

# Regulations for Lure Coursing Tests and Trials

## Regulations for Coursing Ability Tests (CAT) (Chapter XV)

## Regulations for FAST CAT® (Chapter XVI)

**Amended to July 10, 2018**

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**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®**

## AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB'S MISSION STATEMENT

The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

### **American Kennel Club®:**

- Records the parentage of dogs, but is not itself involved in the sale of dogs and cannot therefore guarantee the health and quality of dogs in its registry.
- Sponsors over 15,000 dog competitions each year held by licensed and member clubs. Only dog clubs may be AKC® members.
- Supports and promotes the sport of purebred dogs.

**Information regarding AKC Lure Coursing Tests and Trials is also available on our website located at [www.akc.org/events/lure-coursing](http://www.akc.org/events/lure-coursing).**

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# CHAPTER I

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE OF THE AKC LURE COURSING PROGRAM.** The American Kennel Club offers Lure Coursing Tests and Lure Coursing Trials in order for sighthound breed owners to evaluate the working abilities of their hounds. These events are artificial simulations of live game or open field coursing. The purpose of the Lure Coursing program is to preserve and develop the coursing skills inherent in sighthounds and to demonstrate their ability to perform the function for which they were originally bred.

*LURE COURSING TESTS AND TRIALS ARE SPORTS, AND ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP BOTH ON AND OFF THE TEST AND TRIAL FIELDS.*

**SECTION 2. LURE COURSING TESTS AND TRIALS DEFINED.**

A **LURE COURSING TEST** is a non-competitive event at which instinct tests and qualifying tests are run for eligible sighthound breeds. Tests are pass/fail events. They may be conducted by a club which is a member of The American Kennel Club or a club which is licensed by the American Kennel Club.

A **LURE COURSING TRIAL** is a competitive event at which Open, Special and Veteran stakes are offered for eligible sighthound breeds. Championship points toward titles are earned by dogs competing in trials. They may be conducted by a club which is a member of The American Kennel Club or a club which is licensed by the American Kennel Club.

**SANCTIONED LURE COURSING TESTS AND TRIALS** are informal events, held by a club after obtaining the sanction of The American Kennel Club, at which hounds may participate, but not for titles. Sanctioned events are events that qualify new clubs to hold AKC events.

**SECTION 3. ELIGIBILITY OF SIGHTHOUNDS.** Lure Coursing tests and trials shall be open to eligible breeds one year of age or older. For a complete listing of the breeds eligible to participate in the AKC Lure Coursing program, please visit the AKC website at: [http://www.akc.org/events/lure\\_coursing/eligible\\_breeds.cfm](http://www.akc.org/events/lure_coursing/eligible_breeds.cfm). *Note: Portuguese Podengo Pequenos are not eligible to compete for Best In Field.*

Eligible dogs must be either individually registered with AKC, recorded with the Foundation Stock Service (FSS), individually registered with a foreign or domestic registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration, or that have been granted a Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL/ILP). Hounds may not be entered as "registration pending" or "PAL/ILP pending"

whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration. A dog with an AKC Limited Registration or Conditional Registration shall be eligible to be entered in Lure Coursing tests and trials, as are spayed and neutered hounds. Monorchid and cryptorchid hounds are ineligible to participate. FSS breeds may earn suffix titles only.

A dog that is individually registered with a foreign or domestic registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration may be entered in licensed or member field trials that are held no later than 30 days after the date of the first licensed or member field trial in which the dog was entered, but only provided that the individual foreign registration number and the name of the country of birth are shown on the entry form, and provided further that the same name, which in the case of an imported dog must be the name on the foreign registration, is used for the dog each time.

An individually registered dog with a foreign or domestic registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration may be entered in licensed or member trials that are held not later than 30 days after the date of the first licensed or member trial in which the dog was entered, unless the owner has received from the AKC an extension notice authorizing further entries of the hound with its foreign registration number. No such extension will be granted unless the owner can clearly demonstrate, in a letter addressed to the Performance Events Department of The AKC, that the delay in registration is due to circumstances for which he is not responsible. Such extension notice will be void upon registration of the dog or upon expiration of the period for which the extension has been granted if that occurs earlier, but upon application further extensions may be granted.

Spayed and neutered hounds are eligible to participate in AKC Lure Coursing Test and Trial Events; monorchid and cryptorchid hounds are ineligible. Conditionally Registered dogs are eligible to participate.

Those sighthound breeds enrolled in AKC's FSS program which have been approved by the AKC Board to participate in Lure Coursing events are eligible to compete in Lure Coursing Tests and Trials. FSS breeds may earn the titles of Junior Courser, Senior Courser and Master Courser and may be certified as a Qualified Courser.

**SECTION 4. BREED DISQUALIFICATIONS.** Hounds with breed disqualifications, as listed in the AKC Breed Standards, are ineligible to enter lure coursing trials and tests.

**CIRNECO DELLE'ETNA**—Wall eye, an eye with a whitish iris or a blue eye(s); overshot mouth or undershot mouth. Totally hanging ears or bat ears. Total depigmentation; self-colored brown or liver; brown patches or hairs; brindle coat; any presence of

black – patches, hairs, pigmentation, nails, or mucous membranes. Height not within the tolerance, dogs under 17½ inches or over 20½ inches; bitches under 16 inches or over 19½ inches.

**IBIZAN HOUNDS**—Any color other than white or red.

**ITALIAN GREYHOUNDS**—A dog with brindle markings. A dog with tan markings normally found on black and tan dogs of other breeds.

**NORRBOTTENSPETS (FSS)**—A stumpy or docked tail.

**PHARAOH HOUNDS**—Any solid white spot on the back of the neck, shoulder or any part of the back or sides of the dog.

**PORTUGUESE PODENGOS (FSS)**—Over 28 inches. Under 16 inches. Hanging ears. Tail – Curled in a circle.

**PORTUGUESE PODENGO PEQUENOS**—Behavior – Aggressive or overly shy. Eyes – Of different color. Jaws – Undershot or overshot. Ears – Folded or hanging. Color - Brindle, Black and Tan, Tricolor, Solid White.

**RHODESIAN RIDGEBACKS**—Ridgelessness.

**SCOTTISH DEERHOUNDS**—White blaze on head or a white collar.

**SLOUGHIS**—Ears erect, or small and folding backwards in a “rose ear.” An overshot or undershot jaw. Coat too long and/or feathering on the ears, tail, and/or legs. Color not in accordance with the standard and/or solid white extending above the toes or white anywhere else on the dog except the forechest.

**THAI RIDGEBACKS (FSS)**—Aggressive or overly shy dogs. Any dog clearly showing physical or behavior abnormalities, dogs without ridge, long hair.

**WHIPPETS**—Blue or wall eyes; eyes must be of same color.

Undershot; overshot one-quarter inch or more.

Size: dogs 19 to 22 inches; bitches 18 to 21 inches; both to be measured across the shoulders at the highest point; more than one-half inch above or below the stated height limits.

Any coat other than short, close, smooth and firm in texture.

**SECTION 5. RULES APPLYING TO REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINE.** All of the American Kennel Club’s Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline shall apply to all AKC Lure Coursing tests and trials held under these Regulations. The power conferred by Chapter 5, Section 2, of the aforesaid Rules to suspend a person from all privileges of The American Kennel Club applies only to committees at licensed or member events. At a sanctioned event, the committee collects evidence, holds a hearing, if warranted, and reports its findings and conclusions to The American Kennel Club.



**SECTION 6. RISK.** The owner or handler entering a hound in a test or trial does so at his or her own risk and agrees to assume responsibility for any damage to facilities or persons, caused by him or her or by his or her hound(s).

## CHAPTER II

**SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY TO HOLD LURE COURSING TESTS AND TRIALS.** The Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club, at its discretion, may grant permission to a club to hold twelve (12) lure coursing tests and/or eight (8) trials per year which shall be governed by such Regulations as approved by The AKC Board of Directors.

**SECTION 2. MAKING APPLICATION.** A club that meets the requirements of The American Kennel Club and wishes to hold a lure coursing test and/or trial at which qualifying scores or championship points toward titles may be earned must make application to The American Kennel Club on the AKC form designated and provided for permission to hold each event. An application fee of \$35.00 per event must accompany each application.

*An event may include one test and one trial per day. A second test ran on the same day must be applied for as a separate event.*

If circumstances prior to the first day of an event require a club to cancel the event, or to change the approved location, the event-giving club must notify The AKC, in advance, if possible.

Applications for licensed and member club lure coursing tests and/or trials must be submitted to The AKC at least ninety (90) days prior to the date(s) of the event. A club may be approved to hold a lure coursing test and trial on the same day(s). Events may be requested and approved for publication prior to the 90 day requirement without listing judge and assignments; however, final approval will be withheld until the Judges Panel is received.

*Note: The Judges Panel must be received no later than 90 days prior to the event date.*

A club that meets all of the requirements of The American Kennel Club may be approved to hold a sanctioned test or trial by applying on a form designated and provided by The American Kennel Club. Sanctioned test and/or trial applications must be received by The AKC at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the date(s) of the event(s).

A club that has held a trial or trials in any one year shall have first right to host a trial or trials on the corresponding date(s) in the succeeding year.

All-breed lure coursing tests/trials to be held on the same date must be no less than 100 miles apart.

A club must hold a minimum of one trial (not a test) every other calendar year to remain active with the AKC.

All sanctioned events shall be governed under the same rules and regulations as member licensed events unless otherwise indicated.

**SECTION 3. ENTRY FEES, REFUNDS.** Entry fees shall be fixed by the host club and shall be forfeited by the owner or agent in such cases where hounds are scratched from the field for causes, except as follows:

1. Hounds determined to be lame, unfit to compete, or to have breed disqualifications by the Inspection Committee, owner or agent at the time of roll call or upon previous notification by the owner or agent. These hounds shall be barred from competition and their entry fees shall be refunded.

2. Bitches in season, or bitches which come in season after the close of entries, shall be barred from participating in the test or trial and their entry fees shall be refunded. Notification to the Field Secretary of bitches in season must be made before or during the roll call. Bitches known to be in season shall not be brought onto the trial grounds.

