



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

February 2020

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

Subject: **Updates to the Regulations Regarding Course/Equipment and Ribbons**

This communication is to inform your club about two new requirements and six clarification made to the *Regulations for FAST CAT®*. These updates are effective immediately.

Two new requirements are – (1) host clubs must award ribbons to each dog that completes the 100-yard dash, and (2) clubs holding a Fast CAT event in conjunction with another event are required to fence the course, including the starting and run-out areas. The other six changes are clarifications to existing Regulations pertaining to the course and equipment. All these changes are intended to bring greater consistency between events and address issues that have arisen in the field.

Below is a short summary of the updates followed by the specific language and way it will appear in the Regulations.

1. (new) Clubs must award a ribbon to dogs that successfully complete the course.
2. Start box – must be marked on the ground.
3. Start box – provide enough space behind the start box for the dog's body.
4. Timing – a person may not operate a timing device for a dog which they or a member of their immediate family/household own/co-own.
5. Return string – cannot be run in front of the run-out area exit gate.
6. Course – the center of the course must be straight from the back of the starting area to the end of the run-out area.
7. Retrieval devices – for clubs that use retrieval devices to return the drag to the start line, the devices must be located at least 30 yards behind the finish line and on the side of the course.
8. (new) Fencing/distance between events – Clubs holding Fast CAT in conjunction with another event must enclose the entire course with a fence. The fence must be of sufficient height and substance so as to prevent dogs from accessing or escaping the course. The fenced area shall include the starting and run out areas. In addition, clubs holding Fast CAT in conjunction with another event must provide sufficient distance between events. Sufficient distance is defined as enough separation to minimize the disruption of dogs that are present for the other event.

The exact wording will appear as follows in the next reprinting of the regulation booklet. Each of the changes are noted in bold, underline and are meant to provide greater clarity.

Chapter 16, Section 8. Ribbons and Awards.

A club holding a Fast CAT event **must award** a ribbon to each dog that completes the 100-yard dash. The ribbon shall be at least two inches wide and eight inches long and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of The American Kennel Club, the words "Fast CAT", and the name of the test-giving club. Ribbons shall be light blue in color. **Special ribbons or awards may be offered by the host club. If special ribbons or awards are offered, they must be clearly explained in the premium.**

Chapter 16. Section 10. Course/Equipment.

Paragraph B. The Start: Dogs may start up to 10 feet behind the starting line. Clubs must **clearly mark the 10 feet 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.**

Paragraph D: **An individual may not operate a timing device for any run in which they or a member of their immediate family or household own or co-own the running dog.**

Paragraph E. Lure Equipment: Clubs may use either a drag or continuous loop system. If a continuous loop system is used, the "return" string and lure must be set outside of the running course. **The return string shall not run in front of the catch area exit gate and shall be located to minimize interference with spectators.** The lure operator and the lure equipment shall be safely positioned in a manner that does not interfere with the retrieval of the dog at the end of the course. Clubs may, but are not required to, list the name of the lure operator in their premium list. Clubs are required to be equipped with a backup lure machine should one fail and become inoperable during the event.

Paragraph G. Course/Fencing: The course must be essentially flat and **the center of the course** must be straight from the **back of the starting box to the end of the run-out area.** The course can only be measured using a tape measure and no type of measuring wheel. The course must be free of any potential hazards. Pulleys are prohibited from placement inside the course. **For clubs using drag lures, retrieval devices used to return the lure to the start line must be located at least 30 yards from the finish line and must be on the side of the course.**

Clubs holding Fast CAT events held in conjunction with another event must enclose the entire course with a fence. The fence must be of sufficient height and substance as to prevent dogs from accessing or escaping the course. The fenced area shall include the starting and run-out areas. Clubs holding stand-alone Fast CAT events should consider fencing the course, however this is up to the decision of the club given the specifics of the setting. The premium must state if the course is enclosed with fencing.

Fast CAT is an energizing sport. Dogs watching Fast CAT may become excited. If Fast CAT is being held in conjunction with another event, clubs must provide sufficient distance between events (including the parking areas). Sufficient distance is defined as enough separation to minimize the disruption of dogs that are present for the other event.

Regulation updates can always be found on the AKC "Regulation Resources" webpage for [FCAT](#).

Please send any questions, concerns or comments to: lurecoursing@akc.org