AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

January 2025

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Host Spaniel Field Trials & Approved Spaniel Field Trial Judges**

Subject: **English Cocker Spaniel Club of America (ECSCA) Requirement for Three Apprenticeships**

This is to inform your club of a new change made to the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Spaniels.* The English Cocker Spaniel Club of America (ECSCA) requested a change be made to the apprenticeship requirement for All-Age Stake judges. As of January 1, 2025 the number of apprenticeship experiences required for applying judges change from two to three. There are also clarifications that a senior judge has had twelve assignments and apprenticing must be under two different senior judges.

The exact wording of this change is shown below by the underlining and strikethrough and will appear in the next reprinting of the rulebook as follows:

Chapter 5 Judges, Section 1.

Cocker Spaniel Field Trials The following judging eligibility requirements apply to All-Age stakes and water tests. Note: There are no requirements to judge the puppy stake. Judges must be a minimum of 18 years of age. Prior to Becoming a Licensed Judge: ~~(Effective January 1, 2013)~~ An individual must have attended an AKC Spaniel field trial judge's seminar and apprentice judged ~~two~~ three All-Age stakes under a minimum of two different senior judges at AKC Spaniel Field Trials (either Cocker or Springer). ~~The apprentice judge must be assigned to an AKC senior judge (A judge with 12 judging assignments)~~. A senior judge is someone with 12 or more judging assignments. ~~The two apprenticeships must be done under two different senior judges~~. (It is the club's responsibility to monitor this requirement.)

This rule update has been posted to the Spaniel Field Trials Rules Update webpage and emailed to all Secretaries and Presidents of organizations licensed to host spaniel field trials as well as all approved spaniel field trial judges. Please remember to keep your email address current so you can receive announcements. If you need to check or update your email address or if you have any questions or comments, please send an email to: fieldtrials@akc.org