3. A club must treat all entrants in a similar manner. No club or member of a club shall offer special consideration to an entrant. This includes but is not limited to special treatment regarding entering an event, special treatment during the draw or any financial or in-kind incentive. *Exception – with regard to entering an event, specialty clubs may give preference to their breed provided it is a limited entry event.*

Except a club, at its discretion, may allow for a reduced entry fee for dogs handled by juniors. The reduced entry fee may only apply to specific classes or may apply to all classes in the trial. The reduced entry fee shall be published in the premium list. A junior is defined as someone less than 18 years of age on the first day of the event. The junior must handle the dog in the class to qualify for the reduced entry fee. If the dog is entered under this provision but the junior does not handle the dog, the owner must pay the regular entry fee as published.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **SECTION 1. APPOINTMENT OF LURE COURSING TEST AND TRIAL COMMITTEE.**

A club that has been granted permission by The American Kennel Club to hold a test or trial must appoint a lure coursing test or trial committee (Field Committee) which will have complete responsibility for the planning and the orderly conduct of the event.

The names of all test or trial officials and the addresses and phone numbers of the Chairman and Secretary shall

be included in the premium list. The Field Committee shall include no less than five club members (including the Field Chairman). At least three club members must be present on the event grounds at all times during the running of the test and/or trial. The Field Committee is responsible for compliance with all regulations and has the authority to decide upon all matters arising during the running of the event, except for those matters coming under the sole jurisdiction of the judge(s).

The Committee shall be responsible for the duties enumerated in the following sections which may be delegated.

*Note: All members of the Field Trial Committee involved in the preliminary investigation, and/or official misconduct hearing must be members of the event-giving club.*

When a dog is seriously injured or dies in connection with an event, the Event Committee must conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if negligence or the willful conduct of an individual caused the injury or death. If the preliminary investigation determines that there was no negligence or willful conduct causing the injury or death, then a written report of the findings of the preliminary investigation must be submitted to the AKC (Attn: Executive Secretary), 260 Madison Avenue, Fourth Floor, New York, NY 10016 within five (5) days. If the Event Committee determines that negligence or willful conduct may have caused the death or serious injury, the Event Committee must hold an Event Hearing.

**SECTION 2. FIELD CHAIRMAN.** (Must be a member of the host club.)

1. Is Chairman of the Field Committee.
2. Is responsible for having the grounds for the test and/or trial provided or secured.
3. Shall appoint an inspection and measuring committee which shall have the responsibility of inspecting all hounds entered (See Section 7, this chapter).
4. Shall be responsible for ensuring the course has been laid out according to the approved course plan.
5. Is responsible for ensuring that all equipment is in place and functioning.
6. Is responsible for all awards being on hand.
7. Provides for policing, e.g., cleanup of the grounds before, during and after the test or trial especially anything remotely resembling a lure and anything hazardous.
8. Must individually approve anyone who is to be allowed in the judging area other than the officials of the trial (e.g., apprentice judges).
9. The Field Chairman may levy and collect a penalty fee of \$5.00 from the owner or his duly authorized agent of any hound that is loose on the field and not in competition at the time.
10. Shall arrange for the announcement of the final placements and qualifying scores at the end of the test or trial.

11. Shall be ineligible to judge the test or trial event for which he is serving in the official capacities of this position.

### **SECTION 3. FIELD SECRETARY.**

1. Is a member of the Field Committee.

2. Applies for a date to hold a test and/or trial.

3. Schedules judging assignments. Solicits in writing, and receives in writing, confirmation of those judging assignments prior to submitting the premium list for approval. Copies of these confirmations shall be made available to The American Kennel Club upon request.

4. Prepares and mails out premium lists and entry forms, after receiving official approval, and accepts entries.

*Note: Any club that wishes to accept hounds for roll call prior to the published time may do so only if acceptance prior to published time is listed in the premium and also stated in the cover letter (if one is used). Acceptance time must be listed in the premium and the cover letter (if one is used); e.g., Early acceptance may begin one-half hour prior to publish test or trial hours.*

Failure to adhere to this policy may result in a fine, failure to receive approval for future events or both.

5. Any Field Secretary or host club which accepts an entry fee other than that published in its premium list, or in any way discriminates between entrants, shall be disciplined. All persons found guilty of paying or receiving any monies, special inducements or allowances in violation of the foregoing shall be disciplined.

Except a club, at its discretion, may allow for a reduced entry fee for dogs handled by juniors. The reduced entry fee may only apply to specific classes or may apply to all classes in the trial. The reduced entry fee shall be published in the premium list. A junior is defined as someone less than 18 years of age on the first day of the event. The junior must handle the dog in the class to qualify for the reduced entry fee. If the dog is entered under this provision but the junior does not handle the dog, the owner must pay the regular entry fee as published.

6. The Field Secretary shall decline any late, incomplete, unsigned, unpaid or conditional entries. Each entry must be completed in full and the information given on the form must be that which applies to that entered hound. The entry form must be signed by the owner or agent duly authorized to make the entry.

7. Provides the Field Chairman or designee with a list of hounds entered for the purpose of roll call.

8. Shall have available a copy of the current edition of these Regulations and AKC's publication entitled "Dealing with Misconduct."

9. Ensures that all record sheets and forms are available and forwarded with recording fees to reach The AKC within seven (7) days after the close of the event.

10. Is responsible for the draw of hounds in competition.

11. Shall be ineligible to judge the test or trial event for which he is serving in the official capacities of this position.

#### **SECTION 4. FIELD CLERK.**

1. Is a member of the Field Committee.
2. Shall promptly collect the score sheets from the judges.
3. Posts the scores on the record sheets without undue delay. The Field Clerk(s) shall notify the Judge of any mathematical errors and said errors shall be corrected and initialed by the Judge. The Field Clerk(s) shall not change any judge's scores (see Chapter IV, Sec. 15).

4. Posts preliminary scores of each breed before finals, final scores before runoffs and Best of Breed runs and Best of Breed scores before Best in Field runs.

#### **SECTION 5. HUNTMASER.**

1. Shall be in complete charge of all hounds and handlers on the field.

2. Shall call up each new course as the previous course is completed.

3. Shall ensure that the correct hounds are in each course.

4. Shall ensure that a handler handles only one hound in each course.

5. Is responsible for checking that blankets are tied and secure.

6. Is responsible for checking that slip leads are in the slip position.

7. Must explain release and retrieval procedures before each preliminary course.

8. Shall stand in close proximity to, but not in front of, the handlers and hounds.

9. Shall ensure that the lure is positioned in front of the hounds and in the direction in which it will travel before the signal is given to start.

10. Shall confirm that the hounds are in the following order:

**YELLOW** on the left,

**PINK** in the middle or to the right in braces,

**BLUE** on the right in trios.

11. Shall question the Judges, Lure Operator and handlers asking "Are you ready?" After affirmative answers from all parties, the Huntmaster will begin the course.

12. Provides a hand signal to the Lure Operator to start the lure.

13. Gives the verbal signal "Tallyho" to release the hounds from a standing start and the signal "Retrieve your Hounds" when appropriate. Hounds should not be slipped before the sound of the "T" in "Tallyho." Will notify the judges and handler of any pre-slip at the end of the course.

14. Shall cause the lure to be stopped upon a pre-slip and restarted, provided no Tallyho has been sounded (pre-slip penalty will carry over).

15. Shall cause the lure to be stopped in any potentially dangerous situation and signal the handler(s) to retrieve their hound(s) when appropriate or when necessary for the safety of the hound(s).

16. Shall instruct the handlers to retrieve the hound(s) if the hound(s) fails to compete.

17. Shall inspect the lure before each course and replace it if needed.

18. Shall notify the Trial Chairman of any hound which appears lame.

19. Shall immediately inform the handler(s) when a course is called a no-course or a hound is excused or disqualified.

20. Shall inform the judge(s) of any observed aggressive behavior during the course.

### **SECTION 6. LURE OPERATOR.**

1. If the lure operator has concerns about the course layout, these should be communicated to the Field Chairman. It is the Field Chairman's responsibility to insure the course is laid out properly.

2. Shall make at least one pilot run of the lure before their first course of the day and again upon reversing or changing the course layout.

*Note: A hound used for the pilot run must be one of the eligible sighthound breeds (Chapter I, Section 3).*

3. Starts the lure at the signal from the Huntmaster and stops it at least 20 yards before the lure machine or final pulley.

4. After the course begins, shall attempt to keep the lure 10 to 30 yards in front of the lead hound at all times. The lure must continue moving in the originally planned direction until completion of the course.

5. Shall stop the lure on a signal from the Huntmaster or Judge, but shall automatically stop the lure any time a hound becomes entangled in the string or when a potentially dangerous situation may develop.

6. Shall not operate the lure for any stake in which he or a member of his immediate family or household owns or co-owns an entered hound.

7. The same lure operator shall operate the lure throughout an entire stake.

### **SECTION 7. INSPECTION AND MEASURING COMMITTEE.**

1. Are members of the Field Committee.

2. Shall consist of at least two persons, who shall inspect each entry for lameness, fitness to compete, bitches in season and breed disqualifications at roll call. Inspection shall take place prior to any form of wrapping being applied to hounds.

3. Any entry found prior to the preliminary course to be unfit to compete, lame, to have a breed disqualification, or bitches in season shall be barred from competition and entry fees shall be refunded.

4. Any entry found to be lame or unfit to compete

after the preliminary course but prior to the final course is considered to have competed and entry fees shall not be refunded. These hounds shall be considered in the point calculation.

5. The procedure for measuring Whippets is as follows:

(a) The hound being measured shall be placed on a flat level surface that is not slippery. The handler shall position the hound at the Inspection Committee's discretion. The hound shall be in a naturally alert position, with the head up but not stretched upward, and with its feet well under it and its forelegs vertical as viewed both from the front and side.

(b) A member of the Inspection Committee shall first determine the highest point over the withers with one hand, and pass the measuring wicket over the hound from the rear with the other hand, and place the wicket so the cross piece comes down directly on the highest point over the withers. The wicket should not be placed on the neck in front of the shoulder or on the spinal column behind the withers. At least two members of the Inspection Committee must agree that a hound is or is not compliant with Whippet height requirements.

(c) Handlers will be allowed only two minutes to position their hounds in a proper standing position. Hounds that cannot be made to stand in the proper position for measurement within the allotted time will not be allowed to course, and their entry fees will be refunded.

(d) All Whippets will be measured only once and at the time of roll call at each and every Field Trial, except that Whippets that have earned the Field Champion title shall only be measured on request at roll call. Whippet Field Champions which measure out will be barred from running, but shall retain the title.

#### **SECTION 8. PADDOCK MASTER.**

Shall call the hounds for the next course to the paddock and insure the hounds are properly blanketed.

