



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM**

Spaniel 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 local 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 - When an event has both an Open and Amateur All-Age Stake, it is suggested in order to minimize the numbers of people physically present at the event site, the stakes be scheduled on separate days rather than having alternate series.
3. Ask participants to wait by their vehicles until immediately prior to their running time. Event Secretary can call participants on their cell phones or radio back to camp.
4. 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.
5. Judges should bring their own pens for scoring, notes.
6. Judges, handlers and bird shaggers should all maintain social distancing while in the field.
7. It is recommended that no more than one apprentice judge be allowed per stake.
8. Handlers running multiple dogs should provide their own assistants to get their dogs to the line.
9. The gallery should practice social distancing consistent with local guidelines.
10. Use gloves when handling birds and bird crates.
11. Trial Secretary – Should wear gloves to handle paperwork, ribbons and any “community” used items. .
12. 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 Field Trials website (www.akc.org/sports/spaniels/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