

Pointing Breed Field Trial/Hunting Test Procedure Manual



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

How to Plan and Run a Field Trial or Hunting Test

Introduction

This manual will help you to hold AKC sanctioned and licensed field trials and hunting tests for pointing breeds. It includes basic guidelines for planning, organizing and conducting the events. If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact the AKC Performance Events Department, 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27617-3390. Additional information sources are these American Kennel Club publications:

1. AKC Pointing Breed Field Trials Rules
2. Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds.
3. Guide for Event Committees in Dealing with Misconduct at AKC Events.
4. Formation of Dog Clubs.

For names of existing field trial and hunting test clubs with names and addresses of secretaries, please visit our web site at <http://www.akc.org/clubs/search/index.cfm>.

Background on Field Trials and Hunting Tests

A Field Trial is an event at which championship points may be awarded to dogs in competition in various stakes with specific requirements. A Field Trial may be a horseback handling or walking event or a combination of the two. Local clubs are limited to a maximum of three licensed field trials within a calendar year. No more than two of those trials may be “horseback” trials. Holding “horseback” trials is not mandatory; a club may hold up to three “all walking” trials per calendar year. Dogs can be awarded the titles of Field Champion and/or Amateur Field Champion after meeting the criteria set forth in the Field Trial Rules for Pointing Breeds.

The American Kennel Club Hunting Tests enable owners to have the hunting abilities of their dogs evaluated and graded against written hunting standards, without competition, under simulated but near-natural hunting conditions. Local clubs are permitted to hold four hunting tests per calendar year.

The hunting test program is a program of certification; it seeks to identify and officially recognize those dogs that possess the abilities that enable them to serve effectively as personal hunting companions. Certification is provided on three levels in the form of the official AKC suffix titles Junior Hunter, Senior Hunter and Master Hunter.

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Chapter 1. Planning

Responsibilities of the Club's Board of Directors

The following are the elements that are required for the application and the premium list. (See Chapters 3 and 4 of the *Field Trial Rules* and Chapter 1, Section 3 and Section 12 of the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests*.) The order and chronological dates listed here may not necessarily be the order in which the club arranges for the field trial/hunting test, but every component should be completed before applying for the event.

Chronological List of Dates

One year to six months prior to the field trial/hunt test:

- Select Event Chairman
- Select Event Committee
- Select Event Secretary
- Contract for Grounds
- Set Dates
- Select Judges
- Order Birds
- Arrange for Horses

Three months prior to event:

- All applications to be filed with the AKC
- Order ribbons
- Reconfirm dates and schedule with judges by letter

Four to six weeks before closing date:

- Forward a hard copy of the premium list to AKC or e-mail electronic version to appropriate mailbox: fieldtrials@akc.org or huntingtest@akc.org.

One week before:

- Field Trial/Hunting Test Chairman's inspection of the grounds, setting and timing of courses for all stakes/levels offered.
- Have Judge's Affirmation sheets signed.

A. Selecting the Field Trial/Hunting Test Chairman

The Chairman should have a broad background in previous events and a familiarity with all mechanics of Field Trials/Hunting Tests.

B. Selecting the Field Trial/Hunting Test Committee

The Regulations require a minimum of five Field Trial/Hunting Test Committee members. The club should establish a training program for Committee personnel. The Committee should be composed of those who have the experience, and those who have the dedication and desire to learn.

C. Selecting the Field Trial/Hunting Test Secretary

Refer to Chapter 6, Section 1 of the *Field Trial Rules* and Chapter 1, Section 11, *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests*. This person handles all the paperwork for the event and must have time to do so.

D. Selecting the Grounds

Choose adequately sized areas, with cover and/or terrain that offer edges, objectives and area that will let the dogs run. All areas should be clear of hazards, such as broken glass, etc. Adequate parking areas and good access roads are important, especially in the event of inclement weather.

A Special Note: It is vital for all clubs to respect the land where the events are held. Private landowners and governmental bodies become very disenchanted with dogs and dog people when their property is damaged or destroyed.

E. Select the Date(s)

Select the date(s) of the trial/test and the starting times of each stake/level. Try not to conflict with other events in your area. Dates for Field Trials must be approved by the respective Parent Club before the AKC can act on the application. Dates for Hunting Tests are approved by the AKC.

