

# Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Spaniels

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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.

### THE 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 more than 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 Spaniel Field Trials is also available on our Web site located at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

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## FOREWORD

The American Kennel Club was formed principally for the protection and advancement of purebred dogs.

The State of New York by Special Act of its Legislature incorporated The American Kennel Club and granted it a charter in Section 2 of which the objects of the corporation are described to be “to adopt and enforce uniform rules regulating and governing dog shows and field trials, to regulate the conduct of persons interested in exhibiting, running, breeding, registering, purchasing and selling dogs, to detect, prevent, and punish frauds in connection therewith, to protect the interests of its members, to maintain and publish an official stud book and an official kennel gazette, and generally to do everything to advance the study, breeding, exhibiting, running and maintenance of the purity of thoroughbred dogs.”

Section 2 of this charter further states that “for these purposes it,” The American Kennel Club, “shall have power to adopt a constitution, bylaws, rules and regulations, and enforce the same by fines and penalties, which it shall have the right to collect and enforce by suit, or by suspension or expulsion from membership, or by a suspension or denial of any or all of the privileges of said corporation.”

Competition in conformation and performance events can best demonstrate the progress that has been made in breeding for type and quality, and/or for practical use, stamina and obedience. The American Kennel Club has therefore adopted bylaws, rules and regulations by which to govern and administrate these events; the clubs that wish to hold them; and the individuals who exhibit, compete or take part in them. This book contains such bylaws, rules and regulations as affect the above.

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THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB  
Incorporated

**Registration and Field Trial Rules**

CHAPTER 1  
GENERAL EXPLANATIONS

SECTION 1. The word “dog” wherever used in these Field Trial Rules and Regulations includes both sexes.

CHAPTER 2  
FIELD TRIALS DEFINED

A MEMBER FIELD TRIAL is a field trial at which championship points may be awarded; given by a club or association which is a member of The American Kennel Club.

A LICENSED FIELD TRIAL is a field trial at which championship points may be awarded, given by a club or association which is not a member of The American Kennel Club, but which has been specially licensed by The American Kennel Club to give the specific field trial designated in the license.

A SANCTIONED FIELD TRIAL is an informal field trial at which dogs may compete but not for championship points, held by a club or association, whether or not a member of The American Kennel Club, by obtaining the sanction of The American Kennel Club.

CHAPTER 3  
MAKING APPLICATION TO HOLD A FIELD TRIAL

SECTION 1. Each member club or association is entitled to hold one show and/or one field trial a year without payment of a fee to The American Kennel Club, but must pay a fee of fifteen (\$15.00) dollars for each other show and/or field trial which it may hold during the same calendar year.

SECTION 2. Each member club or association which has held a field trial or field trials in any one year shall have first right to claim the corresponding dates for its trial or trials to be held in the next succeeding year.

SECTION 3. A member club or association must apply to The American Kennel Club for leave to hold a field trial, stating in the application the day or days upon which and the place where it desires to hold such field trial. This application will be referred to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club which will consider the same and notify the member club or association of its approval or disapproval of the dates and place selected.

SECTION 4. The use of a club’s name for field trial purposes cannot be transferred.

SECTION 5. If a non-member club or association wishes to hold a field trial it must apply to The American Kennel Club, on a form which will be supplied by The American Kennel Club upon request, for leave to hold such field trial stating in the application the day or days upon which and the place where it desires to hold such field trial and giving to The American Kennel Club such information with regard to the Constitution and Bylaws, and the names of the officers and members and the financial responsibility of the applying non-member club or association as The American Kennel Club may demand and shall pay a license fee for the privilege of holding such field trial, the amount of which fee shall be fixed and determined by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. This application will be referred to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club which will consider the same and notify the non-member club or association of its approval or disapproval of the dates and place selected.

If the Board of Directors shall disapprove the application, the license fee will be returned to said nonmember club or association.

SECTION 6. A non-member specialty club may be licensed to hold a field trial, if the consent in writing that it may be given first shall be obtained from the member specialty club formed for the improvement of the breed sought to be run which first was admitted to be a member of The American Kennel Club, which member club is commonly known as the Parent Club.

If a Parent Club unreasonably shall withhold its consent in writing to the holding of such field trial the nonmember specialty club may appeal to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club at any time after one month from the time when said consent was requested and a committee of said Board appointed by said Board or between sittings of said Board appointed by the President of The American Kennel Club or in his absence by the Executive Vice-President of The American Kennel Club shall hear the parties who may present their respective contentions either orally or in writing and in its discretion may issue a license to the non-member specialty club to hold such field trial.

SECTION 7. If a member or non-member club or association wishes to hold a sanctioned field trial, it must apply to The American Kennel Club for leave to hold such field trial, stating in the application the date or dates upon which and the place where it desires to hold such field trial, the names and addresses of the officers of the club or association, and the names and addresses of the Judges. The application will be referred to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club, which will consider the same and notify the club or association of its approval or disapproval of the dates, place and Judges selected. No fee is charged by The American Kennel Club for holding a sanctioned field trial.

Sanctioned field trials shall be governed by such simple rules and regulations as from time to time shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 8. The Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club will not approve applications for field trials where dates conflict unless it be shown that the granting of such application will not work to the detriment of either field trial club which has applied.

Clubs may only advertise corresponding dates, locations and stakes, plus club contact information prior to an event receiving AKC approval. Clubs may not advertise an event prior to AKC approval if the dates or locations differ from the previous year's corresponding event. Premium lists cannot be made available nor can entries be accepted until the event and judges panel has been approved by the AKC.

