



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

July 25, 2017

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Hold Spaniel Field Trials**

Subject: **TWO CHANGES TO THE RULES – (1) DISTANCE BETWEEN JUDGING ASSIGNMENTS and (2) DEFINITION OF A PROFESSIONAL**

This communication is to inform your club of two recent changes to the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Spaniels*. These changes originated from the Parent Clubs and were approved by the Performance Events Department and the AKC Board of Directors. These changes become effective August 1, 2017.

The specific changes are:

Chapter 5. Judges. Section 1. English Springer Spaniel Field Trials. (page 4)

Restrictions on Frequency of Judging:

Since it is a sport of judgement, it is desirable to have dogs evaluated by a variety of judges. Hence, no individual shall judge more than three trials within a 12-month period ~~and assignments must not be accepted unless they are greater than 400 miles from other accepted assignments.~~ Field trial committees, when asking a person to judge, and prospective judges, when deciding if they should accept an invitation to judge, shall base their decision on ~~this restriction and~~ previously accepted assignments within such period. Emergency judging replacements due to travel issues, personal issues or illness will be managed as needed. Previous or future judging assignments will be a consideration, but not the sole consideration, when trying to fill an emergency vacancy on very short notice.

Chapter 15. Rules for Spaniel Trials. Section 21. (page 19)

Definition of A Professional

A professional shall be defined as any person who accepts, or has accepted, money or other compensation (defined as anything that has a monetary value), for the field training or field trial handling of any breed of hunting dog.

~~Once a person performs as a professional for a one year period, they cannot run in Amateur stakes thereafter. If they have not run as a professional for a full year, and they want to reclaim their amateur status, they can do so after a one year waiting period.~~

Any professional desiring to return to amateur status shall file a notarized notice with the ESSFTA Field VP or the ECSCA Field Trial Chairperson (for Cocker) stating their intention to do so, complete with date of their last professional action. The Field VP or the ECSCA Field

Trial Chairperson (for Cockers) will notify the ESSFTA interclub chairmen or the ECSCA Field Trial Committee (for Cockers) of that person's intentions and keep a record of the notice.

Return to amateur status will be allowed one time only per individual.

A professional returning to amateur status will only be allowed to run dogs in field trials if those dogs are owned by themselves or a member of their immediate family.

This change will be reflected in the next reprinting of the Spaniel Field Trial Rule Book.

This e-mail is being sent to the President and Secretary of all clubs licensed to hold Spaniel field trials and will be posted on the AKC Spaniel Field Trial website. Comments can be e-mailed to the AKC at Fieldtrials@akc.org.