senior level tests per calendar year must offer at least one Master test during the year. No testing level may be offered more than six times per calendar year.

- (c) Testing levels may be offered in any order during the year or in any combination at an event provided the club fulfills the requirements sometime during the calendar year. Clubs that do not meet the requirements will be restricted in their flexibility to hold events and will be subject to a fine.
- (d) A club holding its first licensed Retriever Hunting Test may offer a junior only or a Junior/Senior level test if it desires.

2. Guidelines. PART I. Hunting Test Planning, Mechanics and Setup.

Test Dogs. (Starting with the 3rd paragraph, page 37)

When a series is discontinued after one or more dogs have run, the Judges shall exercise care to locate the new series in an area different from that which the original series was held. By doing so, they can fairly re-evaluate the abilities of the dog or dogs that have already run in the area used for the discontinued hunting situation. This same requirement applies to running separate series in a test.

3. Chapter 3, Section 18. Walk Ups. (page 26)

In Senior and Master hunting tests, a walk up is used to test a dog's steadiness. The birds represent a surprise situation therefore gunning stations must be well concealed, utilizing natural cover when possible so that only the bird may be seen when launched. Birds shall be presented at a ~~distance ranging from 35 to~~ maximum distance of 45 yards of the dog with no attention getting devices utilized.

The remaining paragraphs in this section are unchanged.

These changes will be reflected in the next reprinting of the Hunting Test Regulations.

This e-mail is being sent to the President and Secretary of all clubs licensed to hold Retriever Hunting Tests and will be posted on the AKC Retriever Hunting Test website. Comments can be e-mailed to the AKC at huntingtest@akc.org