F. Selecting the Judges

Refer to Chapter 5, Judges, *Field Trial Rules* and Chapter 1, Section 6, *Hunting Test Regulations*.

Field Trial/Hunting Test Judges must meet current qualifications. It is very important that Hunting Test judges have a broad background in hunting upland birds. An approved Judge cannot be a member of the Event Committee or act as Event Secretary if he or she is judging at that event. Qualifications to look for when selecting a Field Trial/Hunting Test Judge:

1. Must be in good standing with the AKC (i.e. not currently suspended from any AKC privileges)
2. Must be 18 years or older
3. Meets current AKC judging qualifications
4. Familiar with applicable Rules, Regulations and Guidelines

5. Has the proper approach in actions and manners to the responsibility and position of being a Judge
6. Able to deal effectively with event participants

G. Selecting the Gun Captain
(Field Trials with Retrieving Stakes, All Hunting Tests)

This person is thoroughly familiar with shooting birds under all conditions, addressing both marksmanship and, above all, safety.

Effective January 1, 2001, all Committees for clubs offering Field Trials/Hunting Tests must certify that the members of the committee have viewed the AKC gun safety video within twelve months prior to the start date of the event.

H. Selecting the Field Trial/Hunting Test Marshals

Besides having a broad background in previous events and familiarity with the mechanics of field trials/hunting tests, the Marshals assist the Chairman when multiple locations are used. The marshal must know the course in order to direct judges and handlers. The marshal is also responsible for control of the gallery.

I. Selecting the Bird Planter

This person should be experienced in handling game birds and be thoroughly familiar with bird care requirements, including the proper and humane confinement on the grounds. Most importantly the person must be familiar with the courses and likely hunting objectives for dogs and be capable of planting birds in good locations.

J. Selecting the Field Trial/Hunting Test Headquarters

The Field Trial/Hunting Test headquarters must be on the grounds.

K. Premium List

The premium list for a licensed or member Field Trial/Hunting Test must list the stakes or testing levels offered as well as the starting time and entry fee for each. Hunting Test events must offer at least two test levels. Field Trial clubs may offer any of the regular stakes as per Chapter 14, Section 2 of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*. The premium list must also state the day(s) on which the event will be held. The premium list or flyer accompanying the premium list should provide directions to the event site.

For complete information on premium lists refer to Chapter 1, Section 13 of *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds* and Chapter 7 of *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*.

L. Birds

The premium list must indicate the type or types of game birds to be used. Birds should be contracted for or bought far enough in advance to be sure they will be available at test time.

M. Horses

Horses should be contracted for far enough in advance to be sure they will be available for the Judges and Marshal(s). If a wrangler is available, arrangements should also be made for rentals for participants and/or gallery (except in hunting tests where only the Judges, a Judge's Marshal and the bird planter are permitted to ride).

N. Ribbons (prizes)

Standard AKC Ribbons (or Rosettes) shall be given to all placements in Field Trials as well as all qualifiers in Hunting Tests. (See Chapter 4, Section 1 & 2 of the *Field Trial Rules* and Chapter 1, Section 8, of the *Hunting Test Regulations for Pointing Breeds*.) The ribbons are usually ordered by the Club Secretary with sufficient lead time to guarantee arrival before the event.

O. Entry Closing Date, Time and Location

The Field Trial/Hunting Test Secretary is identified in the premium list by name and address as the person to receive entries. The closing date and the location of the drawing are also specified.

Chapter 2. Applications and Paperwork

A. Applications

For a member or licensed Pointing Breed Field Trial or Hunting Test; applications, Judges' panel, Emergency and Disaster Plan as well as the proper fees must be received by the AKC no less than three months prior to the event. For a sanctioned event, applications must reach the AKC at least four weeks in advance of the event. For complete information on the application process refer to *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*, Chapter 3 and *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds*, Chapter 1, Section 3.

B. Premium List

The Club Secretary or the Event Test Secretary should mail the premium lists and flyer to prospective entrants about 4 to 6 weeks prior to the closing date. At the same time a copy must be forwarded to AKC.