SECTION 9. If circumstances prior to the first day of a trial require a club to change the approved location or to cancel an approved licensed or member field trial, the club must notify the Field Trial Department of The American Kennel Club as expeditiously as possible, giving good and sufficient reasons for the proposed location change or cancellation.

Should circumstances during a trial preclude prior AKC notification of a change in location or the cancellation of the trial, a full report on such action(s) must be made to AKC within 7 days.

#### CHAPTER 4 RIBBONS AND PRIZES

SECTION 1. A club holding a licensed or member field trial shall offer prize ribbons or rosettes of the following colors in the regular stakes:

First Prize—Blue.

Second prize—Red.

Fourth prize—White.

Third prize—Yellow.

Special prize—Dark Green.

SECTION 2. Each ribbon or rosette at a licensed or member field trial shall be at least 2 inches wide and approximately 8 inches long and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of The American Kennel Club, the words Field Trial, the name of the prize, the name of the club holding the field trial, and the date of the trial.

SECTION 3. If ribbons or rosettes are given at Sanctioned Field Trials, or in nonregular stakes at licensed or member field trials, they shall be of the following colors:

First prize—Rose.

Second prize—Brown.

Third prize—Light Green.

Fourth prize—Gray.

Special prize—A combination of any of these colors.

SECTION 4. If money prizes are offered, a fixed amount or a percentage of the entry fee for each prize shall be stated.

SECTION 5. All prizes not money which may be offered shall be accurately described or the value stated. Stud services shall not be accepted as prizes.

## CHAPTER 5 JUDGES

SECTION 1. Persons judging field trials are not required to obtain licenses and a field trial club may submit the name of any reputable person who is in good standing with The American Kennel Club for approval to judge at its field trial. Such approved Judges may run dogs in any stakes in which they are not judging, excepting as the rules applying to trials for particular breeds may provide otherwise. (See Chapter 14, Section 4)

*In order to be approved to be published in the premium list, the two Judges of the All-Age Stakes for English Springer Spaniels must have a combined record of having judged at least twelve previous AKC member or licensed field trials. Except for good cause, the same requirement applies to substitute Judges and to judges of a licensed or member club water tests.*

*As a matter of policy, in order to be approved to be published in the premium list as a judge of a licensed or member club English Springer trial, all prospective judges (persons who have never judged a Springer Spaniel field trial) shall have a record of having completed two Open **and two** Amateur apprentice judging assignments at a licensed trial(s), of having attended a Spaniel Field Trial Seminar and of having received a passing score on the test. Judges must also be a minimum of 18 years of age.*

*A professional dog trainer with an ongoing business relationship should not be allowed to judge his client within one year of their relationship.*

*The definition of a professional relationship is one where the professional dog trainer, or a member of the trainer's household, is compensated for the training of a client's dog for field trials or hunting, or the handling of a client's dog in a field trial or hunting test. It would not include the purchase or sale of a dog, attendance at a seminar or the purchase of dog training equipment, or other business transactions that may occur not related to the training of dogs.*

SECTION 2. A substitute Judge may be appointed by the club holding the trial if it is impossible for an advertised Judge to fulfill or complete his assignment. Such substitute or additional Judges shall be persons who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club. Prompt notification shall be sent to AKC, in advance of the trial if possible, of any substitute or additional Judges officiating at a licensed or member trial, and of the reasons for the change.

SECTION 3. Before any advertised Judge shall be eligible to judge a licensed or member field trial, he shall first sign an agreement certifying that he has a thorough knowledge of the Rules, Regulations and Procedures, and will judge in strict accord with them.

SECTION 4. **DQ by Judge** A dog is not eligible to be entered or to compete in any licensed or member trial if the dog has on two occasions been made the subject of the following report: If a dog, while under judgement, attacks another dog, and if the Judges are unanimously of the opinion that such an attack was without reasonable cause, the Judges shall identify the offending dog on the judging sheet and the name of the offending dog shall be listed in the report of the trial sent to the American Kennel Club.

SECTION 5. The decisions of the Judges shall be final in all matters relating to the field trial performance of the dogs. Full discretionary power is given to the Judges to withhold any or all awards for want of merit.

## CHAPTER 6

### APPOINTMENT OF FIELD TRIAL SECRETARY, APPOINTMENT, RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES OF FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. A club that has been granted permission by The American Kennel Club to hold a licensed or member field trial must appoint a Field Trial Secretary and submit his or her name to The American Kennel Club for its records on a form that will be supplied by the AKC. Any qualified person who is in good standing with The American Kennel Club may act as Field Trial Secretary.

SECTION 2. A club that has been granted permission by The American Kennel Club to hold a licensed or member field trial must appoint a Field Trial Committee which will have complete responsibility for the planning and conducting of the trial. This committee shall be comprised of at least five members of the club and may include the Field Trial Secretary.

SECTION 3. The Field Trial Committee and Field Trial Secretary shall be held responsible for compliance with all of the Field Trial Rules and Procedures except those coming under the sole jurisdiction of the Judges, and must provide themselves with copies of the latest edition of this book.

SECTION 4. The Field Trial Committee of a club holding a licensed or member trial shall have the authority to decide upon any matter arising during the running of the trial, except a matter coming within the jurisdiction of the Judges, but such committee decisions must be made in accord with these Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures.

