



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Pointing Breed Field Trials

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. 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. Scheduling – After the drawing, advise entrants of approximate time of their brace so that they might arrive in a timely manner. Running order should be emailed to entrants and/or published on the internet. At the event, the running order should be posted in places that allow participants to view the changes to the running order without having to find club officials.
2. Clubs should consider holding limited entry events so that scheduling of the stakes and the running of the dogs is easier to plan. This would allow participants to arrive in a timely manner and reduce congregating on the grounds.
3. If possible, avoid the use of dog wagons. If dog wagons are necessary, it would be best to have participants transport their own animals to the starting area of their brace.
4. Participants should consider waiting by their vehicles until immediately prior to their running time. Participants should provide cell phone numbers for the event secretary to call. The use of a public address system or bullhorn to call dogs to the line is also an option.
5. 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.
6. Judges should bring their own pens for notes.
7. Galleries should practice social distancing consistent with local guidelines.
8. Practice social distancing around horse water tanks. Participants should consider bringing their own water.
9. At water tanks, have disinfecting spays or wipes available to wipe down commonly handled valves and hoses.
10. Use gloves when handling birds or bird crates.
11. Trial Secretary – Should wear gloves to handle paperwork, ribbons, awards, and any “community” used items. Frequently wipe down secretary table and high traffic areas.
12. Clubs should consider using signs to answer common questions in order to avoid congregating around secretary’s table.
13. Awards ceremony - Hold outside if possible. Place ribbons on table or tailgate and invite handlers to come up to obtain their ribbon, no handshaking.

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.

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 Pointing Breed Field Trial website (www.akc.org/sports/pointing-breeds/field-trials/) 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