



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

****REMINDER****

January 2026

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Host Retriever Field Trials and Retriever Field Trial Judges**

Subject: **Disqualification by Judge Across Both Retriever Tests and Trials**

A change was made to the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*. This change explains that a disqualification by a judge in field trials or hunting tests will count as a disqualification across both sports. This change became effective January 1, 2026. Below is how it will appear in the next reprinting of the rule book with an underline representing the added language.

Chapter 14. Rules for Retriever Field Trials, Section 2. DQ by Judges. A dog is not eligible to be entered or to compete in any licensed or member retriever field trial or hunt test if the dog has on three occasions been made the subject of the following report: If a dog, while under judgment, attacks another dog, and if the Judges are unanimously of the opinion that such 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. A disqualification received in a retriever field trial counts as one disqualification in both field trials and hunting tests.

This rule update has been posted to the [Retriever Field Trial Rule Updates](#) webpage. Please send any comments or questions to: retrievers@akc.org If you send a request to update your email address, please provide your name, city and state.