#### **SECTION 9. FIELD COMMITTEE.**

1. Field Committees may make additional regulations for the governing of their events as shall be considered necessary and proper, provided that such regulations do not conflict with, change or modify any Rules or Regulations of The American Kennel Club. Such additional regulations shall be printed and distributed with the premium list, and violations thereof shall be considered the same as violations of the Rules and Regulations of The AKC.

2. The decisions of the Field Committee shall be final, conclusive and binding on all parties, in all matters occurring on the day of the event, except for matters coming within the jurisdiction of the Judge(s). Such Committee decisions must be made in accord with the general regulations and standard procedures that apply to the test or trial being held.

3. The decision of the Judge is final in all matters

relating to the merits of a dogs performance. If the judge has concerns regarding field conditions, these should be communicated to the Field Committee. It is the Field Committee's responsibility to insure the field conditions are safe. The Field Committee has the authority to cancel an event if they believe the field conditions are not safe and the circumstances can not be corrected.

4. If it becomes necessary to replace an advertised judge after the opening of the event, the Field Committee may select any qualified person provided such person is in good standing with The AKC. The Field Committee must announce and post the name of any substitute judge before the draw for the stake at which he is to officiate. All scores of the Judge replaced shall stand as recorded.

5. If a judge is substituted, the owner or handler of a hound entered in that stake has the option of withdrawing the hound before the draw and receiving an entry fee refund. If, after the draw, a judge must be substituted, no refunds shall be made.

6. In the event that the advertised Lure Operator cannot perform his assignment, the Field Committee must select a substitute Lure Operator and must announce the name of that substitute before the draw for the stake at which he is to operate the lure. If an unadvertised Lure Operator is substituted, the owner or handler of a hound entered in that stake has the option of withdrawing his hound before the draw and receiving an entry fee refund. If a Lure Operator must be substituted after the draw, no refunds shall be made. The advertised Lure Operator shall make every effort to complete his assignment.

7. The Field Committee shall handle all official protests on the day of the event as specified in Chapter XIII.

8. A Field Committee may decline any entry or remove any hound from the event grounds for cause. In each instance, the club or association shall file good and sufficient reasons for so doing with The American Kennel Club.

## **CHAPTER IV JUDGING**

In addition to those Regulations and procedures set forth in Chapter II, as they relate to Judges, the following shall apply:

**SECTION 1A. APPROVAL OF JUDGES.** Each stake will be judged by one or two judges, at the option of the host club.

Judges officiating at licensed or member club lure coursing events must have their name as a lure coursing judge on The AKC's List of Eligible Judges. A club must submit to The AKC the name(s) of any approved judge(s) selected by the club to officiate a test or trial for approval by The AKC. Such judges approved by The



AKC may enter or handle hounds in any stake or class competition EXCEPT those stakes or classes which he or she is scheduled and/or advertised to judge.

All judges must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Must be in good standing with The American Kennel Club and at least 21 years of age.

2. Must have three years experience in lure coursing, including experience as a lure operator, field chairman or field secretary.

3. New judges must attend an AKC Lure Coursing Seminar and score a minimum of 85% correct on the written exam covering AKC "Regulations for Lure Coursing Tests and Trials."

4. Must apply by using an application provided by The AKC. The application is obtained at the seminar.

5. Must apprentice under at least three different judges at a minimum of two separate coursing trials.

6. Must apprentice 20 stakes with a minimum entry of four in each stake.

7. It is recommended that prospective judges apprentice in as many breeds as possible.

8. (*Effective 1/1/11*) To maintain judging eligibility existing judges must attend a seminar or pass an open book written test (85% correct) within six years of the event date they are asked to judge.

**SECTION 1B. DOG'S ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER UNDER A JUDGE.** A dog is not eligible to be entered or to compete in any stake if a judge of that stake or any member of his or her family has owned, sold, held under lease, boarded, trained or handled the dog, within one year prior to the date of the event.

**SECTION 2. JUDGES HANDLING HOUNDS.** No judge shall handle a hound in the stake(s) that he is officiating. No judge shall officiate over any stake where a hound is owned or co-owned by any member of their immediate family or a member of their immediate household. Such hounds may be entered at that event in stakes the Judge is not officiating.

A judge cannot stop judging a stake to handle a hound in another stake.

**SECTION 3. COURSE INSPECTION.** Each judge, before beginning his assignment, shall walk the course to verify that the course plan is properly set up and free of hazards insofar as possible. If the Judge has concerns, these should be communicated to the Field Committee. It is the Field Committee's responsibility to insure safe conditions. If the Field Committee decides there are unsafe conditions that cannot be corrected, the Field Committee may cancel the event. Entry fees shall be refunded by the host club, and the Judge(s) shall be reimbursed his expenses. The Judge, however, will not receive any additional funds or payment as may have been previously agreed to by the hosting club or association.

The Field Committee shall have the option to reschedule the event, and if rescheduled, entry refunds will be processed only for those declining attendance and participation in the rescheduled event.

**SECTION 4. PRE-COURSE BRIEFING (LURE COURSING TESTS).** Prior to running any course in a Lure Coursing Test, the judge(s) shall call the handlers together for a review of what is expected of the handlers and hounds—as well as to be sure all handlers are aware of handling and safety procedures.

**SECTION 5. DISCUSSION DURING JUDGING.** While on the field during his judging assignment, no judge shall discuss anything relative to his judging assignment with any handler or agent.

**SECTION 6. CALLING A NO-COURSE.** A judge may call a no-course for the following reasons:

1. If the hounds are interfered with or disrupted, or if the Judge cannot fairly score the course;
2. If a segment of the lure falls off and any hound reacts to said segment, but only if the Judge(s) cannot fairly score the course;
3. If a hound or hounds touch or catch the lure and that action causes interference with the running of the course;
4. If a hound, at any time, becomes entangled in the string, the Judge shall order the lure stopped and may declare a no-course;
5. If the Lure Operator fails to maintain the 10 - 30 yard limit, and the hounds become unsighted or overrun the lure, the Judge shall have the prerogative to call a no-course.

**SECTION 7. SCORING.** Hounds shall be judged from the time they enter the field until the time they are removed from the field under the control of a handler. Judges are responsible for scoring all categories in all courses in the preliminaries, finals, runoff, etc. Scoring and placing of winners shall be decided on the basis of qualities evidenced by: Overall Ability, Follow, Speed, Agility and Endurance. Judges shall score in whole numbers only and shall be governed by the following system:

Overall Ability.....	10 Points
Follow .....	10 Points
Speed.....	10 Points
Agility.....	10 Points
Endurance.....	10 Points
TOTAL.....	50 Points

A qualifying score is 50% or more of the total points from each judge. A dog must complete the course to receive a qualifying score unless, in the judges' opinion, there are extenuating circumstances. A dog whose performance would not be considered by the judge as sufficient to pass a Junior Courser test must not receive a qualifying score.

The total score shall be adjusted as follows:

Less: Pre-slip penalty 1 to 5 points.

A Pre-slip shall be declared when a hound is released or "slipped" before the "T" in Tallyho as sounded by the Huntmaster. In the event a judge suspects a pre-slip has taken place, he may question the Huntmaster, but the ultimate declaration of a pre-slip shall be made by the Judge. Pre-slips shall incur a score penalty of 1 to 5 points at the Judge's discretion. If a no-course is called, the course in which a pre-slip has occurred, the pre-slip penalty shall be carried forward to the completed course.

Less: Course delay penalty 1 to 5 points.

A course delay shall be declared when:

1. A handler or his hound delays the start of a course.
2. When hounds cannot be retrieved at the end of a course after the Huntmaster's "Retrieve your hounds" command.

Course delays shall incur a score penalty of 1 to 5 points at the Judge's discretion. If a no-course is called on the course in which a course delay has occurred, the course delay penalty shall be carried forward to the completed course. Course delay penalties shall be cumulative in the case of repeated offenses.

In the case of excessive course delay, the Judge(s) may excuse a hound from the event.

#### **SECTION 8. ZERO SCORE/FAILURE TO RUN.**

A hound failing to run when released in competition shall be given a zero score. A hound with a zero total score in the preliminary course shall be excused from competition for the day and shall not be considered as having been in competition when computing points.

**SECTION 9. EXCUSALS.** Hounds may be excused from the field by a judge. Hounds excused for the following reasons are considered as having been in competition and shall be counted as a starter when computing points:

1. Hounds which course other hounds rather than the lure.
2. Hounds which excessively delay the course.
3. Hounds that are unfit to compete after the preliminary course but prior to subsequent courses.
4. Handler or owner interference with the course in progress.

Hounds excused for the following reasons are considered as having not been competition and shall not count as a starter when computing points:

1. Hounds not ready to run in the preliminary course when called to the line. Judges shall allow 5 minutes for a hound to arrive at the line.
2. Hounds that are found to be unfit to compete prior to the preliminary course.
3. Hounds receiving a zero total score in the preliminary course.
4. Hounds that run in a position other than where assigned by the draw.

**SECTION 10. DISMISSALS.** Hounds shall be dismissed by a judge for interfering with the course of another hound. Growling and/or barking, in and of itself, does not constitute grounds for dismissal. Hounds dismissed shall be counted as a starter when computing points. Event Secretaries must note a dog was dismissed on the Lure Coursing Scoresheet. If a dog is dismissed twice, it will be disqualified.

**SECTION 11. DISQUALIFIED BY JUDGE.** A dog is not eligible to be entered in a licensed or member club Lure Coursing Test or Trial in any stake except the Singles Stake if the dog has on one occasion been made subject to the following report: If a dog, while under judgment at a Lure Coursing Trial attacks another dog, and the judge is of the opinion that such attack was without reasonable cause, the judge shall identify the offending dog on the judging sheet and the name of the offending dogs shall be listed in the report of the Lure Coursing Trial sent to the American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not compete in any AKC lure coursing stake except the Singles Stake until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to The American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated.

Barking and/or growling, in and of itself, does not constitute aggression. If two judges are officiating a stake or class, both must be in agreement on the disqualification, otherwise the hound is dismissed. A hound shall not be disqualified for defending itself when attacked.

Hounds disqualified by the judge are considered as having been in competition when computing points.

**SECTION 12. DISQUALIFICATION BY EVENT COMMITTEE.**

Any dog, that in the opinion of the Event Committee or The American Kennel Club, attacks a person or a dog at an AKC event, resulting in injury, and is believed by that Event Committee or The American Kennel Club to present a hazard to persons or other dogs shall be disqualified. When the dog is disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed immediately with the Executive Secretary of the American Kennel Club.