*All Gun Captains for AKC ESS Field Trials must be "Graduates" of the ESSFTA Field Trial Gunning Program. The Graduates will be listed with the ESSFTA Field Vice President. The Graduates will have attended and participated in an official ESSFTA Field Trial Gunning Seminar, and observed by an ESSFTA seminar leader. The Graduate will have a history of experience gunning in AKC English Springer Spaniel Trials, and have passed these requirements to the satisfaction of the ESSFTA Gun Captains Review Board.*

CHAPTER 7  
PREMIUM LISTS, ENTRY FORMS,  
CLOSING OF ENTRIES, DRAWING OF ENTRIES

SECTION 1. After a club has been granted permission by The American Kennel Club to hold a licensed or member field trial it must send to The American Kennel Club two (2) copies of the premium list, which will give the exact location of the trial, the dates that it will be held, and set forth in detail the stakes to be run and their conditions; a complete list of the money, ribbon prizes and other prizes which it wishes to offer; a list of the names and addresses of the Judges and the stakes they are to judge; the names and addresses of the officers of the club, including the Field Trial Secretary; the name and address of the Chairman and the names of the other members of the Field Trial Committee; the date, hour and place of the closing of entries; and the date, hour and place of the drawing of entries.

The place where entries are to be drawn need not be identical with the place where entries are received. Each premium list shall specify that the Field Trial Secretary is to receive entries. *The Field Trial Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that the conduct of the draw is public and the place assigned to each competing dog is determined by random chance insofar as possible.*

Premium lists, shall contain all the information required by The American Kennel Club and shall be the official size, from 5½ X 8½ inches to 6 by 9 inches.

SECTION 2. Every premium list shall contain one or more copies of the official American Kennel Club® entry form as approved by the Board of Directors of the AKC. Any club may obtain a sample of the official entry form applicable to the particular type of trial to be held. Requests should be in writing, addressed to the Field Trial Department of The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 3. Two copies of the premium list and entry form when printed must be sent to The American Kennel Club at time of distribution to prospective entrants.

SECTION 4. Field Trial Committees may make such regulations or additional rules for the government of their field trials as shall be considered necessary, provided such regulations or additional rules do not conflict with any rule of The American Kennel Club. Such regulations or additional rules shall be printed in the premium list and violations thereof shall be considered the same as violations of the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club.

CHAPTER 8  
ELIGIBILITY OF DOGS FOR ENTRY,  
FULL COMPLETION OF ENTRY FORMS

SECTION 1. No dog shall be eligible to be entered in a licensed or member field trial unless it is either individually registered in the AKC "Stud Book" or is part of an AKC-registered litter, or otherwise, if 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. A dog with an AKC Limited Registration shall be eligible to be entered in licensed or member Field Trials and/or Hunting Tests.

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, without special AKC approval, be entered in licensed or member field trials that are held not 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 AKC litter registration number of 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.

SECTION 2. No dog that has not been individually registered with The American Kennel Club when first entered in a licensed or member field trial shall be eligible to be entered in any licensed or member field trial that is held more than 30 days after the date of the first licensed or member field trial in which it was entered, unless the dog's individual AKC registration number is shown on the entry form, or unless the owner has received from The American Kennel Club an extension notice in writing authorizing further entries of the dog for a specified time with its AKC litter number or individual foreign registration number. No such extension will be granted unless the owner can clearly demonstrate, in a letter addressed to the Field Trial Department of The American Kennel Club 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 upon application further extensions may be granted.

SECTION 3. If a dog is later individually registered with a name that is not identical to the name under which it has been entered in field trials prior to individual registration, each entry form entering the dog in a licensed or member field trial after the owner has received the individual registration certificate must show the registered name followed by "formerly entered as" and the name under which the dog was previously entered, until the dog has been awarded one of the four places in a regular stake at a licensed or member field trial.

SECTION 4. Every dog must be entered in the name of the person who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed. The right to enter and run a dog cannot be transferred. A registered dog which has been acquired by some person other than the owner as recorded with The American Kennel Club must be entered in the name of its new owner at any field trial for which entries close after the date on which the dog was acquired, and application for transfer of ownership must be sent to The American Kennel Club by the new owner within seven days after the last day of the trial. The new owner should state on the entry form that transfer application has been mailed to The American Kennel Club or will be mailed shortly. If there is any unavoidable delay in obtaining the completed application required to record the transfer, The American Kennel Club may grant a reasonable extension of time provided the new owner notifies the Field Trial Department of The American Kennel Club by mail within seven days after the trial, of the reason for the delay. If an entry is made by a duly authorized agent of the owner, the name of the actual owner must be shown on the entry form.

SECTION 5. Each entry form must be completed in full and the information given on the form must be that which applies to the entered dog. Each entry form must be signed by the owner or his agent duly authorized to make the entry.

SECTION 6. No entry shall be accepted from any person who is not in good standing with The American Kennel Club on the day of the closing of the entries. Before accepting any entries, a list of persons not in good standing must be obtained by the Field Trial Secretary from The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 7. No entry shall be made under a kennel name unless that name has been registered with The American Kennel Club. All entries made under a kennel name must be signed with the kennel name followed by the word "registered." An "entrant" is the individual, or, if a partnership, all the members of the partnership entering in a field trial. In the case of such entry by a partnership every member of the partnership shall be in good stand-

ing with The American Kennel Club before the entry will be accepted; and in case of any infraction of these rules, all the partners shall be held equally responsible.

SECTION 8. Owners are responsible for errors made in entry forms, regardless of who may have made such errors.

