



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™

## Performance Events Department

August 2021

To: **All Clubs Licensed to host Fast CAT® events**

Subject: **Hot Starts Not Allowed and Electronic Timers to Be Required**

This communication is to inform your club of two upcoming changes to the *Regulations for Fast CAT®* which pertain to the improvement of consistent and accurate run times.

The first change addresses hot starts which is a type of starting method where the lure is in motion prior to the release of the dog rather than a traditional start which has the dog released as soon as the lure goes into motion. Though hot starts are not often practiced at events and some participants are not familiar with them, this change would specify that hot starts are not allowed. This change will be effective **September 1, 2021**.

The second change addresses the timing method that must be used during runs. Time is the primary component of this sport and to minimize variances in time keeping, electronic, break-the-beam timers will be required as the primary time keeping method. Only in the rare instance of equipment failure will manual stopwatches be allowed. This change will be effective **March 1, 2022**.

The exact wording will appear as follows in the next reprinting of the regulation booklet. Each of the changes are noted in bold and underlined.

### **Chapter 16, Section 10. Course/Equipment.**

B. The Start: Dogs may start up to 10 feet behind the starting line. Clubs must clearly mark the 10-foot start box on the ground. A dog may be released from anywhere within the start box, however, at a minimum, a dog's front paws must be inside the start box when it is released. Enough space must be provided behind the back of the start box to accommodate the dog's body to be aligned straight down the course.

**At the start, the lure must be resting in front of the dog. When the lure starts to move, the dog may be released. Hot starts where the dog is released as the lure passes the dog are not allowed.**

D. Timing Devices: The time to complete the 100-yard dash is recorded to the nearest 1/100th of a second (e.g. 9.11). **Effective March 1, 2022, the time of the dog must be determined by the use of break-the-beam electronic timers. Two stopwatches must be available as a backup in case the electronic timers do not work.** *\*Through February 28, 2022, the club may use stopwatches or break-the-beam electronic timers to obtain the time. \*Clubs must specify in their premium which timing method is to be used.* If stopwatches are used, there shall be two timers positioned at the finish line. An individual at the start line shall signal with an arm drop the moment the nose of the dog crosses the start line. The timers shall start their stopwatches at the start of the arm drop. The timers shall stop their watches when the nose of the dog crosses the finish line. The times from the two stopwatches shall be averaged to determine the recorded time.

*\*Regulations published after February 28, 2022 will have text shown in blue removed as they will no longer apply.*

This regulation update has been posted to the [Fast CAT Regulation Resources](#) webpage and is being communicated to all clubs licensed to host Fast CAT. Please send any comments or questions to: [CATFastCAT@akc.org](mailto:CATFastCAT@akc.org)