The disqualified dog may not compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to The American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated.

Hounds Disqualified by the Event Committee are not considered as having been in competition when computing points.

**SECTION 13. DISQUALIFICATIONS.**

1. If a hound is Disqualified by the Judge, its privilege

to compete in lure coursing will be immediately withdrawn (see Chapter IV, Section 11).

2. If a hound is Disqualified by the Event Committee, its privilege to compete in all AKC events will be immediately withdrawn (see Chapter IV, Section 12).

3. If a hound is dismissed twice, it shall be disqualified from further Lure Coursing competition.

4. The AKC will inform, in writing, the individual or individuals whose hound has had its privilege to compete withdrawn, and cite the reason given for the hound's disqualification.

**SECTION 14. REINSTATEMENT.** The privilege to compete may be reinstated upon completion of:

1. A minimum of a calendar month of retraining;

2. Certification in writing by two licensed judges or an AKC field representative stating the dog acted appropriately during two reenactments of the incident. The reenactments should involve different dogs or people, depending on the nature of the incident. Neither of the two judges may be owners, co-owners, immediate family of the owners or co-owners, nor reside in the same household as the owners of the disqualified hound.

*For dogs that are Disqualified by the Event Committee, the earning of a Canine Good Citizen title is a very logical step in retraining.*

3. A letter requesting reinstatement, a check made out for \$50.00 payable to the AKC, and the judge's certifications must be sent to The American Kennel Club from the owner of the hound.

4. A decision by the AKC to reinstate said privilege.

5. A hound disqualified a second time is not eligible for reinstatement.

**SECTION 15. RERUNS.** If a hound is excused or disqualified, the remaining hound or hounds may be rerun and be scored.

Judges may score a hound(s) in a course and rerun other hounds from the same course. Additionally, if a judge feels confident that a hound(s) that has failed to complete a course can be fairly scored, the Judge may score a hound(s) without a rerun.

**SECTION 16. NOTIFYING THE HUNTMASTER.** Judges shall immediately inform the Huntmaster when a course is called a no-course or when a hound is excused or disqualified (Chapter III, Section 5, #19).

**SECTION 17. REASON FOR EXCUSAL OR DISQUALIFICATION.** Judges must state on the Judges Score Sheet the specific reason for excusal or disqualification. If two judges are officiating a stake or class, both must agree to disqualify a hound. Any time a hound is disqualified by a Judge the Disqualification By Judge form must be completed in its entirety and submitted to the AKC with the results.

**SECTION 18. CHANGING SCORES.** After a course has been judged and the marked score sheets turned over to the Field Clerk, only a judge can change his final score and then only in the case of a mathematical or blanket color error.

**SECTION 19. JUDGE'S DECISIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.** Any decisions made by the event's officiating judge(s) regarding the performance of a hound shall be final. Full discretionary power is given to the judge(s) to withhold any and all qualifications and points for lack of merit. The Judge(s) is responsible for ensuring compliance with the AKC Regulations on the field.

## **CHAPTER V VETERINARIAN**

The club shall have a veterinary clinic or a veterinarian on call whose name, address and telephone number shall appear in the premium list. Veterinary assistance shall be available within a reasonable time and/or distance, should it be necessary.

## **CHAPTER VI RIBBONS AND ROSETTES**

**SECTION 1. TESTS.** A club holding a licensed or member club lure coursing test shall offer a ribbon or rosette to each dog that receives a qualification toward its Junior Courser (JC) title or Qualified Courser (QC) certificate.

Each ribbon or rosette shall be at least two inches wide and approximately eight inches long and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of The American Kennel Club, the words "Lure Coursing Test Qualifying Course," and the name of the test-giving club. Ribbons and rosettes shall be dark green in color, and rosettes shall have a white center streamer and white button.

If ribbons or rosettes are awarded at sanctioned coursing tests they shall be awarded only to hounds receiving certification and shall be light green.

**SECTION 2. TRIALS.** A club holding a licensed or member club lure coursing trial shall offer prize ribbons or rosettes for all placements. Each ribbon or rosette shall be at least two inches wide and approximately eight inches long and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of The American Kennel Club, the words "Lure Coursing Trial," the name of the prize (first, second, etc.) and the name of the trial-giving club.

The colors of the ribbons or rosettes for the stakes and Best In Field shall be:

- \* First Place ..... Blue
- \* Second Place ..... Red

- \* Third Place.....Yellow
- \* Fourth Place..... White
- \* Fifth Place ..... Pink
- \* Best of Breed ..... Purple and Gold
- \* Best In Field.....Red, White & Blue

Trophies may be awarded to any or all placements and to hounds receiving qualifying scores at lure coursing trials.

If ribbons or rosettes are awarded at sanctioned lure coursing trials, they shall be awarded only to placing hounds receiving qualifying scores and shall be the following colors:

- \* First.....Rose
- \* Second.....Brown
- \* Third.....Light Green
- \* Fourth.....Gray
- \* Fifth .....Orange
- \* Best of Breed ..... Lavender and White
- \* Best In Field..... Pink and Green

## CHAPTER VII PREMIUM LISTS

After The American Kennel Club has granted permission to a club to hold a licensed or member test or trial, the club must provide a premium list. One copy of the premium list for licensed or member clubs tests and trials must be mailed or e-mailed to The AKC at [lurecoursing@akc.org](mailto:lurecoursing@akc.org) at the time they are mailed or distributed to prospective entrants.

**SECTION 1. ELIGIBLE JUDGES.** Only those persons whose names appear on AKC’s List of Eligible Judges may be approved to judge at licensed or member lure tests and/or trials. Foreign judges may be approved on a case-by-case basis provided their qualifications are satisfactory to The AKC.

**SECTION 2. COURSE PLANS.** Layouts, including approximate distances between turns must be shown in the premium list.

No course shall be less than 600 yards or have turns more acute than a right angle.

When using a continuous loop system the lure must not traverse the course twice in order to meet the distance requirements.

When using a continuous loop system, mid-course reversals are not permissible.

The lure will consist of plastic strips.

Direction of lure will be reversed for finals.

**SECTION 3. ENTRY FORMS.** Entries must be made on the standard AKC entry form (<http://www.akc.org/pdfs/LureCoursing.Entry.pdf>). Entry forms must be signed by owner or owner’s agent.

## **SECTION 4. PREMIUM LIST.**

### **(A) GENERAL.**

A premium list must be provided for licensed or member club tests and trials. The premium list shall be printed (any printing or copying process is acceptable), and shall state whether the event is "Licensed by The American Kennel Club" or held by an "AKC Member Club." Premium lists shall measure not less than 5½ x 8½ inches nor more than 8½ x 11 inches.

Only information pertaining to that test and/or trial shall be included on the premium list. Separate enclosures mailed with the premium list are acceptable.

One copy of the printed premium list for licensed or member club tests and trials must be mailed or e-mailed to the AKC at the time they are mailed or distributed to prospective entrants.

### **(B) TESTS AND TRIALS.**

The following information shall be included in the premium list for a licensed or member test and/or trial:

- (1) Name of club offering the event,
- (2) The exact location and date of the event, and Event Number(s),
- (3) Name, address and telephone number of the test and/or trial Field Committee Chairman,
- (4) Name, address and telephone number of the Test and/or Trial Secretary,
- (5) The names of the Test and/or Trial Committee members (minimum of five including Chairman),
- (6) The names of the lure operators,
- (7) Time event(s) will commence,
- (8) For members of the Field Committee, hounds may be accepted for roll call prior to the published time. If this option is used, acceptance time must be listed in the Premium and cover letter (if one is used); e.g., "Early acceptance of hounds for members of the field committee may begin one-half hour prior to published test or trial hours."
- (9) Entry fees,
- (10) Events offered,
- (11) Names and addresses of judges together with their assignments,
- (12) Date and time of closing and drawing of entries,
- (13) A listing of club officers,
- (14) The official AKC entry form.
- (15) The statement "Permission has been granted by The American Kennel Club for the holding of this event under American Kennel Club Rules and Regulations."
- (16) Additional information, directions, dinner, etc.

Premium lists shall also include the name, address and telephone number of the veterinarian(s) on call or on duty during the test/trial, and specify whether ribbons or rosettes will be awarded. Premium lists should also describe any trophies that may be awarded and name the placements to which they will be awarded. Alcoholic beverages are not acceptable as prizes.



(17) If entries are to be limited, the numerical limitation(s) must be stated in the premium list and entries will close when the numerical limit(s) has been reached.

**SECTION 5. CLOSING OF ENTRIES.** Entries for a licensed or member club test or trial must close at the time specified in the premium list.

A club holding a licensed or member test or trial shall not accept any entries received after the closing time and date specified in the premium list.

Each entry form must be completed in full and signed, and the information given on the entry form must be that which applies to the entered hound. Separate entry forms must be completed for each hound entered in a test or trial.

## **CHAPTER VIII RUNNING THE MEET, TRIAL AND TEST PROGRAMS**

No hound may enter more than one stake.

**SECTION 1. JUNIOR COURSER and QUALIFIED COURSER TESTS.** These tests are open to hounds at least 12 months of age. The course is a minimum of 600 yards with a minimum of four (4) turns.

**SECTION 2. OPEN STAKE.** Open to all hounds that have obtained an AKC Qualified Courser certificate or an ASFA Certification Course certificate. This requirement will be waived for hounds that have earned a Field Championship title from the American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA) or the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). ASFA or CKC Field Champions must submit a copy of their title certificate to the host club when they enter their first AKC Open Stake. This copy must be included when the results of the trial are sent to the AKC.

Championship points earned from the Open Stake will only count toward a Field Champion title.

Hounds that have earned an AKC Field Championship title of record are not eligible to enter the Open Stake.

**SECTION 3. SPECIALS STAKE.** Open to all hounds that have earned their AKC Field Championship titles. Championship points earned from the Specials Stake will count toward Lure Courser Excellent titles.

Qualifying scores earned from the Specials Stake will count toward a Senior Courser or Master Courser title.

**SECTION 4. VETERAN STAKE.** Is offered at the option of the host club. Open to all hounds which are eligible to enter Open or Special stakes and meet the age requirement for a veteran as established by the breed's parent club – 6 years of age; except Irish Wolfhounds = 5 years, Whippets = 7 years, Rhodesian Ridgebacks = 7 years, Salukis = 7 years, and Afghan Hounds = 7 years. Championship points will be awarded. Points won

from the Veteran Stake may count toward either a Field Championship title or Lure Courser Excellent title.

