



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™**

Pointing Breed Hunting Tests

Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants

The AKC supports each club's informed decision to reschedule, postpone or cancel their respective events, as well as supporting clubs ready to hold events in locations that are open and permit gatherings. As events resume across the country, people need to feel safe while enjoying their dog activities. The AKC urges clubs to take appropriate precautions for the benefit of their participants. Events need to be held in a manner that emphasizes the safety of participants and event officials over efficiency.

The following is a list of suggested best practices that may be helpful when planning or attending an event. Event locations, facilities and dates will differ. With a situation that is continually evolving, it is up to the clubs to determine the guidelines that best fit their event. In order to inform participants, specific guidelines established by the club should be published in the premium, club website and posted on signage/flyers at their event.

General Practices

1. Clubs, officials and participants are required to follow State, local and facility guidelines that apply to the area and site where the event is held.
2. Practice social distancing consistent with local guidelines. Avoid congregating to the extent possible.
3. Consider wearing masks when in close proximity to others. Clubs should consider having masks available for officials, judges and volunteer workers.
4. Consider wearing disposable or washable gloves.
5. Have plenty of hand sanitizers placed for people to use.
6. Wash hands as frequently as possible. Have disinfecting spray at bathroom facilities for people to spray door handles (or anything else they touch).
7. If you utilize portable toilets, ask for a hand washing station to be delivered as well.
8. Avoid shaking hands or hugging.
9. Avoid touching dogs that are not your responsibility.
10. Avoid common use pens/pencils – bring your own.
11. Disinfect surfaces in common use areas as often as possible (tables, chairs, doorknobs, etc.)

12. Meals - Avoid or stagger group lunches/dinners if possible. Consider having boxed lunches for judges and volunteers. Hospitality areas should avoid community items such as salt and pepper shakers, condiments, creamers, etc. Participants should consider bringing their own lunch/drinks.
13. Parking areas – Park with sufficient distance between vehicles if possible.

Event Practices

1. If entries are large in a testing level (Junior, Senior, Master), consider splitting into A and B divisions if possible, in order to reduce congregating.
2. Scheduling – After the drawing, advise entrants of approximate time of their brace so they can arrive in a timely manner. Running order should be emailed to entrants or published on the internet. The AKC Pointing Breed Hunt Test Facebook page can be used for this purpose if desired.
3. Participants should consider waiting by their vehicles until immediately prior to their running time. Clubs should consider a means to notify participants when their running time is approaching i.e. bullhorn, calling or texting on cell phone, etc.
4. Practice safe handling of paperwork and payments.
 - Consider accepting online or emailed entries as opposed to mailed entries.
 - Go cashless as much as possible – encourage use of PayPal, Google Pay or EWallet.
 - Cash payments at event – inform participants they should have correct change.
 - Individual handling paperwork and entry fees should wear gloves.
5. Judges should bring their own pens for scoring, notes.
6. Double hunting tests should utilize two courses if possible so that events are running concurrently. Utilize separate check in locations. To the extent possible, keep people spread out.
7. Use gloves when carrying scores sheets from judges to trial secretary.
8. Use gloves when handling birds or bird crates.
9. Gunners should bring their own guns, chairs and coolers.
10. Trial Secretary – Should wear gloves to handle paperwork, ribbons and any “community” used items. Frequently wipe down secretary table and high traffic areas.
11. Clubs should consider using signs to answer common questions in order to avoid congregating around secretary’s table.
12. Consider having someone wearing gloves handing out ribbons or rosettes. Participants can write their own scores on back if they desire.

Policies that Have Been Temporarily Suspended

1. Event Application Late Fees – Event application late fees are waived through the end of October. This provide clubs more flexibility in planning or rescheduling their events.
2. For events cancelled in 2020, AKC will apply Event Application fees to the club’s next event of the same type.

Participants are expected to follow state, local government, facility and event guidelines. Clubs should be prepared to enforce the guidelines that apply to their event.

These Suggested Best Practices may be periodically updated. Please check the AKC Pointing Breed Hunting Test website (www.akc.org/sports/pointing-breeds/hunt-tests/) for the most up-to-date version.

CDC - How to Protect Yourself and Others:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

For questions or additional suggestions, please contact the Performance Events Department at performanceevents@akc.org.

Stay Safe – Enjoy Your Dogs