



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM**

Spaniel 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 and local guidelines that apply to the area where the event is held.
2. Practice social distancing consistent with current guidelines. Avoid congregating to the extent possible.
3. Consider wearing masks when in close proximity to others.
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, please 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. It is recommended that clubs supply 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. Scheduling – After the drawing, advise entrants of approximate time of their running so that they might arrive in a timely manner. Running order should be emailed to entrants or published on the internet.
2. Structure of the event - It is suggested that the event start with the Master field work then the Senior field work, followed by the hunt dead for both Master and Senior, followed by the Junior field work. This will minimize the time the Junior test participants need to wait.
3. Consider running two different testing levels at the same time if possible. This reduces the number of participants waiting their turn.
4. Ask participants to wait by their vehicles until immediately prior to their running time. Participants should provide cell phone numbers for the event secretary to call or radio back to camp.
5. Practice safe handling of paperwork and payments.
 - 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.
6. Judges should bring their own pens for scoring, notes.
7. Judges, handler and bird shagger should all maintain social distancing while in the field.
8. It is recommended that no more than one apprentice judge be allowed per testing level.
9. Use gloves when carrying scores sheets from judges to trial secretary.
10. The gallery should practice social distancing consistent with local guidelines.
11. Use gloves when handling birds and bird crates.
12. Trial Secretary – Should wear gloves to handle paperwork, ribbons and any “community” used items. .
13. Clubs should consider using signs to answer common questions in order to avoid congregating around secretary’s table.

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, and event guidelines. Clubs should be prepared to enforce the guidelines that apply to their event.

CDC - How to Protect Yourself and Others:

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

These Suggested Best Practices may be periodically updated. Please check the AKC Spaniel Hunting Tests website (www.akc.org/sports/spaniels/hunting-tests/) for the most up-to-date version.

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

Stay Safe – Enjoy Your Dogs