**SECTION 5. SINGLES STAKE.** A Singles Stake may be offered at a lure coursing trial at the option of the host club. If a Singles Stake is offered, it must appear in the event premium list. No points or passes counting toward AKC titles shall be awarded. All regulations pertaining to regular stakes shall apply unless modified by the regulations specific to this stake. Singles Stakes shall be run as follows:

(a) Open to all sighthound breeds approved to participate in AKC Lure Coursing trials.

(b) Hounds with breed disqualifications are eligible to enter.

(c) Hounds entered in the Singles Stake shall not be allowed to enter the regular stakes (open, specials or veteran) at the same event.

(d) Order of running shall be determined by random draw.

(e) Each hound shall run the course alone.

(f) Judges shall score a dogs performance the same as a regular stake.

(g) Single Stake entries from all breeds shall be combined to determine placements.

(h) Placements shall be awarded based on the combined preliminary and final course scores. The winner of the stake shall not be eligible to compete in Best of Breed and/or Best in Field courses.

(i) The host club shall award ribbons to placing hounds. Ribbon colors applicable to regular stakes shall apply. No Best of Breed ribbon will be awarded.

(j) Results shall be recorded on a Single Stake result form and submitted with trial results. Results form: [www.akc.org/pdfs/events/lure\\_coursing/JERSC7.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/events/lure_coursing/JERSC7.pdf).

(k) The recording fee (per capita fee) applicable to regular lure coursing entries shall apply to entries in Singles Stakes.

(l) Placements (1st – 5th) will be published on a special Singles Stake results webpage: <http://www.akc.org/events/lure-coursing/single-stakes-results/>.

(m) Placements in Singles Stakes will not appear on a dog's record.

(n) Only approved AKC lure coursing judges may judge a Singles Stake. The judges shall be the same for the entire stake. Judging a Singles Stake by itself shall not be counted as an event judged.

(o) The host club may place a limit on the Singles Stake separate from any limit placed on entries at the test/trial.

(p) Dogs that have been disqualified by a judge (see Chapter IV, Section 11) may enter Single Stakes. Note: Dogs that have been disqualified by an event committee are not eligible to participate in Single stakes. (See Chapter IV, Section 12).

## **SECTION 6. The following applies to all stakes.**

1. Once the running order of stakes has been posted for the public there will be no changes made in the order.

2. Every sound entry in a stake not excused, disqualified or receiving a zero score shall be run twice. The order of running for both courses shall be by random draw.

3. Hounds must not be withdrawn between the preliminary and final course (except as specified in #2 above) in order to direct points toward specific dogs. This is viewed as unsportsmanlike conduct and discredits the legitimacy of the sport.

4. Hounds absent at roll call or at the running of their course shall be scratched after a five (5) minute grace period.

5. After completion and posting of final score, all hounds no longer required for further judging are excused.

6. The top five placing hounds in each stake shall be determined by the combined scores of the preliminary and final runs.

7. Ties for the top five placements in any stake must be run off or forfeited. If not run-off or forfeited, all tied hounds will receive the lowest placement.

*If there is a tie for first place in a stake and there are dogs from only two stakes that are going to run off for Best of Breed, these three dogs shall be run together to determine the stake winner and Best of Breed.*

### **Best of Breed**

8. The highest placing hound in each stake of a breed will compete for Best of Breed. If there was only one breed stake, the winner of that stake will be awarded Best of Breed.

9. If Best of Breed cannot be determined initially with one run, the winner of each stake will be randomly drawn, run an additional course and the highest scoring hound will be awarded Best of Breed for that breed.

10. All hounds entered in a given stake shall be divided into trios, if possible, or braces. Hounds shall be designated by colors according to their drawing.

First number drawn – bright **YELLOW**

(place on left)

Second number drawn – bright **PINK**

(middle or on the right in braces)

Third number drawn – bright **BLUE**

(place on right)

11. Stakes shall be split each time the entry is sufficient to hold two (2) or more five (5) point majors.

**SECTION 7. CONDUCTING THE DRAW.** The running order of the hounds in all stakes shall be established by a random drawing. The draw will be conducted at the time and on the date specified in the premium list for the closing and drawing of entries, and is open to all who wish to attend.

The Field Secretary or Field Chairman shall be responsible for the draw.

1. The order and arrangements of hounds coursing shall be determined by a random drawing by breed at the time of the draw. Multiple entries from the same owner shall be divided as evenly as possible between stakes when there is more than one stake.

2. Upon request from an owner or owner's agent on either the entry form or at roll call, multiple entries from an owner shall be divided as evenly as possible between the courses if possible. This does not apply to the Best in Field Competition.

3. When there is but a single course in a regular stake in which an owner or his duly authorized agent has more than one hound, these hounds will be run together or one or more will be scratched by the owner or his duly authorized agent, without refund of entry fee.

4. If only one member of a breed is entered, that hound may be run with another breed if all the handlers involved agree. The hounds would be scored and placed separately.

5. A single entry in a stake may be drawn to run with any other stake of that breed if all the handlers involved agree. The hounds would be scored separately. The judges shall not be informed which courses are combined.

6. If a hound is run in a position other than where it was assigned by the draw, that hound will be excused. The other hounds in the stake will be scored.

7. After the draw is completed, should for any reason a competing hound fail to appear within the five (5) minute grace period for its course, it shall be excused for the day. If a single hound remains to run the drawn course, it may be run alone in its assigned blanket color or it may be reassigned to another drawn course should one exist, only if that course is comprised of a brace.

8. All draws must be open to the public.

**SECTION 8. BEST IN FIELD.** Best In Field shall be offered. All Best of Breed winners with the exception of Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, and FSS breeds shall be eligible to compete in the Best In Field competition. The host club shall so indicate this in the premium list.

(1) Each hound will be run once, in a trio if possible, or brace. In the case of a tie for Best In Field the hounds will run off or forfeit.

(2) The order of running is to be determined by random draw.

(3) Multiple entries from one owner will not be split into separate courses, if drawn together.

(4) The highest scoring hound will be declared the Best In Field winner on that day, and will be awarded points equal to the maximum number of points awarded to any hound running in the Best in Field competition. *Additional points cannot be won through forfeiture.* In order for the maximum number of championship points to be awarded to the BIF winner, there shall be at least

two hounds in BIF competition.

(5) An excusal or disqualification in the BIF competition will not affect a hound's prior awards earned on that day.

(6) A single entry in a breed receiving a qualifying score with competition in a Best In Field Course will receive a certification toward the Senior Courser title.

### **SECTION 9. HANDLERS.**

1. A person may handle any number of hounds during a trial, but may not handle more than one hound in each course of that trial.

2. Any owner who deputizes another person to handle his hound must not interfere with the hound or handler throughout the duration of the course.

3. Handlers shall provide each hound with a simplified lead which will give almost instantaneous freedom to the hound when the "Tallyho" signal is called by the Huntmaster. Recommended slip leads are those consisting of a leather or webbing strap with a wide collar and double or single rings.

4. No collar or paraphernalia shall be on the hound during the running of the course except the blanket. Protective coverings in colors including yellow, pink and blue are acceptable. Dogs may be muzzled at the owner's discretion. Muzzles must not have sharp, hard edges and must allow the hound to breathe. Special Training devices that are used to control and train dogs, including but not limited to, collars with prongs, electronic training devices may not be used on dogs at AKC events. Head halters, such as the Gentle Leader or Halti, may be used on the grounds but must not be worn while running the course.

## **CHAPTER IX RECORDING FEES**

At every licensed and member club test and trial held under these Regulations, a recording fee of \$3.50 shall be required for every entry. The recording fee is payable to The American Kennel Club and is to help defray expenses involved in maintaining the records, and applies to all entries, regardless of whether or not they participate, unless the entry fee is refunded in whole.

## **CHAPTER X SUBMISSION OF RECORDS**

Clubs holding licensed or member tests or trials must utilize the standard American Kennel Club Official Report Forms which will be automatically supplied to the Lure Coursing Secretary following approval of the events.

All records of the event in accordance with packet instructions and current AKC Lure Coursing records

policies **must be sent to the American Kennel Club so as to reach its office within seven (7) days after the close of the event.** Entry forms should not be sent to the AKC.

A club or association holding a licensed or member lure coursing test or trial shall retain a copy of the official record sheets for at least one year.

Penalty for non-compliance is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and five dollars (\$5.00) for each day beyond the deadline, and other such penalties as may be imposed by The American Kennel Club.

## **CHAPTER XI CANCELLATION OF AWARDS**

If an ineligible hound has been entered and run in a licensed or member test or trial, or if the person or persons named as owner or owners on the entry form are not the person or persons who actually owned the hound at the time entries closed, or if a hound is run in a class for which it has not been entered, or if its entry form is deemed invalid by The American Kennel Club under the Rules and Regulations, all resulting qualifying scores and/or placements, as applicable to the hound in question, shall be canceled by The American Kennel Club.

If a placement and/or qualifying score of a hound is canceled by The American Kennel Club, the entrant of the hound shall return all prizes to the secretary of the trial or test giving club within ten (10) days of receipt of notice from The American Kennel Club of said cancellation.

If at a trial a placement is canceled, the hound next in order of merit shall be moved up, and the new placement of the hound(s) moved up shall be counted the same as if it had received the original award.

## **CHAPTER XII TITLES**

**SECTION 1. TITLES OR CERTIFICATES.**  
(Suffix to a hound's name)

**A. JUNIOR COURSER (JC) TITLE.** (Suffix title)

A hound at least 12 months of age running alone shall receive one qualification from a judge, and a second qualification from a different judge at a separate event, stating that the hound completed the course with enthusiasm and without interruption. The two qualifying runs can be earned on the same date. After earning a JC title, a hound may continue to enter JC tests for the pleasure of the dog and owner.

**B. QUALIFIED COURSER (QC) CERTIFICATE.**

A hound at least 12 months of age (Qualifying Hound)

running with another hound of the same breed—or another breed with a similar running style—(Testing Hound) shall receive certification from a licensed judge. The qualifying hound must complete the course with enthusiasm and without interruption, sufficiently course the lure and not course the Testing Hound. The testing hound must run a sufficient length of the course to allow evaluation of the qualifying hound. If two non-qualified hounds are run together, both dogs can be certified by the judge. It must be understood that if one dog fails to complete the course, the other dog may not qualify. The judge will certify that the Qualifying Hound ran cleanly and did not appear to present a hazard to the Testing Hound at any point in the qualifying course. This certificate is required to enter a hound in an Open Stake.

