



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™

## Performance Events Department

Date: May 17, 2012

To: **All Pointing Field Trial Clubs**

The Performance Events Department would like to make Pointing Breed Field Trial Clubs aware to two recent changes to the Standard Procedures.

(1) The Standard Procedure pertaining to blank guns (Procedure 1-G) has been updated to address new types of blank ammunition that are available and to establish a maximum caliber blank gun or shotgun that may be used to fire blank shells. These changes have been made in order to reduce the potentially harmful effects an excessively loud gun can have on hearing. Effective June 1, 2012, .32 caliber blank guns are the largest allowed at AKC field trials. .410 gauge shotguns firing blank shells are the largest shotgun that may be used. The old and new language for Standard Procedure 1-G is as follows:

<p><b>1 – G Firing Blank.</b> In any stake, except in puppy or derby stakes a blank cartridge must be fired by the handler over any dog on point after the game has been flushed. .22 caliber crimps shall not be used <del>and if shotguns with blank shells are to be permitted, the premium list must so specify. (Note: Shotguns with blank shells may be used in any retrieving stakes but only if the premium list specifies that blank shotguns may be used.)</del> The handler must shoot within the time that would be required to kill a bird at natural shotgun range. Any deliberate delay in shooting must be severely penalized.</p>	<p><b>1 – G Blank Guns.</b> In any stake, except in puppy or derby stakes, a blank cartridge must be fired by the handler over any dog on point after the game has been flushed. <u>Handlers should be aware of the potentially harmful impact the repeated discharge of a blank gun can have on the hearing of people, dogs and horses. The following Regulations apply to the use of blank guns/ammunition.</u></p> <p><u>Blank pistols used to fire a blank cartridge must have a solid barrel incapable of discharging live ammunition. All calibers up to .32 are acceptable. Blank pistols that fire shotgun 209 primers are also acceptable. .22 caliber “acorn” crimps shall not be used. For .22 caliber blanks produced for other purposes (not specifically for blank pistols), handlers should be guided by the recommendation of the manufacturer with regard to the safety of their use in blank pistols.</u></p> <p><u>.410 gauge shotguns with blank shells may be permitted if specified in the premium list. No shotgun larger than .410 gauge is allowed. Shotguns must be fired skyward and away from the direction of the gallery and judges.</u></p> <p>The handler must shoot within the time that would be required to kill a bird at natural shotgun range. Any deliberate delay in shooting must be severely penalized.</p>
--	---

(2) Rooding behind the gallery. As events have grown longer due to clustering, the need to exercise dogs has increased. Performance Events has received an increasing number of requests to allow rooding behind the gallery. It is preferred that rooding occur at an area away from the trial site if available. Effective June 1, 2012, rooding behind the gallery will be allowed, at the discretion of the host club, for a trial or a series of back-to-back trials with no break, lasting more than three calendar days. A number of conditions apply. Most importantly, if a host club does not want to allow rooding at a trial that meets the length requirement, it shall

state this in the premium. Additionally, roading will not be allowed where gunning occurs on course or in a bird field. Please see the wording below for Standard Procedure 6-P and 6-Q.

**6-P** There shall be no training of dogs anywhere on the course until the trial has been concluded.

~~For the purposes of this Procedure, roading a dog behind the gallery is considered to be training.~~

*This Procedure also intends that a check cord cannot be used while a dog is under judgment in any stake at an AKC-licensed or member club trial.*

**6-P** There shall be no training of dogs anywhere on the course until the trial has been concluded.

*This Procedure also intends that a check cord cannot be used while a dog is under judgment in any stake at an AKC-licensed or member club trial.*

**6-Q Rooding Behind the Gallery.** Rooding behind the gallery is intended solely for the purpose of exercising a dog. Safety and not interfering with the event are of primary importance. At a trial, or a series of back-to-back trials with no break, lasting more than three days, rooding a dog behind the gallery will be allowed at the host club's discretion under the following conditions:

- If the host club does not want to allow rooding at a trial that meets the length requirements given above, it shall state this in the premium.
- Dogs being rooded must follow the course, remaining a safe distance behind the gallery so as to not interfere with dogs under judgment.
- A person rooding a dog may not intentionally position themselves in order for the dog to observe birdwork or practice honoring.
- No rooding is allowed in stakes where gunning occurs on course or in a bird field.
- Rooding is only allowed off horseback or on foot.
- No more than two dogs at a time may be rooded by a person.
- A club that allows rooding can specify the total number of dogs that may be rooded at the same time if they feel this is a potential issue.
- Either the judges or the event committee may decide that an individual is not rooding safely or is abusing this privilege and not allow the individual to continue this activity.

Should you have any questions or comments, please e-mail [fieldtrials@akc.org](mailto:fieldtrials@akc.org).