SECTION 9. No dog shall be eligible to compete at any field trial, no dog shall be brought into the grounds or premises of any field trial, and any dog which may have been brought into the grounds or premises of a field trial shall immediately be removed, if it:

(a) shows clinical symptoms of distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease, or

(b) is known to have been in contact with distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease within thirty days prior to the opening of the trial, or

(c) has been kenneled within thirty days prior to the opening of the trial on premises on which there existed distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease.

SECTION 10. Any field trial-giving club which accepts an entry fee other than that published in its premium list or entry form, or in any way discriminates between entrants, shall be disciplined. No club or member of any club shall give or offer to give any owner or handler any special inducements, such as reduced entry fees, allowances for board or transportation or other incentive of value for a certain number of entries or shall give or offer to give in consideration of entering a certain number of dogs, any prizes or prize money, except the officially advertised prizes or prize money, which prize money shall be for a stated sum or a portion of the entry fees. Any club found guilty of violating this rule shall be barred from holding licensed or sanctioned trials, and if a member of The American Kennel Club, may be expelled from membership therein. All persons found guilty of paying or receiving any monies, special inducements or allowances in violation of the foregoing shall be disciplined, even to the extent of being deprived of all privileges of The American Kennel Club for a stated time or indefinitely.

SECTION 11. A Field Trial Committee may decline any entries or may remove any dog from its trial for cause, but in each such instance shall file good and sufficient reasons for so doing with The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 12. Any dog entered and present at a field trial must compete in all stakes in which it is entered, unless excused by the Field Trial Committee at that trial after consultation with the Judges.

## CHAPTER 9 CANCELLATIONS OF AWARDS

SECTION 1. If an ineligible dog has been entered and run in any stake at a licensed or member field 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 dog at the time entries closed, or if a dog is run in a stake for which it has not been entered, or if its entry form is deemed invalid by The American Kennel Club under these rules, all resulting awards shall be cancelled by The American Kennel Club, and such dog shall not be counted as having been in competition in determining championship ratings.

SECTION 2. If the win of a dog shall be cancelled, the dog next in order of merit shall be moved up, and the win of the dog moved up shall be counted the same as if it had been the original award.

SECTION 3. If the win of a dog shall be cancelled by The American Kennel Club, the entrant of the dog shall return all prizes for such win to the Secretary of the field trial giving club within ten (10) days of receipt of notice from The American Kennel Club of said cancellation.

## CHAPTER 10 DISQUALIFICATION OF A DOG BY THE 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 again 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.

## CHAPTER 11 PROTESTS AGAINST DOGS

SECTION 1. Any person who is a member of a member club of The American Kennel Club, or who owns a dog entered in the field trial, or who handles a dog competing in the trial, may make a protest to the Field Trial Committee against any dog competing in the trial, either before or after the dog has been judged, alleging that it

is ineligible to compete in the trial or in the stake in which it is entered. Such a protest shall be in writing, shall identify the dog 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 Field Trial Secretary or with the Chairman of the Field Trial Committee before the closing of the trial, and shall be accompanied by a deposit of \$10.00 which shall be returned if the protest is sustained, or which will be retained by the club if the protest is not sustained.

SECTION 2. If such a protest is received, the Field Trial Committee shall hold a meeting as soon as possible. The person who has made 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 trial. After hearing all of the evidence, the Field Trial 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, must be mailed to The American Kennel Club within seven (7) days of the trial.

SECTION 3. An appeal to The American Kennel Club from a decision of a Field Trial Committee on any such protest, may be made by either the owner of the dog protested or the person who made the protest. The appeal must be received by The American Kennel Club within 30 days after the date of the Field Trial Committee's decision, and must be accompanied by a deposit of \$25.00 which shall be forfeited if the decision is sustained.

## CHAPTER 12 FIELD CHAMPIONS AND AMATEUR FIELD CHAMPIONS

A dog that has completed the requirements for a Field Championship or Amateur Field Championship as described in the various Chapters of these Rules, when registered in the AKC Stud Book, will be recorded a Field Champion or an Amateur Field Champion by The American Kennel Club, and a championship certificate will be issued to the owner.

A Field Champion may be designated as "Dual Champion" if it has also been recorded as a show Champion.

Any dog which has been awarded the titles of Champion of Record, Obedience Trial Champion and Field Champion may be designated as a "Triple Champion."

## CHAPTER 13 JUDGES' AWARD OF MERIT

At any licensed or member field trial the Judges may make a "Judges' Award of Merit" in any stake to any unplaced dog for particularly excellent work. The name and registration number of each dog to which such an award is made shall be noted on the back of the page in the judges' book for the stake in which the award was made.

## CHAPTER 14 WHAT HAS TO BE SENT TO THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB AFTER A FIELD TRIAL

At the conclusion of the judging of each stake, a club holding a licensed or member field trial shall provide, for the Judges' signatures, a marked catalog, showing full particulars of all dogs placed. At the conclusion of the trial, the Field Trial Secretary shall certify the Judges' signatures in the catalog and shall also certify to the number of entries and starters in each stake.

The marked and certified catalog, together with all entry forms and a full report of the trial, shall be sent to The American Kennel Club so as to reach The American Kennel Club no later than seven (7) days after the closing date of the trial. Penalty for non-compliance twenty five (\$25.00) dollars, and five (\$5.00) dollars for each day's delay beyond the deadline, and other such penalties as may be imposed by the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club.

The trial report shall contain a list of the names of all members of the Field Trial Committee who were present at the trial, the names and complete addresses of all the Judges, and the name and address of the Field Trial Secretary.