The handler presenting the Qualifying Hound shall be responsible for providing the Testing Hound for the qualifying course.

Upon successful completion of the Qualified Courser test, the judge completes a certificate and awards it to the handler. This certificate must be submitted to the host club with the hound's first entry in an Open Stake. An ASFA Certification Course certificate may be submitted in lieu of the AKC Qualified Course certificate. The certificate must be included when the results of the trial are sent to the AKC.

It is strongly recommended that every Qualifying Hound have been run previously alone and that to the handler's satisfaction runs cleanly and keenly. It is additionally recommended that every Qualifying Hound practices with other hounds prior to being presented for a qualifying courser test. It is to be understood by all that training prior to running a hound with other hounds in competition is essential to ensure that the hound is prepared to run safely with other hounds.

**C. SENIOR COURSER (SC) TITLE.** (Suffix title).

(1) Must be eligible to enter the Open Stake. See Chapter VIII, Section 2.

(2) Must receive qualifying scores at four (4) AKC-licensed or member trials, under three different judges.

(3) Each of the qualifying scores must be earned in a run with at least one other hound. Dogs of different breeds may be combined if all handlers involved agree.

**D. MASTER COURSER (MC) TITLE.** (Suffix title).

The Master Courser title will be awarded to hounds that have acquired the Senior Courser title and that have earned an additional twenty-five (25) qualifying scores (with competition) in either the Open, Veteran, or Specials stake at AKC licensed or member club lure coursing trials.

**SECTION 2. FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP (FC).** (Prefix to the hound's name).

In order to be recorded as a Field Champion, a hound must obtain fifteen (15) championship points, including

two major wins. Major wins must be won under two different judges, and at least one point must be earned in competition with a hound of the same breed. A major is a first placement of three, four, or five points according to the Schedule of Points By Breed.

If hounds are tied for placement in the stake after the final run, the placement may be forfeited. The higher placement is awarded to the dog that does not forfeit. If after a Best of Breed runoff or Best In Field runoff, the hounds are tied, the win may be forfeited BOB or BIF is awarded to the dog that does not forfeit.

A Field Champion may be designated as “Dual Champion (DC)” if it has also been recorded as a Show Champion.

Any dog which has earned the titles of Champion of Record, Obedience Trial Champion and Field Champion may be designated as a “Triple Champion” (TC).

**SECTION 3. LURE COURSER EXCELLENT (LCX) TITLE.** (Suffix title).

Any dog that has earned the title of Field Champion and has earned 45 additional championship points from the Special or Veterans Stake, shall be awarded the suffix title of Lure Courser Excellent (LCX). The title of Lure Courser Excellent is a cumulative title. Each time a hound accrues an additional 45 championship points, it would be eligible to receive the next title level (LCX II, LCX III, LCX IV, etc.).

**SECTION 4. DETERMINATION OF CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS.**

**Schedule of Points by Breed:**

The AKC Board of Directors may adjust this point system as it deems necessary.

**FIRST PLACE in Class or Best of Breed**

Points =	5	4	3	2	1
	Number of Starters				
Afghan Hounds	6	5	4	3	2
Basenjis	6	5	4	3	2
Borzoi	10	8	5	3	2
Cirneco Dell'Etnas	6	5	4	3	2
Greyhounds	6	5	4	3	2
Ibizan Hounds	6	5	4	3	2
Italian Greyhounds	6	5	4	3	2
Irish Wolfhounds	6	5	4	3	2
Pharaoh Hounds	6	5	4	3	2
Portuguese Podengo Pequenos	6	5	4	3	2
Rhodesian Ridgebacks	10	8	5	3	2
Salukis	6	5	4	3	2
Scottish Deerhounds	6	5	4	3	2
Sloughis	6	5	4	3	2
Whippets	15	11	8	5	2



### **Schedule of Points for 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in a Stake**

When 1 <sup>st</sup> place hound earns =	5	4	3
The 2 <sup>nd</sup> place hound earns =	3	2	1
The 3 <sup>rd</sup> place hound earns =	2	1	0

No additional points are awarded to 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a stake if the winner of the stake earns additional points by winning Best of Breed or Best in Field.

#### **Determining Points for Best of Breed.**

Calculation of championship points awarded to the BOB winner shall include the number of starters from the other stake(s) provided the winner of the stake competes in the BOB run-off. The BOB winner shall receive no additional points through forfeiture. For example, if two hounds are eligible to compete for BOB and one chooses to forfeit, the calculation of championship points for the remaining dog shall not include the starters from the forfeiting dog's stake.

However, if after a BOB runoff, the hounds are tied, the win may be forfeited and the dog that does not forfeit may include the starters from the forfeiting dog's stake in the calculation of championship points.

**SECTION 5.** Only official American Kennel Club Titles may be included in any AKC publication, including event publications, e.g. premium lists, catalogs, etc. Official AKC titles can be found at: [www.akc.org/events/titles.cfm](http://www.akc.org/events/titles.cfm).

## **CHAPTER XIII PROTESTS OF ELIGIBILITY**

### **SECTION 1. PROTESTS AGAINST HOUNDS.**

Any person who owns a hound entered in the test or trial, or who handles a hound in the test or trial may make a protest to the Field Committee against any participating hound either before or after the hound has run, alleging that it is ineligible to participate in the test or trial as entered. Such a protest shall be in writing, shall identify the hound protested and specify the basis for the protest, shall bear the signature and address of the person who makes it and shall describe his qualifications for making the protest. It shall be filed with the test or trial Secretary or with the Chairman of the Field Committee before the completion of the event, and shall be accompanied by a deposit of \$25.00, which shall be returned if the protest is sustained, or which will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained.

If such a protest is received, the Field Committee shall hold a meeting as soon as possible—consisting of at least three (3) members of the club or association holding the event. The person who makes the protest must be present, and the Committee shall give all parties concerned an opportunity to be heard and to present witnesses and evidence. The Committee may call for addi-

tional evidence from other qualified persons present at the event. After hearing all of the evidence the Committee shall consider the matter and shall, if possible, reach an immediate decision and inform the persons involved.

In order to ensure impartiality, no person who owns or co-owns the dog being protested or a dog that will move up in the placements if the protest is sustained, or any member of their household, and no professional trainer who has trained or handled these dogs within the past year, may serve on the Committee hearing the protest. The Committee may vote to excuse anyone from the Committee if there are unique situations that cause the Committee to question an individual's ability to be impartial.

A report of the meeting, giving all of the essential evidence and the Committee's decision, together with the original written protest and the \$25.00 deposit, if not refunded, must be mailed to The American Kennel Club postmarked within nine (9) days after completion of the event.

An appeal to The American Kennel Club from a decision of a committee on any such protest may be made by either the owner of the hound protested or the person who made the protest. The appeal must be received by The American Kennel Club within thirty (30) days after the date of the committee's decision.

## **CHAPTER XIV NATIONAL LURE COURSING CHAMPIONSHIP**

A National Lure Coursing Championship Trial for all eligible sighthounds may be held not more than once in any calendar year, and shall be for hounds which are approved by reason of previous wins and other qualifications. The current Regulations pertaining to the National Lure Coursing Championship may be found on the AKC website at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org); then go to "events" then "lure coursing."

The winner of this trial shall be designated "National Lure Coursing Field Champion (NFC) of 20\_\_."

## **CHAPTER XV COURSING ABILITY TEST REGULATIONS**

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE.** The purpose of the AKC Coursing Ability Test is to provide all dogs and their owners an enjoyable, healthy activity in which they can participate. Based on the sport of lure coursing, Coursing Ability Tests will serve as an introduction to the sport

for all eligible dog owners. Dogs run singularly and are required to complete their course with enthusiasm and without interruption within a maximum amount of time. The Coursing Ability Test is a pass–fail event.

**SECTION 2.** All applicable administrative regulations governing Lure Coursing Tests shall apply to Coursing Ability Tests unless specifically addressed in this chapter.

**SECTION 3. ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER.** Coursing Ability Tests are open to all dogs at least 12 months of age that are individually registered with the AKC, recorded in the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) program, individually registered with a foreign or domestic registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration, dogs granted a Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) number, dogs with AKC Limited or Conditional Registration, or dogs enrolled in the AKC Canine Partners program. Dogs with breed disqualifications and monorchid/cryptorchid dogs are eligible to participate. Females in season may not enter. A dog may enter only once per event. (An event is defined by an event number.)

**SECTION 4. CLUBS ELIGIBLE TO HOLD COURSING ABILITY TESTS.** Any club licensed to hold AKC Lure Coursing events is automatically licensed to hold a Coursing Ability Test. All-breed and group conformation clubs, agility clubs, or obedience/rally clubs that have the interest, resources and knowledge within the club may apply to the Performance Events Department to become licensed to hold Coursing Ability Tests. The Performance Events Department will also consider special requests to hold a Coursing Ability Test on unique occasions. The department may be contacted at [PerformanceEvents@akc.org](mailto:PerformanceEvents@akc.org).

**SECTION 5. INSPECTION COMMITTEE.** An inspection committee consisting of at least two persons who are members of the field committee shall inspect each entry for lameness, fitness to compete and females in season. Inspection shall take place prior to any form of wrapping being applied to the dog. In the opinion of the inspection committee, any entry found to be lame, unfit to compete or a female in season shall not be allowed to enter and entry fees shall be refunded.

**SECTION 6. MAKING EVENT APPLICATION.** Licensed clubs may make application to the American Kennel Club to hold an event on a designated form downloadable from the AKC website by visiting [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org); then go to “events” then “downloadable forms” then “performance applications.” Paper or e-mail applications will be accepted. Approval and

close out correspondence would all be done via e-mail. Applications must be made 3 months prior to the event or a club may be subject to a fine.

Events may be either stand-alone tests or may be held at the conclusion of a club's Lure Coursing event. In either case the Coursing Ability Test must be applied for as a separate event. If a club is concerned that entries may be more than can be accommodated, the club may state a numeric limit in the premium. The application fee shown on the form must accompany the application. A club may hold up to twelve (12) Coursing Ability Tests per calendar year. A club may hold no more than two Coursing Ability Tests on the same day. A test (as identified by an event number) must start and conclude on the same day. Coursing Ability Tests hosted by two different clubs may not be held closer than 100 miles in distance on the same day except a club may be licensed to hold a CAT event within 100 miles of another club which has established its CAT event on the same date only if, in each instance, it obtains the written permission of the club with the established date and submits the written permission along with its trial application. However, there may not be more than two CAT events on the same day at the same location.

