



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

Date: **July 2025**

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Host Pointing Breed Field Trials and Approved Judges**

Subject: **Judges Using ATVs/UTVs in Walking Stakes**

This is to inform your club of a change to the *Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*. This change allows the judges in walking stakes at Pointing Breed Field Trials to use ATVs/UTVs at the option of the host club provided the rules pertaining to the location of the trial allow their use. This change will go into effect for trials held starting on January 1, 2026.

This change will be in effect for 18 months as a pilot procedure and at which time it will be considered as a permanent change. The exact wording of this change is underlined in the following new sections and will appear in the next printing of the rulebook as follows:

Standard Procedure for Pointing Breed Field Trials

Procedure 2. JUDGES

(new last paragraph)

Beginning January 1, 2026 the following pilot procedure will be implemented:

2-G. Judges Using ATVs/UTVs in Walking Stakes. Judges may use ATVs/UTVs during walking stakes at the option of the host club provided the rules pertaining to the grounds allow their use. Safety is of utmost importance. The ATVs/UTVs must be driven in a courteous manner that is mindful of their impact on horses and dogs.

If the judges are sharing an ATV/UTV and the dogs become separated, one judge must walk so that a judge accompanies each dog. At the club's option, one judge may be on horseback and the other judge on an ATV/UTV. The club must make the judges aware of this situation and obtain the agreement of both judges. The ATV/UTV must be turned off while the judge observes a dog's bird work. ATVs/UTVs are not allowed in bird fields but may be driven around the perimeter. The event premium must clearly state if judging from ATVs/UTVs will be allowed.

This regulation update has been posted to the [Pointing Breed Field Trial Rule Resources](#) webpage. Please send any comments or questions to: pointingbreeds@akc.org.