

# Regulations for Lure Coursing Tests and Trials

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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 over one million dogs annually, 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](http://www.akc.org).**

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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.** *(Requirements Effective Until 1/1/10):* Only purebred Afghan Hounds, Basenjis, Borzois, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Italian Greyhounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds and Whippets that are one year of age or older, that have been registered with The American

Kennel Club, or part of an AKC registered litter, or otherwise, if whelped outside of the United States of America and owned by a resident of the USA, or of a country with a foreign registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration and is registered with that registry, or that have been granted an Indefinite Listing Privilege (ILP), and sighthounds eligible to compete in the conformation Miscellaneous Class are eligible to participate in lure coursing tests and trials and be awarded the prefix title of Field Champion and the suffix titles of Junior Courser, Senior Courser or Master Courser. Hounds may not be entered as “registration pending” or “ILP pending.”

**Note:** *Italian Greyhounds are not eligible to compete for Best in Field.*

A hound whelped outside the United States of America and owned by a resident of the USA, or of a country with a foreign registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration and is registered with that registry.

An unregistered dog that is part of an AKC registered litter, or an unregistered dog with an acceptable foreign registration that was whelped outside the USA and that is owned by a resident of the USA, or of a country with a foreign registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration may, with special AKC approval, 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, but only provided that the AKC litter registration number of the individual foreign registration 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 a foreign-registration) is used for the dog each time.

No dog that has not been individually registered with The American Kennel Club when first entered in a licensed or member trial shall be eligible to be entered in any licensed or member trials that is held more than 30 days after the date of the first licensed or member trial in which it was entered unless the dog’s individual AKC registration number is shown on the entry form, or unless the owner can clearly demonstrate, in a letter addressed to the Performance Events Records Department of The American Kennel Club, 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27617, requesting such extension, 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 up application further extensions may be granted.

If a dog is later individually registered with a name that is not identical to the name under which it has been entered in a trial prior to individual registration, each entry form entering the dog in a licensed or member trial after the owner has received the individual registration certificate must show the registered name followed by “formerly shown as” and the name under which the dog was previously shown, until the dog has been awarded a qualifying score at a trial.

Spayed and neutered hounds are eligible to participate. Monorchid and cryptorchid hounds are ineligible to participate.

**ELIGIBILITY OF SIGHTHOUNDS.** (*Effective Starting 1/1/10*): 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:** *Italian Greyhounds are not eligible to compete for Best in Field. FSS breeds 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 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 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 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 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.

**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.

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

**RHODESIAN RIDGEBACKS**—Ridgelessness.

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

**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.

Disqualifications for FSS breeds can be found on our website at: [www.akc.org/events/lure\\_coursing/fss\\_dis\\_faults.cfm](http://www.akc.org/events/lure_coursing/fss_dis_faults.cfm).

**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 the club fails to hold a lure coursing test or trial at the approved time and place, the application fee will be returned. 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 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.

## **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.*

## **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.

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. HUNTMASTER.**

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.

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. See Chapter XIII, Section 3 for reinstatement process.

**SECTION 11. DISQUALIFICATION BY JUDGE.** A dog is not eligible to be entered in a licensed or member club Lure Coursing Trial in any stake if the dog has on one occasion been made the subject of 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 dog shall be listed in the report of the Lure Coursing Trial sent to the American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not compete at AKC lure coursing events 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.

The Reinstatement process is explained in Chapter XIII, section 3.

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.

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.

The Reinstatement process is explained in Chapter XIII, Section 3.

**SECTION 13. 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 14. 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 15. 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 16. 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 17. 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 [coursing@akc.org](mailto:coursing@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.

**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) Time event(s) will commence,
- (7) 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."
- (8) Entry fees,
- (9) Events offered,
- (10) Names and addresses of judges together with their assignments,
- (11) Date and time of closing and drawing of entries,
- (12) A listing of club officers,

(13) The official AKC entry form.

(14) The statement "Permission has been granted by The American Kennel Club for the holding of this event under American Kennel Club Rules and Regulations."

(15) 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.

(16) 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.** (*Qualified Courser Test becomes effective 1/1/10*) 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.** (*Effective until 1/1/10*) Open to all hounds from eligible breeds that have obtained an AKC Junior Courser title. 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 Championships 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 are not eligible to enter the Open Stake.

*(Effective 1/1/10):* Open to all hounds that have obtained an AKC Qualified Courser 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 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, and Whippets = 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. 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.

### **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 6. 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 7. BEST IN FIELD.** Best In Field shall be offered. All Best of Breed winners with the exception of Italian Greyhounds 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 at this competition. 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 8. 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, except as allowed in the AKC Rules, Regulations, and policies.

## **CHAPTER IX RECORDING FEES**

At every licensed and member club test and trial held under these Regulations, a recording fee of \$3.00 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.

## **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.

**B. QUALIFIED COURSER (QC) CERTIFICATE.**  
(*Effective 1/1/10*).

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 hound must complete the course with enthusiasm

and without interruption, sufficiently course the lure and not course the Testing Hound. 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. 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
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
Rhodesian Ridgebacks	10	8	5	3	2
Salukis	6	5	4	3	2
Scottish Deerhounds	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 hounds 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.** (*Effective 1/1/10*) 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 that may be included in any AKC publication, including event publications, e.g. premium lists, catalogs, etc.

## **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 additional 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.

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.

## **SECTION 2. 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 10).

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 11).

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 3. 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.

# **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/events/lure\\_coursing/nat\\_champ\\_req.pdf](http://www.akc.org/events/lure_coursing/nat_champ_req.pdf).

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

# 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.

**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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