If a Coursing Ability Test is held at the conclusion of a Lure Coursing event, the club may use the same premium however both event numbers must appear on the entry form.

It is recommended that clubs holding Coursing Ability Tests state in their premium if the course area is or is not fenced. Clubs may, but are not required to list the name of the lure operator in their premium list.

A list of approved upcoming events can be found at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org); then go to "events" then "events calendar."

**SECTION 7. ELIGIBILITY TO JUDGE.** All AKC approved Lure Coursing event judges are approved to judge a Coursing Ability Test. People who are not Lure Coursing judges may be approved to judge a Coursing Ability Test provided they meet the following minimum requirements: (1) Must be in good standing with the AKC and are at least 21 years of age, and (2) Have a minimum of three years of experience in the sport of Lure Coursing. It is the responsibility of the hosting club to assure these requirements are met. More than one judge can be approved to judge an event but only one judge is permitted to judge at a time. This can be helpful if a club experiences a high number of entries. Judges are permitted to run their own dog, only if they can be relieved of their judging responsibility for that run by another approved judge.

**SECTION 8. COURSE DESIGN.** The course shall be designed with safety for non-sighthound breeds as a primary consideration. There shall be no turns more

acute than 90 degrees. The total length of the course shall be no less than 600 yards and should be as close to 600 yards as is possible. The lure will consist of plastic strips. Depending on the size and type of dog, the dog will run either the full course or a 300 yard course. The 300 yard distance shall be clearly marked. Safety is of utmost importance. Many of the dogs running the Coursing Ability Test will not possess the agility of a sight hound and this must be a consideration in the design of a course.

The event committee is responsible for the safety of the course by ensuring they have individuals with sufficient experience and knowledge in course design at the event. This experience can be gained by serving as a lure operator, lure coursing trial chair or huntmaster, having run a dog to its lure coursing championship, or being an AKC lure coursing judge. The judge is responsible for walking the course prior to the start of the event in order to look for hazards.

**SECTION 9. DISTANCE AND MAXIMUM TIME.** Dogs run singularly in Coursing Ability Test events. Veteran dogs may run two-thirds of the normal distance at the owner's discretion. Veteran dogs are defined for this test as dogs older than 7 years of age. A veteran dog's owner must declare prior to the start which distance the dog will run.

**300 Yard Course.** This distance is for dogs shorter than 12 inches at the withers and/or brachycephalic ("flat-faced") dogs. A veteran dog may run 200 yards at the owner's discretion. A dog must complete this course in less than 1½ minutes.

**600 Yard Course.** This distance is used for all dogs that do not run the 300 yard course. A veteran dog may run 400 yards at the owner's discretion. A dog must complete this course in less than 2 minutes.

If there is a question whether a dog should run the 300 or 600 yard course, the judge will decide. The premium shall state the distance for each course and the eligibility of dogs for each course, including that veteran dogs may run two-thirds of the normal course distance at the owner's discretion.

**SECTION 10. COLLAR/PARAPHERNALIA.** Dogs may wear any collar except a choker collar, a collar with prongs or an electronic training collar. The collar should be snug to minimize the chances of getting hung up on something during the run. The event committee may, at its discretion, require securing the tags with tape or something similar to ensure the dog's safety. Owners should be aware that there is a chance that tags hanging from the collar could become entangled on something during the run. If owners are concerned, tags may be taped to the collar. Owners may use clips or rubber bands to hold the dog's hair. The owner assumes

responsibility for the safety of the dog with regard to the dog's collar and paraphernalia on the dog. Head halters, such as the Gentle Leader or Halti, may be used on the grounds but must not be worn while running the course.

**SECTION 11. PASSING PERFORMANCE.** The Coursing Ability Test is a pass–fail event. In order to pass, the dog must complete the course with enthusiasm and without interruption within the maximum amount of time for the course length. A dog is considered to have failed the test if it relieves while on course. The time ends when the dog completes the required course. The judge keeps the official time and decides the merits of the dog's performance.

**SECTION 12. RIBBONS OR ROSETTES.** A club holding Coursing Ability Test shall offer a ribbon or rosette to each dog that receives a qualification toward a Coursing Ability title. Each ribbon or rosette shall be at least two inches wide and eight inches long and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of The American Kennel Club, the words “Coursing Ability Test Qualifying”, and the name of the test-giving club. Ribbons or rosettes shall be orange in color.

**SECTION 13. TITLES.** Three titles will be awarded for dogs that pass the Coursing Ability Test the required number of times. These are suffix titles that will appear on a dog's pedigree with a higher level title superseding a lower level title.

Coursing Ability (CA) – Awarded to a dog that passes the Coursing Ability Test three times under at least two different judges.

Coursing Ability Advanced (CAA) – Dog passes the Coursing Ability Test a total of ten times. (CA+7 additional passes)

Coursing Ability Excellent (CAX) – Dog passes the Coursing Ability Test a total of 25 times.

Coursing Ability Excellent 2 (CAX2) – Dog passes the Coursing Ability Test a total of 50 times.

A higher numbered title will be awarded for every additional twenty five passes.

**SECTION 14. SUBMISSION OF RESULTS.** All necessary forms for recording results will be downloadable from the AKC website. (Secretary's Report = [www.akc.org/pdfs/JFSEC2.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/JFSEC2.pdf); Coursing Ability Test Results = [www.akc.org/pdfs/events/lure\\_coursing/Coursing\\_Ability\\_Test\\_Results.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/events/lure_coursing/Coursing_Ability_Test_Results.pdf)) Event forms/booklets that are not easily downloadable can be requested by e-mail to the PE Department ([lurecoursing@akc.org](mailto:lurecoursing@akc.org)). In many cases clubs will have these forms/booklets as a result of holding lure coursing events. The applicable recording fee shown on the Event Secretaries Report must be submitted at the time results are mailed to the Performance Events Department.

**SECTION 15. POSTING OF RESULTS.** Results can be found by visiting [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org); then go to “events” then “events calendar” and select the particular event, then click on “Coursing Ability” located next to the judges’s name and number of starters.

## **CHAPTER XVI**

# **FAST CAT® REGULATIONS**

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE/DESCRIPTION.** The purpose of the AKC Fast CAT event is to provide all dogs and their owners an enjoyable, healthy activity in which they can participate. Dogs run singularly. The dog’s time to complete the 100 yard dash is converted into MPH. Dogs earn points based on their handicapped speed. Titles are awarded when a dog has accumulated a given number of points.

**SECTION 2. REGULATIONS.** All applicable administrative regulations governing Lure Coursing Tests shall apply to Fast CAT events unless specifically addressed in this chapter.

**SECTION 3. ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER.** Fast CAT events are open to all dogs at least 12 months of age that are individually registered with the AKC, recorded in the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) program, individually registered with a foreign or domestic registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration, dogs granted a Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) number, dogs with AKC Limited or Conditional Registration, or dogs enrolled in the AKC Canine Partners program. Dogs with breed disqualifications and monorchid/cryptorchid dogs are eligible to participate. Females in season may not enter. A dog may enter only once per event. (An event is defined by an event number.)

**SECTION 4. ENTERING AN EVENT.** All participants must fill out an entry form as provided in the club’s premium list. A club may accept entries prior to the event and/or a club may accept day-of-event entries. The specifics of how entries will be accepted must be explained in the premium. If a Fast CAT event is held in conjunction with a Lure Coursing event or Coursing Ability Test, the club may use the same premium however both event numbers must appear on the entry form.

A club may limit the number of entries it will accept in a Fast CAT event. Additional “stand-by” entries above the limit may be taken at the discretion of the event committee and these dogs will be allowed to run if time permits. Owners of stand-by dogs must be informed that they are on the stand-by list and may choose not to participate.

## **SECTION 5. EARNING POINTS.**

A. The dog's time to complete the 100 yard dash is converted into MPHs. Please see formula in Section 17.

B. A handicap system is applied to a dog's MPH to determine the number of points earned. The handicap system is based on the height of the dog at its withers:

- 18" or greater = handicap is 1.0.
- 12" up to less than 18" = handicap is 1.5.
- Below 12" = handicap is 2.0.

C. Points = mph multiplied by the dog's handicap

**SECTION 6. TITLES.** Titles are earned by accumulating points. The following titles will be awarded: BCAT = 150 Points; DCAT = 500 points; FCAT = 1,000 points; and FCAT followed by a number (e.g. FCAT2) for every additional 500 points. These suffix titles will appear on a dog's pedigree, with a higher level title superseding a lower level title.

**SECTION 7. TOP 20 DOGS BY BREED BY YEAR.** National rankings showing the top 20 fastest dogs by breed for a calendar year (as determined by the average speed of a dog's top three runs in that year) will be maintained on the Fast CAT website. These rankings will be automatically updated as results are processed.

**SECTION 8. RIBBONS AND AWARDS.** A club holding a Fast CAT event may offer a participation ribbon or award to each dog that completes the 100 yard dash. The ribbon, if offered, shall be at least two inches wide and eight inches long and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of The American Kennel Club, the words "Fast CAT," and the name of the test-giving club. Ribbons shall be light blue in color.

**SECTION 9. HOSTING FAST CAT EVENTS.** Any club licensed to hold AKC Lure Coursing Trials or Coursing Ability Tests are automatically licensed to hold Fast CAT events. A club is limited to twelve Fast CAT events per year. A club may not hold more than two Fast CAT events on the same day. If a club holds two events on the same day, they have the option to hold them concurrently or consecutively. Clubs should specify in their premium list which way they intend to run their two events. When held concurrently, a dog entered in both tests would be allowed to complete both runs in succession (back to back) without having to wait for one event to finish before the next can begin. A Fast CAT event must start and conclude on the same day. Fast CAT events hosted by two different clubs may not be held closer than 100 miles in distance on the same day except a club may be licensed to hold a Fast CAT event within 100 miles of another club which has established its Fast CAT event on the same date only if, in each instance, it obtains the written permission of the club with the



established date and submits the written permission along with its trial application. However, there may not be more than two Fast CAT events on the same day at the same location. A club may limit the number of entries it will accept. Additional “stand-by” entries above the limit may be taken at the discretion of the event committee and these dogs will be allowed to run if time permits. Owners of stand-by dogs must be informed that they are on the stand-by list and may choose not to participate.