At every licensed or member club field trial held under the Rules of The American Kennel Club, a recording fee not to exceed 50 cents may be required for every dog entered. The recording fee is to help defray expenses involved in maintaining the records, and applies to all dogs entered. If a dog is entered in more than one class or stake at a field trial, the recording fee applies only to the first entry. The Board of Directors shall determine, from time to time, whether a recording fee shall be required and the amount of it.

*Starting 1/1/09, AKC will collect a \$3.00 Event Service Fee for every entry. The current \$.50 recording fee will continue to be collected.*

CHAPTER 15  
RULES FOR SPANIEL TRIALS  
(EXCEPT IRISH WATER SPANIELS)

SECTION 1. Field trial clubs or specialty clubs formed for the improvement of any one of the several breeds of hunting Spaniels recognized by The American Kennel Club may give field trial stakes in which one of the said breeds only may compete or in which more than one of said breeds may compete together. No championship points, however, shall be awarded where two or more breeds of hunting Spaniels (excepting English Cocker Spaniels and Cocker Spaniels) compete together in a mixed stake.

SECTION 2. In single stakes for Spaniels the order of running in pairs shall be decided by lot at the draw, dogs worked by the same person or belonging to the same owner being separated when possible. The Judges will carry on the trial of two dogs simultaneously, working parallel beats as far as possible and not requiring any cooperation in quartering. At the end of the first series, the Judges will call up any dogs they require further to be run in additional series. In Championship Stakes dogs should be run in pairs for at least the first two series, but it is required that each dog competing must be paired with another dog in at least one of these series, in both if possible. In no event may a dog not under judgment be used to create a pair. After the second series the Judges, at their discretion, may elect to run additional series with the dogs running singly under both Judges. At National Championship trials, and at the National Amateur Championship trial for English Springer Spaniels, the dogs should run in pairs for at least four land series, but it is required that each dog competing must be paired with another dog in at least two of these series, in all four if possible. In no event may a dog not under judgment be used to create a pair. They may thereafter be run singly under both Judges, at their discretion, in additional land series. All dogs that are awarded places or a Judges' Award of Merit shall have been down for one performance under each of the two officiating Judges. A dog to receive any award must compete in all land series, and all water tests if any be held.

SECTION 3. A dog is not eligible to be entered or to compete in any field trial in any stake in which championship points are given, if a Judge of that stake or any member of his family has owned, sold, held under lease, boarded, trained, or handled the dog, within one year prior to the date of the field trial.

SECTION 4. No Judge of an Open All-Age, a Qualified Open All-Age or an Amateur All-Age Stake at a Spaniel Trial shall enter or run a dog or allow any dog that he owns to be entered or run, in any stake at that trial.

A Judge of any stake, other than an Open All-Age, a Qualified Open All-Age or an Amateur All-Age Stake at a Spaniel Trial may enter or run a dog or allow any dog that he owns to be entered or run in any stake at that trial that he is not judging.

SECTION 5. In Brace or Team Stakes the order of running in the first series shall be decided by draw, and the dogs composing a brace or team must belong to the same owner. No dogs shall form part of more than one brace or team at the same meeting and each brace or team shall have but one handler. A brace consists of two dogs and a team consists of three or more dogs. Dogs will be expected to work their ground harmoniously together, performing as in a single stake.

When a retrieve is to be made, the Judge shall designate the dog.

SECTION 6. In all stakes the Spaniels shall be regularly shot over in the customary sporting manner, and may be worked up and down wind, as well as in water when possible. No handler shall carry any training or other handling equipment (except whistle) exposed or in such manner that it may be used as a steadying aid or threat.

SECTION 7. Only stakes which in their land series are run on live full-winged game birds shall be permitted to carry championship points.

SECTION 8. The use of any trap or contrivance from which game can be released is prohibited in any All-Age Stake carrying championship points.

SECTION 9. The Judges are empowered to turn out of the stake any dog that does not obey its handler, or any handler who willfully interferes with another competitor, or his dog, or any dog they may consider unfit to compete. Bitches in season shall not be eligible for competition in any stake and shall not be allowed on the field trial grounds. The entry fee of all such dogs will be forfeited except in cases of bitches in season.

SECTION 10. The owner or agent entering a dog in a trial does so at his own risk, and agrees to abide by the Rules of The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 11. In the event of the weather proving unsuitable for holding the trials, it shall be in the power of the Field Trial Committee to postpone the meeting from day to day for a maximum of three days following the last advertised day, provided said postponement

does not conflict with any other Spaniel field trial. After postponements for three days the provisions of Section 12 of this Chapter shall come into operation.

SECTION 12. In the event of the weather still proving unsuitable after postponements for three days, the Field Trial Committee may then abandon the meeting at any time, on returning the entry fees to the competitors. If, through unforeseen circumstances, the Field Trial Committee shall deem it advisable to alter the date of the meeting after the closing of the entries, this may be done with the consent of The American Kennel Club and by sending formal notices to all competitors. who may exercise the option of cancelling their entries within four (4) days from the date of such notice, in which event their entry fees will be returned to them. All entries, however, in regard to which no such option is exercised, will stand good for the meeting at its altered date.

SECTION 13. Regular Stakes. The following regular official stakes may be offered at a Spaniel field trial: Puppy, Novice, Limit, Open All-Age, Qualified Open All-Age, and Amateur All-Age.

SECTION 14. Only one Open All-Age Stake may be run at any trial. When an Open All-Age Stake is referred to, it shall be understood to mean either an Open All-Age or a Qualified Open All-Age Stake.