C. Club Flier

A flier should be included with the premium list when it is mailed to prospective entrants. It provides helpful information such as the following:

1. Directions and map to grounds (refer to *Regulations for Hunting Tests* Chapter 1, Section 13).
2. Scratch policy (refer to Chapter 1, Section 5 regarding withdrawn entries).
3. Whether food will be available on the grounds.
4. Social event (if any)
5. Headquarters motel, address and telephone number with alternative motels, addresses and telephone numbers. (Club officials should determine from motels whether dogs are allowed in rooms.)
6. Any available camping facilities.

D. Closing Date

All entries must be received by the Event Secretary before the closing date and time published in the premium list. Only those entries that are in the hands of the Event Secretary on the date and time that entries close are acceptable. The postmark on an envelope has no bearing whatsoever on whether an entry should be accepted; *no entries* can be accepted after the published closing time and date. The official AKC entry form must be completed in full and signed, and checks for entries must be enclosed. Dogs must be at least 6 months of age on the opening day (first day) of the event to be eligible to enter a Field Trial/Hunt Test.

Entrants must be in good standing with the AKC (i.e., not suspended from AKC privileges). Entries in each test are drawn at random in order to establish the running order of each test. Dogs run by the same handler should be separated by three or four dogs. The Event Secretary should number the entries in the order drawn and check the club's current mailing list, making additions and verifying addresses. the mailing list should be updated by adding new entrants and deleting persons who haven't entered club events for a number of years.

E. Catalogs or Running Order

Clubs holding a Field Trial must prepare a list showing the running order (procedure 4G). The number of catalogs/brace sheets to be printed will depend on the number of entries, club needs (members, Judges, workers, AKC, spectators, etc.). A marked catalog may be used to report the dogs that received qualifying scores in Hunting Tests (Chapter 1, Section 16, *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds*) and is also encouraged for use by Field Trial Clubs.

F. Evaluation Forms

A sample evaluation form (Hunt Test Scorecards) is included in *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds*. Hunting Test Judges' Scorecards may be obtained from www.akc.org and are found under "downloadable forms".

G. Medical and Veterinary Emergencies

In compliance with the AKC's Emergency and Disaster plan, clubs must make provisions for emergency medical service, if possible arranging to have paramedics in attendance. If this is impossible, the club should at least have the phone number of the nearest paramedic, police, fire department or ambulance service available at the event. Know and list the location of the nearest telephone. The Committee must also make arrangements for emergency veterinary care providing name, location and phone number of a veterinarian who might be on-call during the event.

Chapter 3. Checklists – Key Personnel and Responsibilities

A. Insurance Review

The AKC strongly recommends liability coverage for the protection of all club members and participants. Everyone involved with a Field Trial/Hunting Test is encouraged to have (and check on their own) personal comprehensive liability insurance. Some homeowner's policies include this. For both individual and club policies, we suggest seeking the counsel of an insurance agent.

The AKC also offers clubs Group Liability and Accident Insurance that has been designed exclusively for AKC member, licensed and sanctioned clubs at affordable rates. For additional information, please contact a representative at Equisure, Inc., 13790 E. Rice Pl., Aurora, CO 80115, 1-800-752-2472 or 303-614-6961.

Club liability policies may vary depending upon the state jurisdiction and whether the club is incorporated. The club policy must include a statement that the policy insures officers, directors and the Field Trial/ Hunting Test Committee members while acting in the scope of their official duties. The policy will also list limits of personal injury and medical payments.

B. Checklist of Major Duties

1. Field Trial/Hunting Test Secretary

- a. Receives entries.
- b. Sorts entries by stakes/levels.
- c. Prepares the catalog/brace sheets.
- d. At the beginning of the event, provides Judges with a sufficient number of score/evaluation forms for each dog in the event.

- e. Submits records. See Chapter 13, *Field Trial Rules*, and Chapter 1, Section 17, *Hunting Test Rules and Regulations*.

The greatest assistance any club can give its Committee is in the area of records. Complete records of the club's previous events can greatly aid the Committee in holding an excellent Field Trial/Hunting Test. These records are made available for study and comparison by the Field Trial/Hunting Test Secretary, who compiles all data concerning the event. The club is responsible for proper storage and passes on the information to each succeeding Committee.