All other AKC member or licensed clubs that have the interest and resources within the club may apply to the Performance Events Department to become licensed to hold Fast CAT events provided they have the experience, equipment and location to hold a safe event. The Performance Events Department will also consider special requests to hold Fast CAT events on unique occasions. Any such requests should be sent to: [lurecoursing@akc.org](mailto:lurecoursing@akc.org).

All Fast CAT events shall be open to all dogs, except Specialty clubs may open to their breed only and Group clubs may open to the breeds in their group.

Fast CAT events can be either a stand-alone event or may be held in conjunction with other AKC events. In all cases the Fast CAT must be applied for as a separate event with its own event number.

#### **SECTION 10. COURSE/EQUIPMENT.**

A. Safety: Safety is of utmost importance. It is the responsibility of the event committee to insure the safety of the course, the equipment and the conduct of those involved with the event. It is recommended that the event committee run a test dog prior to the start of the event to ensure that the equipment functions properly and all personnel understand their jobs. Prior to moving the lure to position it for the start, the lure operator shall announce “hold your dogs” in order to caution owners.

B. The Start: Dogs may start up to 10 feet behind the starting line. Clubs must define this space by having a start box that is 10 feet long. A dog’s front paws must be inside the start box upon release.

C. The Finish: The club must provide enough room for a safe run-out area. It is required this be a minimum of 30 yards and suggested the run out be 50 yards. The club should consider fencing the end of the course in order to help collect the dogs. It is recommended that an owner or someone familiar with the dog stand at the finish in order to catch the dog once the course has been completed.

D. Timing Devices: The time to complete the 100 yard dash is recorded to the nearest 1/100th of a second (e.g. 9.11). The club may use stopwatches or break-the-beam equipment to obtain the time. Clubs must specify in their premium list which timing method is to be used. If

stopwatches are used, there shall be two timers positioned at the finish line. An individual at the start line shall signal with an arm drop the moment the nose of the dog crosses the start line. The timers shall start their stopwatches at the bottom of the arm drop. The timers shall stop their watches when the nose of the dog crosses the finish line. The times from the two stopwatches shall be averaged to determine the recorded time.

E. Lure Equipment: Clubs may use either a drag or continuous loop system. If a continuous loop system is used the “return” string and lure must be set outside of the running course. The lure operator and the lure equipment shall be safely positioned in a manner that does not interfere with the retrieval of the dog at the end of the course. Clubs may, but are not required to list the name of the lure operator in their premium list. Clubs are required to be equipped with a backup lure machine should one fail and become inoperable during an event. (Effective: January 1, 2019)

F. Lure: A white plastic bag or a squawker may be used for the lure. Clubs using a squawker instead of a plastic bag should use caution as it may prematurely break the beam of an automatic timer. This can depend on variables such as wind and smoothness of the terrain. If an inaccurate time were to occur, the club must take steps to correct it.

G. Course/Fencing: The course must be essentially flat and must be straight from beginning to end. The course can only be measured using a tape measure and no type of measuring wheel. The course must be free of any potential hazards. Pulleys are prohibited from placement inside the course. The club should consider fencing the course area, however this is up to the decision of the club given the specifics of the setting. The premium should state if the course at the event is enclosed with fencing.

**SECTION 11. HUNTMASER.** Because Fast CAT is a timed event, there is no judge. The huntmaster has control of the course. The huntmaster’s responsibilities are detailed in the Lure Coursing Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 5. In summary, the huntmaster is in charge of all dogs and handlers on the field, shall ensure handlers understand safe release and retrieval procedures, shall ensure the lure is properly positioned, shall ensure the lure operator, timers and starting line signal person are ready, shall signal the lure operator to start the lure and shall give the verbal signal “tallyho” to release the dog. The minimum age of the huntmaster must be 16 years old.

**SECTION 12. INSPECTION COMMITTEE.** An inspection committee consisting of at least two persons who are members of the field committee shall inspect each entry for lameness, fitness to compete and females

in season. Inspection shall take place prior to any form of wrapping being applied to the dog. In the opinion of the inspection committee, any entry found to be lame, unfit to compete or a female in season shall not be allowed to enter and entry fees shall be refunded. If necessary, the inspection committee is responsible for measuring dogs to determine their height at the withers.

### **SECTION 13. COLLARS/PARAPHERNALIA.**

Dogs may wear any type of collar except choker collars, a collar with prongs or an electronic training collar. The collar should be snug to minimize the chances of catching on something during the run. Clubs may, at their option, require that tags hanging from the collar be taped up. Owners may have their dog wear a muzzle if they desire. Owners may use clips or rubber bands to hold the dog's hair. The owner assumes responsibility for the safety of the dog with regard to the dog's collar and paraphernalia on the dog. Head halters, such as the Gentle Leader or Halti, may be used on the grounds but must not be worn while running the course.

**SECTION 14. HANDLERS.** Handlers are not permitted to run with a dog during an official run but must remain either at the start or finish area of the course. Handlers are not to allow dogs to be enticed through the course with anything other than the lure during is official run.

### **SECTION 15. MAKING EVENT APPLICATION.**

A. Licensed clubs may apply for Fast CAT events by using the on-line event management feature located on the AKC website. Visit [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org); then go to "events" then "downloadable forms" then "performance applications" then "Fast CAT Application." Paper or emailed event applications will be accepted. Applications should be submitted three months prior to the event. Approval correspondence will all be done via e-mail. Event secretaries will need to provide an e-mail address on the event application form. Approved events can be found on the AKC website. Visit [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org); then go to "events" then "events calendar."

B. Event Kits: No event kits will be mailed to clubs. All necessary forms are downloadable from the AKC downloadable forms webpage. Visit [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org); then go to "events" then "downloadable forms" then "performance event reports." Approval correspondence will be done via e-mail. Event secretaries will need to provide an e-mail address on the event application form. Event forms/booklets that are not easily downloadable can be requested by e-mail to: [PerformanceEvents@akc.org](mailto:PerformanceEvents@akc.org). In many cases clubs will have these forms/booklets as a result of holding other AKC events.

**SECTION 16. SUBMITTAL OF RESULTS.** Clubs must mail the event Secretary Report and (name of results form once finalized) to the Performance Events Department within 7 days from the completion of the event. All necessary forms for submitting results are downloadable from the AKC website. Clubs may not submit results for runs other than those occurring during an official licensed FAST CAT® event.

**SECTION 17. POSTING OF RESULTS.** Fast CAT event results will be posted on the AKC website and displayed in the Fast CAT – Top 20 Rankings.

**SECTION 18. 100 YARD DASH TIME CONVERTED TO MILES PER HOUR.**

A dog's 100 yard dash time must be converted into MPH using the formula below, rounded to the nearest hundredth of a mile:

$$\frac{204.545}{\text{Dog's Time}} = \text{MPH}$$

Example: The dog's time is 8.14 seconds.

$$204.545 / 8.14 = 25.13 \text{ MPH}$$

Once the calculation is determined using the above formula, only then can rounding to the nearest hundredth take place.

To help record Fast CAT results there are two types of result sheets available online in this location: <http://www.akc.org/events/fast-cat/>. (Please scroll down to "Record Your Fast CAT Results")

- One is a fillable .PDF Result Sheet which is filled in manually using the formula above.
- The other is an automated Fast CAT Results Tool which will help calculate results and will automatically populate result info into a result sheet.

Either one can be used depending on preference and can be sent to: [lurecoursing@akc.org](mailto:lurecoursing@akc.org). If neither is preferred, the regular downloadable result form is always available and can be mailed.

# LURE FIELD TRIALS— GLOSSARY OF TERMS

## **BLANKET:**

A solid colored cloth worn by each hound during competition. Blankets must be of sufficient size and brightness to be easily seen at a distance. At present, the colors are (all bright) yellow, pink and blue.

## **CONDITIONAL ENTRY:**

An entry submitted with specifications for acceptance; e.g., considered an entry if the hound passes the QC test prior to the trial, if the handler and hound arrive at the trial on time, etc.

## **COURSE:**

Consists of one, two or three hounds pursuing a lure of either mechanical or electrical drive over a selected course pattern. The course begins after the handlers' affirmative response to "Are you ready?" and ends when all hounds in the course are under handlers' physical restraint.

## **COURSE DELAY:**

A course delay shall include delays caused by hounds whose handlers delay the start of the course, hounds that break away from and avoid their handlers prior to the "Are you ready?" signal and hounds that avoid their handlers after the command, "Retrieve your hounds."

## **DRAW:**

A random drawing determining the order in which the hounds will run.

## **HOUSEHOLD:**

Includes those persons that comprise a unit living together in the same shared dwelling.

## **IMMEDIATE FAMILY:**

Includes siblings, parents, grandparents, spouse and children.

## **LURE:**

Must be made up of plastic strips.

## **OVERRUN:**

Failure of the Lure Operator to maintain a 10-to-30-yard distance in front of the lead hound, resulting in the lead hound passing or overtaking the lure.

## **PRE-SLIP:**

Where a hound is slipped before the Tallyho is sounded by the Huntmaster.

## **QUALIFYING SCORE:**

Fifty percent (50%) of the total possible combined points from the preliminary and final courses.

**ROLL CALL:**

Will begin after the published trial hours at the published roll call time, per premium list. Will end for each breed when the draw for that breed has begun.

**RUNOFF:**

A competition to determine a final placement.

**STAKE:**

Separation of entries in a breed, based on specific qualifications.

**TRIAL HOURS:**

One hour before roll call until ribbons are presented for Best In Field.

**VETERAN:**

A hound that meets the age requirement for a veteran as established by the breed's parent club — 6 years for all hounds. except Irish Wolfhounds = 5 years, and Whippets = 7 years; Rhodesian Ridgebacks = 7 years; Salukis = 7 years, and Afghan Hounds = 7 years.

**WICKET:**

A measuring device used to determine breed height disqualification.

## AKC Code of Sportsmanship

*PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.*

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

For the purpose of these Regulations, words used in the masculine gender include the feminine and the masculine, and the singular the plural. The word hound wherever used in these Regulations includes both sexes.

Complete text of booklet available at: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

To order booklet(s), contact AKC at:  
The American Kennel Club Order Desk  
8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100  
Raleigh, NC 27617-3390  
Tel: (919) 233-9767  
E-mail: [orderdesk@akc.org](mailto:orderdesk@akc.org)

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