



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

December 2020

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Host Beagle Field Trials**

Subject: **Option to Combine Classes at Brace Trials**

This is to inform your club of an upcoming change to the *Beagle Field Trial Rules*. This change will give clubs the option to combine the standard four classes by height and sex into two classes by sex at the time of their event application. This change becomes effective March 1, 2021.

The exact wording of this change is underlined and will appear in the next printing of the rules as follows:

Chapter 9. Description of Classes and Championship Requirements

Section 1. (new paragraph)

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 host club 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.

This rule update has been posted to the [Beagle Field Trials Rules Update](#) webpage.