- f. Ensures that the catalog is properly marked (Judges books filled out if catalog is not used) and that the Judges' and Secretary's certifications have been completed. The Field Trial/Hunting Test Secretary checks that all dogs placing in Field Trials or Qualifying in Hunting Tests are properly noted.
- g. Completes the Field Trial/Hunting Test Secretary's report, including signed programs or Judges books for submission to the AKC (Chapter 13, *Field Trial Rules*, and Chapter 1, Section 17 of the *Hunting Test Regulations*) within 7 days of the event. (There is a \$25.00 penalty plus \$5.00 per day late fee for records that are late.)

2. Field Trial/Hunting Test Chairman

The Chairman supervises the running of the event. The Chairman must be familiar with the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds* and the *Regulations for Hunting Tests* and the *Guide for Event Committees in Dealing with Misconduct*.

General Duties and Responsibilities

- a. Confirming Judges' assignments and dates.
- b. Supervises amenities for Judges such as:
 - 1. Letters confirming travel arrangements.
 - 2. Motel reservations.
 - 3. Reservations for Judges' dinners.
 - 4. Meeting Judges at the airport if necessary.
 - 5. Arranging for meals and transportation at and during the event. If spouse accompanies a Judge, arranges for hospitality for the spouse.
- c. Reconfirms with bird source as event date nears and revises numbers as necessary.
- d. Reconfirms availability of horses for Judges and Marshals as well as possible rentals.
- e. Ensures all Judges have completed the AKC Judges affirmation form.
- f. Arranges for ribbons and Judges' gifts. Delegates duties to key personnel
 - 1. Marshal
 - 2. Gun Captain
 - 3. Bird Steward
 - 4. Host or Hostess (optional)

- g. Tours course with Judges.
- h. Holds pre-event meeting with key personnel to organize event plans.
- i. Inspects the grounds a week before the event and reviews with the landowners any special restrictions.
- j. Makes sure that adequate directional signs are properly placed to the event site. Signs should be placed on the right side of the highway, beginning at a major intersection, and at intersections where a turn is to be made. Signs must be visible.
- k. Orders sanitary facilities, if needed, to be delivered to grounds.
- l. Designates exercise and camping areas.
- m. Ensures that all necessary equipment is on hand on the grounds prior to the start of the event, including:
 - 1. Birds
 - 2. Bird bands (if required)
 - 3. Lunch wagon (if required)
 - 4. Bird Sacks
 - 5. Shovels
 - 6. Shells
 - 7. Trash cans
 - 8. Sanitary facilities
 - 9. First-aid kit
 - 10. Spray paint (useful for directional signs)
 - 11. Fluorescent ribbon (useful for marking course).

During the event, the Chairman is the administrative officer for the event and supervises key personnel.

- n. Following the event, the Chairman might personally handle (or delegate) the following tasks:
 - 1. Presentation of ribbons/trophies.
 - 2. Presentation of gifts to Judges.
 - 3. Judges' transportation to the airport, prompt payment of Judges' expenses.
 - 4. Supervise cleanup of grounds.
 - 5. Approves bills for payment.
 - 6. Writes thank-you letters to the Judges.

3. Field Trial/Hunting Test Committee

Committees must consist of at least five people, including the Field Trial/Hunting Test Chairman. The Hunting Test Committee may include the Field Trial/Hunting Test Secretary, but the Field Trial/Hunting Test Secretary cannot be designated as the Chairman.

- a. During the event, the Committee carries the powers of the American Kennel Club and must use those powers to deal with any misconduct that may occur in connection with the event. Members of the Committee must be familiar with the *Hunting Test Regulations* for or, in the case of Field Trials, the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*. Committees must also be familiar with the *Guide for Event Committees in Dealing with Misconduct*.

- b. The Committee must attend the event, with a majority being in attendance at all times.

Additional Information for Field Trial/Hunting Test Committees

- a. Training on the grounds is not permitted under Procedure 6P of the Rules and under Chapter , section 8 of the *Regulations*.
- b. No dog shall be brought onto the grounds and any dog that may have been brought onto the grounds shall immediately be removed if it:
 - Shows clinical symptoms of distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease within thirty days prior to the opening of the event.
 - Has been kenneled within thirty days prior to the opening of the event on premises on which there existed distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease.
- c. If it is impossible for an assigned Judge to complete his assignment, a substitute Judge may be appointed. Notification of all changes in Judges must be sent immediately to the AKC, stating the reason for the change(s).