An Amateur All-Age Stake, when offered for English Springer Spaniels, or English Cocker Spaniels and Cocker Spaniels, will be a championship stake.

SECTION 15. A **Puppy Stake** at a Spaniel field trial shall be for dogs over six months of age that have not reached their second birthday on the first day of the trial in which the Puppy Stake is included.

*The ESSFTA will only approve one puppy stake per field trial. Any club applying for a second stake must have a second event number and receive approval for the date from the ESSFTA.*

SECTION 16. A **Novice Stake** at a Spaniel field trial shall be for dogs over six months of age that have never won first, second, third or fourth in an Open All-Age Stake, a Qualified Open All-Age or an Amateur All-Age Stake or first in any other regular stake (Puppy Stake excepted) in a licensed or member Spaniel trial.

SECTION 17. A **Novice Handler Stake** at a Spaniel field trial shall be for novice handlers only and only for dogs that qualify for a Novice Stake as set forth in Section 16. A Novice handler is one who has never handled a dog placed first, second, third or fourth in an Open All-Age Stake, a Qualified Open All-Age Stake or an Amateur All-Age Stake or a dog placed first in any

other regular stake (Puppy Stake excepted) in a licensed or member Spaniel trial.

SECTION 18. A **Limit Stake** at a Spaniel field trial shall be for dogs over six months of age that have never won first place in an Open All-Age Stake, or two firsts in any regular official stake (Puppy Stake excepted), at a licensed or member club Spaniel trial in the United States or at any Spaniel trial in any other country.

SECTION 19. An **Open All-Age Stake** at a Spaniel field trial shall be for all dogs over six months of age.

SECTION 20. A **Qualified Open All-Age Stake** at a Spaniel field trial shall be for dogs over six months of age that have placed first, second, third or fourth in any stake (Puppy Stake excepted), at a licensed or member club Spaniel field trial. A dog imported from Canada or the United Kingdom may be admitted to such stake on presentation of evidence of such dog having placed in an equivalent stake in either of those countries.

SECTION 21. An **Amateur All-Age Stake** shall be for dogs over six months of age that are handled by amateurs. The status of the handler is to be determined by the Field Trial Committee of the club holding the trial.

#### *Definition of A Professional*

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

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

*The determination of amateur status under these directives for the purpose of any particular field trial shall be made by the Field Trial Committee for that trial.*

SECTION 22. A National Championship Stake at English Springer Spaniel field trials shall be for dogs over six months of age, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under special rules approved by the Board of Directors. This stake shall be run not more than once in any calendar year by the Parent Association of the breed or by a Club or Association formed for this purpose and duly licensed by The American Kennel Club. The winner of such stake shall become a Field Champion of Record and shall be entitled to be designated "National Springer Spaniel Field Champion of 20\_."

SECTION 23. A National Amateur Championship Stake for English Springer Spaniels shall be for dogs over six months of age, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under special regulations adopted by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. This stake shall be run not more than once in any calendar year by the Parent Association of the breed or by a Club or Association formed for this purpose and duly licensed by The American Kennel Club, under procedures approved by The American Kennel Club. The winner of such stake shall become an Amateur Field Champion of Record and shall be entitled to be designated "National Amateur Springer Spaniel Field Champion of 20\_."

SECTION 24. A National Championship Stake for Cocker Spaniels including English Cocker Spaniels shall be for dogs over six months of age, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under special rules approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. This stake shall be run not more than once in any calendar year by the Parent Club or Association of the breed or by a Club or Association formed for this purpose and duly licensed by The American Kennel Club. The winner of such stake shall become a Field Champion of Record and shall be entitled to be designated "National Cocker Spaniel or English Cocker Spaniel Field Champion of 20\_."

SECTION 25. A National Amateur Championship Stake for English Cocker Spaniels and Cocker Spaniels shall be for dogs over six months of age, which by reason of wins previously made qualify under special regulations adopted by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. This stake shall be run not more than once in any calendar year by the Parent Association of the breed or by a Club or Association formed for this purpose and duly licensed by The American Kennel Club, under procedures approved by The American Kennel Club. The winner of such stake shall become an Amateur Field Champion of Record and shall be entitled to be designated "National Amateur English Cocker or Cocker Spaniel Field Champion of 20\_\_."

SECTION 26. Two Judges only shall officiate at one time. Both Judges of a stake are required to examine game before a decision is made as to hard mouth.

SECTION 27. Splitting of prizes and/or places at Spaniel field trials is prohibited.

SECTION 28. In the event of a disagreement between the Judges on any question, the Field Trial Committee of the club giving the trial shall appoint a referee to cast the deciding vote.

SECTION 29. The gun to be used in a Spaniel field trial shall be a double barrel, hammerless, 12 gauge. No load less than 3¼ drams of powder and 1⅛ ozs. of No. 5, No. 6, No. 7 or No. 7½ shot may be used. All shooting shall be done by Guns appointed by the Committee.

SECTION 30. A Spaniel shall become a Field Champion of Record, if registered in The American Kennel Club Stud Book, by virtue of wins and placements in Open All-Age or Qualified Open All-Age Stakes (limited to its own breed of Spaniel excepting in the case of Cocker Spaniels and English Cocker Spaniels, both of which may compete in the same stake) at field trials of member clubs of The American Kennel Club or at field trials of non-member clubs licensed by The American Kennel Club to hold field trials.

