

2020 The 83rd Annual Beagle Advisory Committee Meeting

The teleconference meeting was called to order at 10:00 am on Wednesday June 17, 2020.

Mel Stewart called roll. All members were present.

Mel then introduced the AKC staff in attendance. The staff included Caroline Murphy, Karen Reuter, Lisa King and Dawn Salpeck Performance Events Operations Staff and Doug Ljungren, E.V.P. of Sports & Events.

Format	2018 Trials	2018 Entries	2019 Trials	2019 Entries	Change in Trials	Change in Entries
Brace	257	10,261	236	9,416	-21	-845
Gun Dog Brace	86	9,171	92	9,567	6	396
Large Pack	65	5,199	63	4,939	-2	-260
Small Pack	8	135	3	70	-5	-65
Small Pack Option	298	24,390	298	23,943	0	-454
Two Couple Pack	78	4,300	76	4,760	-2	460
Total	792	53,456	768	52,695	-24	-768

Mel Stewart and Doug Ljungren welcomed and thanked the committee members.

Mel Stewart: Let's start with the first item on the agenda:

Agenda Item #1 – Allow Traditional Brace trials to have the option to run only 2 classes - male class and female class. *Chapter 9, section 1. Page 14 of the Brace/SPO Rules.*

At a licensed or member Beagle field trial, the regular classes shall be:

- Open Dogs not exceeding 13 inches in height.
- Open Bitches not exceeding 13 inches in height.
- Open Dogs over 13 inches but not exceeding 15 inches in height.
- Open Bitches over 13 inches but not exceeding 15 inches in height.

However, if when the entries are closed, it is found that there are fewer than six hounds of a sex eligible to compete in any class, the Field Trial Committee shall have the option of combining that class either by gender or size into a single class.

However, only in the case of Traditional Brace trials, the Field Trial Committee has the option to offer only two classes - Open Dogs and Open Bitches. The advertisement for the trial must clearly

identify the classes offered. Once approved by the AKC, a club may not decide to split a class by size.

Jim Campbell: We already have this in the rule book, they can run two classes if they have less than 6 in the class, so they can combine classes by gender or size.

Robert Miller: This is important to the traditional brace folks to have this option to be able to combine these classes and cut down on the number of judges you need and people showing up one day and having to come back the next day to run in a different class if there is not six dogs.

Mel Stewart: I think what Jim is saying that under the existing rule, if you ran the males one day and the females another day that would take care of a lot of the problems.

John Edwards: I have talked to people regarding this issue. About 100% are for it being that it's an option and there are some clubs that will probably never do this. If you can advertise, you eliminate a couple of judges.

Mark Malloy: I have a question, if the brace beaglers alter their closing times and they are both there the same day, by AKC rule you can do that right?

Mel Stewart: Yes.

Mark Malloy: To try and eliminate the two days if everyone came in one day and you had a staggered closing everyone that was going to attend the event would be there in one day anyway and the way the rule reads now without changing anything they can just combine classes the same day. You could use the same two judges and just alternate braces.

Mel Stewart: That's a thought too.

Russ Arend: Between the four of us, we have talked to about 50% of the beaglers and the reaction is that if it would help some of the beagle clubs. If that would help keep them in existence, nobody was opposed to it. We will support them if it will help them. We are not for it or against it, we just want to help them if they need it. Please keep that in mind.

Tim Beck: I had two calls last week from beaglers in Wisconsin. They only have four or five clubs and they think this would be a big aid to them. They expressed that there are not many people left and if they can get a few more entries by combining classes, they can have a smoother trial and benefit them in that area.

Robert Miller: I think I am in the heart of the areas that has been hit the hardest and I have a lot of people asking me every day if this will go through and they are hoping we can get it done. In our area this is a must. If we don't have this, we are in bad shape.

John Edwards: When I got in this game, there was three venues, brace, large pack hounds and small pack that was it, we have aged out the brace people. There could be a time that this might affect these other venues as well.

Mel Stewart: Lets vote to allow brace people to have an option to hold a male class and a female class. I will go down and ask for a vote, if you vote yes, you are in favor. If you vote no, you are against this change.

Jessica Anderson	Yes
Tim Beck	Yes
Jim Campbell	Yes
Robert Miller	Yes
John Edwards	yes
Russ Arend	Yes
Wayne Heckley	Yes
John Stuckwisch	Yes
Mark Malloy	Yes
Rick McDonald	Yes
Bryan Bush	Yes
Ray Ann Cole	Yes

Mel Stewart: It is unanimous, it passed, and it will go through the normal procedures.

Doug Ljungren: The Board will have to approve it. It will take a little while and we will push this through as fast as we can. We will communicate as soon as we get a clear date on this when it will become effective.

Mel Stewart: The second item on the agenda is comments or suggestions on the Coronavirus Best Practices document that was emailed to all Clubs. Please keep in mind the only item we have to comply with is that clubs must comply with local requirements. The others are suggestions.

Jim Campbell: The feedback I have received has been favorable. The Best Practices assist clubs to hold a safe event. There were no specific comments from the committee.

Mel Stewart: The next item is feedback on status of events running in your area, are they beginning to pick up?

Jim Campbell: We are looking to get started, after the summer and holidays. If we can get passed that without virus spiking again, we would be good to go.

Ray Ann Cole: We have had events, the last 3 or 4 weekends. For the most part we adhere to the Best Practices. We are back in business in Indiana. WI is getting ready to crank up in the next 30 days.

Wayne Heckley: Eastern MA clubs had trials a couple of weeks ago and had outstanding entries. Kitchen inside but they handed food out the window. All were wearing gloves; they were smart about it and it was an outstanding event.

Mel Stewart: Good to hear Wayne and glad they are following some of the Best Practices.

Russ and I have talked about the email pertaining to the Judges seminar. The rule book states that in order to be approved as a judge you have to have a record of attending a seminar and passing grade on the test. It might be gun dog club or small pack option or gun dog brace that is actually the club holding

the seminar, but we cover brace, small pack, small pack option, and two couple pack in our seminars as well as some of the duties of the field trial committee. Russ and I will have a seminar scheduled in your area, we have one coming up in August in NC. I will notify Russ and he can put it on The Brace Beagling website and if some brace people need a seminar in order to judge, they are welcome. Its posted on the website and in magazines. There is a test at the end of it, we are in the process of updating the questions now.

Russ Arend: We have agreed this will be a big help. We will put the word out and try and reach those asking about a seminar and encourage them to attend the seminar. I think we can get by real well with that. If we just had one ourselves, we might not have enough people. I think this is great we work together on this.

Mel Stewart: Anything else anybody wants to bring up?

Bryan Bush: I would like to bring up, about measuring dogs when dogs get brought to the measuring stand so they won't stand up. What can be done about that?

Mel Stewart: I understand what you are talking about, I have observed that. I suspect they school those hounds maybe with a collar and they are terrified of the measuring stand. I would say if you cannot stand the dog properly to measure them, the judge has the option to dismiss them and not measure them. Do you want to put that on the agenda and make that a proposal?

Wayne Heckley: If the dog cannot stand then the dog cannot be measured, its already covered.

Mel Stewart: Bryan does that answer the question you have?

Bryan Bush: Yes

Mel Stewart: I would like to remind you that our office staff is working remotely from home, so if you experience a little bit of a delay getting in touch with staff, please be patient.

Tim Beck: Has the AKC been lenient or changed their procedure on the 90- day trial?

Lisa King: Yes, we are waiving the late fines through October.

Mel Stewart: Thank you all for your time. Anytime, I can help you feel free to give me a call.

Doug Ljungren: Thank you, please stay safe. We will talk again next year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am