4. Marshals

The Field Trial/Hunt Test Committee shall appoint one or more Marshals. It shall be the duty of one Marshal to assist the Judges and carry out their instructions. Other Marshals shall see to it that braces are ready when called as well as making sure the event has:

- a. Sound and/or communication equipment (if used).
- b. Adequate directional signs.
- c. Trash cans.

The Marshals shall also:

- d. Remove signs when event is over.
- e. Locate sanitary facilities on grounds.
- f. Locate trash barrels where needed.
- g. Check arrangement of equipment and birds.
- h. Contact Judges for requirements and instructions on event.
- i. Pass on Judges' instructions to workers, entrants and gallery.
- j. Control the gallery.
- k. Watch for litter and police area.
- l. Supervise bird planter.
- m. Make food and beverages available for Judges.
- n. Take shot birds from gunners and dispose of same.
- o. Act as an announcer for the judges. This includes:
 1. Determining from Judges how to handle callbacks.
 2. Calling dogs to line in order of draw or as requested by Judges.
- p. Ensure that the following equipment is on hand prior to the commencement of the event:
 1. Extra blaze orange vests for handlers if needed.

2. Bird Sacks.
3. Bird bag for planter and extra cloth gloves.

The Marshal's post-event checklist:

- a. Club equipment is to be returned to Equipment Chairman.
- b. Bird planters bags/gloves.
- c. Empty shotguns.
- d. Sound/communication equipment.
- e. Signs to be taken down and returned to Equipment Chairman.
- f. Sanitary facilities removed.
- g. Trash barrels emptied.

5. Gun Captains

General Duties and Responsibilities

- a. Appoints Official Gunners (Retrieving stakes and Hunting Tests)
Official Gunners must be:
 1. Very safety conscious, and refrain from drinking alcoholic beverages during their assignments.
 2. Good marksmen.
 3. Diligent.
 4. All gunmen must be at least 21 years of age.
 5. Experienced in gunning for field events.
- b. Makes sure each Official Gunner arrives at the test with the following:
 1. Shotgun, break-open (Note: Semi-Automatic Shotguns are prohibited in hunting tests.)
 2. Blaze orange vest or coat.
 3. Rain gear.
- c. Arranges for live ammunition to be on grounds.
- d. Assigns an assistant to each event he/she is personally unable to cover.
- e. Coordinates relief of assignments and rotation of gunners with Marshals and bird steward.
- f. Ensures all gunners have viewed AKC's gun safety video.

6. Official Guns are Expected to:

- a. Be on time.
- b. Wear blaze orange vest or coat with bird bag.
- c. Keep guns broken open.
- d. Carry gun in safe manner and position at all times.
- e. Refrain from drinking alcoholic beverages.
- f. Follow Judges' instructions at all times.
- g. Never shoot toward Judges, handlers, other gunner or gallery.
- h. Do not assist the handler or dog, only gun per Judges' instructions.
- i. Refrain from ejecting shell or making other movements until dog has been sent to retrieve.

- j. Pick up spent shells.

7. Bird Steward: Duties and Responsibilities

- a. Selects bird planter(s) with experience in planting birds.
- b. Assumes charge of birds:
 - Arranges for delivery of birds to event site.
 - Makes sure birds are at the event site.
 - Ensures humane treatment of birds.
 - Supervises disposal of dead birds and clean-up.
 - Conducts sale, if any, of leftover birds.

8. Host or Hostess: Is Generally Responsible for:

- a. Providing food and beverages for Judges and spouse (if present) while at the event.
- b. Arranging a “tailgate” party, if any.
- c. Arranging a banquet, if any.

Chapter 4. Running the Field Trial/Hunting Test

A. Your Judges

1. Meet the Judges at the airport or other agreed-upon arrival point and escort them to their hotel.
2. Take them to dinner or at least direct them to a good restaurant. Do they need transportation?
3. Arrange to bring the Judges to breakfast each day with sufficient time to allow them to get to the grounds on time.
4. The Chairman and one or more representatives of the Field Trial/Hunting Test Committee should bring the Judges to the grounds, answer any questions, ride the course(s) with the Judges, answer any questions and point out any peculiarities of the grounds.
5. Have representatives available to help with details of the event.
6. Be prompt with serving lunch. Remember, if a Judge’s spouse is along, be sure the spouse is also given lunch.