SECTION 31. **Field Champion.** The number of wins and placements in Open All-Age or Qualified Open All-Age Stakes required of a dog in order to become a Field Champion, and the number of starters necessary in each Open All-Age or Qualified Open All-Age Stake, shall be fixed and determined by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club.

*At present, to acquire a Field Championship an English Springer Spaniel, Cocker Spaniel or an English Cocker Spaniel must win (1) a National Championship Stake or (2) two Open All-Age Stakes or two Qualified Open All-Age Stakes or one Open All-Age Stake and one Qualified Open All-Age Stake at different trials with at least 10 starters in either stake or (3) one Open All-Age Stake or one Qualified Open All-Age Stake and 10 Championship points which shall be credited to dogs placed 2nd, 3rd or 4th in Open All-Age or Qualified Open All-Age Stakes, with at least 10 starters in each stake, in accordance with the following schedule:*

2nd place	3 points
3rd place	2 points
4th place	1 point

*Double points shall be awarded for 2nd, 3rd and 4th placements in the National Championship Stake.*

SECTION 32. **Amateur Field Champion.** The number of wins and placements required of an English Springer, English Cocker Spaniel or Cocker Spaniel in Amateur All-Age Stakes in order to become an Amateur Field Champion, and the number of starters necessary in each Amateur All-Age Stake, shall be fixed and determined by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. No English Springer Spaniel, English Cocker Spaniel or Cocker Spaniel shall be recorded an Amateur Field Champion unless it has been registered in the American Kennel Club Stud Book.

*At present, to acquire an Amateur Field Championship an English Springer Spaniel, Cocker Spaniel or an English Cocker Spaniel must win (1) a National Amateur Championship Stake or (2) two Amateur All-Age Stakes at different trials with at least 10 in either stake or (3) one Amateur All-Age Stake and 10 Championship points which shall be credited to dogs placed 2nd, 3rd or 4th in Amateur All-Age, with at least 10 starters in each stake, in accordance with the following schedule:*

2nd place	3 points
3rd place	2 points
4th place	1 point

*Double points shall be awarded for 2nd, 3rd and 4th placements in the National Amateur Championship Stake.*

#### STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR SPANIEL FIELD TRIALS

1. A blaze orange outer garment or item of clothing shall be mandatory at all AKC member, licensed and sanctioned field trials (and Working Certificate Tests) for all persons in the gallery and in the field, including but not limited to handlers, owners, gunners, bird planters and stewards, Judges, club members, visitors, etc. The blaze orange item must be visible and be worn above the waist, with a hat or sash as a minimum.

2. The purpose of a Spaniel field trial is to demonstrate the performance of a properly trained Spaniel in the field. The performance should not differ from that in any ordinary day's shooting, except that in the trials a dog should do his work in a more nearly perfect way.

3. The function of a hunting Spaniel is to seek, find and flush game in an eager, brisk, quiet manner and when game is shot, to mark the fall or direction thereof and retrieve to hand. The dog should walk at heel or on a leash until ordered to seek game and should then thoroughly hunt the designated cover, within gunshot, in line of quest, without unnecessarily covering the ground twice, and should flush game boldly and without urging. When game is flushed, a dog should be steady to flush or command, and, if game is shot should retrieve at command only, but not until the Judge has instructed the handler. Dogs should retrieve quickly and briskly when ordered to do so and deliver tenderly to hand. They should then sit or "hup" until given further orders. Spaniels which bark and give tongue while questing are objectionable and should be severely penalized.

4. If a dog, following the line of a bird, is getting too far out he should be called off the line and later he should again be cast back on it. A dog which causes his handler and gun to run after him while line running, is out of control. Handlers may control their dogs by hand, voice or whistle, but only in the quiet manner that would

be used in the field. Any loud shouting or whistling is evidence that the dog is hard to handle, and, in addition, is disturbing to the game.

5. A dog should work to his handler and gun at all times. A dog which marks the fall of a bird, uses the wind, follows a strong runner which has been wounded, and will take direction from his handler is of great value.

6. When the Judge gives a line to a handler and dog to follow, this must be followed and the dog not allowed to interfere with the other contestant running parallel to him.

7. The Judges must judge their dogs for game-finding ability, steadiness, and retrieving. In game-finding the dog should cover all his ground on the beat, leaving no game in his territory and showing courage in facing cover. Dogs must be steady to wing and shot and obey all commands. When ordered to retrieve they should do this tenderly and with speed. No trials for Spaniels can possibly be run without retrieving, as that is one of the main purposes for which a Spaniel is used.

8. In judging a Spaniel's work Judges should give attention to the following points, taking them as a whole throughout the entire performance rather than giving too much credit to a flashy bit of work:

Control at all times, and under all conditions.

Scenting ability and use of wind.

Manner of covering ground and briskness of questing.

Perseverance and courage in facing cover.

Steadiness to flush, shot and command.

Aptitude in marking fall of game and ability to find it.

Ability and willingness to take hand signals.

Promptness and style of retrieve and delivery.

Proof of tender mouth.

Where facilities exist and Water Tests are held in conjunction with a stake, the manner and quality of the performance therein shall be given consideration by the Judges in making their awards. Such tests should not exceed in their requirements the conditions met in an ordinary day's rough shoot adjoining water. Land work is the primary function of a Spaniel but where a Water Test is given, any dog that does not complete the Water Test shall not be entitled to any award.

