



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

August 2020

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Host Pointing Breed Field Trials**

Subject: **Three Pointing Breed Field Trial Rule Updates**

This is to inform your club of three rule changes which cover (1) Derby Stakes can now run up to 45 minutes but must be stated in the premium list (2) Dogs not released at the line or released then suddenly picked up will not count as a starter (3) The requirement for a Brittany to earn a three point major at a trial held by a Brittany club in order to become a field champion, has been removed.

These three specific changes are noted below and will appear in the next reprinting of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*.

(1) Standard Procedures for Pointing Breed Field Trials - Procedure 1-B Derby Stakes. Effective June 1, 2020

Derbies must show reasonable obedience to their handlers' commands. Each dog is to be judged on its actual performance as indicating its future promise as a high-class bird dog for Gun Dog or All-Age stakes. Preference should not be given to one potential over another. Application is more important than range in a Derby. At least 20 minutes and not more than ~~30~~ **45** minutes shall be allowed for each heat. **The length of a derby stake shall be stated in the event premium list.**

(2) Chapter 8. Section 11. Dogs Must Compete. Effective August 3, 2020

Any dog entered and present at a field trial must compete in the stakes in which it is entered unless excused by the Event Committee at the trial. *In deciding if a dog may be excused, the Event Committee shall consider the handler's safety concerns for the dog, the safety of the handler's required future travel, or other unique considerations relevant to the situation. Refund of entry fees in whole or in part for excused dogs will be at the discretion of the Event Committee. A handler that refuses to run a dog or leaves without the approval of the Event Committee is subject to the "just cause" rule and may have entries rejected at future events hosted by the club. A handler may not start a dog and immediately pick it up for the purpose of maintaining points or counting dogs defeated. **It is expected that all starters in a stake are legitimate contenders. Dogs that are walked to the line but not released or started and quickly picked up for the purpose of maintaining points or counting dogs defeated shall not count as a starter. Handlers that do this and judges that allow it to occur are violating the intent of the rules and may be disciplined. Event Committees also have the responsibility to prevent this practice. Clubs that allow this to occur at their event may be disciplined.***

(3) Chapter 14. Section 7. FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP. Effective August 1, 2020

~~*EXCEPT THAT a Brittany shall not be recorded a Field Champion unless it has won a 3 point or better Open Gun Dog, Open All Age, Open Limited Gun Dog, or Open Limited All Age Stake in a licensed or member field trial held by a Brittany Club;*~~

Chapter 14. Section 7. AMATEUR FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP. Effective August 1, 2020

~~*EXCEPT THAT a Brittany shall not be recorded an Amateur Field Champion unless it has won a 3 point or better Amateur Gun Dog, Amateur All Age, Amateur Limited Gun Dog, or Amateur Limited All Age Stake in a licensed or member field trial held by a Brittany Club;*~~

Rule updates are posted to the [Pointing Breed Field Trial Rule Resource](#) webpage. Please send any questions, comments or email address updates to: performanceevents@akc.org. If you send a request to update your email address, please provide your name, city and state.