B. Misconduct

All officials of an event-giving club, including the Chairman and every member of the Field Trial/Hunting Test Committee must be thoroughly familiar with the proper procedures for handling cases of misconduct. A complete and careful review of the AKC’s pamphlet *Guide for Dealing with Misconduct* should be included in at least one of the Committee’s pre-event planning meetings.

C. Club’s Responsibilities After the Event

1. Make sure somebody is available to take the Judges to the airport. Reimburse the Judges promptly for all expenses.
2. Send results to the AKC. The Rules and Regulations specify the material that is to be filed with the AKC following an event. These records must be accompanied by the Field Trial/Hunting Test Secretary's Report within seven days of the event. Clubs are subject to a \$25.00 penalty plus \$5.00 per day late fee for each day records are delinquent.
3. Cleanup and grounds. The equipment person arranges for the removal of all club property from the grounds, including any directional signs posted on outside roads. All other equipment is returned to respective owners. Police all areas of the grounds for trash, etc. It is vital that the club try to leave the grounds in even better condition than they were found. This can determine whether the club will be invited back for future use of the grounds.
4. Post-event critique. A critique shortly after the event can be an excellent tool to avoid future problems such as delays caused by faulty mechanics, lack of equipment, insufficient numbers of workers, etc. Keep a fairly detailed report of the club's review for reference use in the next pre-event planning meeting.

Planning a Successful Event

Some Helpful Hints

This booklet is very helpful as far as guidelines and time lines to follow. It is also important to be thoroughly familiar with the pertinent book, *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds* or *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds*, depending on the type event being planned.

The following are observations and suggestions intended to help a Club run a quality event.

Selecting a Chairperson should be done with care; a poor job is a reflection on the entire club. The same holds true of the Secretary. This is not to say that a Club should avoid using new people, in fact it is a good thing to get them involved. The key is that a Club has the obligation to assist a new Chairperson or Secretary by offering guidelines and plenty of support. The Chair and Secretary should be people that are willing to devote time and energy from the planning stages through the completion of the actual event. Their possession of organizational skills is extremely important.

Selecting the Judges is one of the most crucial roles of an Event Chairperson. These people can make or break your event. They have to meet the AKC requirements in order to become a Judge and they must keep current on the rules and regulations. Possessing thorough knowledge as to how dogs are expected to perform in various situations and having open minded honesty are essential. In short, they should be Sportsmen/women.

A detail that sometimes causes problems at events is with planning the bird order. This normally must be done well in advance of the event and before the number of entries is known. One way to help is to figure out the number of braces that it is possible to run on the given dates. Multiply that number by 2 (the number of birds a Club is required to plant per brace), then add numbers needed for salting the courses and for callbacks in retrieving stakes. It is always good to then add another 5% to be on the safe side in case of losses. Extra birds can be sold after an event but it is usually not possible to secure more if the event runs short on them.

If a large entry is expected at a trial or hunt test with **unlimited** entries, the club has some leeway in rearranging stake/ test level order to the point that they may add courses and secure extra Judges in order to accomplish the task of finishing the trial/test in a timely fashion.

If the large entry occurs at an event that **limited** entries, perhaps because the Event Secretary mistakenly accepted too many entries, the club's hands are basically tied. It is extremely important when planning a limited entry event to figure the amount of time it takes to run each brace including time lost between braces or at lunch. A Club may not add courses or Judges at a limited event. The only exceptions are in the case of delays due to weather or serious emergency situations, both of which must be thoroughly explained in the Secretary's report to AKC following the event.

One detail that can aid in a time constraint situation is to not have the same Judges in consecutive stakes/tests. This will eliminate the need to stop the action, as the next stake/test can be released as soon as the final brace of the preceding stake/test clears the course. This also takes away the need to stop running in order to perform call backs which likely can be done somewhere else on the grounds.

One of the most important things to remember while planning and conducting an event is to keep the playing field as level as is humanly possible for all entrants.

Finally, if you have any unanswered questions regarding a Pointing Breed event, place a call to the AKC Performance Events department (919-816-3904) and ask to be put in contact with an AKC Pointing Breed Field Representative.

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.