9. The dogs shall be shot over by Official Guns appointed by the Field Trial Committee. The Guns should shoot their game in a sportsmanlike manner, as they would in a day's shoot. The proper functioning of the Guns is of the utmost importance. The Guns are supposed to represent the handler up to the time the game is shot, although not interfering in any manner with his work or that of the down dogs. They are supposed, if possible, unless otherwise directed, to kill cleanly and consistently the game flushed by the Spaniels, at a point most advantageous to a fair trial of

the dog's abilities, with due regard to the dogs, handlers, Judges, gallery and other contingencies.

10. Care should be taken not to shoot so that the game falls too close to the dog. If this is done it does not afford a chance for the dog to show any good retrieving ability and often results in a bird being destroyed. The Guns should stand perfectly quiet after the shot, for otherwise they may interfere with the dog and handler. When a dog makes a retrieve no other birds or game should be shot unless ordered by the Judge for special reasons. The Gun must also keep himself in the correct position to the handler and others.

11. It has been repeatedly proven that the most efficient gun and load for this work, in all fairness to the dogs, handlers and those responsible for the trial, is a well-choked twelve gauge double gun, and a load of not less than three and one-fourth drams of smokeless powder or equivalent, and one and one-eighth ounces of No.5, No.6, No.7 or No.7½ shot.

12. All field trial-giving clubs should clearly recognize that Open All-Age Stakes are of the first importance and that all other stakes are of relatively lesser importance and that an entire day should be reserved for the running of an Open All-Age Stake unless there is a very small entry.

### **Water Retrieve**

13a. Before an English Springer Spaniel shall receive its Field or Amateur Field Championship, it must have shown its ability to retrieve game from water, after a swim. The water test shall consist of two back-to-back, open water, 30-40 yard retrieves of dead ducks or dead pheasants, with gunshot. The dog is to be backed up to 10 to 15 yards from the bank for its entry.

13b. Before a Cocker or an English Cocker Spaniel shall receive its Field or Amateur Field Championship, it must have shown its willingness and ability to retrieve game from or across water, after a swim. The water test shall consist of a one or two bird retrieve which shall be at the option of the Field Trial Committee. The birds used shall be available dead game birds such as pheasants, ducks or various partridges. The dog and handler are to be backed up 5 to 10 yards from the water entry. The dog shall retrieve a dead game bird, thrown with gunshot, after a 20-30 yard swim.

13c. A water test can be held as a completely separate event, licensed by the American Kennel Club, or in conjunction with an AKC licensed or member field trial. The holding of a water test during a field trial will be left to the discretion of the Field Trial Committee of the club conducting the trial, but such a possibility must be announced in the premium list. It is the responsibility of the Field Trial Secretary or Committee to submit the results, properly signed by the judges, so they will carry championship credit.

13d. Once a dog has been certified by the judges as having passed a water test at a licensed or member club

trial, or at a separate water test licensed by the AKC, the certification will apply toward both the Field and Amateur Field Championship titles (a dog needs only to be certified on one occasion). As a stand alone event for English Springer Spaniels, it must have a date approved by the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association and be judged by 2 All Age Judges with a combined record of 12 AKC licensed English Springer Spaniel Field Stakes. The water test is not a stake, therefore the judges will receive no credit for judging the test.

*14. Special Training devices that are used to control and train dogs, including but not limited to, collars with prongs, electronic collars used with transmitters, muzzles and head collars may not be used on dogs at AKC events, except as allowed in the AKC Rules, Regulations and Policies.*

## Official AKC Titles that may be included in any AKC publication

### Breed, Obedience, Field Trial, Herding, and Lure Coursing Titles (Prefix)

Ch.	Champion
FC	Field Champion (Field Trial/Lure Coursing)
AFC	Amateur Field Champion
MACH	Master Agility Champion
NFC	National Field Champion
NAFC	National Amateur Field Champion
OTCH	Obedience Trial Champion
HC	Herding Champion
DC	Dual Champion (Ch. & FC)
TC	Triple Champion (Ch., FC & OTCH)
CT	Champion Tracker (TD, TDX & VST)

### Obedience, Hunting, Herding, Lure Coursing, Agility and Earthdog Titles (Suffix)

CD	Companion Dog
CDX	Companion Dog Excellent
UD	Utility Dog
UDX	Utility Dog Excellent
TD	Tracking Dog
TDX	Tracking Dog Excellent
VST	Variable Surface Tracker
UDTD(UDT)	Utility Dog Tracking
UDTDX	Utility Dog Tracking Dog Excellent
UDXTDX	Utility Dog Excellent Tracking Dog Excellent
UDVST	Utility Dog Variable Surface Tracking
UDXVST	Utility Dog Excellent Variable Surface Tracking
JH	Junior Hunter
SH	Senior Hunter
MH	Master Hunter
HT	Herding Tested
PT	Pretrial Tested
HS	Herding Started
HI	Herding Intermediate
HX	Herding Excellent
JC	Junior Courser
SC	Senior Courser
MC	Master Courser
NA	Novice Agility
OA	Open Agility
MX	Master Agility
AX	Agility Excellent
JE	Junior Earthdog
SE	Senior Earthdog
ME	Master Earthdog
NAJ	Novice Agility Jumper
OAJ	Open Agility Jumper
AXJ	Agility Excellent Jumper
MXJ	Master Agility Jumper



## **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.

## NOTICE

The italicized portions of this book are not rules but are either regulations, explanations or Board policy.

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

To order booklet(s), contact the AKC at:  
The American Kennel Club Order Desk  
8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100  
Raleigh, NC 27617  
Tel: (919) 233-9767

E-mail: [orderdesk@akc.org](mailto:orderdesk@akc.org)

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